

Men's Violence against Women with Disabilities

by

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1.4 The Results of the Field Work

The questionnaires were anonymously answered.

The collection of data was carried out between March and July 2006 from the selection groups The Swedish Federation of People with Mobility Impairments (DHR), The Association of Persons with Mobility Disabilities (FöR), The Swedish Association of Persons with Neurological Disabilities (NHR), The Swedish Association of Survivors of Traffic Accidents and Polio (RTP), and The Swedish Association of the Visually Impaired (SRF).

In total, 1063 women with disabilities responded to the questionnaire, something which corresponds to 71 percent of those asked.

	Total number	DHR/FöR	NHR	RTP	SRF
Original number of interviewees:	1538	444	417	417	260
The number of women responding to the questionnaire	1063	273	296	295	199
Rate of response, percent	71	65	74	71	77

The collection of data from the target group, women with a moderate or mild intellectual disability, was carried out between September 2006 and March 2007.

From this target group, there were 156 women with intellectual disabilities who answered the questionnaire by face-to-face interviews, telephone calls, and letter. Nearly one quarter of all these women answered the questionnaire by letter. The number of women with intellectual disabilities who took part in this study is lower than originally expected. However, the responses to the questionnaire form a sufficient basis to pose questions as to how the situation of women with intellectual disabilities could be improved and as to what should be done now.

3. Summary

3.1 A Study of Men's Violence against Women with Disabilities

- "If you have once crossed the line, it won't be there any more."
- "The Equal Opportunities Ombudsman shouldn't prevent us from trying to get assistants of the same gender."

The investigation of "Men's Violence against Women with Disabilities" included 1063 women in total (here, exclusive of women with an intellectual disability). What the great majority of these women have in common is that they have got a disability that makes it difficult for them to flee, move quickly, or find their way in order to escape in a violent situation. They have got either a physical disability or a visual impairment.

In total, one third, 33 percent, of all the women who answered the questionnaire state that they have experienced threats, violence, or sexual abuse by men. In one half of these cases, the women have, once or several times, been physically injured by men who have made them the victims of violence and sexual assaults – that is, in total 14 percent of all those who answered the questionnaire.

In total, 20 percent of those women who responded to the questionnaire say that they now live, or have earlier lived, together with men who have subjected them to violence, threats, or sexual assaults. There are few of them who have received or tried to receive professional support from society; in total, two thirds reply that they have never got or tried to get any help or support. However, many of these women have been subjected to both physical and psychological violence. Among those women who have received some support from society, there are nearly as many who are dissatisfied as there are women who are satisfied with the help they have got from different institutions.

In total, 7 percent of all the women with disabilities who are included in this study state that they have separated from a man who has threatened or used violence against them. One third of these women chose to move in with that man again

after a while, most often because the man had promised to change his behaviour.

In total, one woman out of ten states that her father subjected her to violence before she had turned 15. Even other members of the family, mother, sister, brother, have beaten the women. In certain cases, it also occurred that staff within the health care service and social welfare, drivers, and teachers subjected them to violence at an early age.

Among all of those women who answered the questionnaire, there are 5 percent who state that a man has forced them to some kind of sexual activity before the age of 15, and 8 percent have been subjected to a man's attempts to force them to it. In total, 16 percent of all these women say that they have, on some occasion before the age of 15, felt sexually threatened by a man's behaviour.

One fifth, 18 percent, of all women also answer that they have experienced that a man has made them take part in some kind of sexual activity, after the age of 15, although they did not actually want to. These men are most often chance acquaintances or boyfriends. However, it occurs, too, that the perpetrator is the woman's teacher, supervisor, colleague, relative, or support person.

In total, 3 percent of those women who have got children state that their ex-husband/ex-partner has subjected their children to physical assault, whereas 1 percent say that their child/children have been made the victims of sexual assaults.

3 percent of all the women who answered the questionnaire say that they have been subjected to rape, attempted rape, or sexual abuse by two or more perpetrators at the same time.

In total, 7 percent of the women who responded to the questionnaire state that they have tried to commit suicide, and 33 percent have considered doing it. It is much more common that those who have suffered physical injuries from violence have tried to commit suicide. Moreover, it is considerably more common that women who have severe disabilities have considered suicide, than it is among those who have a less severe disability.

1 percent of all women state that they have participated in some kind of sexual activity in return for payment. There are also a few women who have posed for pornographical purposes or worked at a so-called porno club.

A conclusive comparison of the results from the national study "Captured Queen" and from this study, "Men's Violence against Women with Disabilities", is shown, in percent, below:

Percentage	HANDU	Captured Queen
Have been subjected to physical violence by their current husband/partner	6	7
Have been married to or lived together with a man who subjected them to violence in a previous relationship	(57) including threats	35
Have been threatened with physical violence by an ex-husband/ex-partner	19	19
Ex-husband jealous	34	33
Ex-husband made the woman feel inferior	42	29
Ex-husband addressed the woman in a disparaging manner	34	25
The children have witnessed the ex-husband's being violent to their mother	28	54
The children have been subjected to physical violence by ex-husband	11	21
Have been subjected to violence and feel ashamed	36	23
Have been subjected to violence and are frightened	40	33
Have tried to commit suicide	7	5
Have considered suicide	33	23

3.2 A Study of Men's Violence against Women with a Moderate or Mild Intellectual Disability

– "I hope my daughter won't be raped, like me. If so, I'll kill that bloke."

In total, 156 women with a moderate or mild intellectual disability, all over Sweden, responded to the questionnaire about men's violence against women. In brief, it was found that:

- One third of all these women had been beaten when under 15.

- One woman out of five had been forced to have sex when under 15.
- One third have been subjected to violence after the age of 15.
- Six women out of ten have been subjected to sexual abuse.
- One woman out of ten has been raped by a man with whom she has not had a sexual relationship.
- One woman out of four has had a "boyfriend" who has used violence against her or forced himself on her in some way.
- Almost one woman out of ten has been raped by a "boyfriend".
- Eight women out of ten, who have had a "boyfriend" using violence against them, suffered physical injuries from the incident. In nearly one third of these cases, the police were informed about what had happened.
- Three women out of four, who earlier lived with (another) man, state that that man used violence against them, battered or raped them. Half of these men continue to subject the women to violence and abuse, after their separations.
- Among those women, who have separated from a relationship with children present, half of them state that the children too were battered.
- One fourth of those women who live in a relationship today say that their current partner has thrown objects at them, pushed them, beaten or kicked them, or has otherwise been violent.
- One woman out of five has attempted to commit suicide.

One woman, who has been raped, writes:

"It's so hard to know what to do because you're ashamed as well, so you can't tell your mum or your support person. Every girl should get help. People within the health care service and social welfare and so must learn to see when something's happened, for it's hard to describe and tell yourself. What if they don't believe me when I tell them."

4. A Compilation of Results

Below, the results of the investigation are shown in a running text with references to the numbers of questions and tables that are to be found in the appendix. After the introductory review, (4.1) "A Study of Men's Violence against Women with Disabilities", the results from the group "Women with a Moderate or Mild Intellectual Disability", (4.2), are shown.

4.1 A Study of Men's Violence against Women with Disabilities

A. Questions to All Women

– "Tell as many people as possible. Don't blame yourself or your disability for what has happened. It's he who's sick."

To picture the women who responded to the questions of the investigation, they were first asked questions describing themselves and their situations of life.

One third live in single households

In total, 29 percent of those who answered the questionnaire live alone. The women live in households which consist of 2.2 members on average, including the woman herself. Naturally enough, most of those living in single households, 48 percent, are to be found among the youngest, aged between 18 and 34. (F1)

In total, 30 percent of all women included in this investigation reply that they have children who still live at home. More than half of the women, aged between 35 and 54, 51 percent, have children of their own, still living at home. (F2)

In total, 64 percent state that they live together with a partner; 38 percent live together with a partner without children, and 26 percent live together with their partner and the children they have together. (F2)

Almost half of the women are married and live together with their husbands.

In total, 46 percent of the women state that they are married and live with their husbands, and 16 percent answer that they live together with men to whom they are not married. Somewhat more than one tenth of the women, 12 percent, say that they

have divorced/separated from a man; hardly anyone of these women has met a new partner with whom she lives. There are also 5 percent of these women who are so-called live-aparts; while 3 percent answer that they are widows. (F4)

The educational level is high

One woman out of four, 23 percent, states that she has a degree from a university or a university college. Moreover, one woman out of ten, 9 percent, has begun her university education but has not obtained her degree. About one fifth, 18 percent, have only finished the nine-year comprehensive school. Half of all the women, 49 percent, answer that they have finished some kind of supplementary education, that is, either an academically or a vocationally oriented programme at upper secondary school. (F5)

A minority have a gainful occupation

A majority of those women who were asked receive disability benefit; only 39 percent of all the women have a gainful occupation. Most of the women with disabilities, who have a gainful occupation, work part-time, 29 percent, whereas 10 percent state that they work full-time. (F7)

A majority of those who responded to the questionnaire, 61 percent, say that they receive disability benefit; 8 percent reply that they are on long-term sick leave, 7 percent that they receive sickness compensation, and 6 percent that they are unemployed. Among the women aged between 55 and 65, there are 72 percent altogether who state that they receive disability benefit; just 24 percent of the age group in question have a gainful occupation to a larger or lesser degree. (F7)

In total, 3 percent of the women state that they are self-employed, and 3 percent say that they are students. Those women, who have described their occupations/sources of income in their own words, reply, for instance, that they take part in occupational rehabilitation, have got a so-called "plus job"¹ (a kind of employment with subsidized salary), are

¹ The Swedish term 'plusjobb' (plus job) refers to a kind of employment which was included in an employment measure, taken by the Swedish government in 2006. This measure meant that an employer who employed a person, who had been unemployed for more than two years, was entitled to a subsidy covering most of the salary costs. The system with "plus jobs" was terminated and replaced by other measures in 2007.

politicians, attend activities at day centres for persons with an intellectual disability, or take part in rehabilitation also related to other areas than that of working life. (F7)

Nine women out of ten, of those who responded to the questionnaire, were born in Sweden by Swedish parents. (F14-F15)

Their incomes are low

Income is defined as salary and wages, sickness benefits, pension, student grant, and unemployment benefits. The women were asked to give an approximate estimation of their net income, that is what remains after tax deduction.

