



QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

STRUCTURED MEASUREMENT OF PUBLIC OPINION ON THE ISSUE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

READY FOR



**Fundația
Vodafone**

MARCH 2024



METHODOLOGY & DESIGN



The main goal of the research project is a structured understanding of the public's perception of the phenomenon of domestic violence.

We have measured:



- A. Elements of perception + knowledge about the topic** – spontaneous elements, the level of public information, the public "definition" of the phenomenon of domestic violence, etc.
- B. Public attitude towards domestic violence** investigated by degrees / typologies of the phenomenon.
- C. Elements of actual impact** – perceived incidence of the phenomenon, personal or reported (mediated) behavioral components



- Opinion poll, **structured interview**, conducted **face to face**, by interview operators, based on a questionnaire implemented on the electronic platform (**CAPI**).
- Total sample, **N=1112**
- Sample characteristics – age 18+; quotas by age, gender, urban + rural
- At the level of the entire sample, we have a sampling error of maximum 2.9% for a confidence interval of 95%
- The selection of participants was done using a randomization step – within the public space



KEY CONCLUSIONS



- For most Romanians, domestic violence is primarily a direct physical aggression.
- **The more the components of violence** (comprehensively defined, multi-faceted) **move away from the physical and closer to the symbolic** – e.g., restrictions on freedoms, deprivation of economic means etc. – **the laxer the public tends to be with their inclusion in the phenomenon.**
- For example,
 - 10% of the public believes that economic deprivation (rather) is NOT an expression of domestic violence.
 - OR

10% of the public believe that monitoring or surveilling their partner's intimacy (rather) is NOT an expression of domestic violence.

KEY CONCLUSIONS



- Opinions about the place of domestic violence in the couple are obviously marked by the awareness of the social desirability of what is "the proper" reaction to the phenomenon = **intolerance to the phenomenon, defined simplistically, is explicitly firm;**
 - **97% of people consider physical violence to be completely unacceptable**
 - BUT at the same time:
 - 52% of people agree that tense situations in the couple, including physical, are understandable if their partners are able, later, to forgive each other

OR

60% of people believe that traditionally in Romania, the man leads the family and sometimes he needs to be firmer in doing so

Obviously, the above do not necessarily represent, each separately, acts of domestic violence, but together they reveal a mental construct that, in some situations, closely correlates with the phenomenon.

- We could conclude that there is a **dissonance between:**

The social complexity of the domestic violence phenomenon – nuanced, with multiple facets that incorporate including non-physical manifestations fueled by social media or modern digital technologies

- **AND** respectively

The central perception of the public, which is reductionist, simplistic – strongly condemns physical assaults, which are considered the essence of the definition of domestic violence but tends to be more lenient with other types of abuse.



KEY CONCLUSIONS



- Only 79% of survey participants believe domestic violence is unacceptable AND should also be punishable by law.
- This opinion is significantly stronger for women (+11%) than for men
- At the same time, the urban area is more intransigent (+4%) than the rural area on the same topic
- 90% of participants believe that the **Police should intervene in cases of domestic violence**
- Tough laws and education are considered to be the most important in preventing the phenomenon
- **Tough laws and PUBLIC INFORMATION are considered the most important mechanisms for REDUCING the phenomenon**
- **Alcohol abuse is considered the biggest cause of domestic violence (35%), followed by infidelity (28%)**
- Almost 40% of people do not know about the existence of a law that punishes domestic violence

- **70% of respondents say they have heard of domestic violence cases in the past year**
(in 40% the main cause was drinking)

- Of the 70%

About **75% did nothing** either because it wasn't their business/or because it was late

- About **18% made recommendations** or gave advice to the victim

- Only **4% notified authorities**

10% of respondents say they have been or are subject to some type of domestic abuse

46% of them are or have been victims of physical assault

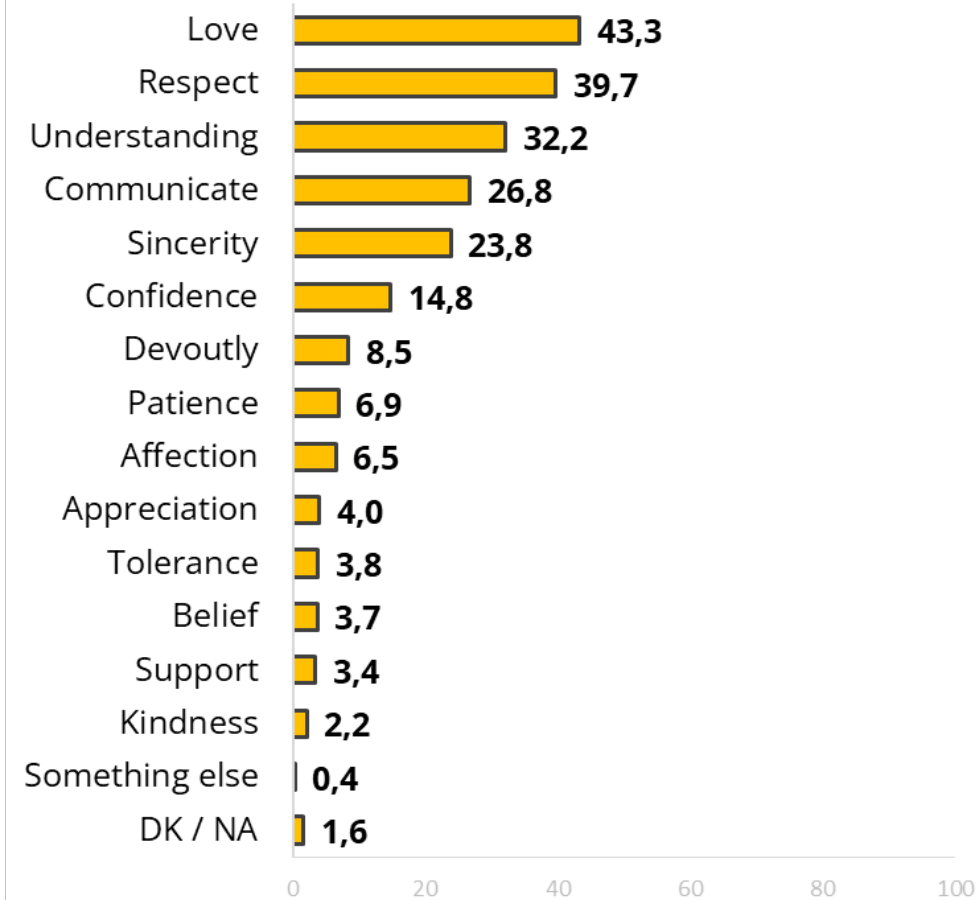




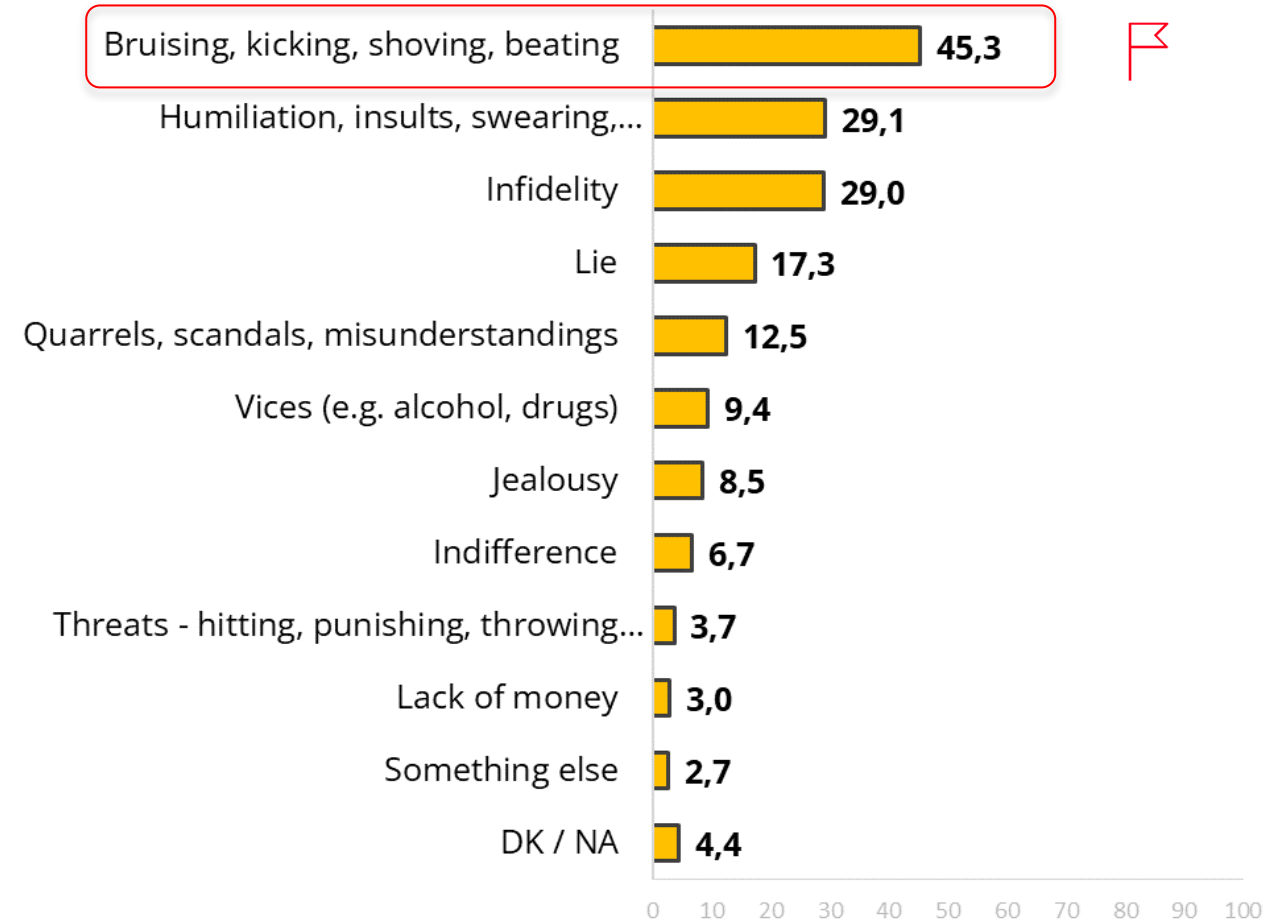
GENERAL ANALYSIS. **PSYCHOLOGICAL &** **BEHAVIORAL**

RELATIONSHIPS. SPONTANEOUS, INDISPENSABLE VS. INCOMPATIBLE

Indispensable elements for a good romantic relationship



Incompatible elements with a good romantic relationship

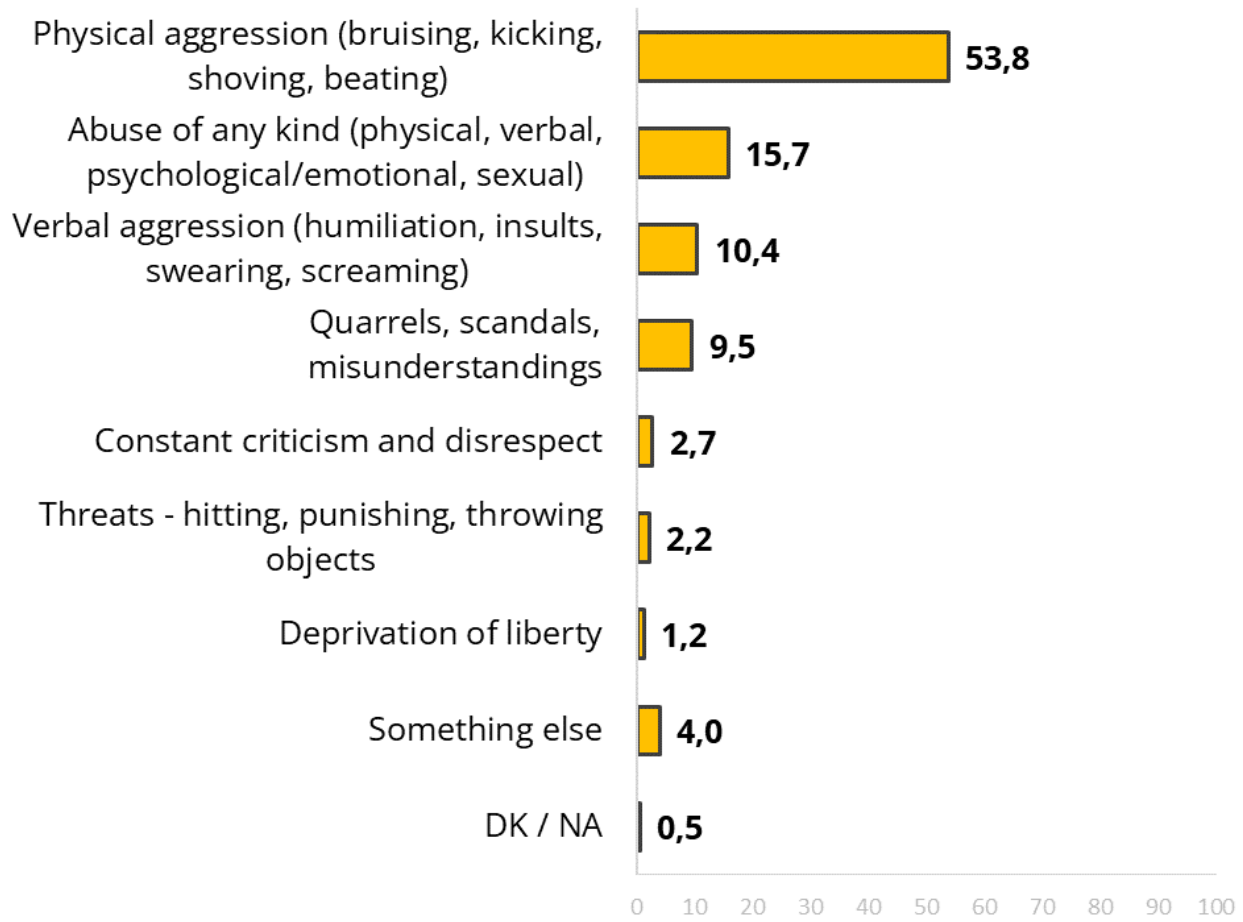


•Total sample N=1112

Q: What are, from your point of view, the behavioral elements of the partners that are absolutely necessary for a good couple relationship?? [open, multiple]

Q: At the other end, what do you think would be those things that if one partner did, would immediately lead to the termination of the relationship in a couple? [open, multiple]

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. SPONTANEOUS DEFINITION



For over half (**54%**) of the respondents, domestic violence is **primarily** represented by **physical acts** of violence: bruising, kicking, etc.

