

# Sexual and physical partner and non-partner violence in a conflict-affected setting: *Preliminary findings from Cote d'Ivoire*

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# Study partners



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## ■ International Rescue Committee (IRC)

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- K.A. David Manan
- Drissa Kone
- Plus many, many IRC-CI field staff



# Focus of presentation

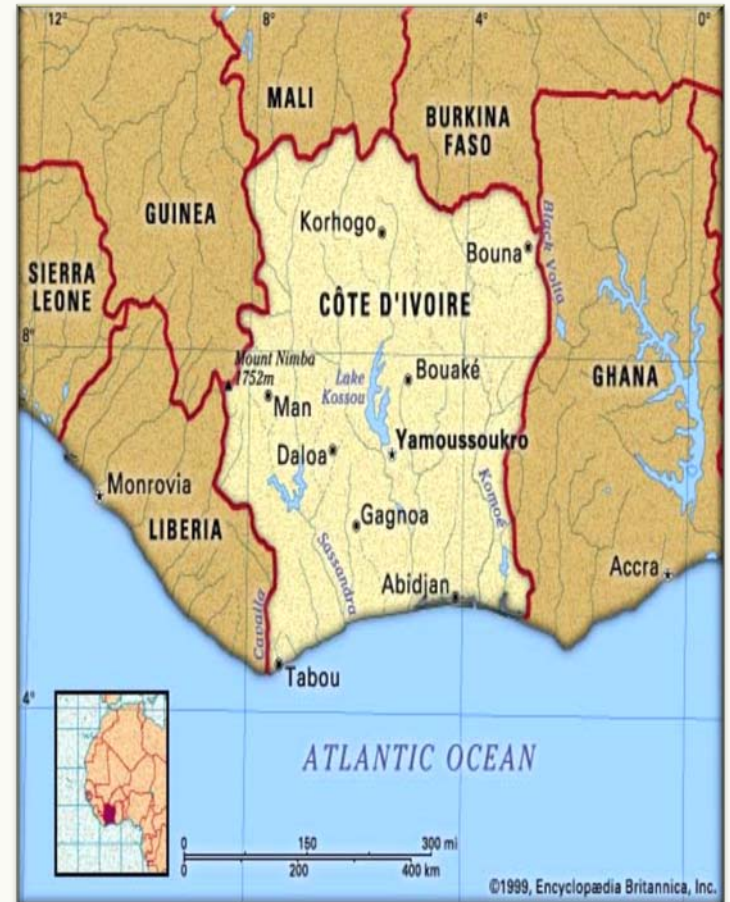
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Describe sexual and physical partner and non-partner violence reported by women and men in Cote d'Ivoire



# Presentation Outline

- **I. Research Context**
  - Overview of conflict in Cote d'Ivoire
  - Scope of the study
  - Methodology
  
- **II. Results**
  1. Experiences: Physical violence
  2. Experiences: Sexual violence
  3. Perpetration: Partner violence
  
- **III. Summary & Conclusions**



I.

# RESEARCH CONTEXT



# Overview of conflict

## ■ Conflict period:

- 1999: coup d'état marked start of the 'Crisis' period
- 2002: Civil war erupted, splitting country between rebel-held north, government-held south and foreign-held buffer zone
- 2007: Tentative peace agreement between rebels and government

## ■ Human rights abuses:

- Reports of sexual and physical violence against civilian population

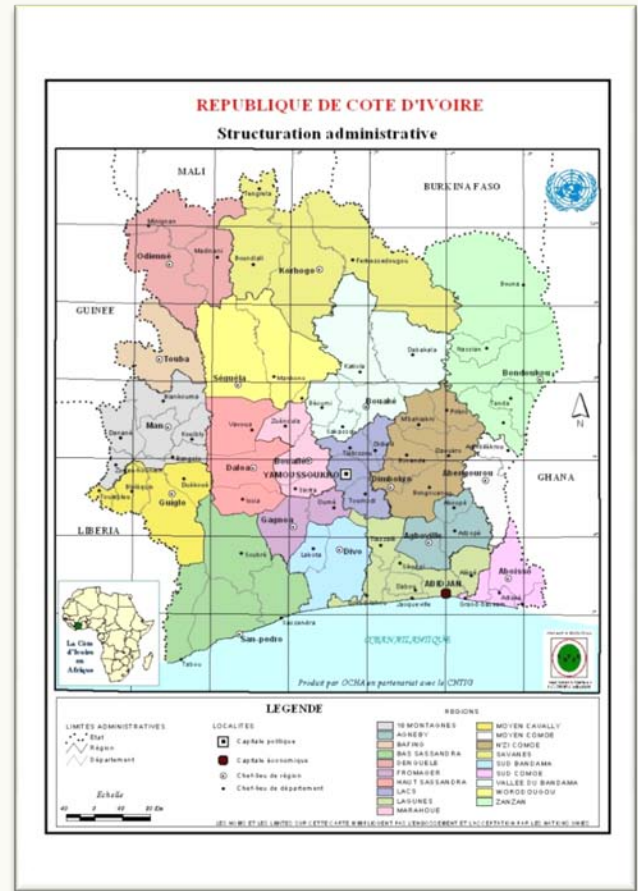
# Baseline Results

Preliminary baseline results from a cluster randomized controlled trial (RCT) to assess the impact of an IRC community focused partner violence prevention intervention on gender relations in 12 rural communities in Cote d'Ivoire.



# Evaluation design overview

- Cluster randomised controlled trial (RCT)
  - 6 intervention and 6 control communities
- Community surveys
  - **Baseline (Dec 2008)** and Follow-up survey (2012)
- Ongoing monitoring of intervention activities (2009-2012)
- Separate teams lead intervention (IRC) and evaluation work (LSHTM)





# Methodology

- Community household mapping
- Interviewer training (3 weeks)
- Quantitative baseline survey
  - Measurement of partner & non-partner violence:
    - Violence modules adapted from WHO Multi-Country Study on Domestic Violence
  - Representative sampling:
    - Random allocation of households to female or male interviews in each community; all eligible females or all males in household interviewed by same sex interviewer
  - Questionnaire: French and 8 local language translations
  - Standardized quality control
  - Eligibility: 15-49 years old, resident for 1+ year in community
  - Ethical and safety recommendations:
    - Participants were provided with information about sources of support; follow-up support and referrals offered
  - Completion:
    - 1,417 women & 1,268 men face-to-face interviews between Nov-Dec 2008