Four women out of ten (40 percent), aged between 18 and 64, state that they have got a net income which is less than 10,000 Swedish kronor a month; 4 percent say that their income is less than 5,000. Four out of ten, 39 percent, state that their net income is between 10,001 and 15,000 Swedish kronor. (F6)

Taken together, this means that many women with disabilities have a low income. (F7)

Age

The average age of women with disabilities who are members of a disability organisation is generally somewhat higher than that of women at large. The average age of the women included in this study is 48 years. (F8)

One woman out of five has a congenital disability

In total, one fifth, 21 percent, state that their disabilities are congenital, while 52 percent of those with an acquired disability got it before the age of 34. Only a few acquired their disability after the age of 55. Those who acquired their disability got it at the average age of 48. On the occasion for this investigation, a larger share of those women who have a congenital disability answer that they do not live together with a man. (F10)

A majority have difficulties walking

The women included in this investigation stated several different types of disabilities, diagnoses, or symptoms. On average, they stated 2.1 various types of disability each. Usually, it is a matter of disabilities that make it difficult for these women to flee quickly or defend themselves if assaulted. In

total, 41 percent say that they have difficulties walking and 13 percent that they cannot walk at all. One third, 30 percent, state that they suffer from limited arm mobility. One woman out of ten, 9 percent, has a hearing disability, whereas a little less than one third, 30 percent, state that they are visually impaired (partially sighted, severely visually impaired, or blind). It is also worth mentioning that 12 percent state that they have medical disabilities, like asthma and allergy, while 11 percent say that they suffer from incontinence. (F11)

Three women out of four use assistive devices

Three women out of four, 73 percent, of those who responded to this questionnaire use technical and/or guidance aids because of their disabilities. On average, these women make use of 1.7 different aids. In most cases, it is a matter of mobility aids such as wheelchairs, walking frames, crutches and canes, and technical canes for persons with a visual impairment. (F13)

Half of these women regularly receive help due to their disabilities.

Most often, it is a relative or a person close to the woman who gives her the help she needs. In total, there are 36 percent who state that they get assistance from a relative, 15 percent have personal assistants, 9 percent receive help from the home help service, and 5 percent get assistance from the guiding service. Furthermore, there are a few women who receive help from some service staff that are connected with their residences, or from an assistant especially engaged to help with certain tasks at work.

In total, 55 percent reply that they get assistance on a regular basis from one or more people because of their disabilities. The largest number of women who receive help from someone who is not a relative or friend, for example from personal assistants and the home help service, are to be found among those with the most severe disabilities. Moreover, these women are, more often than others, dependent on the help they get from their relatives.

In total, one fifth of those women not living with a man say that they get help from their relatives or friends on a regular basis. (F16)

One woman out of ten is afraid that those helping her will be violent

In total, 11 percent of all the women state that they are afraid that someone, from whom they need help, will be violent to them; this corresponds to 15 percent of those who need and get help from others because of their disabilities.

6 percent of all the women state that they are worried that taxi drivers will be violent to them, whereas 2 percent worry about the behaviour of the bus drivers within the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities and for the elderly. The largest share of those who are afraid that especially the drivers will be violent to them are to be found among the youngest women.

There are also women, who receive help from the home help service, from social care staff, personal assistants, hospital staff, and other staff who come to their homes to help them, who are afraid that these people will be violent. Furthermore, some women spontaneously mention that they worry about how their support persons or those employed at The Swedish Social Insurance Agency will act. (F24)

Childhood and Adolescence

The majority of those who responded to this questionnaire, 96 percent, state that they mainly lived with their family during their childhood and adolescence and that they, 83 percent, were in an ordinary school class with no assistant helping them at school. In total, 4 percent state that they mostly lived at a boarding school or a school boarding house during their childhood and adolescence. (F17–F18)

Very few are in an excellent state of health

Even though you have a disability, it does not mean that you, for that reason, are in a poor state of health. To be in wheelchair, for instance, does not mean that you are ill. On average, these women estimate that they are in a "reasonably good" state of health. Only one tenth, 10 percent, of the women say that they are in an excellent or very good state of health. One fifth, 20 percent, feel that they are in a poor or very poor state of health. (F9)

When asked a direct question as to whether they had suffered from different kinds of listed afflictive disorders during the last month, the women replied as follows: (F19)

- Two women out of three had had a headache.
- Half of the women had suffered from stomach problems.
- Two thirds of the women had suffered from numbness or weakness in arms or legs.
- One woman out of five had suffered from palpitations or abnormal heart rhythm.
- One out of five had been sick or vomited.
- Half of the women had suffered from dizziness.
- One woman out of three had suffered from shaky hands.
- Every fourth woman had suffered from excessive perspiration without performing any physical exercise.
- Half of them had been overwrought.
- Half of them had suffered from a reduced ability to remember or concentrate.
- Eight women out of ten had felt weak or fatigued.
- Two thirds of the women had had difficulties sleeping or had suffered from insomnia.
- One third had felt nervous or tensed up.
- Half of them had felt irritated.
- Half of them had been dejected or depressed.
- Half of them had had a feeling of powerlessness.
- One third of the women had used soporifics.
- One woman out of ten had used tranquilizers.
- One woman out of ten had used antidepressants.

Compared with the other women in this study, it was, above all, those 143 women, who have some time suffered physical injuries from violence or sexual abuse and assaults, who said that they had suffered from the above listed disorders during the last month. There is no other difference worth mentioning between the different groups of women; for instance, factors as to whether they live with a man at present or if they have children who still live at home, or circumstances like age or educational level, do not seem to make any significant difference. The existing exceptions are such obvious differences as the fact that women with a severe disability more often suffer from numbness or weakness in arms and legs; or, such differences that can be noted between women who have different kinds of disability, for instance the fact that women, who are members of The Swedish Association of Survivors of

Traffic Accidents and Polio (RTP), and who live with whiplash-associated disabilities or the late effects of polio (post-polio syndrome), suffer from headaches, numbness or dizziness to a greater extent than others. (F19, 20, 22)

Every other woman suffers from chronic pain

Half of all the women, 46 percent, suffer from chronic pain. It is more common that women, who have been subjected to physical violence by a man, also state that they suffer from chronic pain. (F12)

A minority of the women perform a great deal of leisure-time activities

Among all of those from the different disability federations, who were asked questions in connection with this investigation, 35 percent answer that they usually, some time, take part in voluntary work or in work of an organisation in their spare time. (F21)

Two women out of three, 68 percent, state that they, now and then, participate in cultural or entertainment activities in leisure hours. Six women out of ten, 59 percent, sometimes go dancing or go out with their friends. Four out of ten, 40 percent, at times take part in studies, for example through educational associations, or in other hobby activities. One fourth of the women, 25 percent, say that they never carry out any physical exercise. (F21)

Women with a higher education more often participate in various leisure activities outside their homes, in comparison with women with a lower education. Women who have got children, still living at home, more seldom take part in leisure activities outside their homes than do women who do not take care of children every day. The youngest of the women, those under 35, more frequently devote themselves to physical exercise and sports than do the elderly. Moreover, there are fewer among the younger women who state that they have severe disabilities than there are among the older women. (F21)

One third of the women avoid going out after dark

One tenth of the women, 13 percent, do not go out alone when it is dark, as they fear being subjected to violence. One fourth of

the women, 23 percent, have other reasons for not going out alone when it is dark.

A majority of those women who do go out alone when it is dark, state that they then feel uneasy. It is more common that women, who have stated that they have a visual impairment, go out when it is dark, although they then feel very worried as to what might happen to them. (F23)

One woman out of three worries about being raped

One tenth of the women, 12 percent, are very worried that they will be raped by a man, and yet another 23 percent state that they are slightly worried that they will be subjected to that. Above all, it is the young women who worry about this. (F25)

In total, 1 percent of the women state that they are afraid of being raped by someone in the family or by some other relative. (F26)

Half of them have prepared for violent situations

In total, 17 percent reply that they prepare for violent situations by bringing with them some object that they can use in self-defence or with which they can call for help. This especially concerns women who have already been physically injured by a man. (F27)

Half of the women, 46 percent, have prepared themselves by thinking of how they will act in a violent situation, and 5 percent have taken classes in self-defence. (F27)

Four women out of ten, 42 percent, state that they try to avoid different kinds of situations or that they avoid going out, thereby preventing that they end up in a violent situation. (F27)

B. Questions to All Women about Abuse by Men in General. Incidents That Have Occurred after Their 15th Birthday

Nearly two thirds of the women, 62 percent, state that they have been sexually abused, once or several times in their lives, by men with whom they do not have or have not had a sexual relationship. Those men, who acted in this unwanted manner, are stated to have been friends, relatives, colleagues, neighbours, or totally unknown men. Those women who say that they have been abused answer that they have been

abused by, on average, 1.7 men with whom they have had different kinds of relationships.

Every question within this section concerns incidents that have occurred after the woman's 15th birthday. The women were asked to state whether that which the questions concerned had happened to them, either 1. during the last 12 months, or 2. some time more than 12 months ago. (F28–29)

One woman out of four has received obscene or dirty telephone calls

One fourth, 23 percent, of all the 1063 women said that it had occurred that they had received obscene telephone calls from men, more than 12 months earlier. 2 percent stated that this had happened to them during the last year. It is more common that single women say that they have received this sort of calls. (F28)

One woman out of five runs across flashers

Every fifth woman with a disability, 19 percent, has some time encountered a man who has exposed himself indecently to her. For natural reasons, the share of visually impaired women, who state that they have come up against flashers, is not equally large. (F28)

One woman out of three has felt uncomfortable due to comments given to her

In total, 35 percent of the women stated that they had, more than 12 months previously, encountered a man who had made them feel uncomfortable by commenting on their bodies or their private lives, or by making sexual hints, whereas 6 percent had had similar experiences in the last year. There were somewhat more single women, 11 percent, who stated that they had had such experiences in the last year. (F28)

One woman out of five comes across men who do not accept the word "no"

One woman out of five says that she has encountered one or several men who have made her feel uncomfortable by several times asking her if they could meet, but who have not accepted "no" as an answer. In total, 2 percent of all the women stated that this had happened to them in the last year. (F28)

One third of the women have been subjected to men who have made unpleasant approaches

In the year preceding this investigation, 6 percent of the women with disabilities had experienced that men, with whom they had no sexual relationships, had leaned over them, come to close, pushed them into a corner, or made approaches in a way that the women perceived as unpleasant. In total, 38 percent of all the women replied that they had had similar experiences more than 12 months earlier. Above all, it was the youngest women, 15 percent, who stated that they had recent experiences of that kind. (F28)

One third of the women have encountered men who behave in a sexually threatening manner

In total, 33 percent of the women had, more than 12 months previously, experienced that a man behaved in a way that they perceived as sexually threatening. 4 percent had had such experiences in the last year. (F28)

One woman out of four has been stalked

One woman out of five says that she has been stalked by a man in a way that frightened her; 2 percent stated that this had happened to them in the last year. It is slightly more common that women with a visual impairment say that they have been stalked in a way that scared them. (F28)