Only **16%** of participants spontaneously associate domestic violence with **any kind of abuse** – regardless of its nature.

•Total sample N=1112

Q: Please define for us very briefly what it is from your point of view domestic violence? [open, single]

ASPECTS OF LIFE. FACETS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

■ YES, absolutely, in any situation ■ YES, but only in some situations ■ Rather NO, but it depends on the situation ■ Clearly NO, no matter what



All mentioned facets represent forms of domestic violence, according to most respondents.

The maximum perception is found in **physical violence** of any kind, where **90%** perceive it as domestic violence, in any situation.

The minimum perception is found in **economic deprivation** – but even here, almost **61%** perceive this facet as domestic violence.

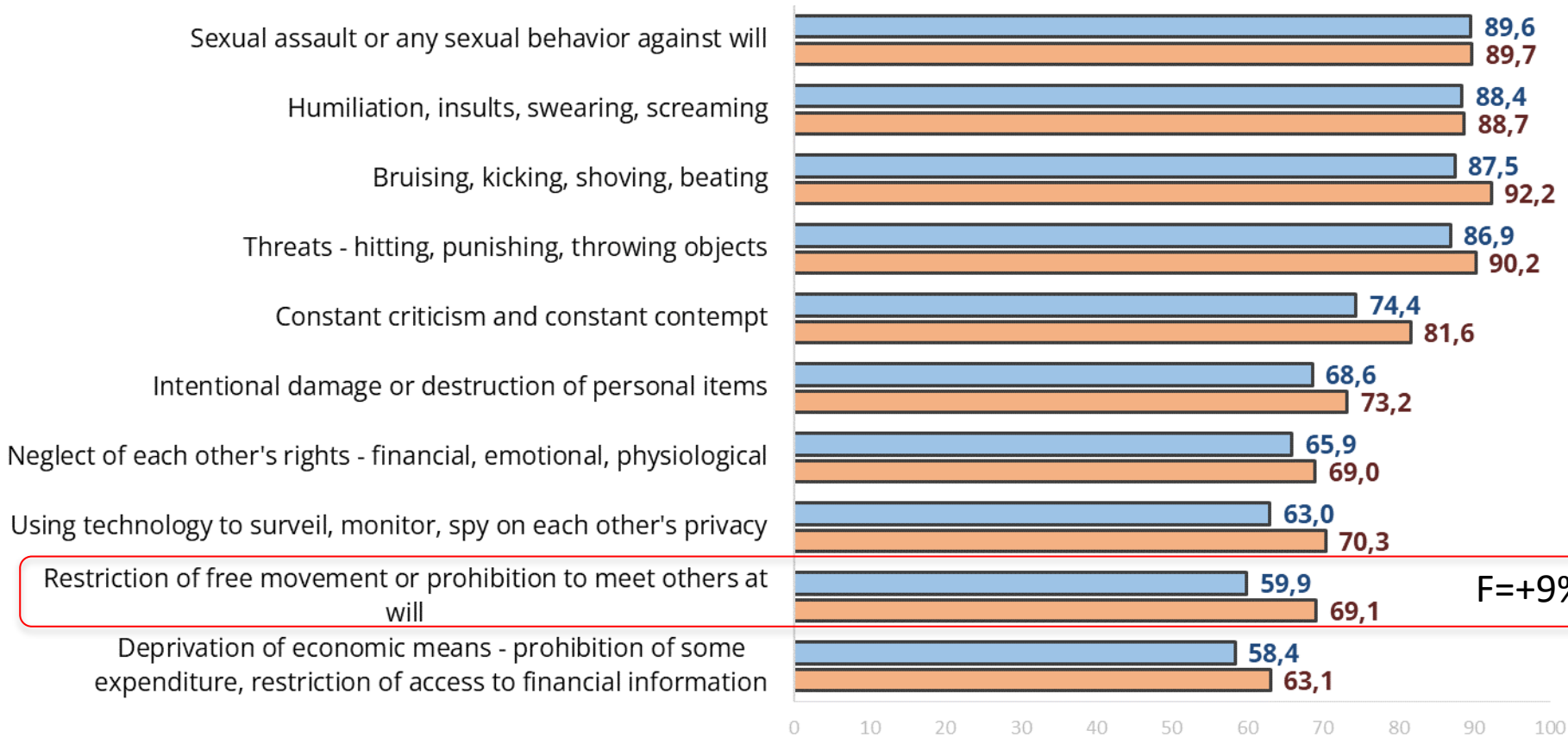
*Total sample N=1112

Q: To what extent do you consider each of the following aspects of couple life to be forms / facets of domestic violence? [closed, single per row]

ASPECTS OF LIFE. FACETS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GENDERS

YES, definitely, in any situation

Male Female



Among individuals of female gender, the perception regarding the facets of domestic violence is less indulgent.

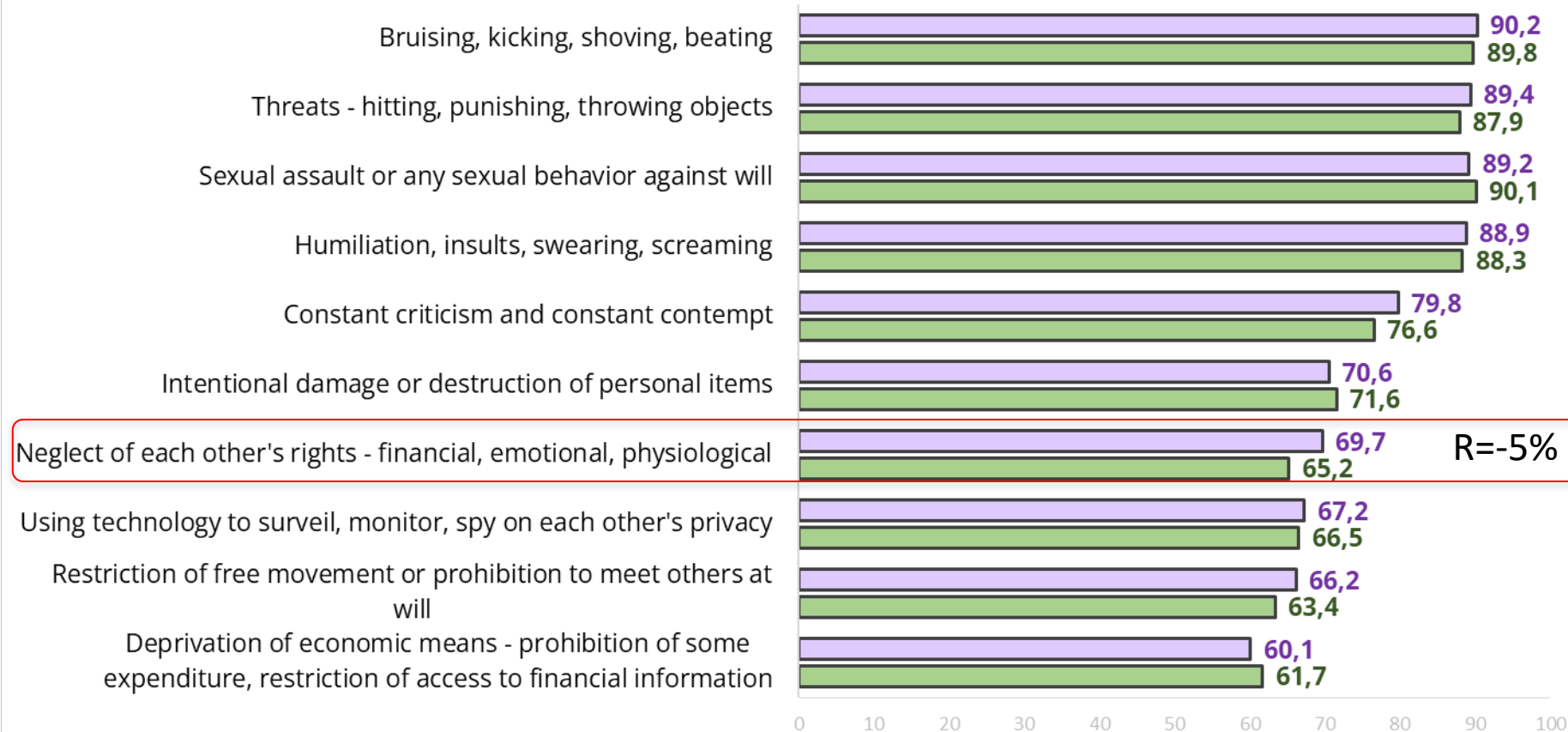
The maximum difference is found in the **restriction of free movement** of any kind, where **69%** of women perceive it as domestic violence in any situation, compared to only 60% of men.

Q: To what extent do you consider each of the following aspects of couple life to be forms / facets of domestic violence? [closed, single per row]

ASPECTS OF LIFE. FACETS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LIVING ENVIRONMENT

YES, definitely, in any situation

Urban Rural

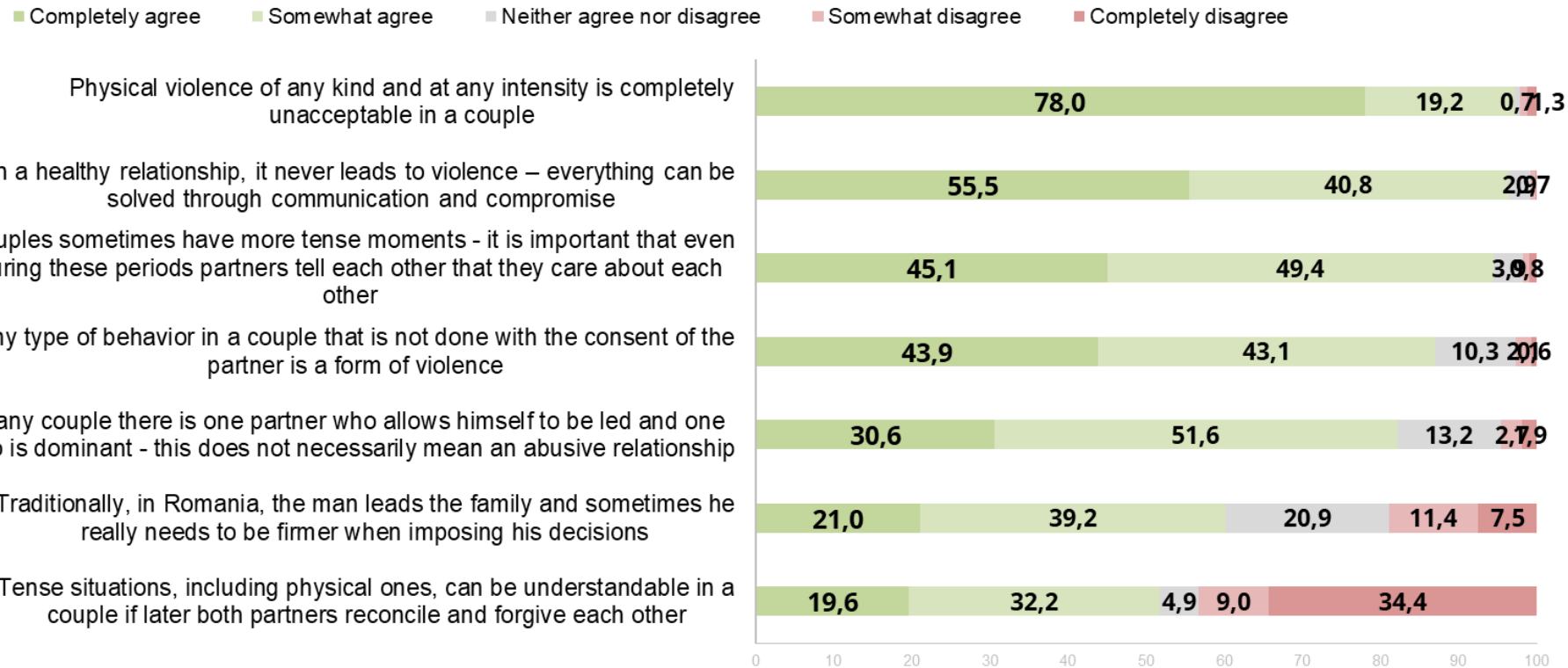


When comparing the urban and rural environments, the differences are not spectacular.

The maximum difference is found in **neglecting rights**, where **70%** of those in **urban areas** perceive it as domestic violence in any situation, compared to only **65%** in **rural areas**.

Q: To what extent do you consider each of the following aspects of couple life to be forms / facets of domestic violence? [closed, single per row]

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. PERCEPTIONS



Physical violence is completely unacceptable behavior in a couple: **97% (78% completely agree, 19% somewhat agree)** of respondents agree with this statement.