# Measuring Intimate Partner Violence

- **Physical violence** by an intimate partner
  - **MODERATE ACTS**
    - Slapped or had something thrown that could hurt her/him
    - Pushed or shoved
  - **SEVERE ACTS**
    - Hit with fist or something else that could hurt
    - Kicked, dragged or beaten up
    - Choked or burnt on purpose
    - Threatened to use or actually used a gun, knife or other weapon
- **Sexual violence** by an intimate partner (women only)
  - Physically forced to have sexual intercourse
  - Forced sexual intercourse because she was afraid of what partner might do
- **Two time periods:** Last 12 months, Before the last 12 months
- **Experiences & Perpetration:** All women & men were asked the same questions

# Measuring Non-Partner Violence

- **Physical violence** by someone other than a partner
  - ADULT (>15 years old)
    - Beaten up or physically mistreated
  
- **Sexual violence** by someone other than a partner
  - ADULT (>15 years old)
    - Forced to have sex or perform a sexual act that s/he did not want to
  - CHILD (<15 years old)
    - Touched sexually or made to do something sexual that s/he did not want to
  
- **Three time periods:** Before the coup d'état, During the Crisis, In the last 12 months

II.

# RESULTS



Results

# **SEXUAL VIOLENCE: *PARTNER & NON-PARTNER***



# Both women and men report experiences of sexual violence

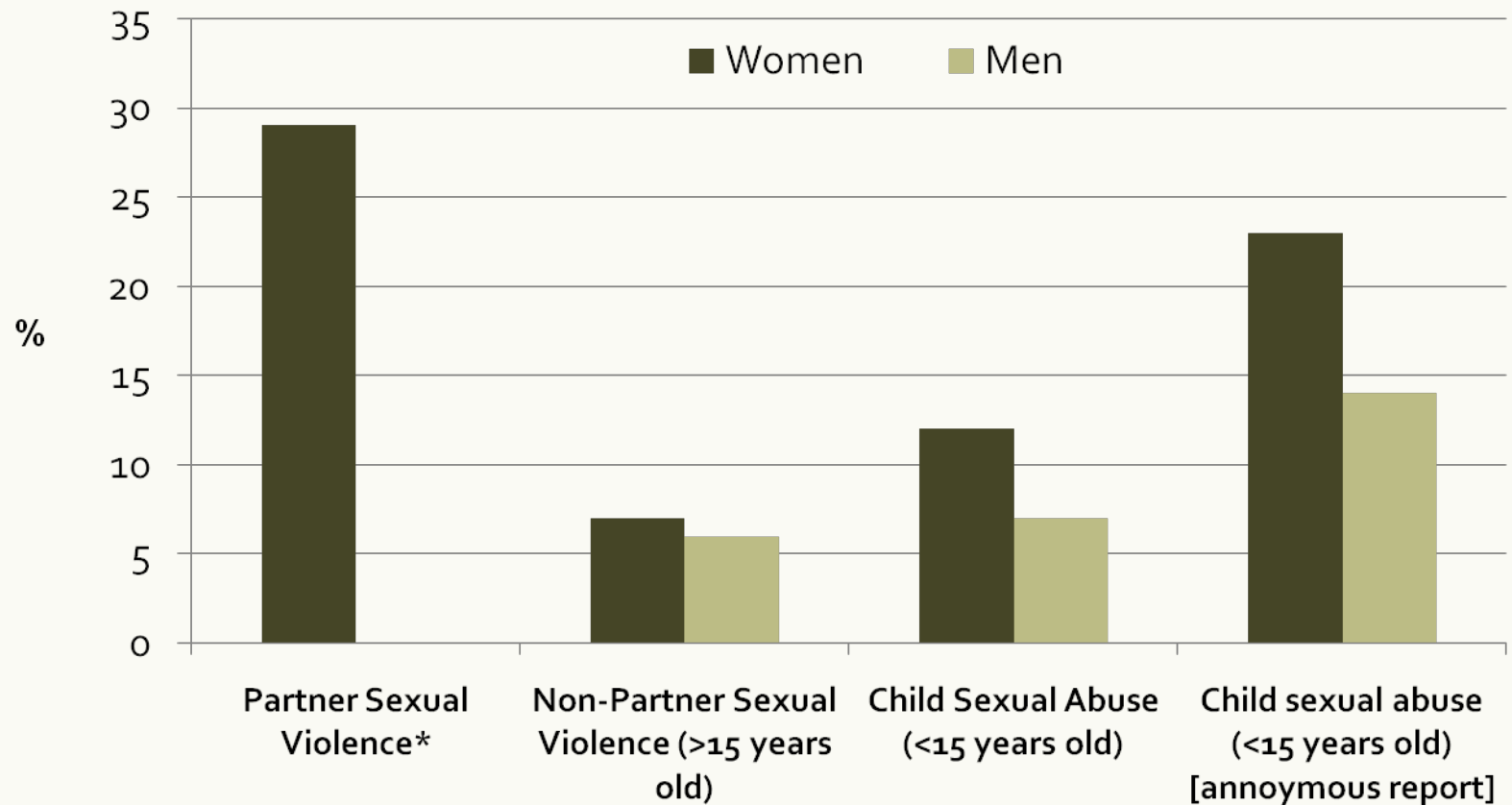


Fig 1. Lifetime experiences of partner & non-partner sexual violence, among women and men.