Supervisors and colleagues

In Sweden, it is fairly common that people meet their partners when studying or in connection with their professional life; however, in total, 4 percent of all those who responded to this questionnaire, 1063 women, state that they have experienced that a man has, once or several times, let them know that it would be detrimental to their work or studies if they did not consent to having sexual intercourse with him. (F28)

In total, 10 percent of all women, who have, once or several times, been abused by men (664 women altogether), state that it was their supervisor or facilitator who behaved in this unwanted manner; 5 percent say that it was a teacher and 20 percent that it was a colleague or a fellow student. This means that one fourth of all those women who answered the questionnaire have been abused by men at work or when studying. It is particularly common that women with visual

impairments state that they have had such experiences at their workplaces. (F29)

Most often it is strangers who abuse the women

Despite the fact that it is common that women have experienced that men at their workplaces have behaved in an unwanted manner, the most common thing is, however, that the men who subject them to the above mentioned actions are, more or less, strangers to these women. In total, 60 percent of those women who have been abused, that is 37 percent of all the women included in this study, say that they have been abused by a stranger. (F29)

Transportation service staff and taxi drivers

It is worth noting that 3 percent of all the women who have been abused (664 women) state that it was a bus driver within the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities and for the elderly who subjected them to one of the above mentioned actions, while 9 percent say that it was a taxi driver (who was possibly hired for the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities on the occasion). This corresponds to approximately 7 percent of all the women who participated in this study. It is particularly common that women, aged between 18 and 34, have been abused by taxi drivers and bus drivers within the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities and for the elderly (22 percent). (F29)

Even staff within the health care service and social welfare

It also occurs that women are abused by men on whom they are dependent, for example staff from the home help service, social care staff, personal assistants, nursing staff, or other staff who help the women in their homes. 1 percent of all those women who have been abused state that it was a man who worked within one of these services who behaved in this unwanted manner. Thus, in total 5 percent of the women reply that they have been abused by some care/service staff. (F29)

Common that male relatives, friends, and acquaintances behave in an unwanted way

In total, 11 percent of those women who have been abused say that it was a male friend who acted in the unwanted way, and 28 percent answer that it was an acquaintance or a neighbour. 1 percent reply that it was their father or their brother, and 7 percent state that it was another relative. (F29)

Physicians, psychologists, or clergymen

In total, 2 percent of those women who have been abused state that it was a physician, a psychologist, or a clergyman who behaved in an unwanted way. For instance, the women felt that these men came too close, behaved in a manner that was perceived to be sexually threatening, commented on the women's bodies, or made sexual hints. (F29)

Supervisor at The Swedish Public Employment Service, support person, landlord

A few women chose to answer the question in their own words to tell who the man was, who had abused them in some way described in the questions. For example, the women then wrote: Internet acquaintance, member of a disability federation, support person, another patient at the rehabilitation establishment, supervisor at the public employment service, youth recreation leader, and landlord. (F29)

C. Questions to All Women about Various Forms of Threat, Physical Violence, and Sexual Assault by Men with Whom They Have Not Had a Sexual Relationship

Every third woman, with a disability that makes it difficult for her to move or find her way around the room, has experienced that one or several men, with whom she has never had a sexual relationship, have forced her to sexual activities, have threatened, held, or abused her, or injured her physically. Some of the women have also been subjected to this in situations where they were not able to defend themselves. In total, 35 percent of all the women replied that they had experienced one of the seven situations listed in the inquiry form.

The basic question read as follows:

"Has it happened that a man, with whom you do not have/have not had a sexual relationship, has ... after you turned 15?"

In sum, it can be established that, among all the 1063 women,
...

- 8 percent state that a man has forced them to some kind of sexual activity by threatening, holding, or hurting them in some way.
- 11 percent state that a man has tried to force them to some kind of sexual activity by threatening, holding, or hurting them in some way.
- 8 percent state that a man has forced them or tried to force them to some kind of sexual activity when they were not able to defend themselves.
- 27 percent state that a man has subjected them to some kind of physical contact of a sexual nature against their will by, for instance, seizing, holding, kissing, or hugging them.
- 9 percent state that a man has subjected them to physical violence.
- 8 percent state that a man has, while face to face with them, threatened to injure them physically.
- 5 percent state that a man has, by telephone or letter, threatened to injure them physically.

One tenth of the women have been *forced* to sexual activities by men close to them

In total, 8 percent of all the 1063 women said that they had, on some occasion more than one year earlier, been forced to some kind of sexual activity by being threatened, held, or injured by a man with whom they had no sexual relationship. Almost everyone, who had been subjected to this, experienced it at an early age. On average, the women were about 20 years old when they had their first experience of such incidents, while they had their last experience of the sort at the age of 28. A small share of the very oldest women stated that they had had such experiences on some occasion; 12 percent of the youngest women, aged between 18 and 34, said that they had been forced, and 7 percent of the women aged between 55 and 64 stated the same thing. (F30)

One woman out of ten has come across men who have *tried* to force her to sexual activities

Among all the women, 11 percent said that it had, more than 12 months earlier, happened that a man had tried to force them to some kind of sexual activity by threatening, holding, or hurting them. In total, 1 percent stated that they had experienced such a situation in the last 12 months. This too happens to young women in the first place. On average, they were 20 years old,

when experiencing such a situation for the first time, whereas they were about 28 years old at the last occurrence. (F30)

One woman out of ten has been forced to sexual activities when in a situation where she could not defend herself

In total, 8 percent of all the women said that a man, with whom they had never had a sexual relationship, had forced or tried to force them to some kind of sexual activity while the women were in situations where they could not defend themselves. 1 percent of the women stated that this had also occurred in the last year. The first time it had occurred, the women were on average 21 years old, whereas the last incident of the sort had occurred at the average age of 28. (F30)

Every fourth woman has been subjected to unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature

One fourth of the women, 26 percent, stated that they had, more than 12 months previously, experienced that a man had subjected them to some kind of physical contact of a sexual nature against their will, by for example, seizing, holding, kissing, or hugging them. On average, the women were 22 years old when they had their first experience of such incidents, whereas they had their last experience of the sort at the average age of 31. Moreover, in total 4 percent stated that such things had occurred in the last year. (F30)

One woman out of ten has been subjected to physical violence by a man

In total, one tenth of all the women have, once or several times in their lives, been subjected to physical violence by a man with whom they have never had a sexual relationship. Among all the women included in this study, 8 percent answer that this happened to them more than 12 months earlier, while 2 percent had (also) been subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months. The women were subjected to physical violence at an average age which is slightly higher than that when they were subjected to sexual abuse and assaults. On average, they were 27 years old the first time they were physically injured, while they were on average 31 years old when they had their last experience of the sort.

A somewhat larger share of those women who do not live together with a man had been subjected to physical violence in the last year. (F30)

One woman out of ten is subjected to threats, face to face

One woman out of ten, 8 percent, says that she has, once or several times, been face to face with a man who threatened to hurt her physically. 1 percent stated that it had also happened that they had been physically injured in the last year. On average, the women were 28 years old when this happened to them for the first time, while the last incidents of the kind occurred when they were on average 32 years old. (F30)

One woman out of twenty is subjected to threats by telephone or letter

5 percent of the women state that it has, once or several times, happened that a man, with whom they have never had a sexual relationship, by telephone or letter, has threatened to hurt them physically. On average, the women were 32 years old the first time such a thing happened to them, whereas they were on average 36 years old on the last occasion. 1 percent said that this had also happened to them in the last year. (F30)

This does not happen only once, but several times

A majority of the women, who have been subjected to sexual abuse, forced to sexual activities, bitten, beaten, or threatened by men, with whom they have or have had no sexual relationship, have been subjected to this a number of times. Half of those women who have been subjected to this, 54 percent, have experienced it two to ten times in their lives; 3 percent of all these women have been subjected to it more than 50 times. One woman out of four, 23 percent, says that it has happened to her once. (F31)

Her own home or that of others – the most common place of threat and violence

When women are subjected to threats or violence by a man, with whom they have never had a sexual relationship, they are most often in somebody's home. 26 percent of the women say that these incidents have occurred in their own homes, and 20 percent have been subjected to such things in someone else's home. Other places where the women have been subjected to violence and threats are at school or at work, which were mentioned by 18 percent of the women. Somewhat fewer of them, 14 percent, mention restaurants and other entertainment establishments as the places where they have been assaulted. (F32)

It is more common that women who do not live together with a man are subjected to this kind of things in their own homes, while women who have a relationship are instead subjected to such things at work or at a restaurant. (F32)

It is less common that the women are assaulted outdoors – in parks (4 percent), or in the street (4 percent). (F32)

Staff within the health care service and social welfare abuse their positions

In particular, it is worth noting the share of women who state that they have been assaulted in a bus (2 percent) or a taxi (3 percent) hired for the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities and for the elderly, or at places for care and treatment (2 percent). (F32)

Almost one tenth of the women, who have been threatened, forced, or physically injured by men with whom they have never had a sexual relationship, have thus been assaulted by men on whom they are dependent: staff within the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities and for the elderly, staff within the health care service and social welfare, assistants, support persons, residential staff, or the like. (F33)

However, it is most common that it is her friends (11 percent of the cases), her acquaintances/neighbours (19 percent), or her colleagues (12 percent) who subject the woman to threats or violence. It is also stated that supervisors and facilitators are the ones who have assaulted the woman – 8 percent of the cases. (F33)

Fathers, brothers, and other relatives

In total, 2 percent of the women, subjected to threats, physical violence, and sexual assaults by a man with whom they have no voluntary sexual relationship, say that it is their father who is the perpetrator. In 1 percent of the cases, it is a stepfather who is the perpetrator, in 2 percent of the cases it is a brother, while 5 percent of the women who have been assaulted state that the perpetrator was another male relative. (F33)

It can be assumed that there are at least 300,000 women with disabilities in Sweden, who are represented by the group participating in this investigation.

Thus, at least about 27,000 of these women have, on some occasion after their 15th birthday, been subjected to physical violence by a man with whom they have no sexual relationship.

D. Questions to Women Who Have/Have Had a Sexual Relationship with Men Whom They Have Not Been Married to or Lived Together with. Incidents after the Age of 15.

In total, three women out of four, 75 percent of all the women, state that they have had a sexual relationship with a man whom they were not married to or did not live together with. Among these women, there are in total 15 percent who have, on some occasion, been subjected to threats, physical violence, or sexual assaults by these men. (F34)

Every tenth woman has had a sexual relationship with a man who assaulted her

Thus, every tenth woman, 11 percent altogether, has had a non-lasting sexual relationship with a man who, in some way, subjected her to threats, physical violence, or sexual assaults. It is more common that women, who do not live with a man today, have been assaulted in different ways by men they have known in their lives, than is the case among those women who do live in a relationship with a man today. (F34)

The basic question read as follows:

"Has it happened that a man, with whom you have/have had a sexual relationship, has ... after you turned 15?"