On the other hand, some situations of physical conflict can be tolerated if there is forgiveness: **52% agree (20% completely agree, 32% somewhat agree)**

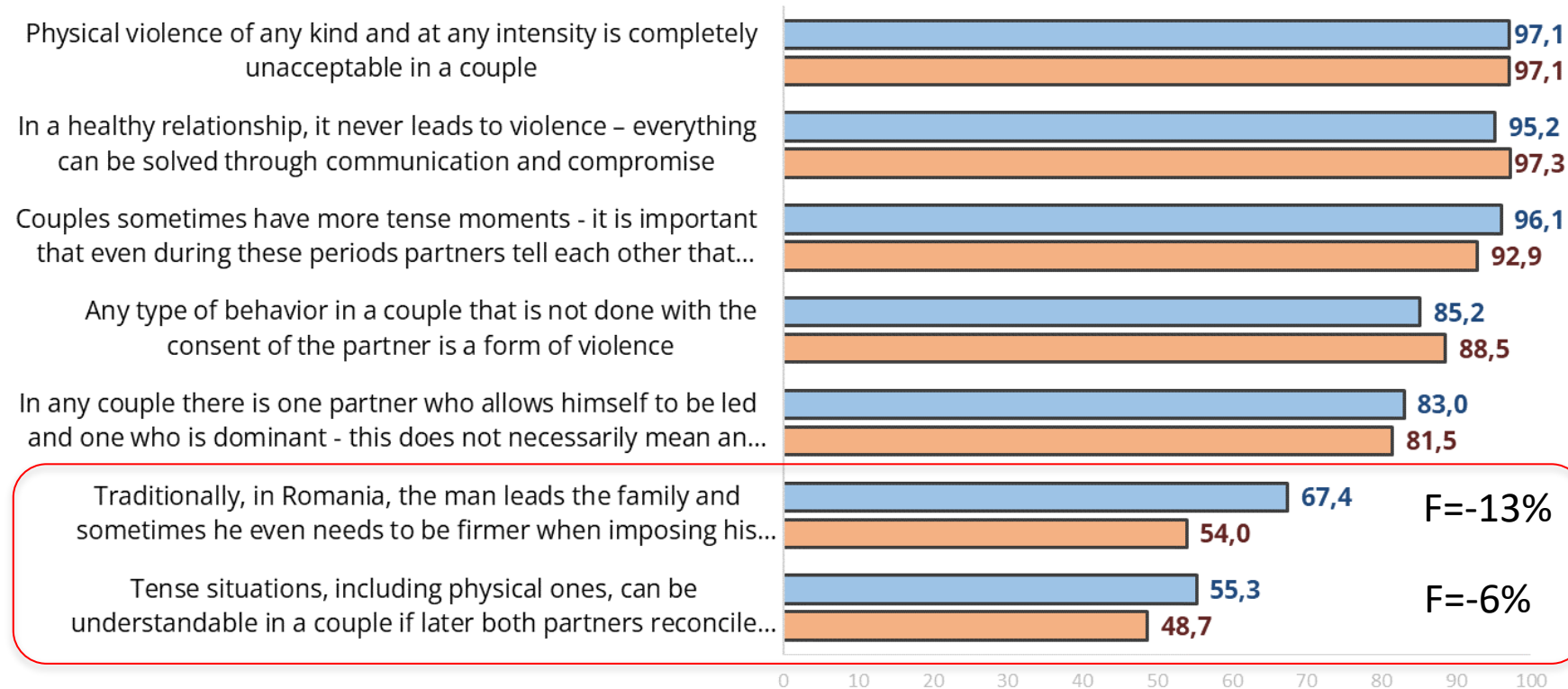
Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [closed, single]

•Total sample N=1112

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. PERCEPTIONS. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GENDERS

Agreement

■ Male ■ Female



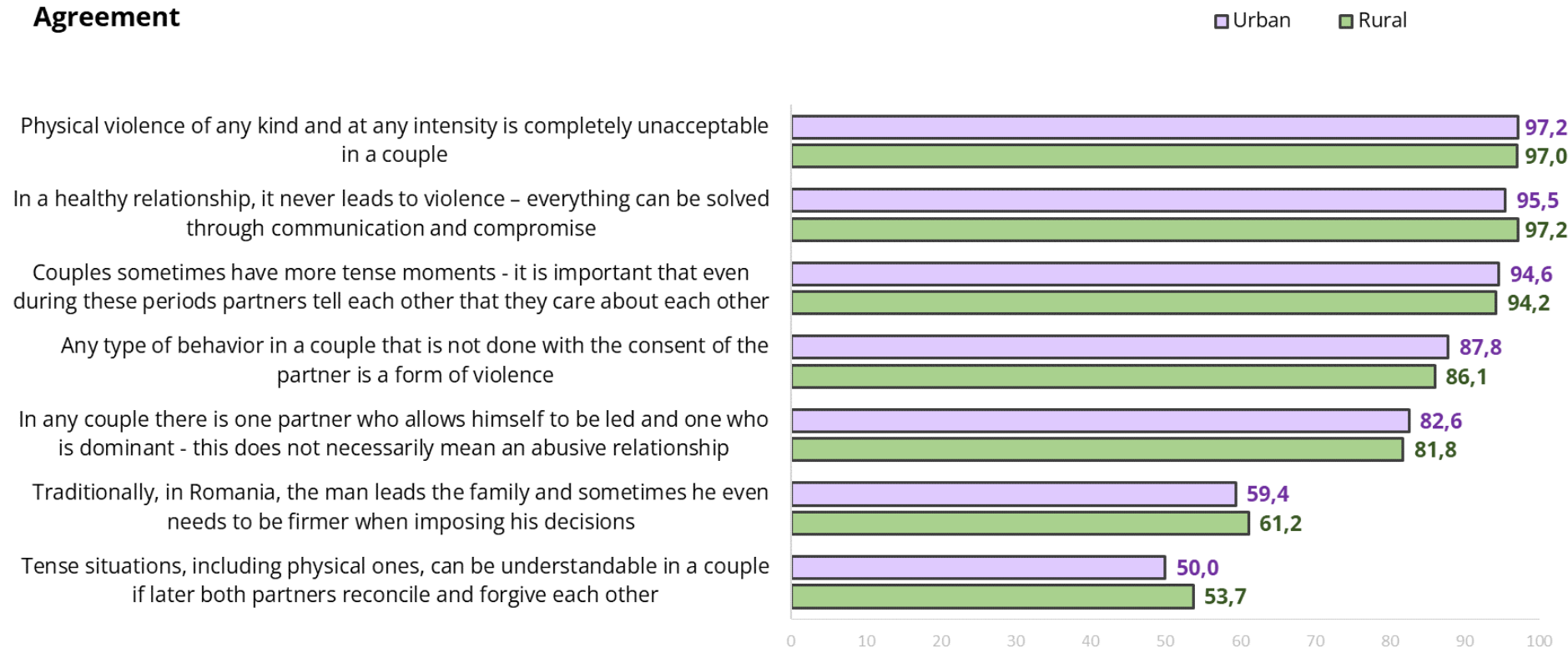
For men, the perception that they **lead the family** is more pronounced than among women: **67% agree**, compared to just **54%**.

Another significant difference concerns the tolerance of situations of physical conflict: **55% agree**, compared to just **49%** among women.

Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [closed, single]

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. PERCEPTIONS. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Agreement



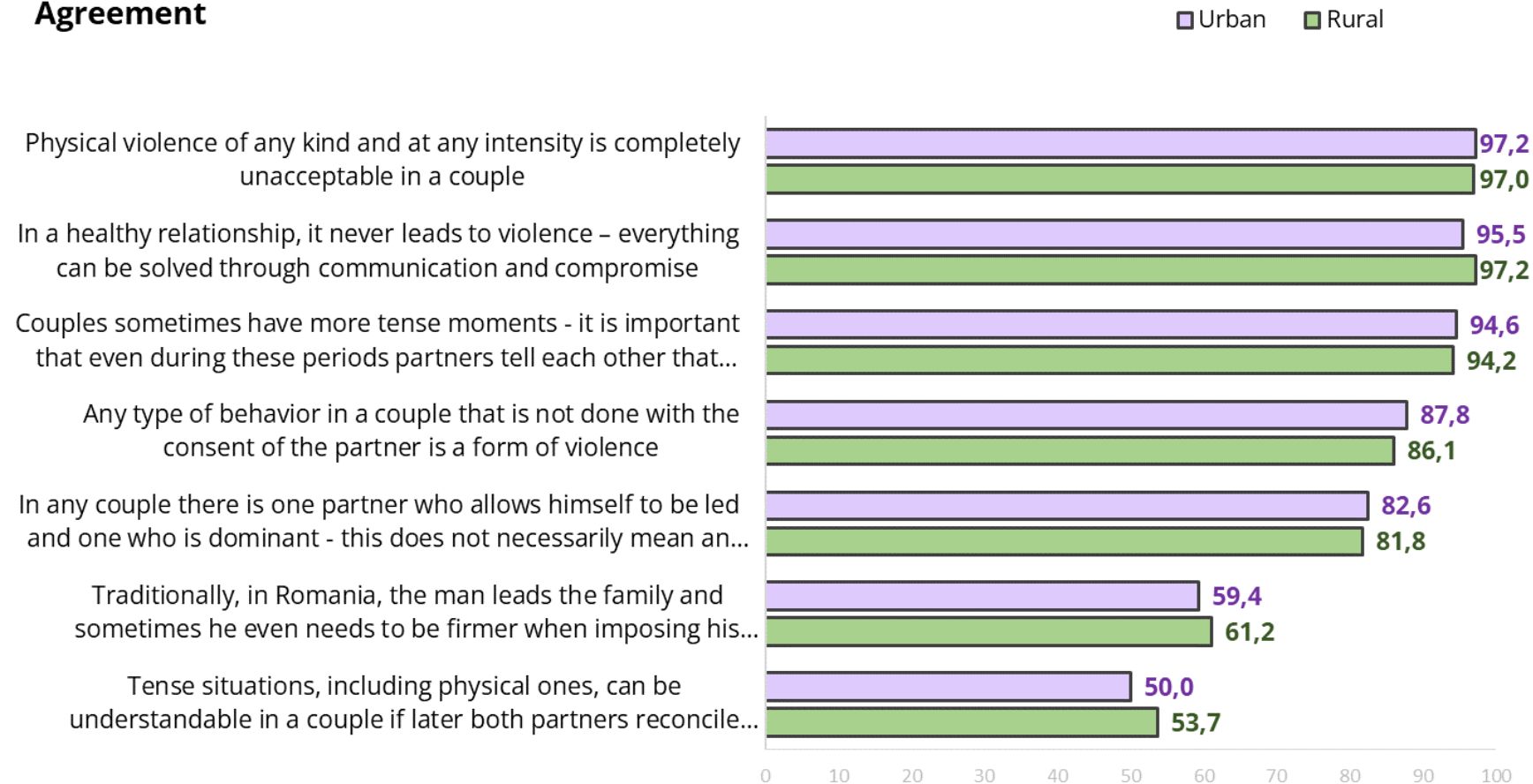
When comparing urban and rural areas, the differences are not as significant.

The maximum difference is found in the **forgiveness of situations of physical conflict**, where **50%** of urban respondents agree, compared to **54%** in rural areas.

Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [closed, single]

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. PERCEPTIONS. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Agreement

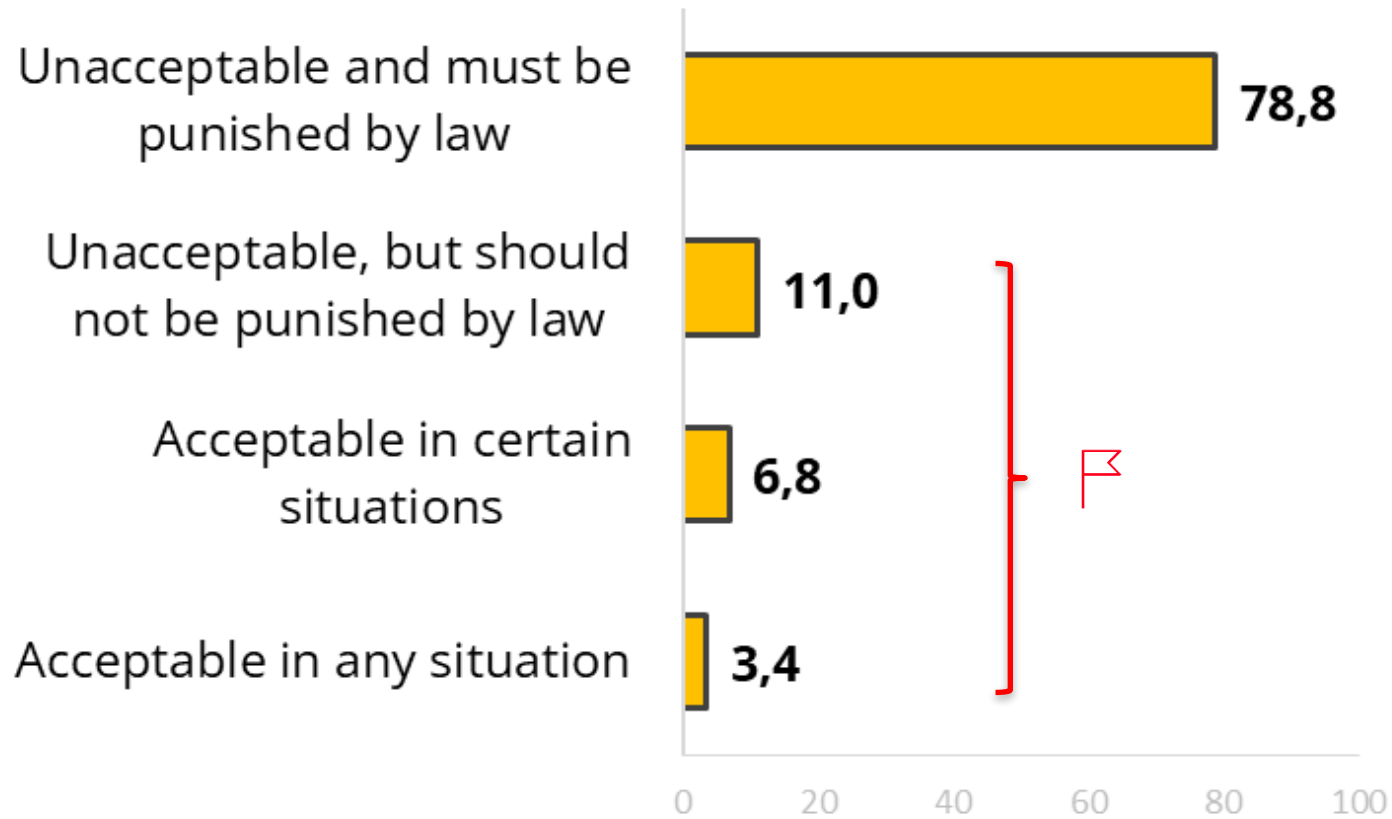


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The maximum difference is found in the **forgiveness of situations of physical conflict**, where **50%** of urban respondents agree, compared to **54%** in rural areas.

Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [closed, single]

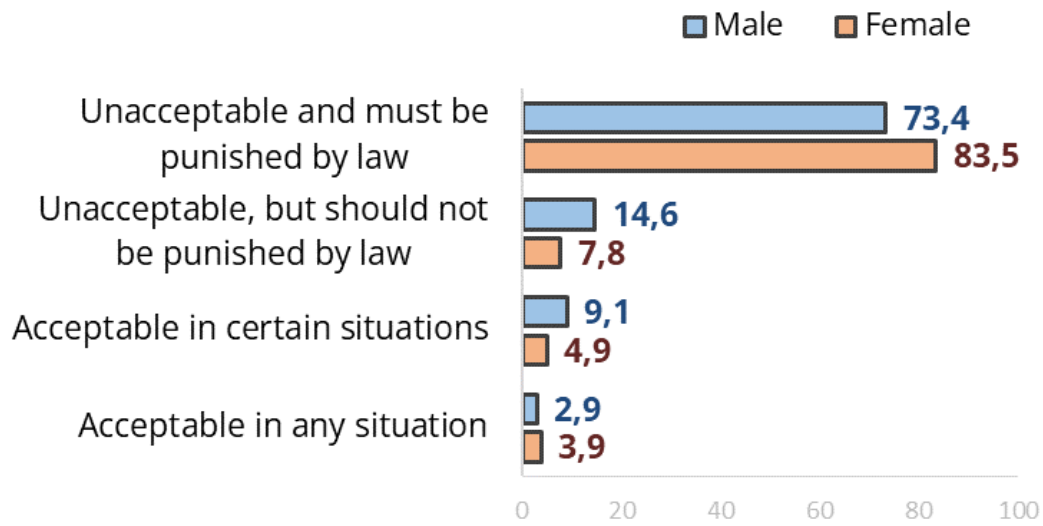
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST **WOMEN**



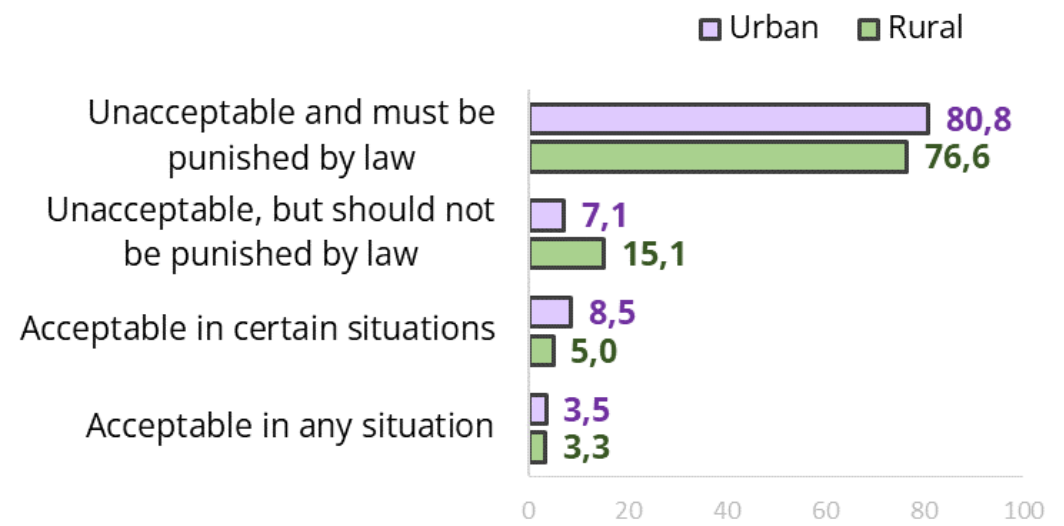
More than three-quarters of respondents believe that **domestic violence directed against women** should be punished by law.

At the same time, approximately **10%** believe that it is **acceptable in certain situations**.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST **WOMEN. DIFFERENCES**



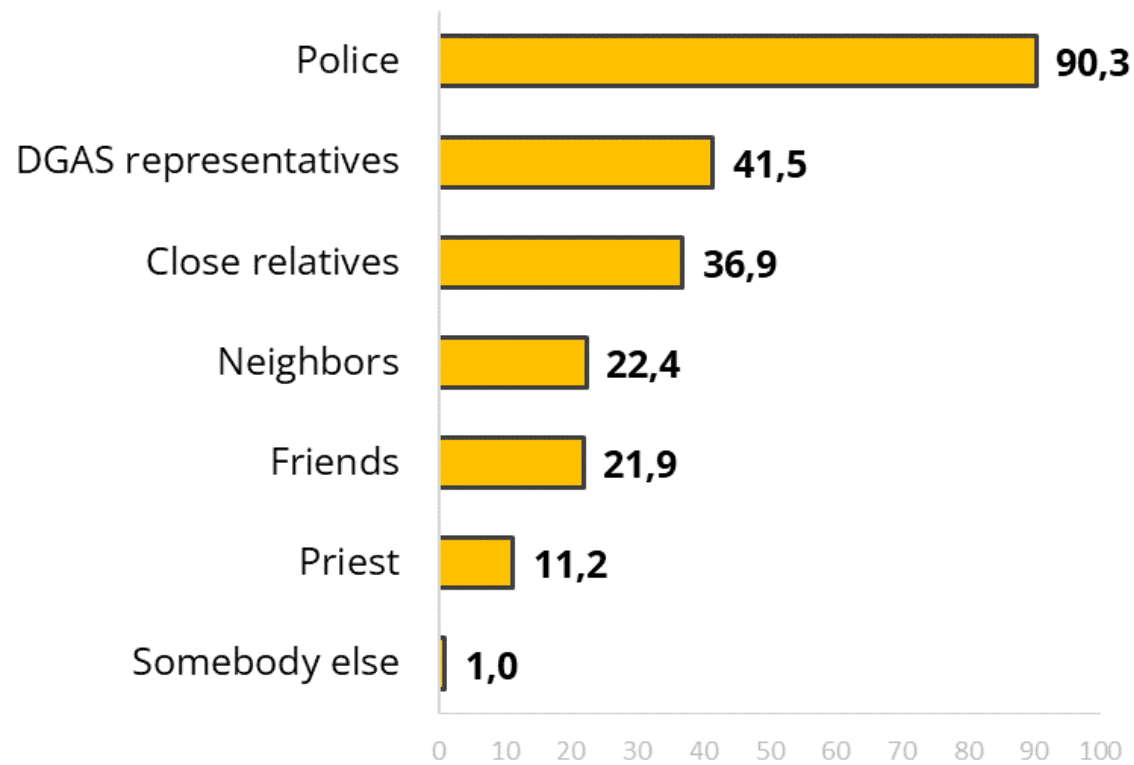
Men have a slightly more lenient perception regarding the **punishment of domestic violence directed against women: 73% agree**, compared to **84% among women**.



Individuals from **urban** areas are more uncompromising regarding the **punishment of domestic violence directed against women: 81% agree**, compared to **77% among those from rural** areas.

Q: Specifically, do you consider that domestic violence against women is: [closed, single]

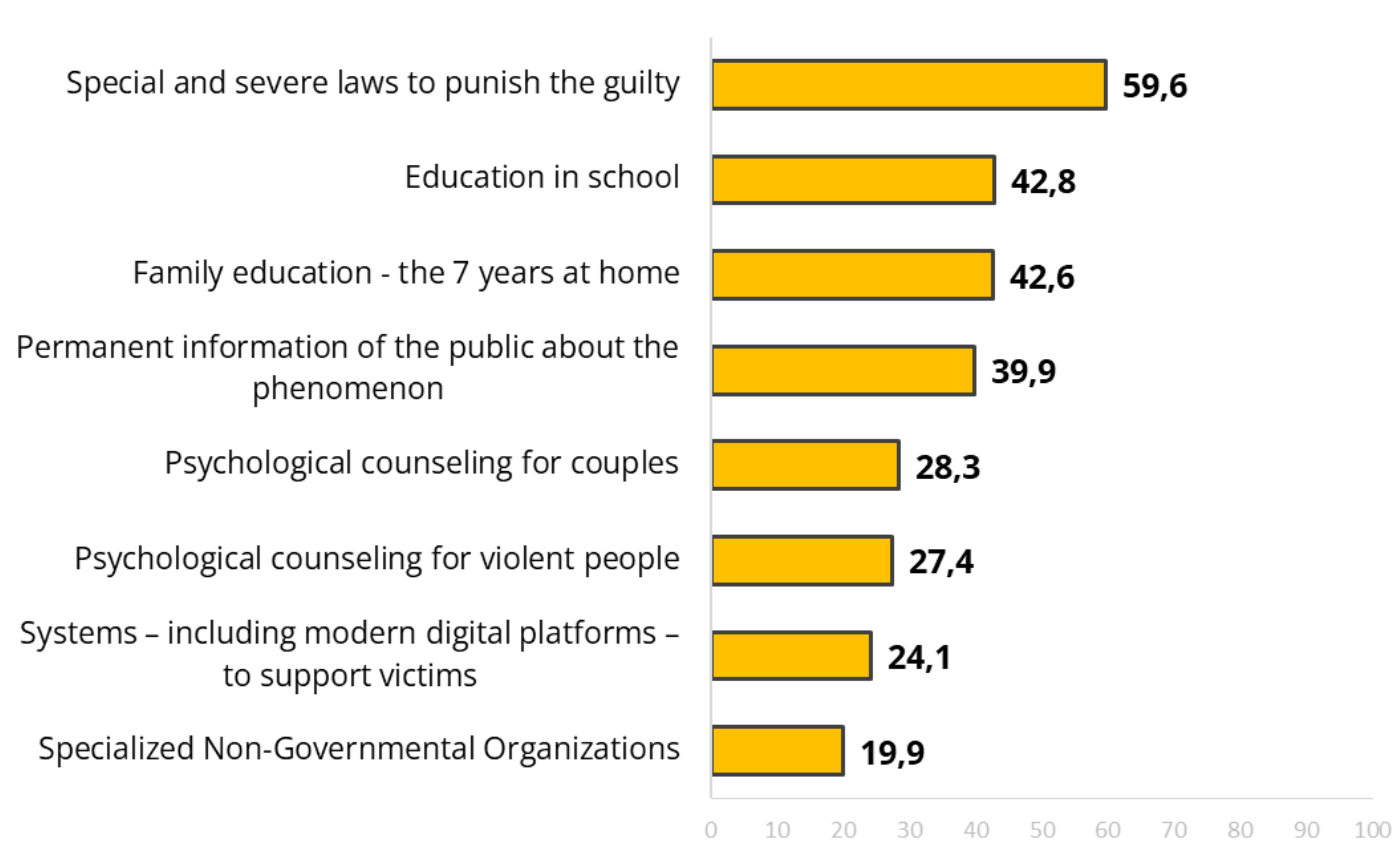
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. INTERVENTION



Nearly all respondents (**90%**) believe that the police should intervene in cases of domestic violence.

Important responsibilities are also found for the **Social Assistance Departments (42%)** and **close relatives (37%)**.

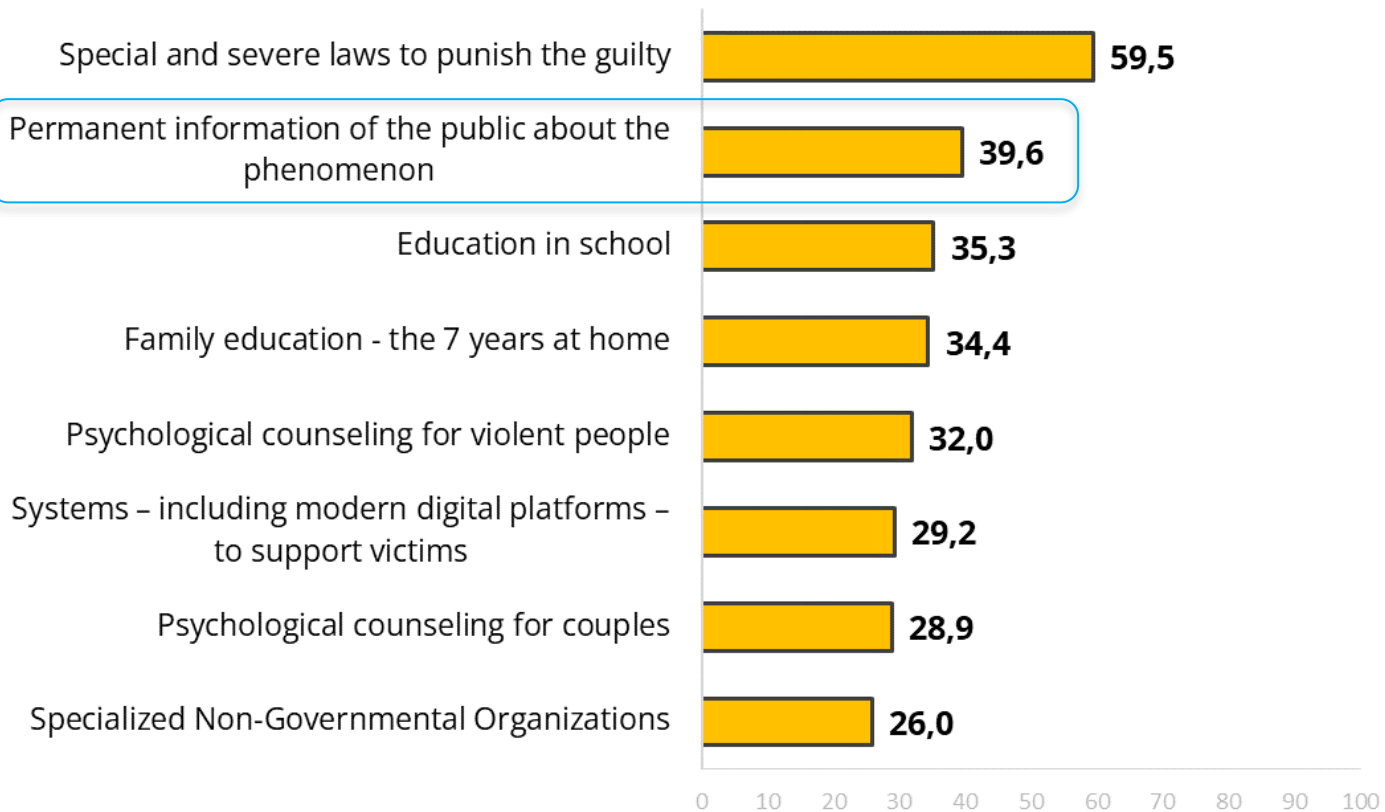
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. PREVENTION



The majority of respondents (**60%**) believe that **prevention** should be achieved through **special and severe laws**.