# Women report more non-partner sexual violence experiences in all time periods

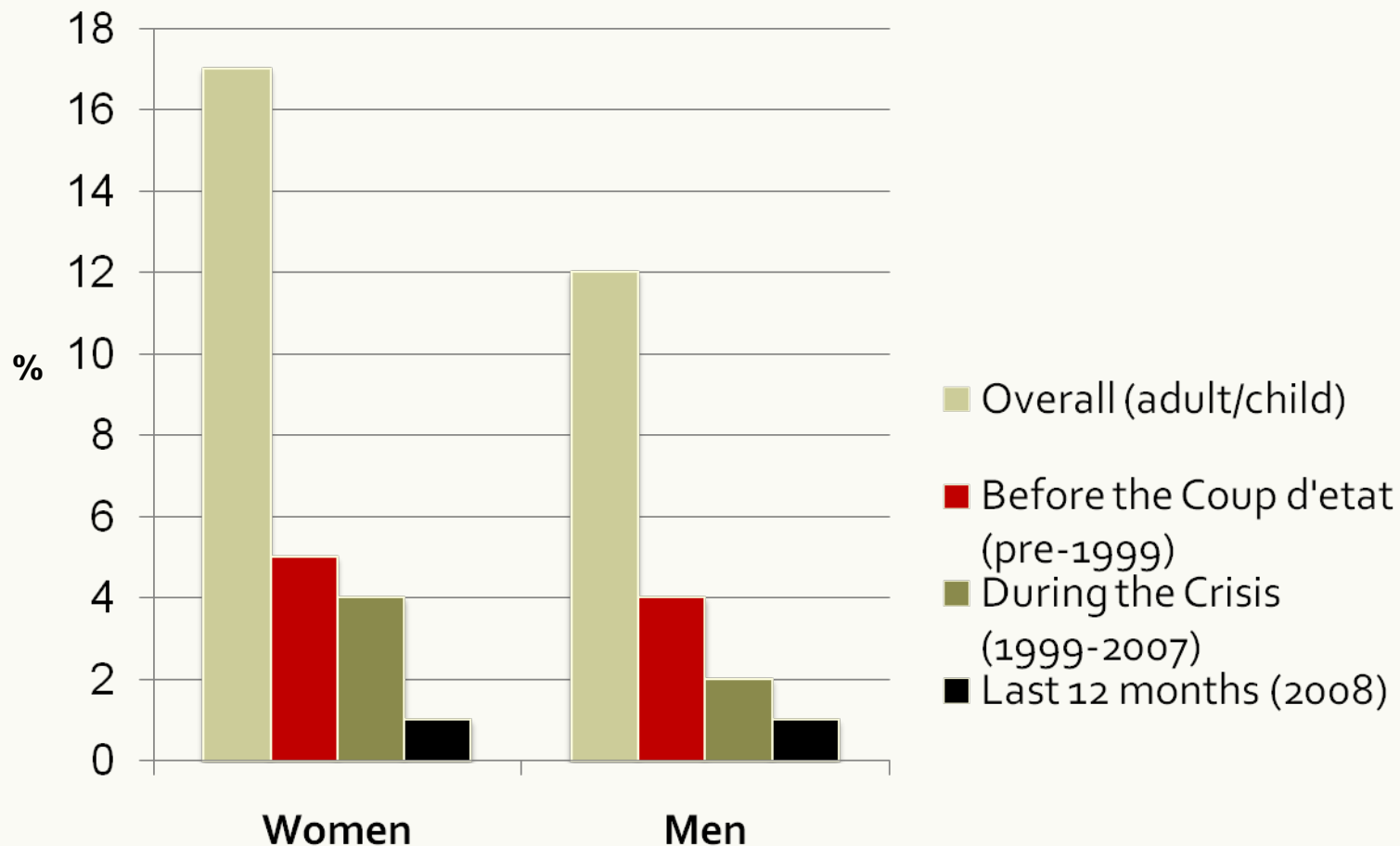


Fig 2. Non-partner sexual violence by time period, among women and men.

Results

# **PHYSICAL VIOLENCE: *PARTNER & NON-PARTNER***





# Both women and men report experiences of physical partner violence

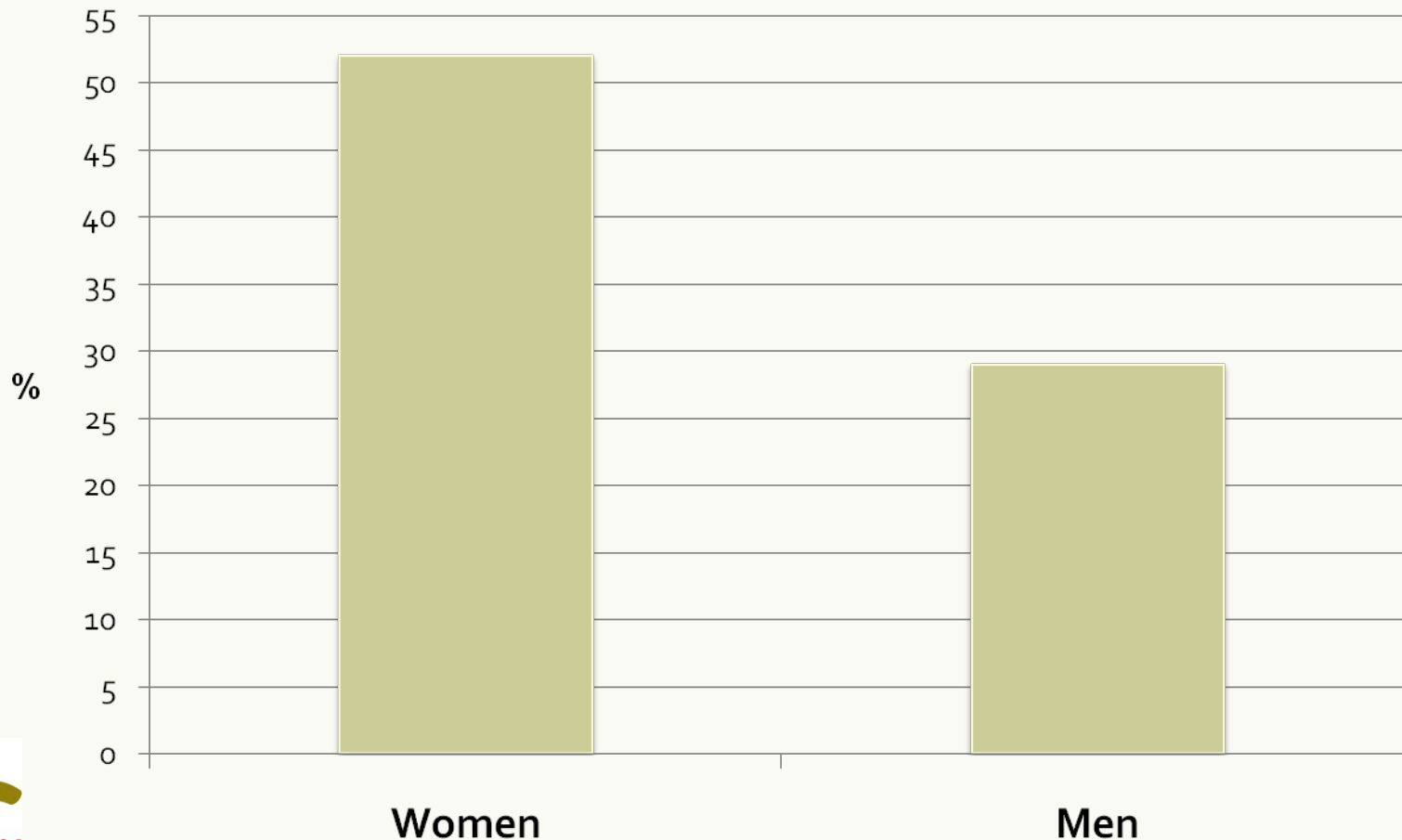


Fig 3. Prevalence of lifetime experiences of partner physical violence, among ever-partnered women and men.