In sum, it can be established that, among those women who have had a sexual relationship with one or several men, with whom they have not lived together (in total 792 women), ...

- 5 percent state that that man forced them to some kind of sexual activity by threatening, holding, or hurting them in some way.
- 6 percent state that that man tried to force them to some kind of sexual activity by threatening, holding, or hurting them in some way.
- 4 percent state that that man forced or tried to force them to some kind of sexual activity when they were not able to defend themselves.

- 13 percent state that that man subjected them to some kind of physical contact of a sexual nature against their will by, for instance, seizing, holding, kissing, or hugging them.
- 5 percent state that that man subjected them to physical violence.
- 4 percent state that that man, while face to face with them, threatened to injure them physically.
- 4 percent state that that man, by telephone or letter, threatened to injure them physically.

It is no isolated phenomenon that the boyfriend gets aggressive

One fifth, 19 percent, of those women who have been subjected to some kind of threat, violence, or sexual abuse state that it has occurred on one occasion.

Usually, it is no isolated phenomenon that a boyfriend subjects the woman to violence or threats, or forces her to sexual activities. More than half, 58 percent, of those assaulted have experienced it 2–10 times, and 3 percent say that it has occurred more than 50 times. (F35)

Women with a profound disability, who use assistive devices, are usually assaulted on more occasions than are those women who do not use aids because of their disabilities. (F35)

The violence usually occurs in somebody's home

Above all, it is in someone's home that the women are subjected to violence and threats. Those women who have been assaulted mention on average 1.3 different places where such incidents have occurred. The second most common places for violence and threats from boyfriends are restaurants and dance halls. Women with a profound disability have been assaulted at more of the above mentioned places, at 1.5 on average. (F36)

E. Questions to Women Who Are Today Married to or Live Together with a Man.

In total, 19 percent of all the women answer that they are not married or do not live together with a man today, although they used to; 12 percent have never been married or lived together with a man. It does not vary much between the different selection groups. In the following chapter, questions were only

posed to those women who, married or not, live in a relationship today. (F37)

The current relationship has lasted for 20 years

A majority of those women, who, married to him or not, live together with a man, have done so for a long period of time. On average, the relationship has lasted for 20 years. The average age of those who responded to this questionnaire is 48 years. (F37)

The women are happy with their partners

A majority of the women say that their relationship with their partner is good or very good. Just a few women say that they have a bad relationship with their husband. The results do not differ much between the different groups of women. (F38)

Consequently, there is a small share of men who are said to treat their current partners badly in different ways: (F39)

- 2 percent of the women state that their husbands are jealous and demand that they should know who the women have met and what they have been doing.
- 4 percent state that their husbands address them in a disparaging manner.
- 6 percent state that their husbands make them feel inferior and worthless.
- 1 percent state that their husbands often make a row when the women are going to see their family or friends.
- 1 percent state that their husbands do not let them decide on financial matters or let them buy things that they want.
- 1 percent of the women live together with men who threaten to hurt themselves if the women leave them.
- 1 percent of the women live together with men who threaten not to help them.
- and 3 percent of the women live together with men who do not always give them help when they need it.

Furthermore, there are very few women who say that their current partner forces them to sexual activities or threatens them: (F40)

- 1 percent state that their current partners have some time forced them to some kind of sexual activity by threatening,

holding, or hurting them, and 1 percent state that their partners have tried to force them in this way.

- 2 percent say that their partners have subjected them to some kind of physical contact of a sexual nature against their will; 1 percent stated that this had happened in the last year.

In certain cases, the women's partners have also been violent in other ways: (F41)

- 1 percent say that their husbands have thrown objects at them, objects that might hurt them.
- 3 percent state that their current partners have pushed, held, or dragged them on some occasion; 1 percent stated that such things had occurred during the last year.
- 2 percent state that their husbands have kicked them or beaten them with the fist or a hard object.
- 1 percent state that their husbands have seized them by the throat or tried to suffocate them.
- 1 percent say that their current partners have used violence against particularly fragile parts of the body; 1 percent also stated that this had happened during the last year.
- 1 percent of the women also state that their current partners have, on some occasion, been violent in some other way than those listed above.

7 percent of those, who are married or live together with a man to whom they are not married, have, on some occasion, been subjected to violence or threats by their partners

Thus, there are in total 4 percent of all the 1063 women who today live with a partner who has, on some occasion, forced them or been violent to them. In total, this corresponds to 6 percent of those women who were married or lived together with a man, on the occasion when this study was carried out.

Violence and threats – no isolated phenomenon

Half of those women who have been assaulted by their partners state that this has occurred 2 to 50 times. One third of those women who have had such experiences say that this has happened once.

The first incident had occurred more than five years earlier

Half of the women, who have been subjected to threats, physical violence, or sexual assaults by their current partners,

said that the first incident had occurred more than five years before this study was carried out. One fourth of them stated that the first incident had occurred more than ten years previously. One woman out of ten said that it had happened for the first time during the last two-year period of time. (F43)

One third stated that it had occurred during the last year

One third of those women, who have been subjected to some kind of assault, stated that their partners had assaulted them during the last year. (F44)

4 percent of those women, whose partners have been violent to, forced or threatened them, say that these men did so already before they moved in together. (F45)

Threats and violence during pregnancy

6 percent of those women, who live together with partners who have forced them or been violent to them, and with whom they have children, state that these men threatened them already before or during pregnancy. However, no woman says that she has been assaulted while pregnant. (F46, 47)

There are also women who reply that their children have seen or heard their partners/fathers be violent to their mothers (11 women in total), or that the children themselves have been subjected to violence by these women's partners (3 women in total).

F. Questions to Women Who Have an Ex-Husband or Ex-Partner, with Whom They Used to Live Together.

In total, 19 percent of all the women included in this study say that they were previously married or previously lived together with a man to whom they were not married. Slightly more than half of these women, 56 percent, were subjected to threats or physical or sexual violence by these men. (F49)

It is worth noting that hardly any woman, who has got an ex-husband or ex-partner with whom she used to live together, states that she lives in a new relationship today. These women have chosen to live alone henceforth. The basic question, only posed to those women who previously lived together with (another) partner, read as follows:

– "Does any of these descriptions fit any ex-partner of yours, with whom you used to live together?" (F49)

It can be established that a significant share of the women's ex-husbands or ex-partners, with whom they used to live together, were jealous and treated them in a disparaging manner:

- 34 percent state that their ex-husbands or ex-partners, with whom they used to live, were jealous and demanded that the women should tell them whom they had met and what they had been doing.
- 34 percent of the women say that their ex-husbands or ex-partners addressed them in a disparaging manner.
- 42 percent state that these men made them feel inferior and worthless.
- 17 percent lived with men who often made a row when these women were going to see their families or friends.
- 5 percent say that their ex-husbands or ex-partners forbade them to see their families or friends.
- 15 percent used to live together with men who did not let them decide on financial matters or purchases.
- 4 percent of those women who have ex-husbands or ex-partners, with whom they used to live together, say that these men threatened to hurt the children.
- 10 percent of these men deliberately damaged the women's possessions.
- 11 percent of these men threatened to hurt themselves, should the women leave them.
- 3 percent of these men threatened to remove the women's assistive devices.
- 4 percent of these men did actually remove the women's devices.
- 2 percent of these men threatened to remove the women's pharmaceuticals.
- 4 percent of these men did actually remove the women's pharmaceuticals.
- 6 percent of these men threatened not to help the women.
- 15 percent of these men did not help the women when they needed it.

After that, yet other questions about unwanted sexual activities were asked. The basic question, posed to those women who had stated that they previously lived together with (another) husband or partner, read as follows:

– **"Has an ex-husband or ex-partner ever ..." (F50)**

- 9 percent of the women state that their ex-partner forced them to some kind of sexual activity by threatening, holding, or hurting them in some way.
- 7 percent answer that their ex-partner tried to force them to some kind of sexual activity.
- 7 percent say that they were forced to, or that their partner tried to force them to some kind of sexual activity, when the women in question were in a situation where they were not able to defend themselves.
- 12 percent of the women state that their ex-husband or ex-partner subjected them to some kind of physical contact of a sexual nature against their will by seizing, holding, kissing, or hugging them.

– **"Has an ex-husband or ex-partner ever been violent to you in any of the following manners?" (F51)**

- 19 percent of those women, who previously lived together with a man, state that he threatened to hurt them physically.
- 15 percent of the women say that their ex-partner threw objects at them, objects that might hurt them.
- 24 percent of the women say that these men pushed, held, or dragged them.
- 20 percent of the women say that their ex-partner kicked them or beat them with the fist or with a hard object.
- 8 percent of the women previously lived together with a man who seized them by the throat or tried to suffocate them.
- 6 percent of the women lived together with a man who knocked the women's heads against something.
- 5 percent of the women were threatened or assaulted with knives, firearms, or other weapons.
- 7 percent of the women state that their ex-husband or ex-partner was violent to them in other ways than those listed above. In those cases, it was a matter of psychological violence/terror: the man in question shouted loudly, chased the women, pulled them by the hair, or was rough in general, or came close, intending to hit the women.

The violence was repeated

In most of the cases, it was a matter of recurring violence and threats. Only 5 percent of those women, who previously lived

together with a man who subjected them to threats or physical or sexual violence, say that this just occurred once. (F52)

The violence and threats began before the women moved in with the men in question, and it continued during the women's pregnancies

One tenth of those women who previously lived in a relationship, where the man was violent, say that the threats, the violence, or the sexual assaults started before they moved in with or married the man in question. One woman out of ten also states that the man threatened her during her pregnancy. Moreover, it occurred that the women were subjected to physical violence or sexual assaults while pregnant. (F53–55)

The violence and threats continue after their separation

Among those women who state that they previously lived together with a man who subjected them to threats or physical and sexual violence, up to one fourth of them say that the threats and violence continued after their separation. (F56)

- 23 percent of the women state that the man went on threatening them, face to face or by telephone.
- 18 percent of the women say that the man came to their homes against their will.
- 15 percent of the women state that the man waited for them, lay in ambush, stalked them.
- 9 percent of the women say that their ex-husband or ex-partner, also after their having divorced or moved away from each other, continued to subject them to physical or sexual violence.

The children do not escape

Among those women who state that they previously lived together with a man who subjected them to threats or physical and sexual violence, about half of those with children say that their children saw or heard their mothers' husband/partner be violent to their mothers. (F57)

One fifth of those who have been subjected to such things and who have divorced state that the children were also subjected to violence by the man in question.