Other important prevention mechanisms are **education (in schools 43%, at home 43%)** and **permanent information of the public (40%)**.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. **REDUCTION**



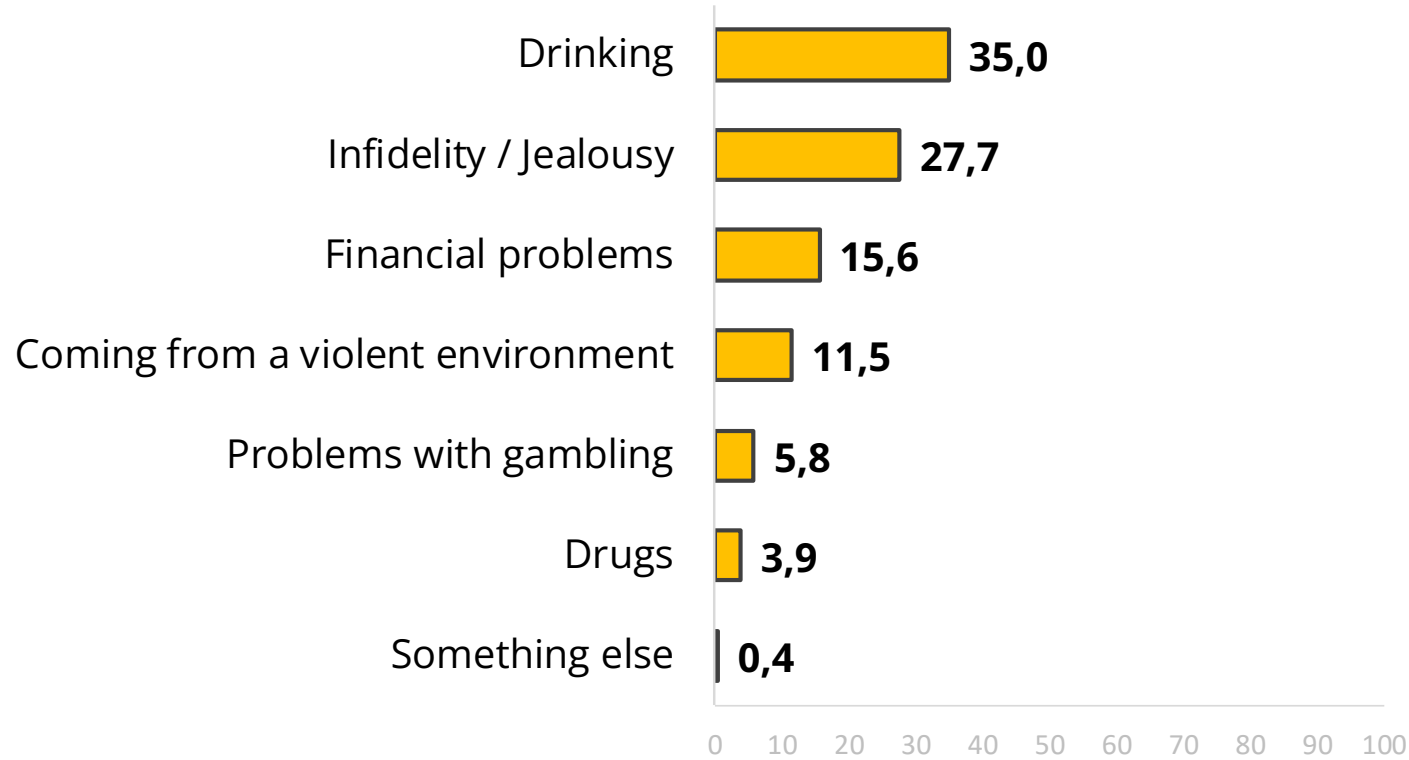
The majority of respondents (**60%**) believe that **reduction** should be achieved through **special and severe laws**.

Other important prevention mechanisms are **permanent information of the public (40%)** and **education (in schools 35%, at home 34%)**.

Q: What do you think are the social components / mechanisms that have the greatest role in REDUCING the phenomenon of domestic violence? [closed, multiple]

•Total sample N=1112

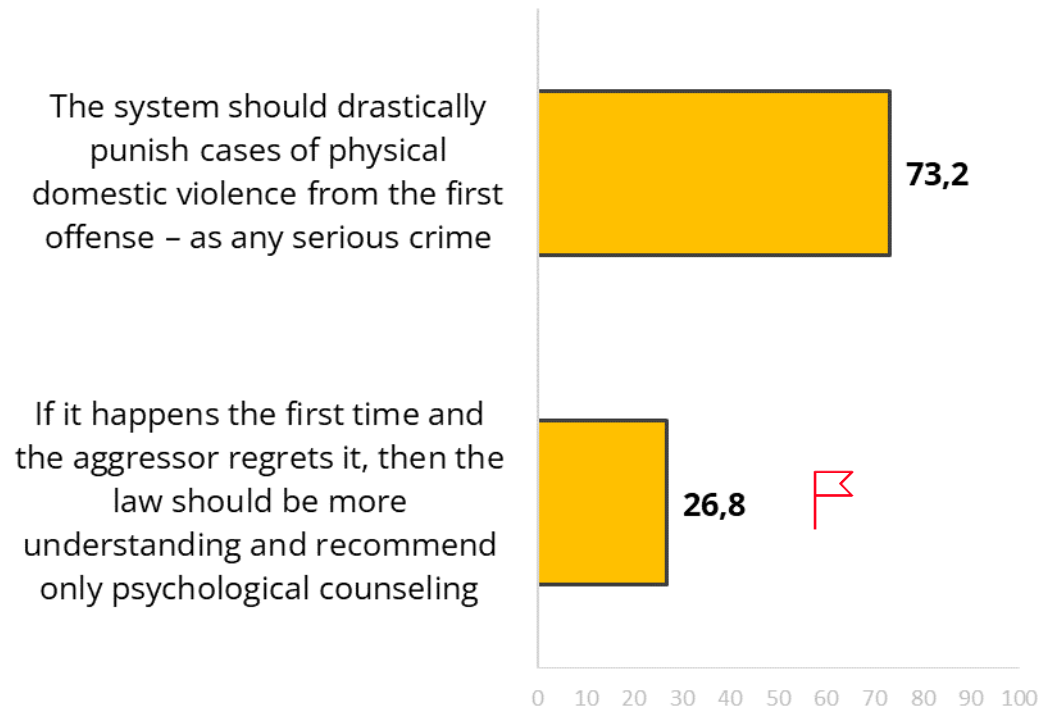
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. CAUSES



The main cause of domestic violence is considered to be alcohol consumption (35%).

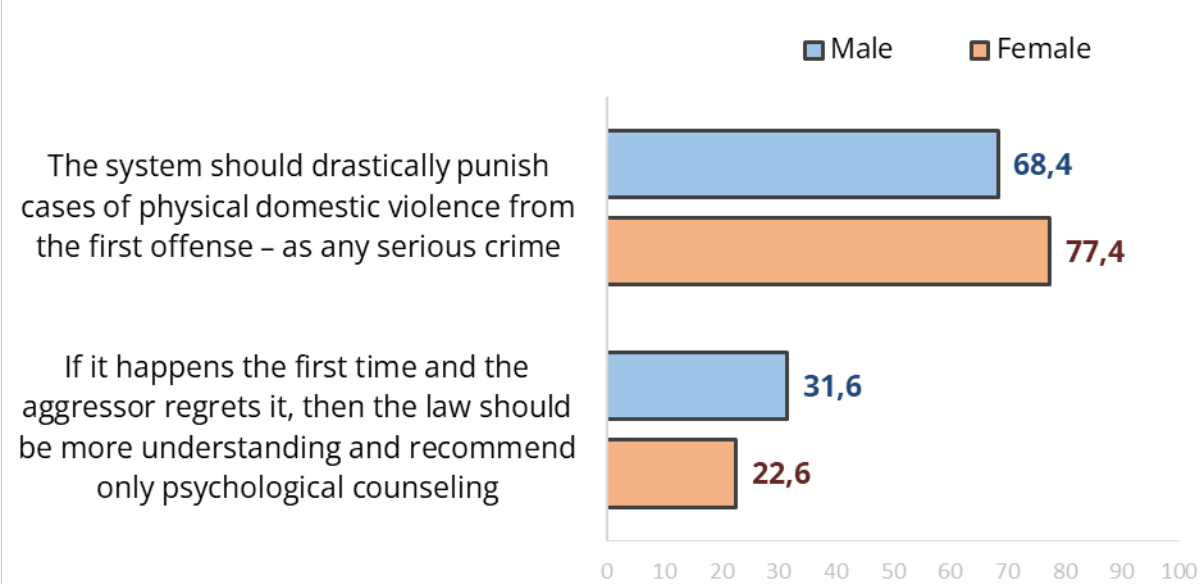
In second place, we find **infidelity / jealousy (28%)**, and in third place, **financial problems (16%)**.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. LAWS

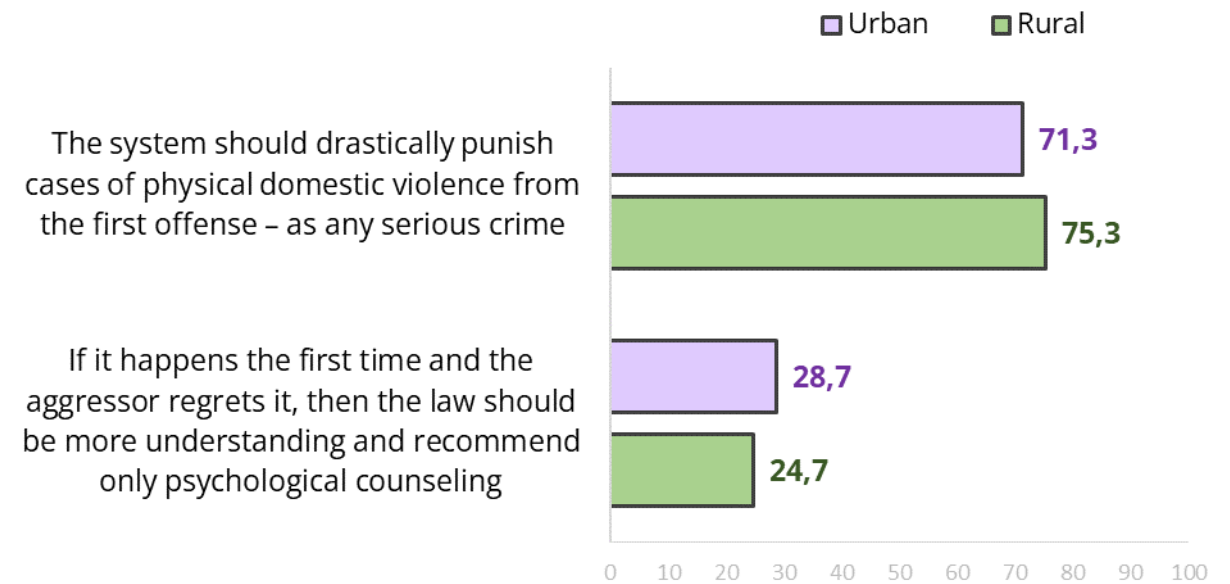


Nearly three-quarters (**73%**) believe that the system should **drastically punish cases of domestic violence from the first offense** – as any serious crime.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. LAWS. DIFFERENCES



Men have a slightly more lenient perception regarding the **punishment from the first offense of domestic violence directed against women: 68% agree**, compared to **77% among women**.

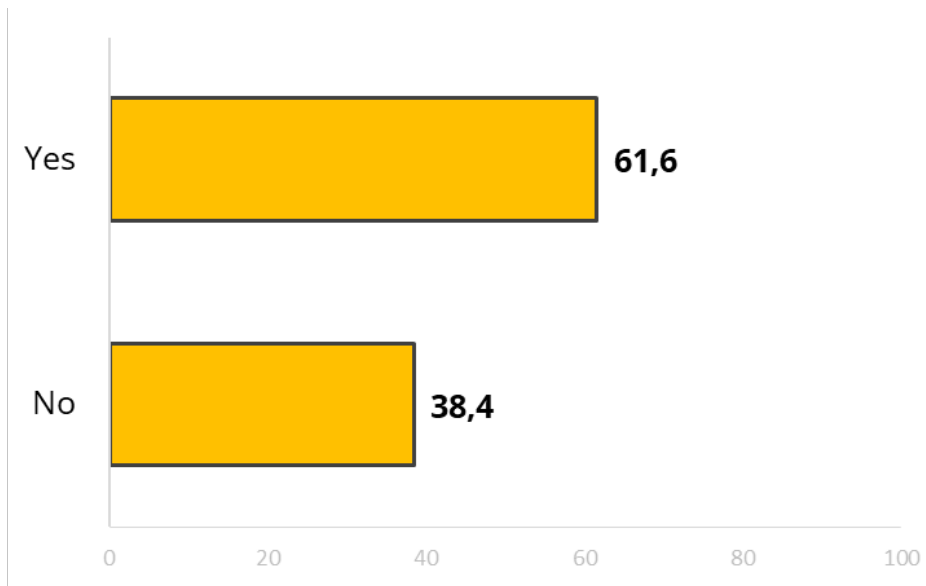


Individuals from the **rural** areas are more uncompromising regarding the **punishment from the first offense of domestic violence directed against women: 75% agree**, compared to **71% among those from urban** areas.

Q: Which of the following statements do you agree with most? [closed, single]

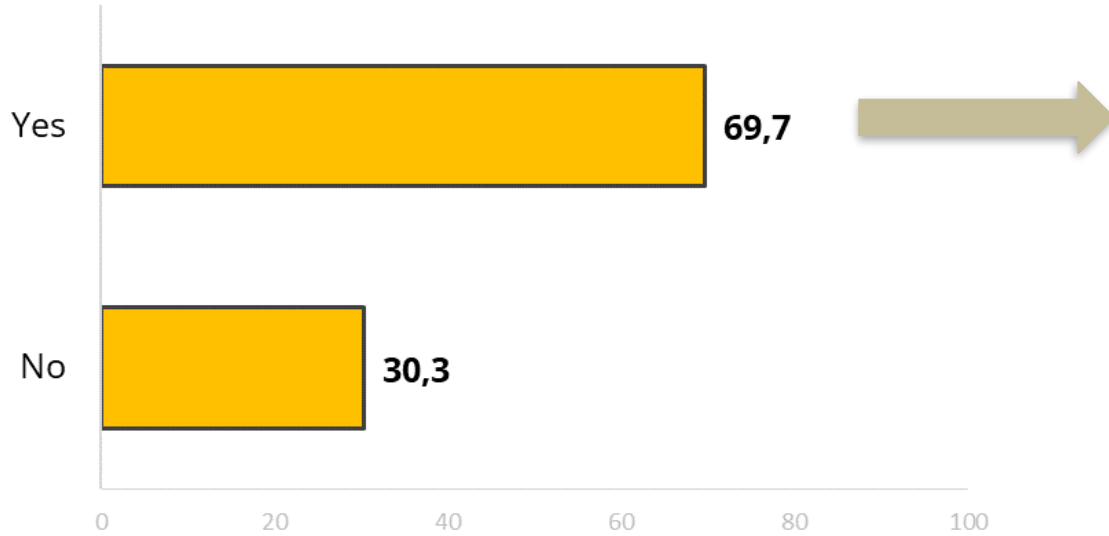
Q: To your knowledge, is there a law on domestic violence between spouses and life partners? [closed, single]