# Women report experiencing severe acts of partner violence twice as often as men

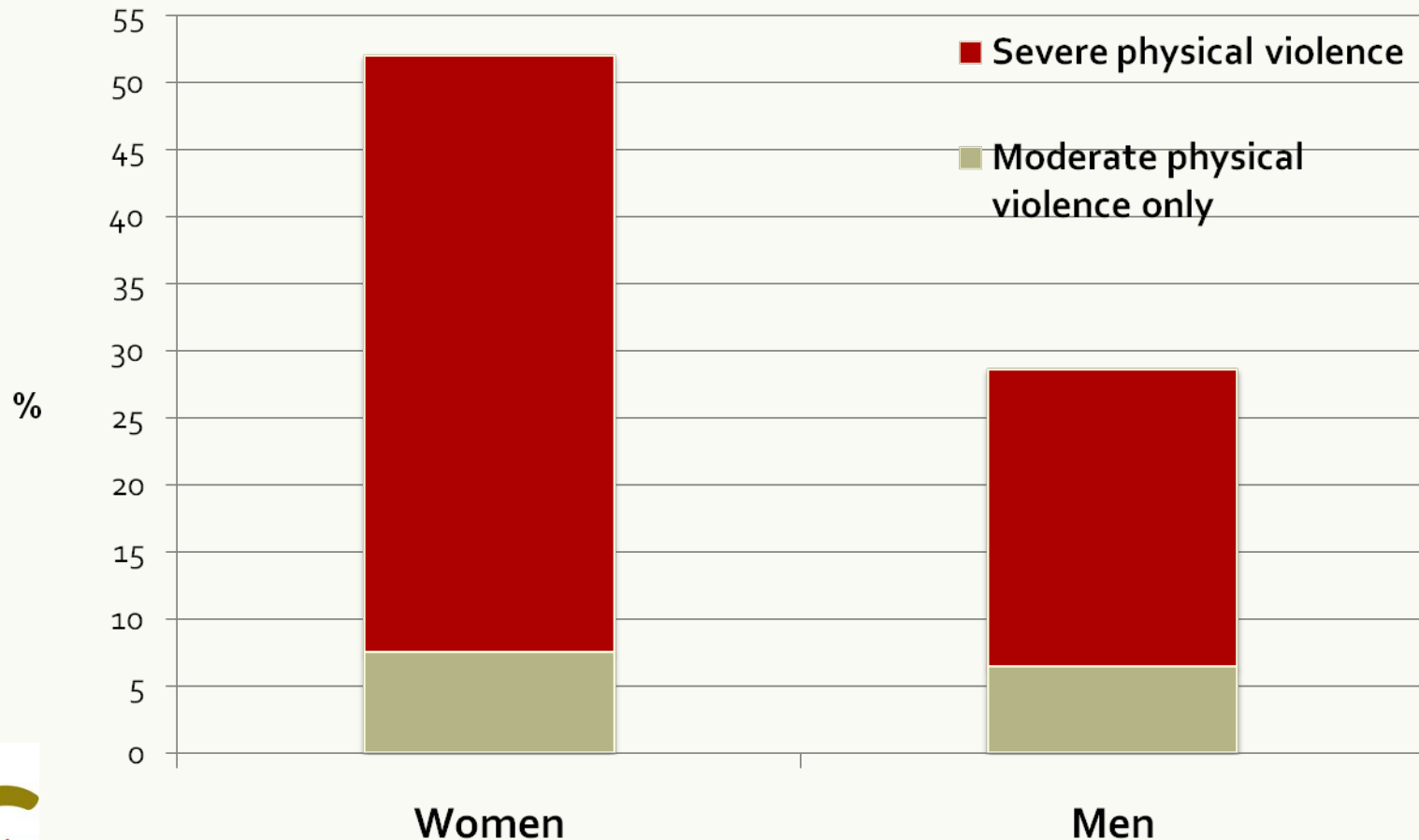


Fig 4. Prevalence of lifetime experiences of partner physical violence, according to severity, among ever-partnered women and men.