It has also occurred that the children have been subjected to sexual assaults by their father/the woman's partner whom the woman has divorced.

Their previous relationships lasted for 13 years on average

Those women who state that they have divorced a man, who subjected them to threats or physical and sexual violence, remained in that relationship for 13 years on average. (F58)

G. Questions to All Women about All Violence and Threats after the Age of 15.

In total, one third, 33 percent, of all those women who responded to the questionnaire say that they have experienced threats, violence, or sexual abuse from men. Slightly more than four women out of ten suffered physical injuries from that which they had been subjected to; every twentieth woman was so seriously injured that she was sent to hospital.

Every seventh woman with a disability has suffered physical injuries from violence by men

Thus, it can be established that in total 14 percent of all those women who answered the questionnaire (1063 women) have suffered physical injuries from men who have subjected them to violence or sexual assaults. (F59)

In total, one third of those women who have experienced threats, violence, or sexual abuse say that they were bruised or grazed by the violence, 27 percent suffered pain, 6 percent suffered a concussion of the brain, and 2 percent had their legs broken. One woman out of ten suffered wounds. It has also occurred that women have miscarried because of the violence. (F59)

A minority consult a doctor about their injuries

One fourth, 26 percent, of those women who have suffered physical injuries (in total, 147 women of 1063) state that they saw a doctor about their injuries. Among all those women who have suffered physical injuries from violence by men, 5 percent were taken to hospital. (F59, 60)

A majority, 61 percent, of those women who consulted a doctor about their injuries told the nursing staff that their injuries had

been caused by men; however, all of them were not given a doctor's certificate. (F61, 64)

The women are poorly informed by the health care service

The great majority of the women, about three quarters of them, state that they were satisfied with the treatment and care they were given. However, one fourth of those women who consulted a doctor about their injuries were not pleased with the care they received. Above all, there were problems as to the contacts with the health care service where the woman felt that the staff minimized her case or acted with indifference, and that she was poorly informed on other possibilities of help and support. (F62–63)

Men's violence against women leads to destructive emotions

Many women, who have been subjected to violence and abuse by men, are, for instance, frightened, feel ashamed, have a sense of guilt, and their self-esteem is poor. (F65)

Among those women who have experienced threats, violence, or sexual abuse (347 women in total):

- 40 percent state that they are afraid.
- 36 percent state that they feel ashamed.
- 23 percent state that they feel guilty.
- 47 percent state that they feel anger and hatred.
- 26 percent state that they are depressed.
- 18 percent state that they feel weary and listless.
- 40 percent state that their self-esteem is poor.
- 19 percent state that they suffer from insomnia.
- 18 percent state that they have difficulties concentrating.
- 24 percent state that they now have difficulties in their relationships with men.
- 5 percent state that they have problems at gynaecological examinations.
- 9 percent state that they have difficulties in their work or their studies.
- 6 percent state that they have other problems than those listed above, because they have been subjected to violence and threats by one or several men. For example, it may be a matter of problems to trust or difficulties in experiencing closeness to other people.

The last time something occurred, it was an incident of physical violence or sexual assault

When asked the question as to what sort of assault the woman had been subjected to on the last occasion, those women, who have experienced men's violence, replied that they were subjected to a sexual assault by a man they know (15 percent) or to physical violence by a man they know (13 percent). Furthermore, 13 percent answered that a stranger had subjected them to some kind of physical contact of a sexual nature against their will. (F66)

Among those women who say that they were subjected to a rape, 2 percent state that the perpetrator was a man with whom they have or have had a sexual relationship, 3 percent say that the perpetrator was another man they know, and 2 percent state that they were subjected to a rape/sexual assault by a man who they do not know.

Quite a few of those women who answered the questionnaire, and who have had experiences of this kind, have also been subjected to various forms of attempted rape – 9 percent in total.

In total, 5 percent of those women who have been subjected to such things say that the last incident that occurred to them was when they were left without any help in a situation where they were dependent on it. (F66)

One fourth of the women state that it was their partners, parents, or brothers and sisters who subjected them to these assaults

It is verified that it is often a partner, parent, or sibling who subjects the woman to these acts of cruelty. However, it occurs, as has previously been established, that bus drivers within the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities and for the elderly, taxi drivers, home help service staff, personal assistants, or other staff who come to the woman's home are said to be guilty of assaulting the woman. (F67)

The violence, threats, and rapes usually take place in the woman's home (41 percent) or in someone else's home (17 percent). (F68)

Every tenth woman who is abused or assaulted reports it to the police herself

In total, 12 percent of all those women who have, on some occasion, been subjected to violence or threats by men (percentage of 347 women) state that they themselves reported the incident to the police, whereas 3 percent reply that the police were informed about the incident in some other way.

Thus, in total 5 percent of all the women who answered the questionnaire (1063 women) state that they have been in contact with the police due to the threats or abuse by men. (F69)

Reasons why women do not make reports to the police

Almost half of those women who have been abused or assaulted, but who did not report it to the police, 45 percent, say that they did not do it because they considered the incident too trivial to be reported. (F70)

One fifth, 19 percent, of those women who have been abused or assaulted and who have not been in contact with the police answer that they simply did not want the police to be involved. (F70)

One woman out of seven, 14 percent, did not make a report because she felt ashamed or guilty. (F70)

7 percent of those women who did not report what had happened reply that they did not think that the police could do anything, 5 percent were afraid of the perpetrator's retaliation, and 2 percent did not think that the police would believe them. Moreover, there are a few women who answer that the police station was inaccessible to them, and they had difficulties entering; they did not have energy enough, or they did not want their parents to know what had happened. Some women explain their reasons in their own words, for instance: (F70)

– **"Uncertain as to how it would be understood, when he made me drunk."**

– **"My mum didn't allow me to report."**

It is worth noting that a slightly larger share of those women who have suffered physical injuries from men's violence reply that they are afraid of the perpetrator's retaliation, and that is why they do not go to the police. (F70)

Those dissatisfied as to how the police act, nearly as many as those satisfied with it

A majority, of those women who reported to the police when they had been assaulted by men, state that those reports were made more than ten years earlier. (F71)

Among those women who have been in contact with the police regarding men's behaviour towards them, 56 percent say that they are pleased, and 41 percent that they are displeased, with the way the police treated their cases. There are just as many women who answer that they are very pleased, as there are women who reply that they are, indeed, displeased. Those women, who did not suffer physical injuries in connection with the incidents they reported, are somewhat more satisfied as to how the police acted than are those who did suffer physical injuries. (F72)

One third of those who were in contact with the police thought that the police did not try hard enough to investigate these crimes, and one third felt that the police minimized their cases or treated them with indifference. Half of the women felt that they were poorly informed about other possibilities of help and support. There are also women who felt that the police blamed them for what had happened or that they were not taken seriously, due to their disability.

– "Always make a report to the police, if he's done it to you, he's sure to do it to someone else."

H. Questions to Women Who Live or Have Lived in a Marriage/Relationship Where Violence Has Occurred

In total, 20 percent of all the women included in this study state that they have, once or several times, been subjected to threats, violence, or sexual assaults by a husband or a partner, with whom they lived but to whom they were not married.

Only a few women who are abused or assaulted seek professional help

One woman out of three, who has lived or lives in a relationship where violence occurs, has tried to get help from, among others, women's shelters, the social emergency service, social welfare assistants, or from the psychiatric care. (F74)

Many women are dissatisfied with the help they get from professionals

5 percent, of those women who have been assaulted by their husbands or partners, have tried to get some help from women's shelters and were satisfied with that help; 3 percent were dissatisfied with the help they were given there. (F74)

3 percent turned to the victim support service and were happy with the help they received, whereas 2 percent who sought the help from this quarter were displeased with it. (F74)

1 percent of the women tried to get some help from the social emergency service and were happy with it, while 5 percent sought their help and were dissatisfied. There are also more women who are displeased with the support they have received from social welfare assistants than there are women who are pleased with it; 2 percent of them are satisfied and 7 percent are dissatisfied. (F74)

Lawyers, who assist women who have been abused or assaulted by their husbands or partners, are those who have the largest share of pleased clients, in relation to the number of displeased clients. 9 percent sought the help from lawyers and were satisfied, while 1 percent were dissatisfied when engaging a lawyer. (F74)

8 percent tried to get some help from family counselling centres and were happy with that; 5 percent tried it but were disappointed in the help that could be offered at family counselling centres. (F74)

One tenth, 10 percent, turned to the psychiatric care for help and were satisfied with the support they got; 6 percent tried this but were dissatisfied. Furthermore, 6 percent sought other forms of medical care and were happy with the help they received in this connection, whereas 2 percent who tried other forms of medical care were disappointed. (F74)

One woman out of ten does not try to get any help because she feels ashamed

Two women out of three, who live or have lived together with men who subject them to threats, violence, or sexual assaults, have never sought that help which can be offered by society.

Barely one third of these women, 27 percent, say that they did not try to get any professional help, because they thought that the assaults in question were too trivial. 16 percent answer that they sought no help, due to the fact that they did not want or need any. One tenth of those who did not seek any help, state that this was due to the fact that they felt ashamed of what had occurred.

Moreover, there are women who say that they did not try to get any help, because they were afraid of being treated as though it was their own fault (5 percent), because they did not know where to seek the help (4 percent), because there was no help to be given (1 percent), or because their husbands/partners stopped them (1 percent). It is especially worth noting the share of women, 3 percent, who did not try to get any help because they feared to lose their children. (F75)

Some women chose to explain the reason why they did not seek any help in their own words, some examples:

- "Inaccessibility with no guide, I was entirely isolated against my will. Car, telephone, mail – everything was controlled."
- "I had difficulties leaving my home."
- "Feared reprisals from my ex."
- "Needed personal assistance."

One third of those who are abused or assaulted by their husbands/partners, separate from them

In total, 35 percent, of those women who have lived together with men who did, in some way, subject them to threats, physical violence, or sexual assaults, state that they chose to separate from these men. A majority of these women left the homes they had had together with their partner; 28 percent moved out, 6 percent of the men left the homes they had shared. (F76)

In most of the cases, those women who moved out of their homes moved to friends or relatives or straight to a new home. In a few cases, it is stated that the woman moved to a women's

shelter, a hotel, or to some other place, such as her workplace, her car, or something like that. (F77)

One third of those who separate from their partners, reunite with them

One third, 33 percent, of those who separated from their partners moved in with them again after a while. (F78)

The most common reason why the couples reunite and move in together again is that the man "promises to change". One fourth of those who move in together again state that it is for the children's sake, and every tenth woman says that it is because she still loves that man. (F79)

About half of those women who never move in with their ex-partner again reply that it depends on that man's violence against them and their children, slightly more than one third want to lead lives of their own henceforth, a little less than one fifth state that they do not love that man any more, and one tenth of the women wish that their children should have a better life. (F80)

In sum, there are thus in total 7 percent of all those women with disabilities who answered the questionnaire (1063 women) who say that they have, on some occasion, moved away from a man who threatened them or used violence against them.