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. **EXISTENCE OF A LAW**

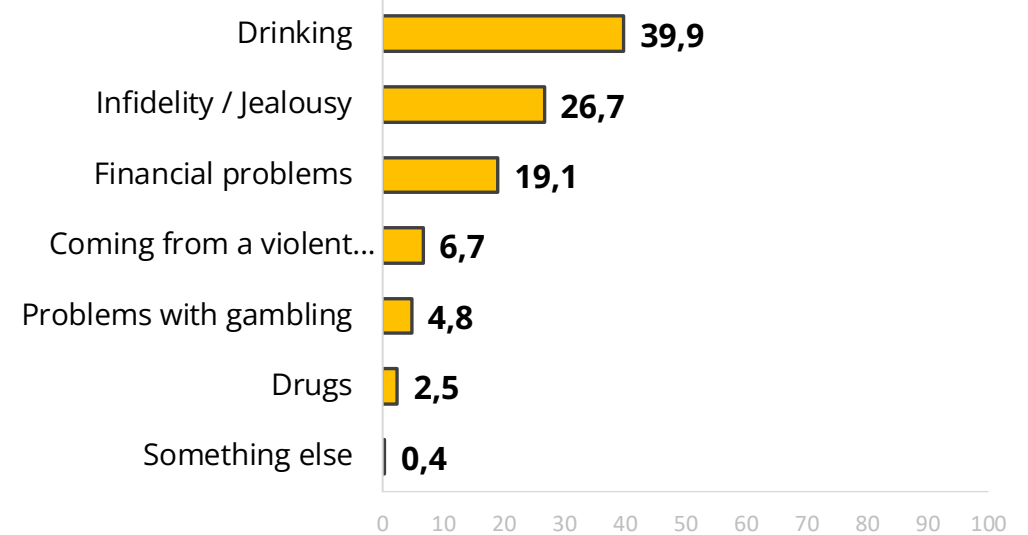


The majority of respondents (**62%**) are aware that **there is currently a law** regarding domestic violence between spouses and life partners.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. ACQUAINTANCES - CAUSES

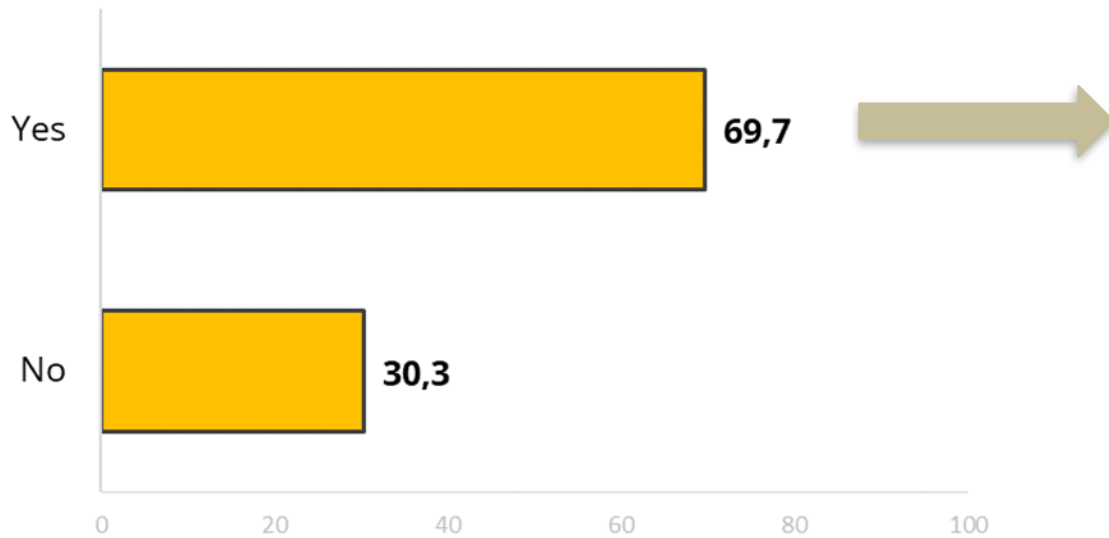


More than two-thirds (**70%**) state that they **have heard in the last year** about cases of domestic violence **among acquaintances**.

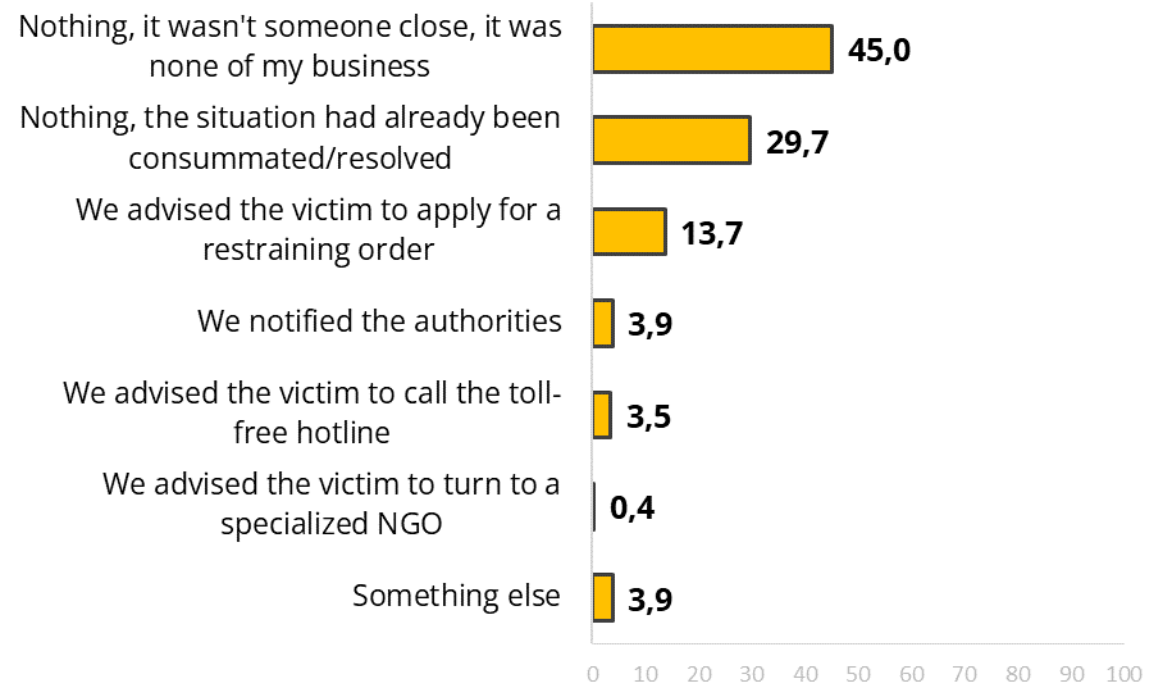


The main cause of domestic violence was alcohol (**40%**), followed by **infidelity / jealousy (27%)**.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. ACQUAINTANCES - ACTIONS



More than two-thirds (70%) state that they **have heard in the last year** about cases of domestic violence among acquaintances.



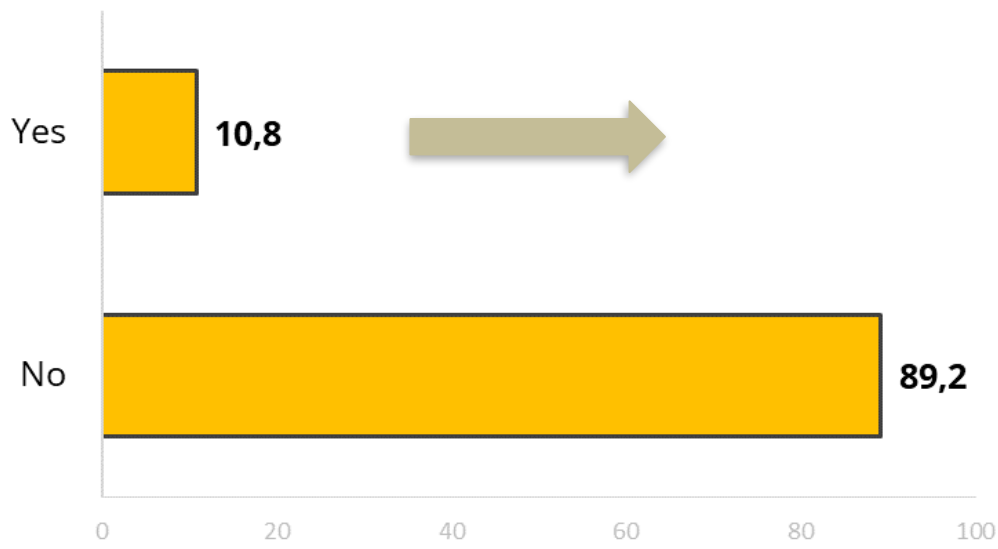
Almost half (45%) of the respondents who have heard of cases of domestic violence **did not take any action** because they felt it wasn't their place to get involved. Another 30% **did not take action** because the situation had already been resolved.

Q: Have you heard in the last year of cases of domestic violence among your acquaintances? [closed, single]

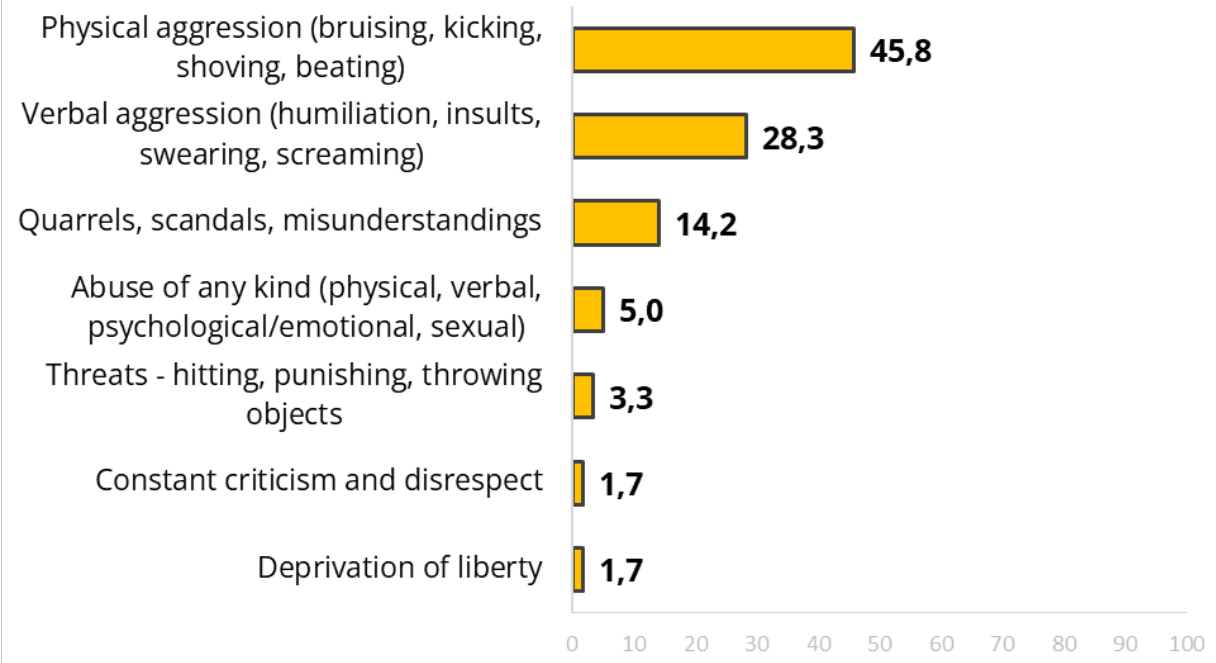
Q: What did you do when you heard? [closed, single]

*Sample that has heard of cases of domestic violence N=775

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. OWN PERSON



Approximately **11%** claim they **have been or are** subject of some form of domestic abuse.



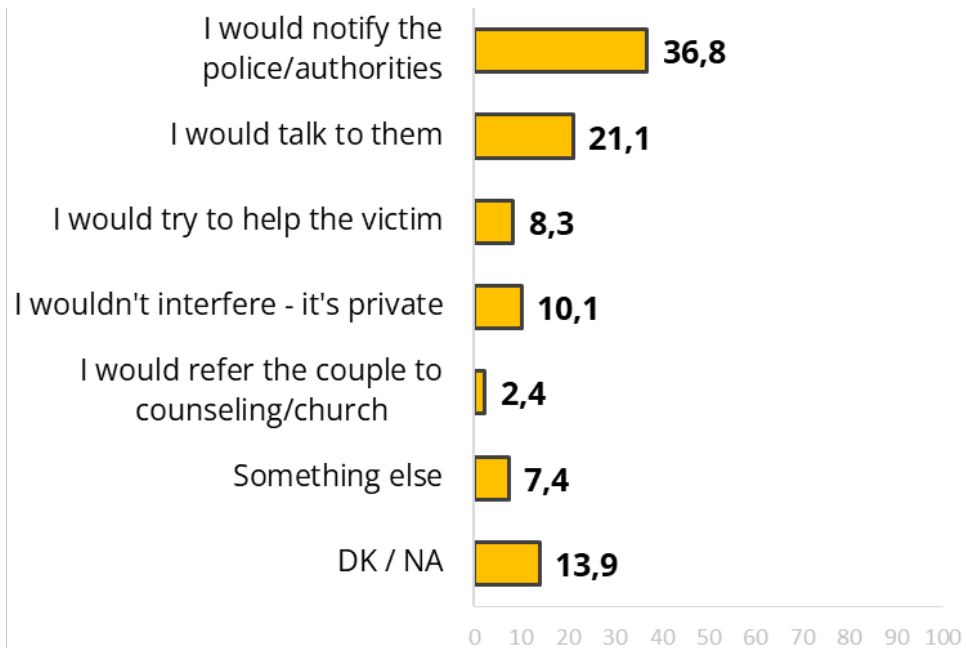
Among them, approximately **46%** claim they **are or have been victims of physical aggression.**

Q: Have you personally been or are you subject to some type of domestic abuse? [closed, single]
Q: Please tell us very briefly what it consists of: [open, single]

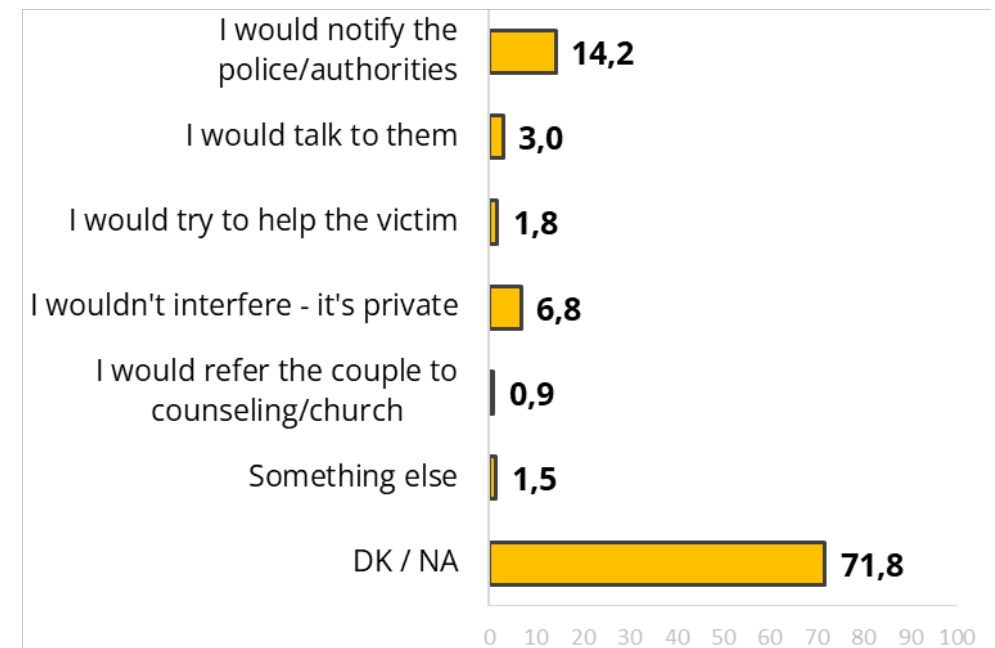
*Sample that declares they are subject to some form of domestic abuse N=120

•Total sample N=1112

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. ACTIONS – CLOSE ONES VS. STRANGERS



If they were to hear about a case of domestic violence among close ones, approximately one-third (**37%**) of respondents claim they **would notify the police / authorities**. About **10%** say they **wouldn't get involved**, while another **14%** prefer not to respond.