# High levels of past and current partner physical violence are reported by women

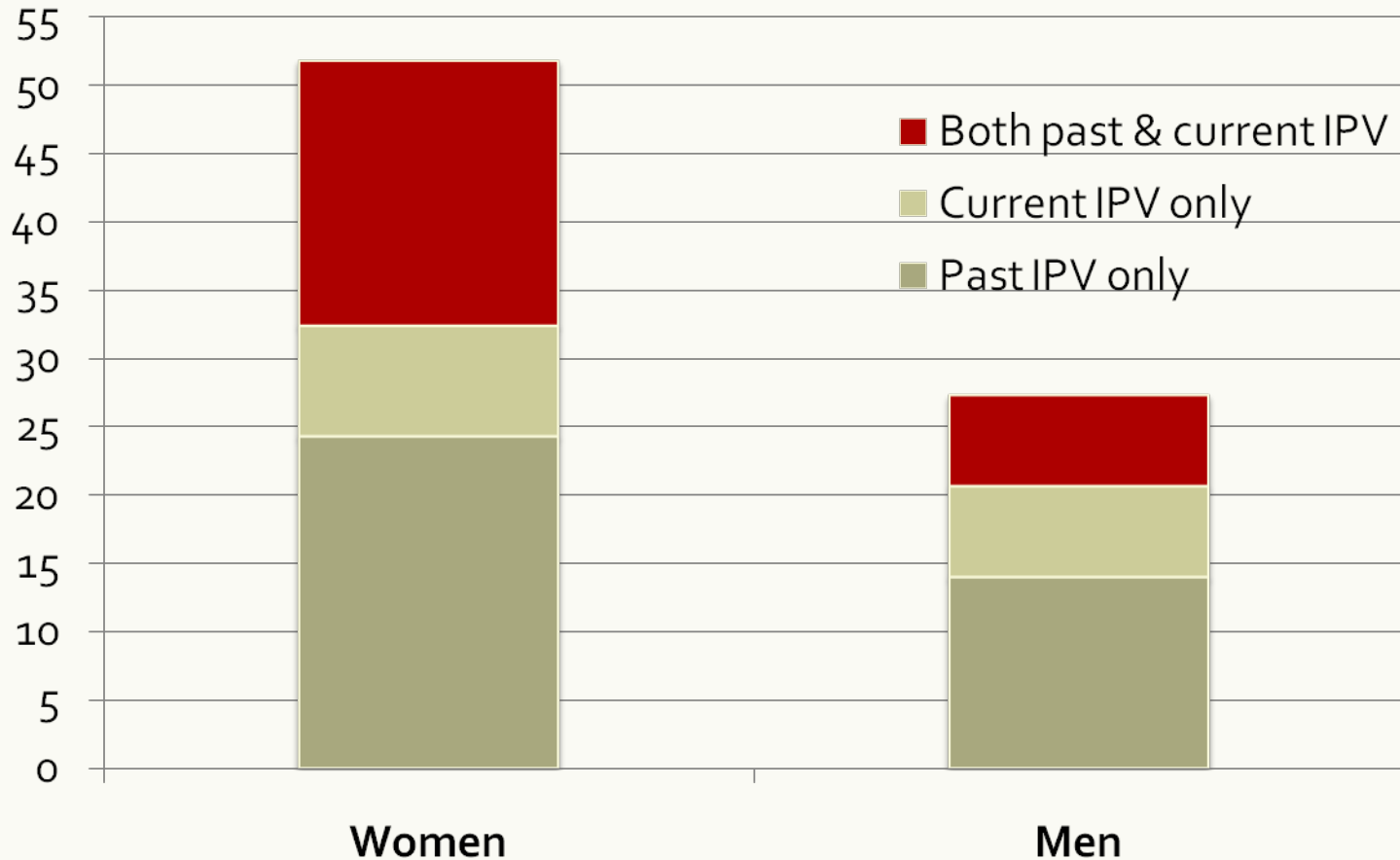


Fig 5. Prevalence of lifetime experiences of partner physical violence, according to time period, among ever-partnered women and men.

# Among women, partner physical violence may be part of a long-term pattern of abuse

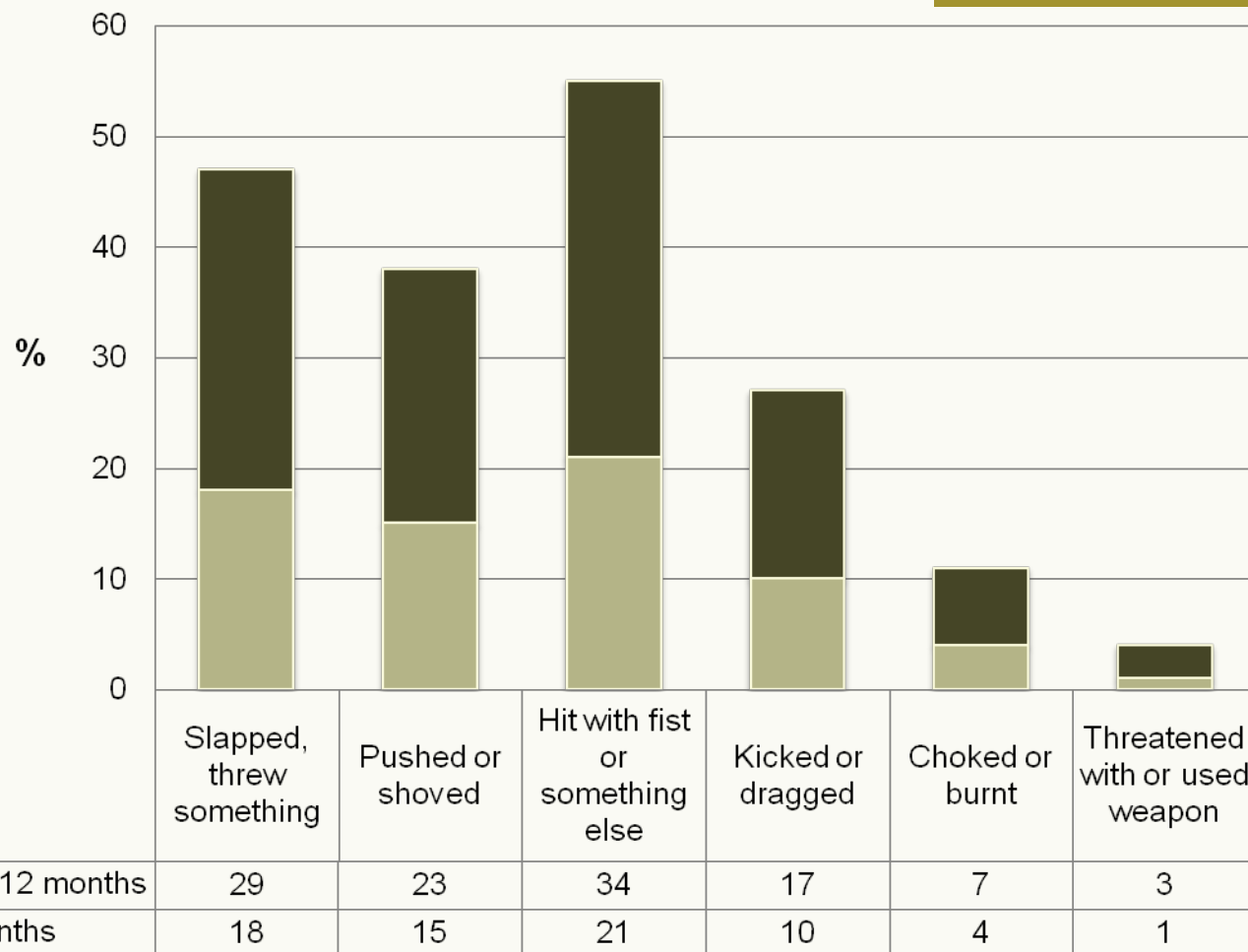


Fig 6. Women's reported experiences of partner physical violence by act, among ever-partnered.