I. Questions to All Women.

To conclude the questionnaire, all the 1063 women answered a number of questions.

Somewhat more than one tenth of the women with disabilities were subjected to physical violence before they had turned 15

In total, 11 percent of all the women reply that they were subjected to violence by their father before the age of 15, and 1 percent were beaten by their stepfather. (F81)

There are also women who were beaten by their mother (5 percent), or their stepmother (1 percent). 3 percent were beaten by their brother and 2 percent by their sister. Moreover, 1 percent say that they were beaten by other members of the

family or other relatives, and 4 percent were beaten by acquaintances. (F81)

Although there are few of them, there are women included in this investigation who state that they were subjected to physical violence, before they turned 15, by staff connected with their residences, assistants at school or elsewhere, physiotherapists, occupational therapists or other nursing staff, or taxi drivers out of charge as well as drivers in charge within the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities and for the elderly. (F81)

2 percent of all the women say that they were subjected to physical violence by teachers. (F81)

Every twentieth woman was forced to sexual activities before she had turned 15

The following question was posed to all the women:

– "Did it happen that a man ... on some occasion before you had turned 15?" (F82)

In total, ...

- 16 percent answered that it had happened that a man had behaved in a manner that they experienced as sexually threatening.
- 5 percent answered that it had happened that they had been forced to some kind of sexual activity.
- 8 percent answered that it had happened that a man had tried to force them to some kind of sexual activity.
- 7 percent answered that it had happened that they had encountered a man who made them understand that it was "normal" and OK to have sexual intercourse with him.

Every fifth woman has, on some occasion, participated in some kind of sexual activity, against her will

When asked the question whether it has happened that a man has, on some occasion after the women's 15th birthday, made them participate in some kind of sexual activity, although they did not actually want to, one fifth, 18 percent, of all the women answer in the affirmative. (F83)

Half of those women who "agreed to do it" against their will, state that this happened together with a chance acquaintance, while one fifth say that it happened together with an ex-boyfriend. There are also women who answer that the man in question was their husband or partner, a stranger, a friend of theirs or of their family's, a relative, a supervisor, their father/stepfather, etc. (F84)

3 percent have children who have been battered by these women's partners

3 percent of all the women state that their children have been battered by, in the first place, their ex-husband or ex-partner; however, there are also women who answer that their children have been battered by the men they live with at present. Taken into account only those women who have children, this makes up nearly 5 percent of the "child households" included in this study. It is more common that women, who have themselves suffered physical injuries from men's violence, also have children who have been battered. (F85)

Children are subjected to sexual assaults in their homes

Moreover, it occurs that the women's children are subjected to sexual assaults by the women's partners/the children's fathers. In total, 1 percent of all the women reply that their children have been subjected to some kind of sexual assault by a partner of theirs. (F86)

Two or more perpetrators at the same time

Among all the 1063 women who responded to the questionnaire, there are 3 percent who state that they have been subjected to rape, attempted rape, or sexual abuse, and that there were then, on some occasion, two or more perpetrators involved. One fourth, 26 percent, reply that it has occurred, but not with several perpetrators involved at the same time. Two thirds, 66 percent, say that they have not been subjected to rape, attempted rape, or sexual abuse. 5 percent chose not to answer the question. (F87)

More common that women, who have been physically injured by men, try to commit suicide

In total, 7 percent of all the women included in this investigation say that they have, on some occasion, tried to commit suicide. Above all, it is the youngest women, aged between 18 and 34, who state this (14 percent).

One fifth, 20 percent, of those women who say that they have suffered physical injuries because they have been subjected to some kind of violence by a man, state that they have also tried to commit suicide. Furthermore, it is more common that women who do not live together with a man have tried to commit suicide (11 percent), as compared with those who live together with a man (4 percent). (F88)

Many have contemplated suicide

It is common that these women have thought about committing suicide. In total, one third, 33 percent, of all the women reply that they have, on some occasion, thought of committing suicide.

A large share of women, who are single (42 percent), who have severe disabilities (43 percent), who have been physically injured by a man (64 percent), or who are younger than 35 years (43 percent), have, on some occasion, contemplated suicide.

Prostitution, pornography, and porno clubs

In total, 1 percent of all those women who responded to this questionnaire state that they have, on some occasion, been paid for taking part in some kind of sexual activity. Moreover, there are women who say that they have posed for pornographical purposes in return for payment and that they have worked at porno clubs. (F89)

4.2 A Study of Men's Violence against Women with a Moderate or Mild Intellectual Disability

In this connection, the term intellectual disability refers to a disability that affects a person's intellectual capacity and that has, irrespective of reason, occurred before the age of about 16–18.

However, the individual variations are significant as to a person's different abilities and their way of using their abilities in different situations. This is not entirely due to their disability but also to the way these people are treated by those around them and to the support they get to minimize the effects of obstacles in their lives. Whether a person with an intellectual disability accepts or rejects their need of support, it entails dependence

on others. They are exposed to risks of putting themselves or of being put into situations that lead to their being abused, unintentionally or deliberately.

Those women who participated in this study were aged between 18 and 64. The oldest among them grew up and went to school at a time when institutions, such as residential homes and boarding schools for pupils with learning disabilities, were common. "Collective solutions" were typical of the outlooks of and support from society. Personal qualities, interests, and wishes were blocked out by notions of "those with a mental retardation" and views as to what was the best for them as a group. This could also concern relatives who were openly or covertly blamed for having a member of the family with an intellectual disability.

This might have had an impact on the development of these women's identities and might have increased their vulnerability in several ways.

Today, the support under "The Act Concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments" (LSS) is to be guided by respect for individual conditions and wishes, integrity and influence. The institutions are closed down and have, among other things, been replaced by group homes and service accommodation for adults. Inclusion is a keyword within education, and support for families has been developed. However, this does not mean that collective notions have been abandoned at the same rate, something which may have consequences for assessing the need of support for different women as well as the contents of this support.

Only in recent years, has there been an increase in the attention paid to the importance of "eliminating the sexlessness" and of taking into account the fact that persons with intellectual disabilities are girls and boys, women and men. The level of awareness of these things has, for instance, been raised by the women's own stories as to how they have been affected by the images of women in media, of their dreams about "being like others", and of their feeling that they have to go through a lot to get there. Their experience of contacts with the health care service, the police, etc. has also contributed to a change in attitudes.

One positive result of this increase in the attention paid to the gender perspective is that there are, in several places, "groups for girls" and "groups for boys" (when participating in leisure activities), and that there are good examples of the increased interest from schools in preparing their students for their adult lives by also shedding light upon these matters. Measures taken to deepen, partly the knowledge and influence of the women and men themselves, partly the knowledge among those around them, might prevent that individuals are subjected to different kinds of abuse. With one's intellectual limitations, it is also a matter of being taken seriously when describing how one's dependence on support has led to assaults. In turn, this makes demands on, for example, staff training, guidance, and supervision of the measures taken by society.

156 women answered the questionnaire which was less than expected. Most likely, there is hidden statistics, even among those women who responded to the questionnaire and declared that they had not been subjected to "unpleasant things". Yet another number of unrecorded cases might be found in those situations where those responsible for activities (where women with intellectual disabilities take part) for different reasons refrain from assisting in carrying out this investigation.

A. The Results of the Investigation

– **"I've kept it as a secret." (raped)**

– **"Didn't know that I was allowed to tell the police."**

By face-to-face interviews, telephone calls, and letter, 156 women with moderate or mild intellectual disabilities responded to a questionnaire on men's violence against women. The length, typeface, and vocabulary of the questionnaire were adapted to the intellectual conditions of women with this kind of disability.

Below, the main results of this study are presented in the running text. The one interested in separate results in tabular form, please, see the appendix comprising tables, chapter 6. After each paragraph, there is a parenthesis (F), which is a reference to that question, in the appendix comprising tables,

which is reviewed in the text. At first, some results that describe the women interviewees:

Almost one third of the women are married or live together with a partner

One fifth, 22 percent, of the women live together with their partner without being married to him, 7 percent of the women are married, and 12 percent say that they live apart from their partner. A smaller share, 6 percent, state that they are divorcees, and 2 percent are widows. One tenth, 13 percent, of the women say that they have never had a boyfriend. Some of the women chose to give several replies to the question, for example, that they are both divorcees and live together with a partner. (F1)

One fourth, 26 percent, state that they are unmarried, and 13 percent answer that they have never had a boyfriend. (F1)

One fourth live in some kind of group homes

Somewhat more than half of all the women who responded to the questionnaire say that they live in flats or villas of their own, and 16 percent live with their parents. One fifth, 20 percent, live in group homes, in a flat of their own, while 6 percent live in group homes of an earlier design, in a room of their own. 3 percent of the women say that they live in some other way than those listed above, for instance, with a friend. One tenth of those who state that they live together with a man, live with him in a group home. This result might be a misconception which does not indicate a relationship, but which establishes the fact that there are also men living in this group home. (F2)

One woman out of five lives in a home with children

In total, 21 percent of the women state that there are children living in their homes. It is especially women who live together with men who say this; in total, 37 percent of those women who live together with their partner have children living in their homes. In certain cases, where the woman lives with her parents, it might refer to her brothers and sisters. (F3)

Half of those who responded to the questionnaire are under 35

All those women who were asked to participate in this study were aged between 18 and 64. The average age of those

women who responded to the questionnaire was 36.9 years. Half of them, 47 percent, were aged between 18 and 34, 39 percent between 35 and 54, and 11 percent were aged between 55 and 64. (F4)

One tenth, 13 percent, were born in some other country than Sweden. (F5)

Mainly, these women are educated within the educational system of schools for students with learning disabilities

Many of these women have taken part in several different kinds of education. Four women out of ten, 42 percent, have attended the nine-year comprehensive school, 54 percent the compulsory education for pupils with learning disabilities, 58 percent the upper secondary education for pupils with learning disabilities (some choosing a vocationally oriented programme), 35 percent have attended education for adults with learning disabilities or the adult secondary education programme, and 21 percent have attended classes at folk high schools. One woman out of ten says that she has attended some other kind of education than those listed above. (F7)