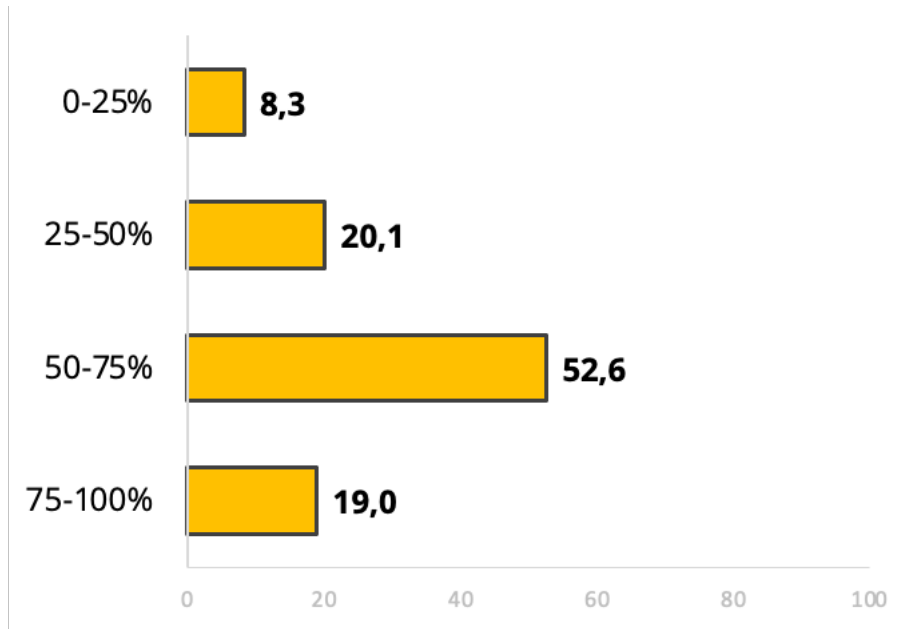


If they were to hear about a case of domestic violence involving strangers, only **14%** of respondents claim they **would notify the police / authorities**. Approximately **7%** say they **wouldn't get involved**, while nearly three-quarters (**72%**) prefer not to respond.

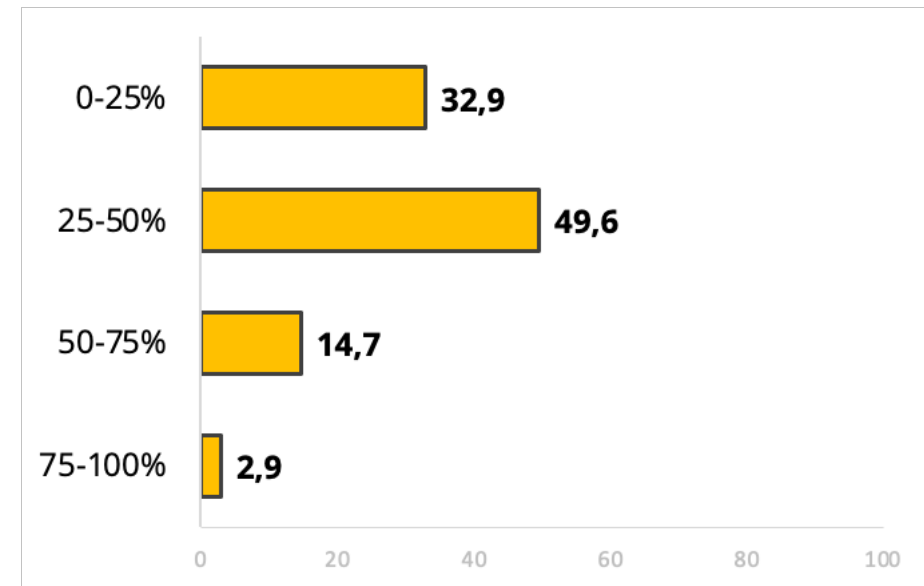
Q: What would you do if you heard about a case of domestic violence among your close ones - family / colleagues / friends? [open, single]
 Q: What would you do if you heard about a case of domestic violence in the case of strangers but in your vicinity? [open, single]

*Sample that have not heard of cases of domestic violence N=337

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. **WOMEN – VICTIMS AT LEAST ONCE VS. REPEATEDLY**



Nearly **three-quarters of respondents (72%)** believe that **at least one out of two women** has experienced domestic violence at least once. The **average** estimated percentage is **55%**, and the **median** value is **60%**.



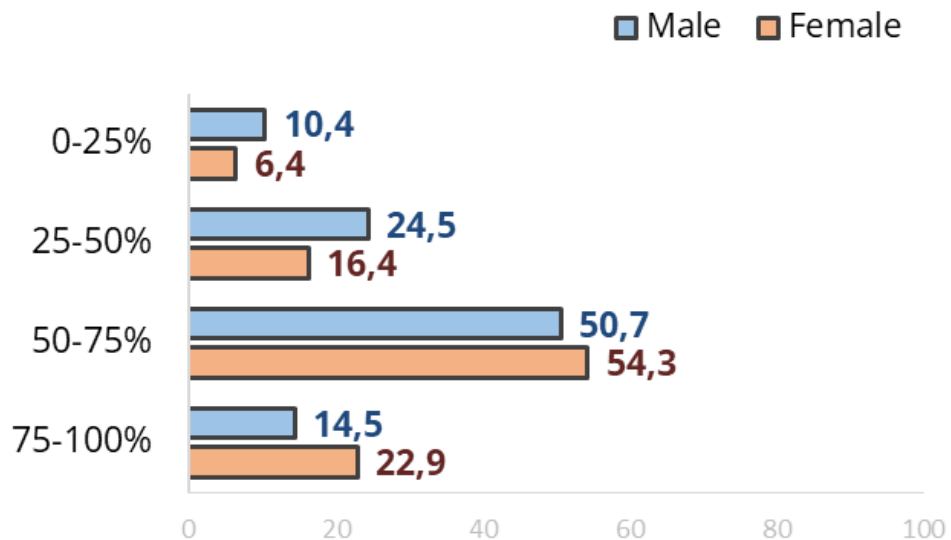
More than **three-quarters of respondents (83%)** believe that **less than half of women** are trapped in relationships where they are repeatedly victims of domestic violence. The **average** estimated percentage is **32%**, and the **median** values is **30%**.

Q: In your opinion, what percentage of women in Romania have experienced domestic violence at least once? [open, single]

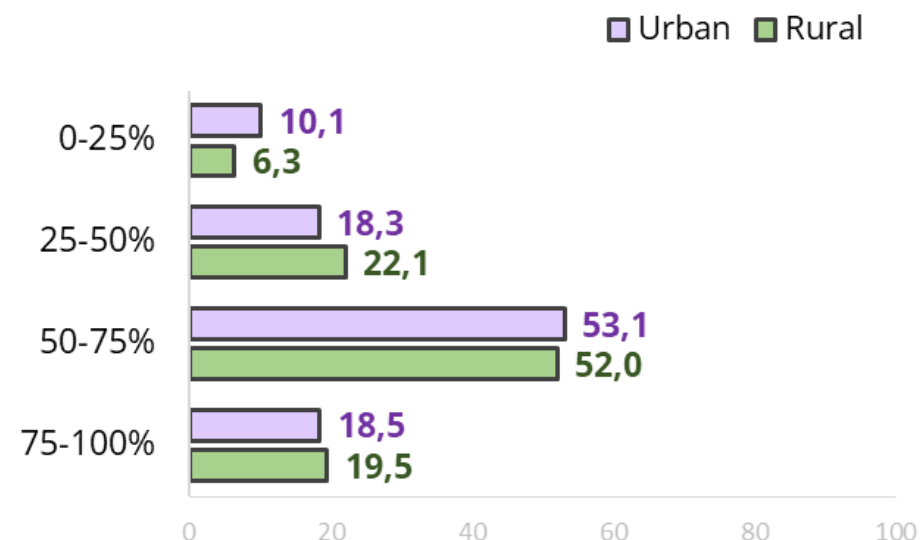
Q: In your opinion, what percentage of women in Romania live in relationships where they are repeatedly victims of domestic violence? [open, single]

*Total sample N=1112

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. **WOMEN – VICTIMS AT LEAST ONCE. COMPARISONS**



More than **three-quarters (77%)** believe that **at least one out of two women** has experienced domestic violence at least once. For **men**, the value is lower: **65%**. The **average** estimated percentage is **58%** for **women** and **52%** for **men**, and the **median** value is **60%** for **women** and **50%** for **men**.

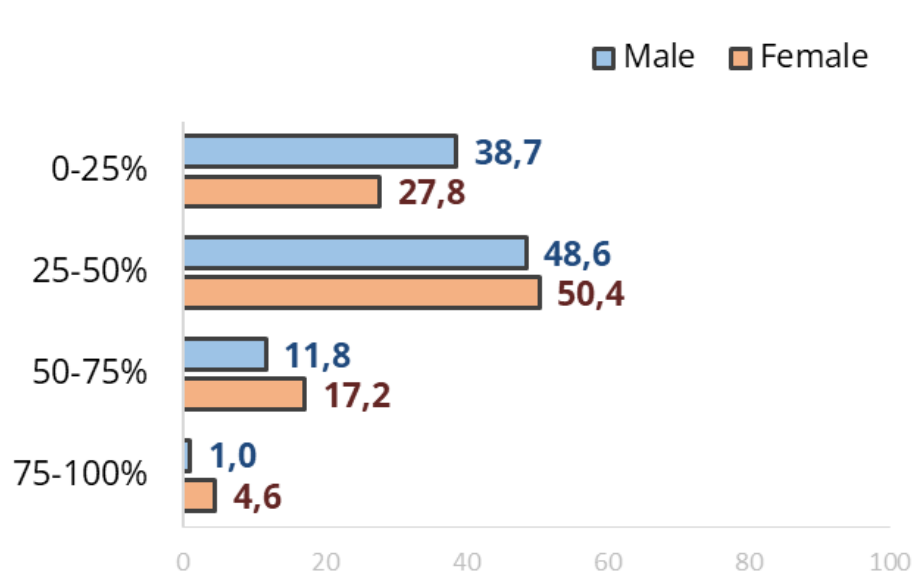


Approximately **three-quarters of those in urban areas (72%)** believe that **at least one out of two women** has experienced domestic violence at least once. For **rural areas**, the value is identical: **72%**. The **average** estimated percentage is **54%** for **urban** and **56%** for **rural**, and the **median** value is **60%**, for respondents from **both areas**.

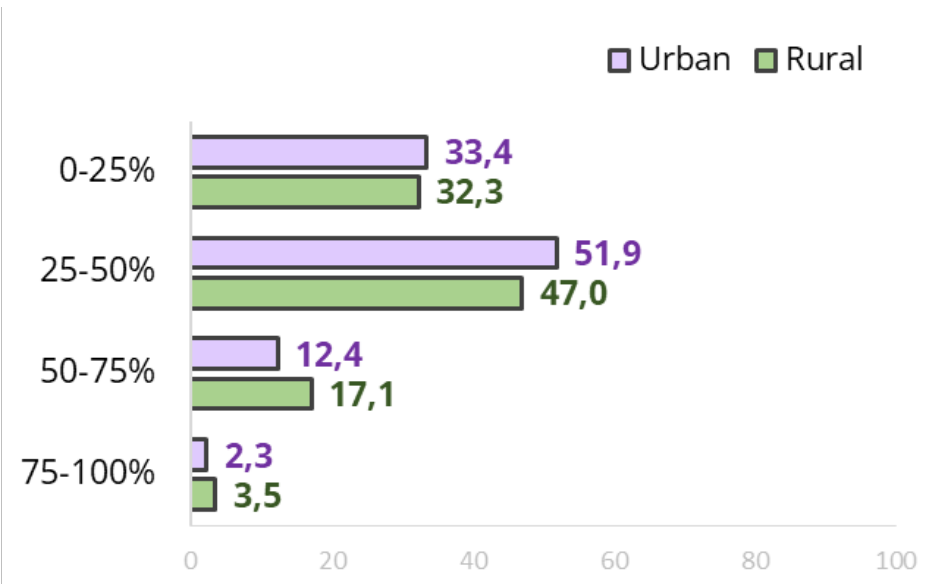
Q: In your opinion, what percentage of women in Romania have experienced domestic violence at least once? [open, single]

Q: In your opinion, what percentage of women in Romania live in relationships where they are repeatedly victims of domestic violence? [open, single]

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. **WOMEN – VICTIMS REPEATEDLY. COMPARISONS**