# Men report a higher proportion of experiencing moderate partner physical violence acts

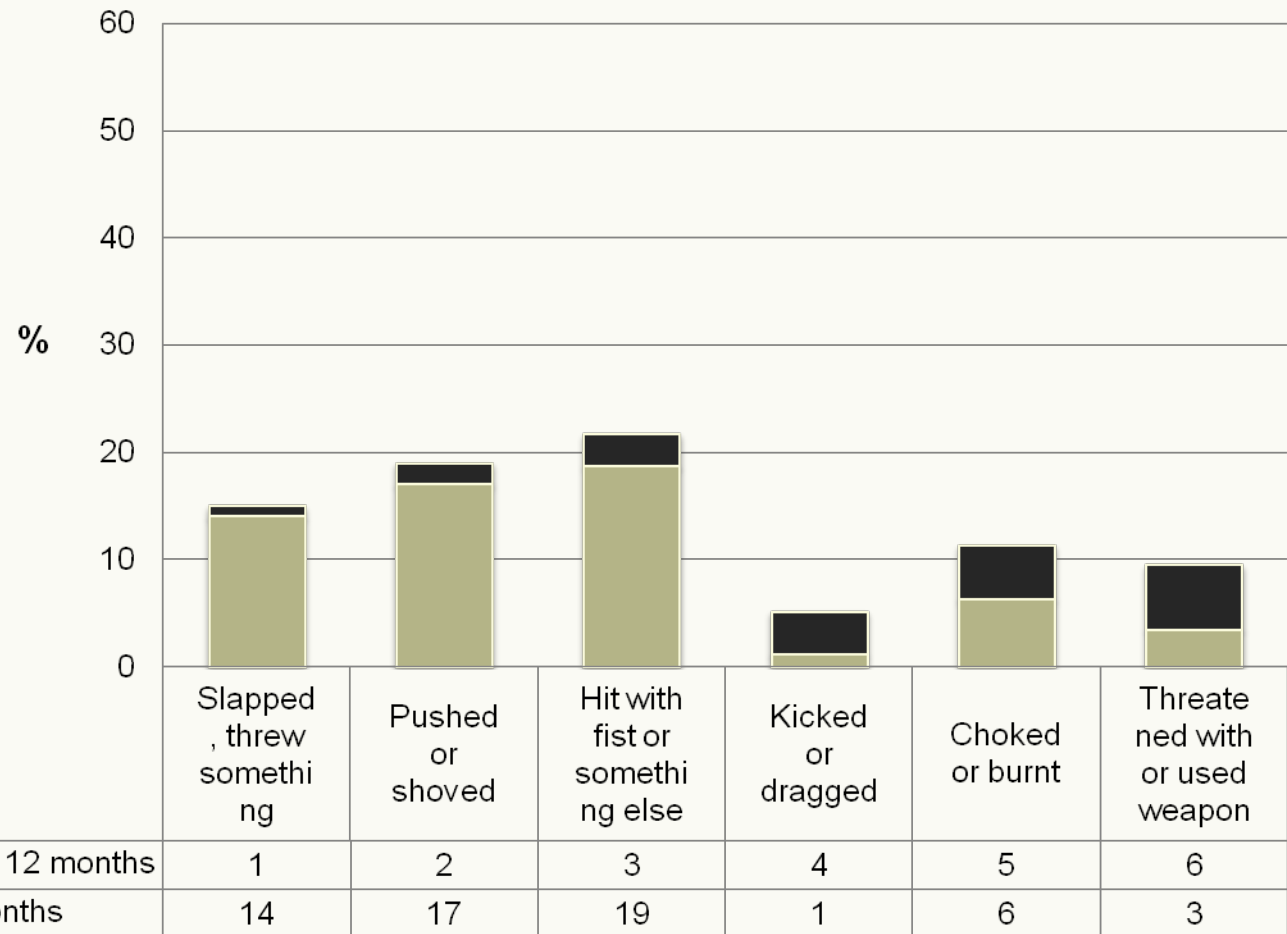


Fig 7. Men's reported experiences of partner physical violence by act, among ever-partnered.

# Men report experiencing more non-partner physical violence than women

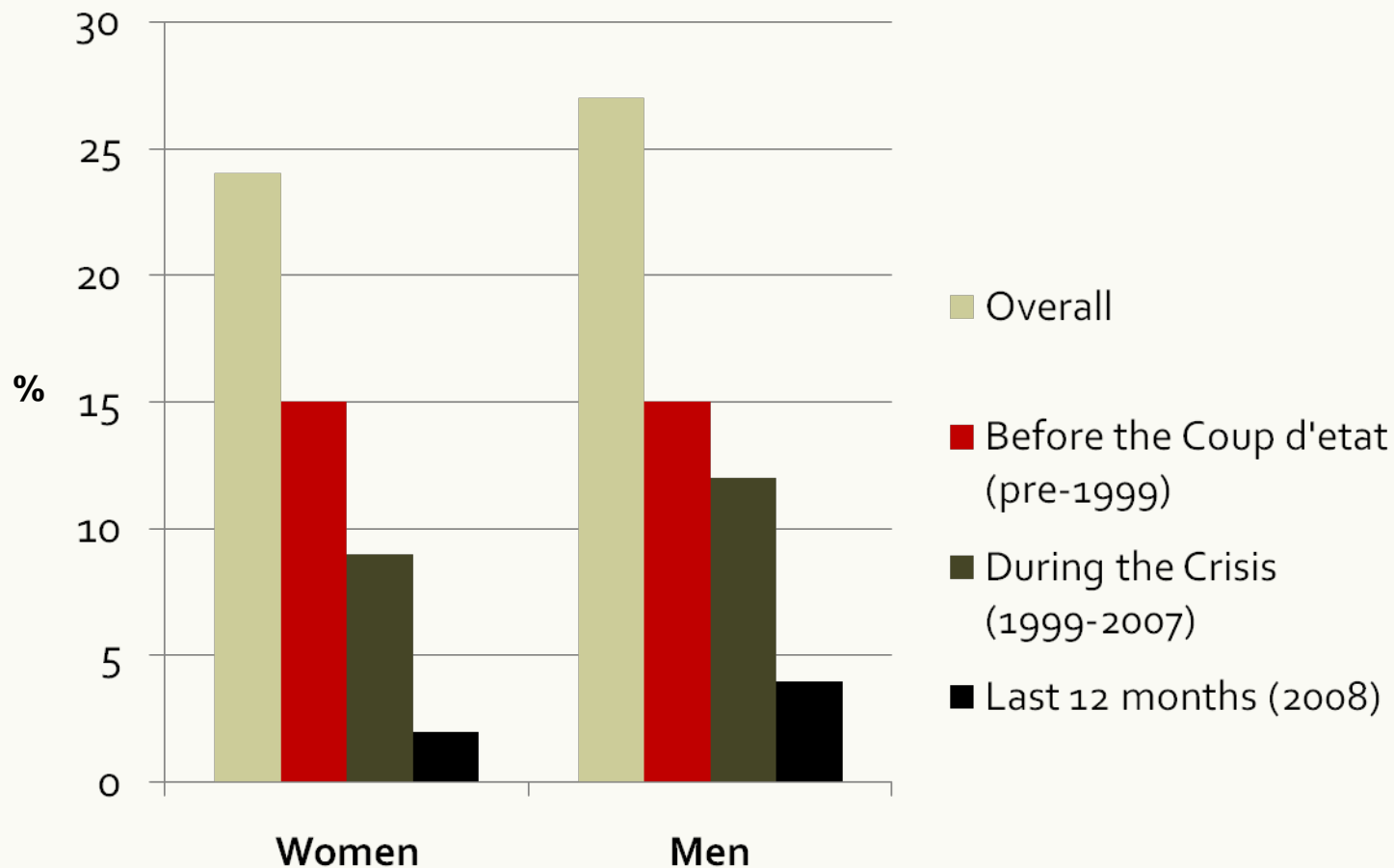


Fig 8. Non-partner physical violence ever experienced (overall) and by time period, among women and men