A majority of the women work/participate in daily activities

Two thirds, 66 percent, of the women state that they work. 8 percent work at Samhall² (sheltered workshops), 14 percent at a company, at an organisation, or as public employees. Moreover, 51 percent say that they work/attend daily activities at day centres for persons with intellectual disabilities. (F8–9)

Nearly half of those who attend daily activities or have salaried work do this on a part-time basis. (F10)

One tenth, 13 percent, of the women were studying at the time when this study was carried out. (F8)

Half of the women suffer from other disabilities and diseases

Almost half of all the women, 43 percent, answer that they also have some other kind of disability, except their intellectual disability. Most often, it is then a matter of hearing disabilities, visual impairments, and mobility disabilities. (F11)

² "Samhall is a state-owned Swedish company, assigned to provide meaningful work that furthers the personal development of people with disabilities."
Source: <http://www.samhall.se/1425/>

Furthermore, one fourth, 26 percent, of all the women reply that they suffer from some disease. Often, those women, who have themselves written what diseases they suffer from, reply that they suffer from epilepsy, stomach problems, diabetes, rheumatism, or different neurological diseases. (F12)

Nearly half of the women with disabilities are confined by their disabilities or diseases

In total, 46 percent of all the women reply that there are things they cannot do because of their disabilities or diseases. The women were asked to say, themselves, what things they have difficulties doing, and, most often, it was a matter of every-day activities: running, writing, squatting, living on their own, cutting things with a knife, tying their shoelaces, going up or down an escalator, riding a bicycle, carrying out arithmetics, sewing and knitting, doing their shopping, etc. (F13)

Almost one third, 29 percent, of all the women reply that they make use of one or several different technical and/or guidance aids because of their disabilities. (F14)

Half of all those who responded to the questionnaire, 49 percent, use the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities and for the elderly. (F15)

Nine women out of ten are dependent on help and support

In total, 89 percent of all the women answer that they receive help and support from different people. It can be that they get assistance from the staff employed at their group homes, from the home help service, or from staff within the supported housing service. Some women have personal assistants. One third of them state that they have a guide or a support person. Many also get help from their parents, their brothers and sisters, or their partner. (F16)

One woman out of five worries about being hurt by someone within the staff

In total, 18 percent of all the women answer that they are worried that someone, from whom they need help and support, will hurt them. Half of them worry about what taxi drivers and staff within the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities and for the elderly might do to them. This worry or

fear particularly exists among those women who use aids, use the municipal transportation service, or who have previously been subjected to violence. It also occurs that these women are afraid that somebody among those close to them, parents, partners, or brothers and sisters, will hurt them. (F17)

Three women out of four have symptoms which may indicate psychosomatic disorders

Two thirds of those who answered the questionnaire, 64 percent, stated that they had lately suffered from one or all of the following symptoms: headache, stomach problems, palpitations, feeling of sickness, dizziness and weakness, inexplicable perspiration. This was especially relevant for those women who also said that they had previously been subjected to violence. (F18)

Furthermore, three women out of four, 76 percent, replied that they had, lately, either had difficulties concentrating, remembering things, or sleeping, had felt tired or weak, nervous or worried, or had felt irritated, unhappy or depressed. Those who had suffered from some of the above listed disorders ticked off close to two of them, on average. In particular, this concerns those women who had previously been subjected to violence. Among those women who had earlier experienced violence, nine out of ten had suffered from different disorders, and, moreover, they had suffered from more of these disorders than the other women. (F19)

Half of all the women use pharmaceuticals

Half of the women, 48 percent, say that they take some kind of medicine. One tenth, 13 percent, use soporifics, 13 percent take tranquilizers, 7 percent use analgesics, and 27 percent take other pharmaceuticals than those listed above. (F20)

Above all, it is those women who state that they have previously been subjected to violence who use tranquilizers. In total, one fourth of these women state that they use tranquilizers. (F20)

Many contemplate suicide

Slightly more than four out of ten, 42 percent, of all the women say that they have contemplated suicide on some occasion. One fifth, 18 percent, have, on some occasion, tried to commit suicide. Especially, this concerns women who have previously been subjected to violence. In total, 41 percent of those women,

who were beaten/subjected to violence before they had turned 15, answer that they have tried to commit suicide on some occasion, whereas 26 percent of those women who have been subjected to violence after having turned 15 state the same. (F21–22)

Those women who have been subjected to violence are in a poorer state of health than other women

One woman out of ten says that she is in a poor state of health, 34 percent of the women state that they are in a reasonably good state of health, while 55 percent say that they are in a good state of health. Women who have previously been subjected to violence reply, to a less extent than do other women, that they are in a good state of health. (F23)

Eight women out of ten are afraid of going out after dark

Close to half of those who responded to the questionnaire, 44 percent, say that they are afraid of being subjected to violence after dark, and therefore they do not usually go out in the evening. Naturally enough, this concerns, above all, those women who have earlier been subjected to violence.

Furthermore, 44 percent of all the women answer that they do not simply go out alone when night has fallen, and 38 percent state that they are afraid of the dark. Merely 16 percent of all the women say that they are not at all afraid to go out alone when it is dark. (F24)

Two women out of three are afraid of being raped by a stranger

Half of those women who are worried about being raped by a stranger state that they are very worried. (F25)

One woman out of four has prepared herself for a violent situation

In total, 25 percent of all the women say that they have prepared themselves for a violent situation. One fifth, 21 percent, have thought about what to do if something happens, 4 percent usually bring some object with them to be able to defend themselves, and 3 percent have attended classes in self-defence. Above all, it is women who have previously been subjected to violence who have considered what to do should it happen again. (F26)

Eight women out of ten lived with their parents during their childhood and adolescence

The women state that they lived in 1.3 different places on average, during their childhood and adolescence; 83 percent answer that they lived with their parents, 13 percent lived in foster homes, 7 percent in children's homes or orphanages, 13 percent in school boarding houses, 4 percent in residential homes, and 6 percent in special hospitals. (F27)

It is, above all, those women who have been beaten/subjected to violence, before as well as after the age of 15, who can be found among those who grew up in institutions or foster homes.

One third of all the women were beaten before they had turned 15

In total, 31 percent of the women state that they remember being beaten by somebody before the age of 15, whereas 12 percent say that they do not remember whether such a thing happened to them or not. The share of the oldest women, who say that they were beaten before they had turned 15, is larger (53 percent) than the share of the youngest, stating the same (22 percent). To a great extent, it is those women, who were beaten when they were young, who also state that they have been subjected to violence when older than 15. (F28)

Among those women who say that they were beaten before they had turned 15, 22 percent state that it was their father and 6 percent that it was their stepfather who did it. One tenth, 8 percent, were beaten by their mother, whereas 4 percent were beaten by their stepmother. It also occurred that other relatives as well as the women's brothers and sisters beat them. (F29)

Those women who were beaten before the age of 15 say that they were beaten by 1.3 persons on average. (F29)

In total, 14 percent of those women who were beaten before they had turned 15 state that it was members of the residential staff who beat them, and 16 percent say that the perpetrators were staff within the health care service and social welfare. Moreover, 10 percent state that they were beaten by members of the staff at school. Half of the youngest women, aged between 18 and 34, who were beaten, say that the perpetrator was a friend or someone else they know. (F29)

In this study, those women who were most beaten, at an early age, and those who have stated the largest number of different kinds of perpetrators, are to be found among the youngest women. (F29)

One woman out of five was forced to sexual activities when younger than 15

In total, 18 percent of all the women state that they experienced that a man forced them to have sex before they had turned 15, and 19 percent say that they experienced that a man tried to force them to have sex, also when they were younger than 15. Taken together, there are 22 percent of all the women who say that they were either forced to or subjected to attempts to force them to have sex, or both. (F30–31)

The largest share, of those who state that they were forced to or subjected to an attempt to force them to have sex before the age of 15, is to be found among the oldest women. In total, 12 percent of the women, aged between 18 and 34, and 41 percent of the women, aged between 55 and 64, say that they were forced to and/or subjected to attempts to force them to have sex when they were under 15. (F30–31)

One third have been subjected to violence after their 15th birthday

In total, 37 percent of all the women say that they have been subjected to violence after the age of 15. Among those women who are now aged between 55 and 64, 71 percent state that they have been subjected to violence. In total, two thirds of those women who were beaten when younger than 15 say that they have also been subjected to violence after the age of 15. (F32)

Six women out of ten have been subjected to sexual abuse

At a listing of different kinds of unwanted behaviour, 60 percent of all the women answer that they have been subjected to all or some of it from one or several men with whom they have not had a sexual relationship. The different kinds of behaviour, mentioned at this listing, were as follows:

- Has frightened me by saying something about my body (22 percent)
- Has frightened me by speaking about sex (25 percent)
- Has made me dirty phone calls (21 percent)

- Has written dirty things when we have been chatting (13 percent)
- Has come too close, although I do not want him to (39 percent)
- Has stalked me so that I have been frightened (32 percent)
- Has gone on about our seeing each other, although I do not want to, have refused (31 percent)
- Has threatened to hurt me if I do not have sex with him (15 percent)

In total, eight women out of ten, of those who have previously been subjected to violence, state that they have experienced one or a few of the things listed above. (F33)

It is most often a "friend" or colleague

On a direct question to those women who stated that they have been subjected to some of the things listed above, 5 percent reply that the one who subjected them to this was a member of the staff at their group home, 6 percent that it was staff from the home help service or staff within the supported housing service, and 1 percent that it was somebody within the nursing staff. Furthermore, 4 percent say that they have been subjected to such things by staff within the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities and for the elderly or by taxi drivers, while 1 percent say that it was a physician, a psychologist, or a clergyman. (F34)

The majority of those women who have been sexually abused by men state that the perpetrator was a "friend" (39 percent), a neighbour (6 percent), a relative (8 percent), a colleague or a friend from school (18 percent), or simply some "other person I know" (31 percent).

Four women out of ten have been subjected to sexual assaults

Four women out of ten, 43 percent, of those included in this investigation, say that one or several men, with whom they have had no sexual relationship, have subjected them to one or a few of the following things, once or several times:

- Has pawed me about, kissed or hugged me, although I do not want him to (40 percent)
- Has battered me (12 percent)

- Has forced me to have sex, by threatening or hurting me (17 percent)
- Has raped me (10 percent)

Among the women aged between 55 and 64, there are 71 percent who say that they have been subjected to some of the above listed things.