Results

# PERPETRATION OF VIOLENCE



# Men may be under-reporting perpetration of partner physical violence

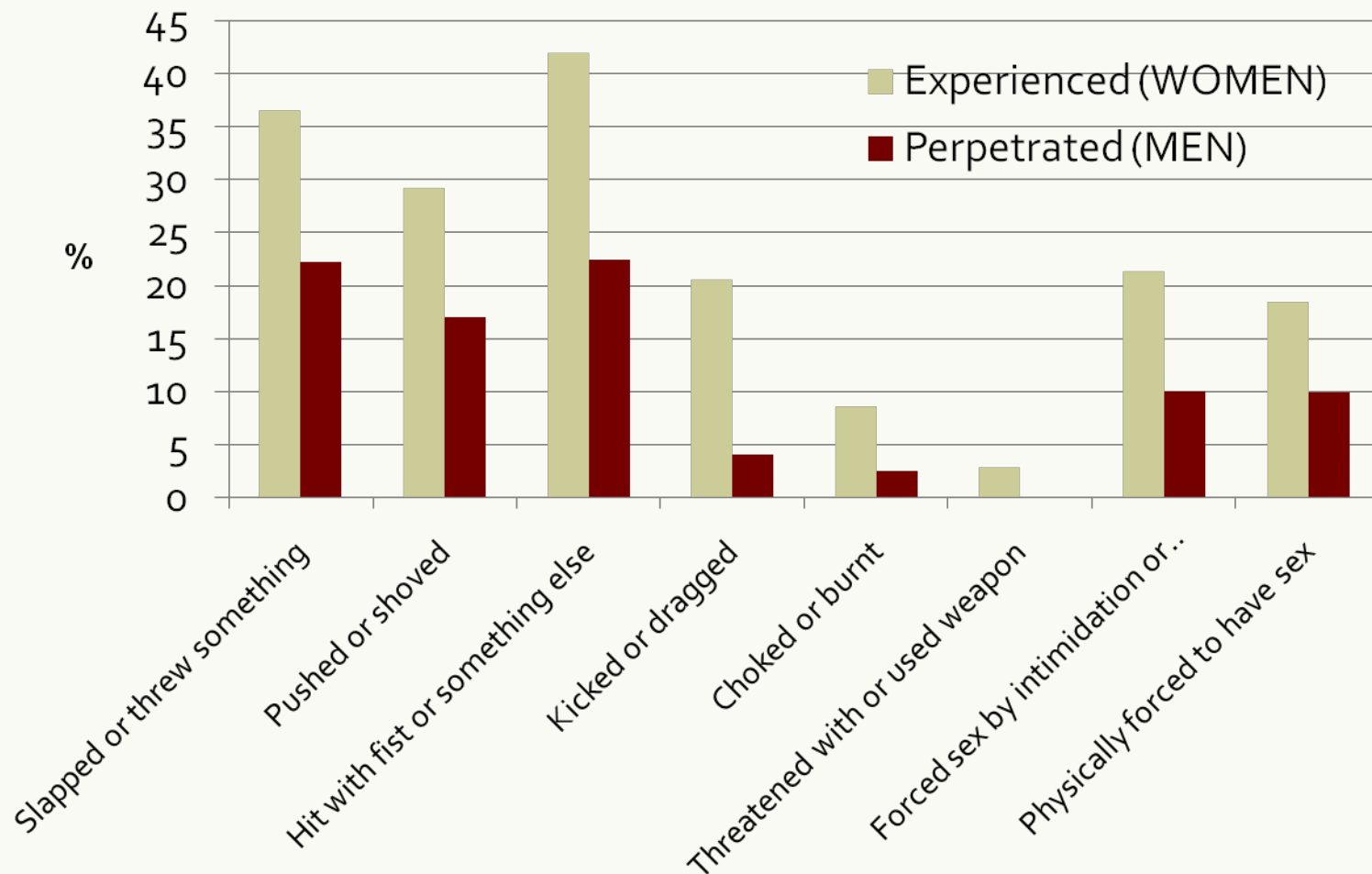


Fig 9. Comparison of women's experiences and men's reports of partner violence perpetration..