Residential staff and staff within the health care service and social welfare also assault the women

Among those women who answered that they have experienced some of the violent situations listed above, 7 percent say that the perpetrators were staff connected with their group homes, 9 percent that the perpetrators were staff within the supported housing service or staff within the home help service, while 3 percent reply that it was staff within the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities who assaulted them. (F36)

The most common thing is, however, that the women are subjected to these things by friends (25 percent), relatives (12 percent), or by colleagues or friends at school as well as by other staff at work (16 percent). Nearly one third of the women, 30 percent, state that "it was some other man I know". Some women say that they have been subjected to violence by several different categories of men. (F36)

The violence/abuse usually occurs in someone's home

In total, 33 percent of those women, who have been subjected to violence by men, state that it occurred in their homes, whereas 28 percent say that it happened in someone else's home. One fifth, 18 percent, of those who have been assaulted also state that they have been subjected to violence at school or at work. It is worth noting that there are a few women who say that they have been subjected to violence in taxis (the municipal transportation service for persons with disabilities and for the elderly). (F37)

In total, 19 percent of the women state that one or several men have assaulted them in a restaurant, in the street, in a park, or in the forest. There are more among the younger women who answer that such incidents have occurred to them in several different places, than there are among the older women. For instance, there are only women aged between 18 and 34 who

say that they have been assaulted in cars or taxis – one fourth of them in total. (F37)

One woman out of four has experienced that a "boyfriend" has used violence against her

One fourth, 26 percent, of all the women say that they have experienced that a man, with whom they have had a sexual relationship, but whom they have not been married to or lived with, has: (F38)

- Pawed them about, kissed or hugged them, although they did not want him to (22 percent)
- Battered them (13 percent)
- Forced them to have sex with him by threatening or hurting them (12 percent)
- Raped them (8 percent)

In total, 41 percent of the oldest women, aged between 55 and 64, state that they have been subjected to some of the above. It is equally common that women who use technical and/or guidance aids because of their disabilities are assaulted by their "boyfriends" in the above listed ways, as it is among those who do not use any aids. (F38)

Somewhat more than half of those women who say that they were beaten before the age of 15 reply that they have been subjected to some of the things listed above, while in company with a man with whom they have had a sexual relationship, but whom they have not been married to or lived together with. (F38)

Eight women out of ten of those who have been subjected to violence/sexual violence by a "boyfriend" suffered physical injuries

A majority of those women who have been subjected to violence by a man after the age of 15, and with whom they have had sex, but whom they have not been married to or lived together with, suffered physical injuries from the incident/s: (F39)

- 53 percent were bruised or grazed
- 24 percent suffered wounds
- 5 percent had their legs or arms broken
- 9 percent suffered dental injuries

- 7 percent miscarried
- 14 percent suffered a concussion
- 55 percent experienced bodily pain
- 26 percent suffered some other kind of injury than the above

Those who answered that they had suffered some of the injuries listed above were asked whether they had seen a doctor about their injuries. Merely one fifth, 21 percent, of those women who had suffered physical injuries from violence by a man said that they had consulted a doctor about these injuries. (F40a) One third of those who saw a doctor did not tell the nursing staff that they had been injured by a man, in spite of the fact that the injuries, in six cases of ten, were so severe that the woman was sent to hospital. (F40b–41) One fifth of those who consulted a doctor were extremely displeased with the care they were given. (F42) One fifth of those who saw a doctor received a doctor's certificate regarding the injuries they had suffered. (F43)

One woman out of five has reported the violence to the police

Among those women who have been subjected to violence by a man after the age of 15, 22 percent say that they reported the incident to the police, whereas 9 percent state that they did not make a report themselves, but that the police were anyway informed about what had happened. (F44)

Prorated to the entire group of women included in this study, it can thus be established that a total of 11 percent of all these women say that they have, directly or indirectly, been in contact with the police, owing to the fact that they have been subjected to violence by one or several men, after the age of 15. (F44)

The main reasons why the women chose not to make reports to the police were that they did not think about the possibility to do it or that they did not want the police to know anything. Another frequently recurring reason is that the women felt ashamed or were afraid of retaliation. Moreover, certain women answer that they did not think the police would believe them if they made a report, or that they thought the police would not be able to do anything. There are women who reply that they did not make a report because they were afraid of losing their children. (F45)

Once in contact with the police, many of the women are satisfied with the help they get

A majority of those who have been in contact with the police, because they have been subjected to violence by one or several men, think that the police managed to help them in a good way. It is, however, worth noting that there are some cases where a report to the police has been made, but where the woman has never seen the police. (F46)

Serious psychological reactions in connection with men's violence against these women

Slightly more than one third of all those women with a moderate or mild intellectual disability, participating in this investigation, have thus been subjected to violence by one or several men after the age of 15. These women state that they have suffered many psychological problems from these incidents. Among those 58 women who have, earlier during the course of this investigation, replied that they have been subjected to violence after the age of 15, ...: (F47)

- 71 percent answer that they are frightened
- 38 percent answer that it was their own fault
- 38 percent answer that they feel anger
- 59 percent answer that they feel depressed
- 29 percent answer that they feel tired
- 45 percent answer that their self-esteem has deteriorated
- 53 percent answer that they suffer from insomnia and have nightmares
- 40 percent answer that they have difficulties concentrating
- 47 percent answer that they have difficulties in their relationships with men
- 24 percent answer that they have problems at gynaecological examinations
- 19 percent answer that they have difficulties in their work or studies

Those women who have suffered from some of the problems listed above mention 4.7 on average. Those women who were also beaten when younger than 15 state 6 of the above listed conditions on average, as being a result of the violence they have been subjected to. (F47)

Ex-partners behaved in a violent and controlling manner

A number of questions about their ex-partners were posed to those women who previously lived together with a husband or a man to whom they were not married. In total, 14 percent of all the women included in this study say that they earlier had another partner or husband with whom they lived together. These women state that they have close to two ex-partners on average. In nine cases out of ten, these women say that their ex-partners did some of the following things to them: (F49)

- 68 percent were jealous and wanted to know who the women had seen and what they had been doing
- 73 percent addressed them in a disparaging manner
- 73 percent made them feel inferior and worthless
- 36 percent of the women have had partners who forbade them to see their families or friends
- 5 percent were not allowed to work outside of their homes
- 14 percent have had partners who threatened to hurt their children
- 32 percent have had partners who threatened to hurt themselves should these women leave them
- 64 percent state that their ex-partners pawed them about, kissed or hugged them although the women did not want them to do so
- 55 percent were battered
- 55 percent say that their ex-partners forced them to have sex with them by threatening or hurting them
- 32 percent have been raped by men whom they were previously married to or previously lived together with

In conclusion, it can be established that nine women out of ten, who previously lived together with other men, state that these men behaved in a controlling manner and threatened them and battered them in different ways. Three women out of four say that these men were violent to them and/or battered them and raped them. (F50)

Furthermore, nine women out of ten, who previously lived together with a husband or a partner to whom they were not married, state that: (F51)

- 59 percent had objects thrown at them
- 73 percent were pushed
- 68 percent were beaten or kicked

- 23 percent experienced that their ex-partner seized them by the throat
- 41 percent had a partner who knocked their heads against something
- 32 percent had an ex-partner/ex-husband who threatened them with a knife or a firearm
- 32 percent had ex-partners who were violent to them in some other way. Some women chose to describe, in their own words, in what other ways these men assaulted them: "threatened with a shotgun", "threatened with his fist", "crushed my fingers in a drawer", "shouted loudly into my ear", "threatened with a bottle", "sexually", "electrical plug".

Half of these men continue this abuse after their separation

Even after these women's having moved away from their partners, these men often go on threatening and stalking them. In total, 50 percent of those women who previously lived together with another husband or partner say that they were subjected to the following things after their separation: (F52)

- 32 percent threatened the women
- 32 percent of the women were called upon in their homes by these men, against their will
- 23 percent of the women were stalked by the men they had separated from
- 9 percent of the women were battered

The children too are subjected to violence by these men

Some women with children state that they have separated from a relationship. Three quarters of the women say that their children have seen or heard when these women's ex-husbands/ex-partners were violent to them, and, in half of these cases, the children too were battered. (F53)

Violence and warning signals also occur in current relationships

Those women who live together with a husband/partner today state that they have lived with him for four years on average. (F54)

A majority say that their relationships are good, while one fourth reply that their relationships are reasonably good. (F55)

One tenth of the women answer that their current husbands/partners are jealous and want to know who they see or what they do. There are also women who say that they are addressed in a disparaging manner by their partners or that their partners threaten to hurt themselves should the women leave them. In total, one fifth of all those women who live together with a man today say that he treats them in a discrediting way. (F56)

Some women say that their current partners have pawed them about, kissed or hugged them against their will. (F57)

One fourth of the women state that their current partners have been violent to them by having either thrown objects at them, pushed, beaten or kicked them. (F58)

Some women state that it has occurred that their children have seen or heard when these women's current husbands/partners have been violent to them. (F59)

The women's own comments, as formulated by themselves

Finally, the women were asked to write whatever they liked, should they want to add, develop, or explain something. Below, the answers given are quoted word-for-word: (F60)

- I need lots of help from you to get well, and I need lots of support and psychological help.
(Battered, raped)
- He's kind and helps me at home. He doesn't beat me, we have no children. He's too kind to me, just so you know. I haven't marked any of the questions with a cross as he's not that sort of person.
- Living with a partner who's jealous isn't fun. If you're unlucky enough to live with such a person, you get sort of chapped within. It's the toughest thing I've ever experienced to live together with a person who's suspicious of everything you say and do.
- Would like to try and get help. They should give the health care staff more information, as a matter of fact, there can be psychological problems from violence. They should inform the members of the FUB (The Swedish National Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability) on how to defend oneself – even though you can't, you're at least a bit prepared.

- (Raped) It's so hard to know what to do because you're ashamed as well, so you can't tell your mum or your support person. Every girl should get help. People within the health care service and social welfare and so must learn to see when something's happened, for it's so hard to describe and tell yourself. What if they don't believe me when I tell them!
- My husband's a great support. I hope my daughter won't be raped, like me. If so, I'll kill that bloke.
- My husband was an alcoholic (= therefore violent). It's the alcohol's fault. A member of the family helped me to report him. You must get help then.
- I've been unfaithful 4 times, kind of, and I confessed it to my ex-partner. He didn't forgive me, but tormented me by forcing me to go to a sex club and have sex with other men, psychological abuse.
- Think it's a good thing to respond to this questionnaire and it's well drawn up. Is good that you investigate this.
- Women must learn to be tougher towards boys and must learn not to hesitate. They have to do what feels to be the right thing. They're beaten up and raped and sexually abused. Must have someone to speak with or get stronger themselves, and they must try to get on or find somebody who can listen to and help them.
- When I called my parents and told them that the staff at my boarding school beat me up, they took me home and I came to another place instead. But it was horrible there too.
- Your disability shouldn't mean that you don't get any support and respect and that you don't get the possibility to live like others.