# Women's reported perpetration is close to men's reported experiences of partner physical violence

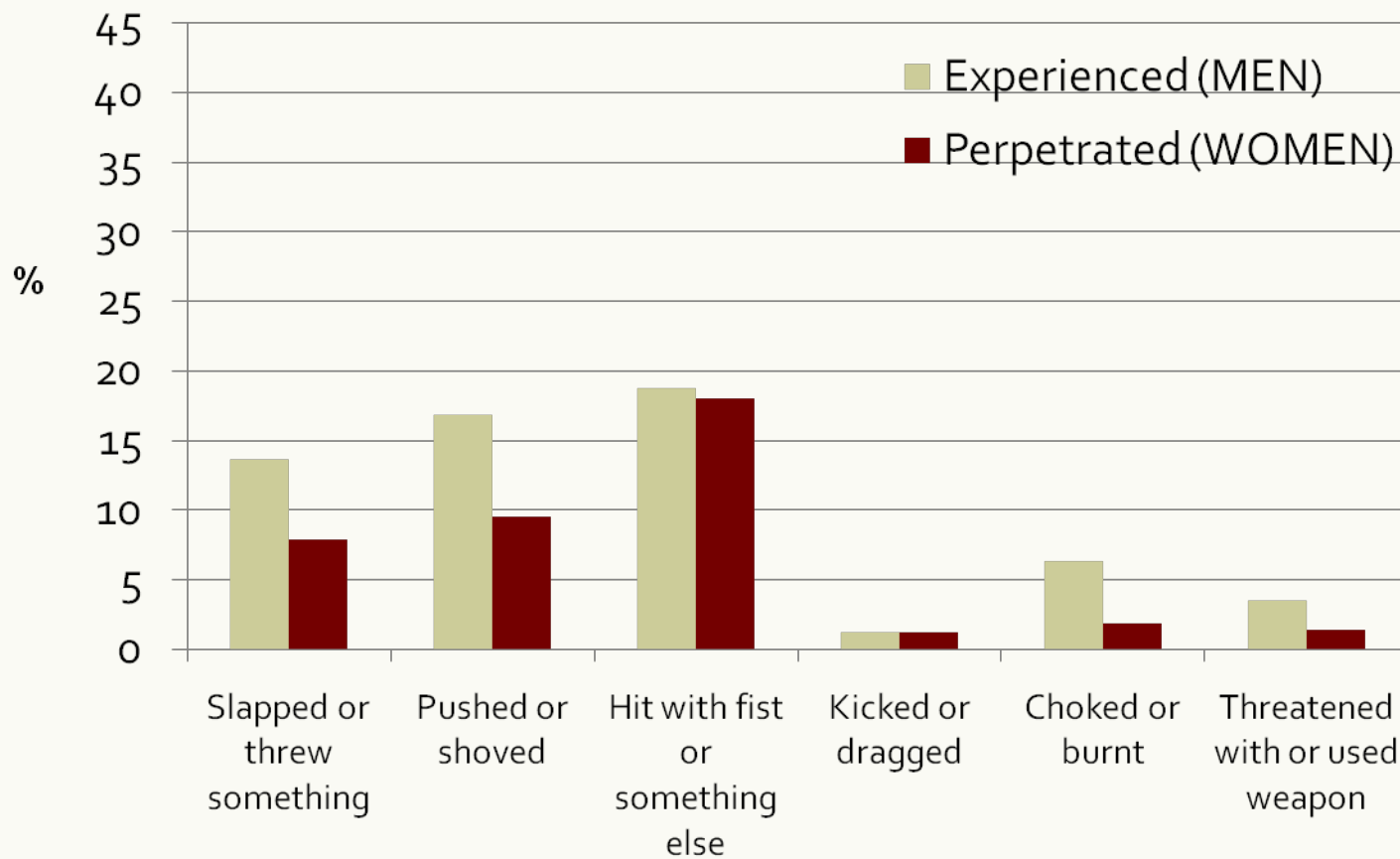


Fig 10. Comparison of men's experiences and women's reports of partner violence perpetration..

III.

# CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS



# Summary:

## Lifetime experiences of violence

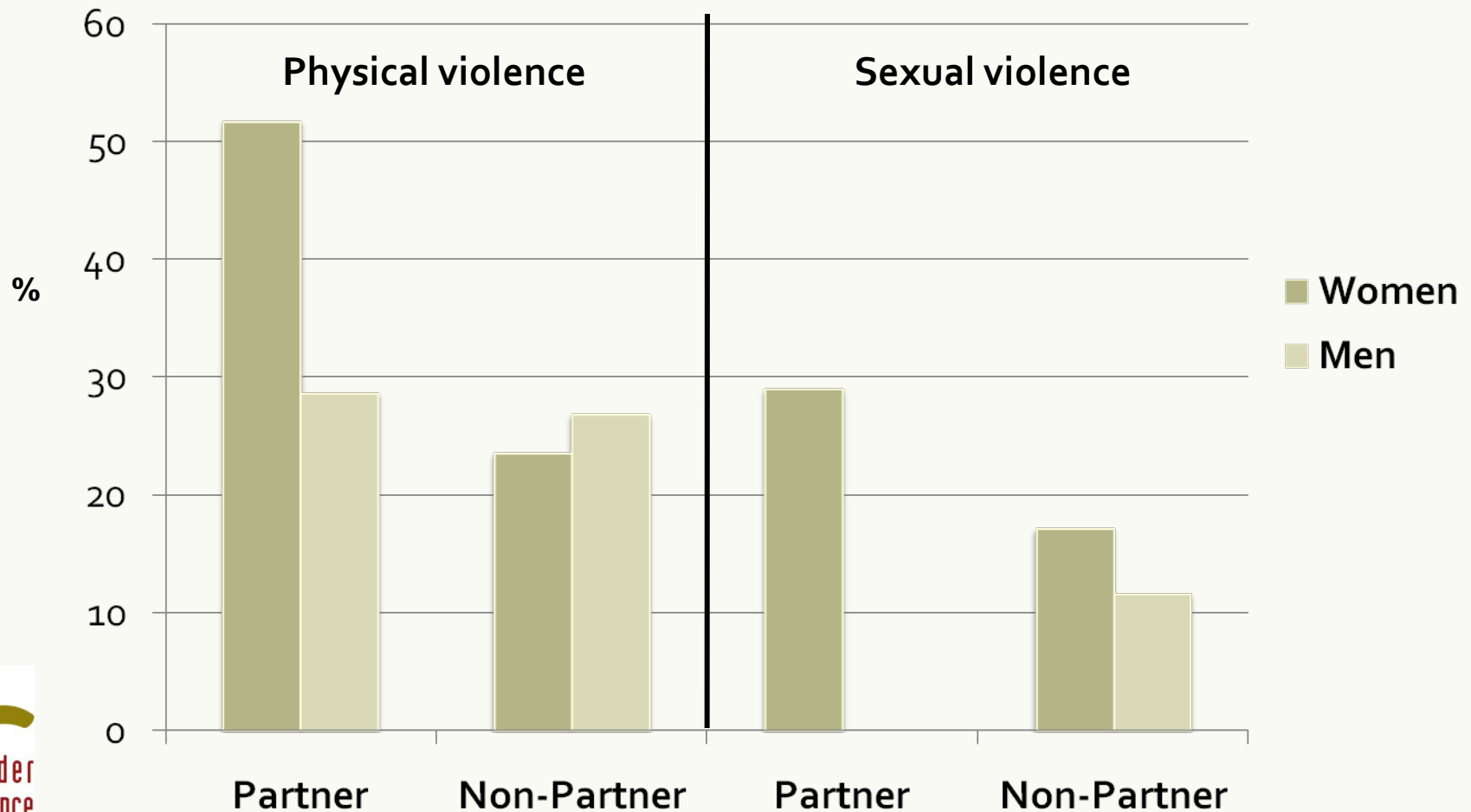


Fig 11. Lifetime experiences of violence by partner and violence type.



# General conclusions

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- Women and men living in conflict-affected areas are likely to have experienced partner-related violence, in addition to conflict-related violence.
- Women are particularly vulnerable to physical and sexual partner abuse.
- Men may also be vulnerable to sexual abuse in certain contexts.



# Implications

- Programmes in conflict-affected settings need to incorporate measures to address partner violence, sexual violence and their effects on women and men.
- Reconstruction and aid programmes in particular, should aim to prevent and address the harm associated with partner violence and sexual abuse, as well as conflict-related violence.
- Interventions to reduce partner violence in conflict-affected areas require greater attention in violence prevention programming.
- Research is needed to understand some of the determinants of sexual vulnerability and explore how interventions in conflict-affected areas might reduce different forms of abuse.