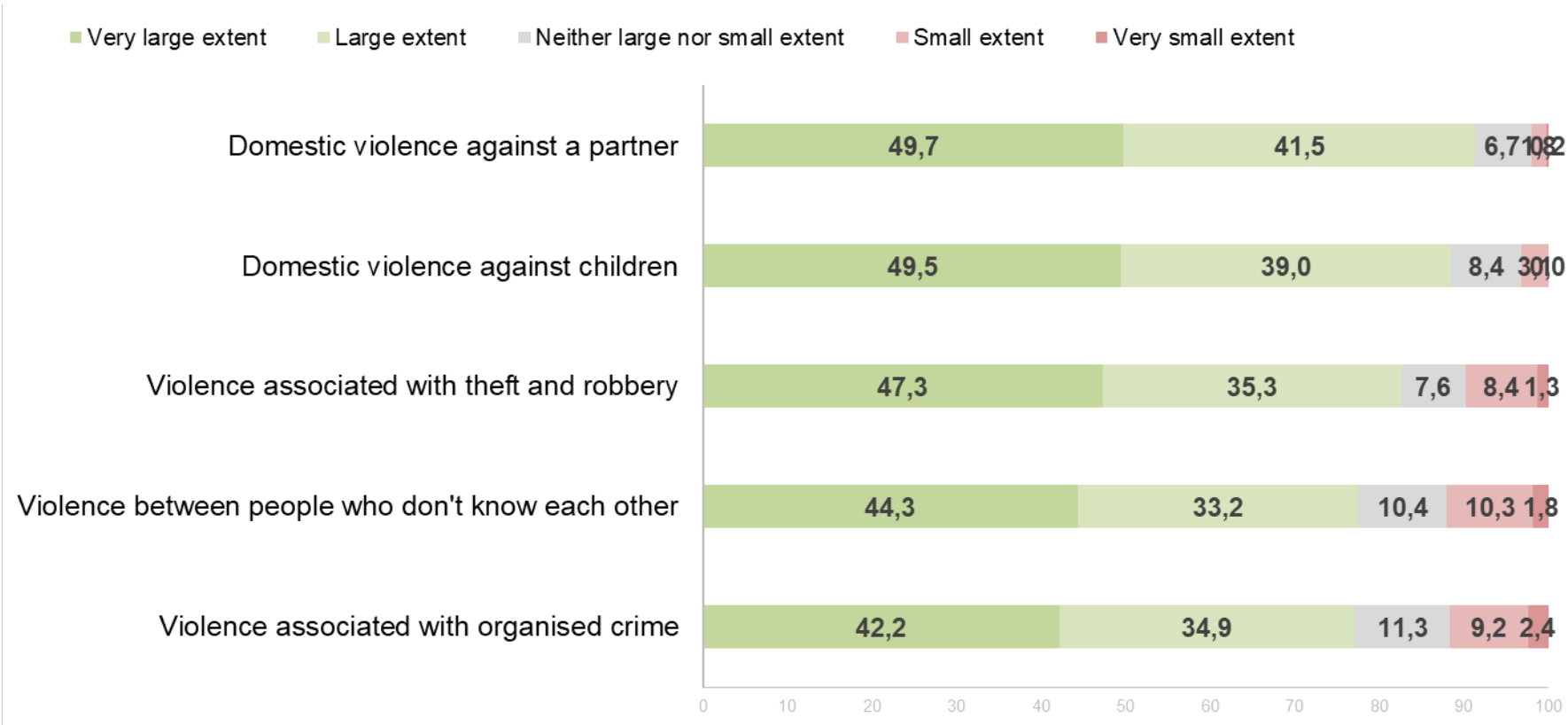
Almost all **men (87%)** believe that **less than half of women** are trapped in relationships where they are repeatedly victims of domestic violence. For **women**, the value is lower: **78%**. The **average** estimated percentage is **35%** for **women** and **30%** for **men**, and the **median** value is identical for both genders: **30%**.



Almost all those in **urban areas (85%)** believe that **less than half of women** are trapped in relationships where they are repeatedly victims of domestic violence. For those in **rural areas**, the value is lower: **79%**. The **average** estimated percentage is **32%** for **urban** and **33%** for **rural**, and the **median** value is identical for both areas: **30%**.

Q: In your opinion, what percentage of women in Romania have experienced domestic violence at least once? [open, single]
 Q: In your opinion, what percentage of women in Romania live in relationships where they are repeatedly victims of domestic violence? [open, single]

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. PROBLEM IN ROMANIA



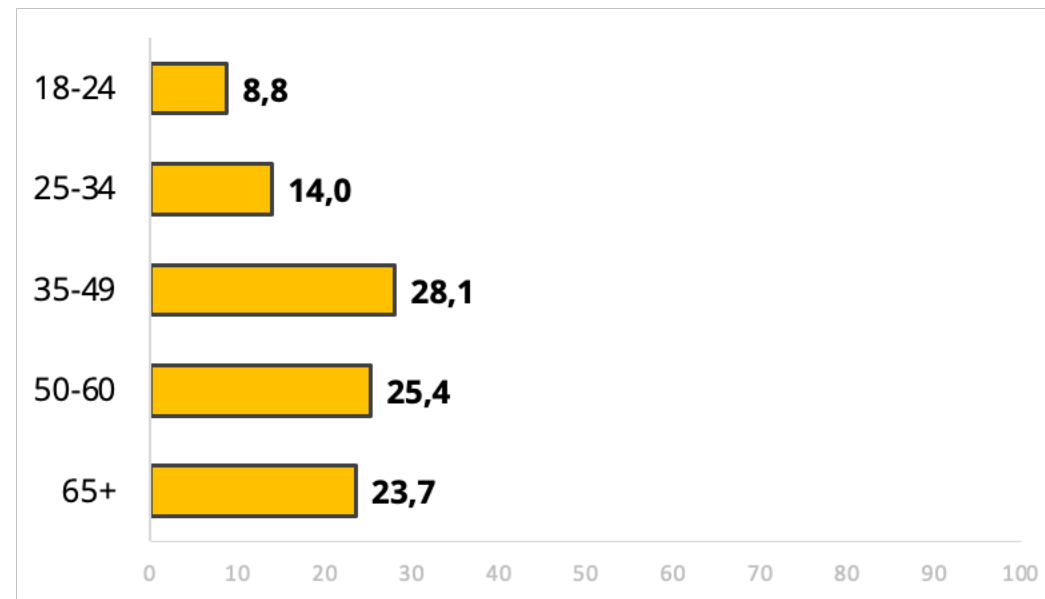
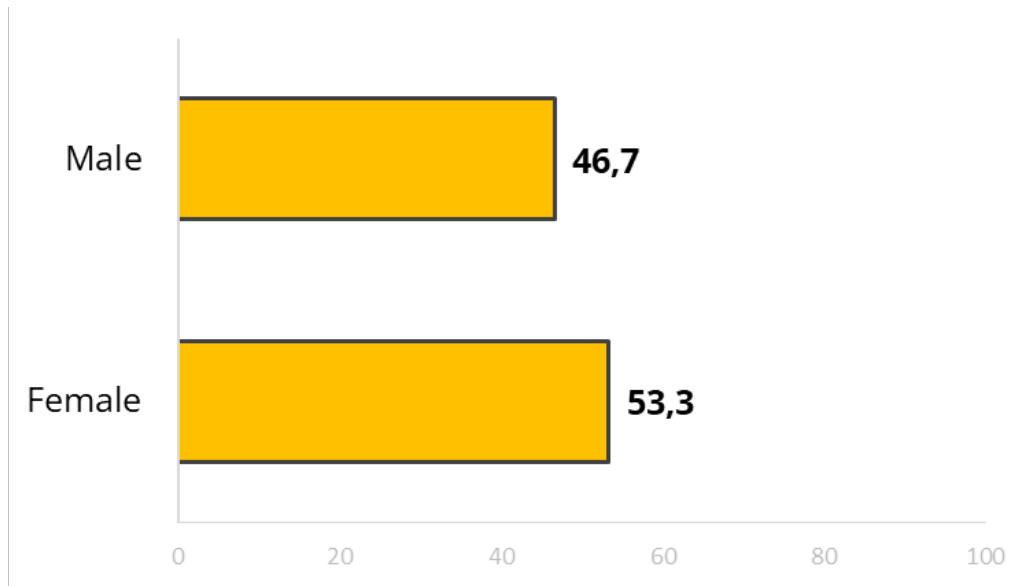
Domestic violence is perceived as the **most significant issue in Romania**: **91%** of respondents perceive it this way. Approximately **half (50%)** of respondents believe it is a very significant problem. Following closely are family violence against children (89%) and violence associated with thefts and robberies (83%).



GENERAL ANALYSIS.

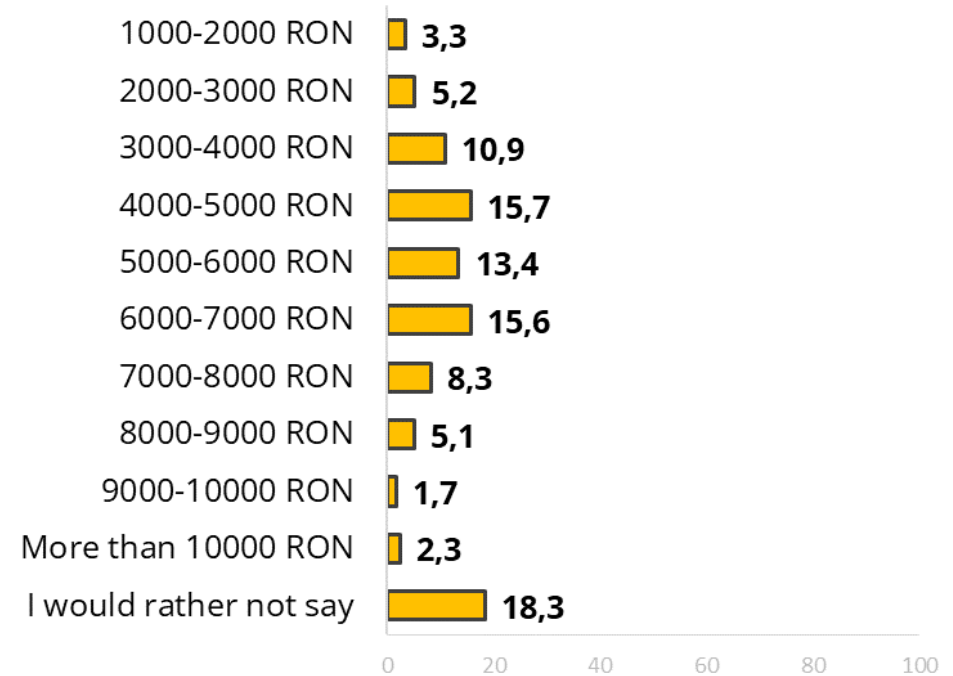
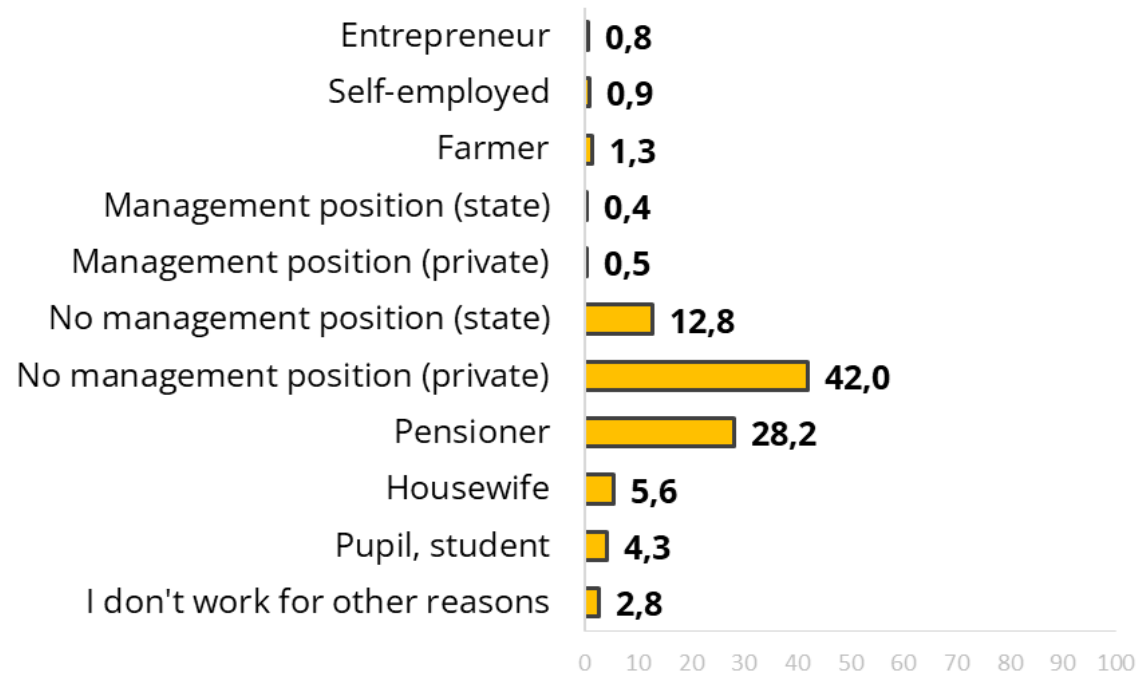
DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHICS. GENDER AND AGE



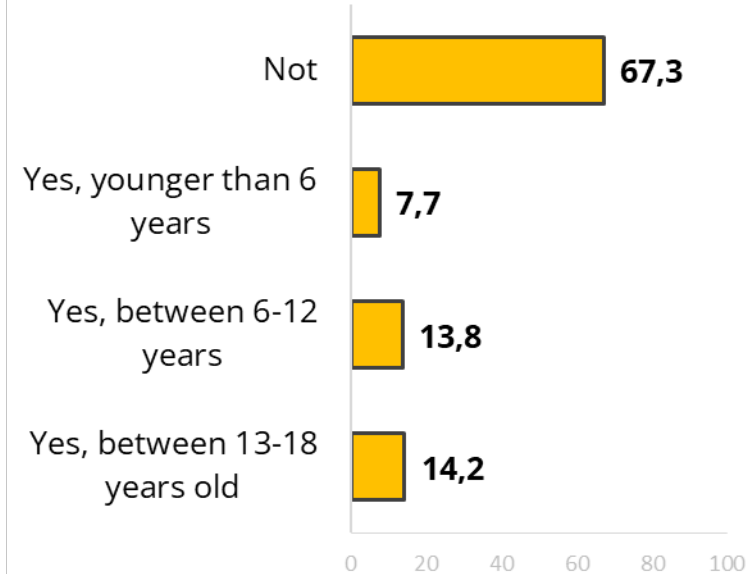
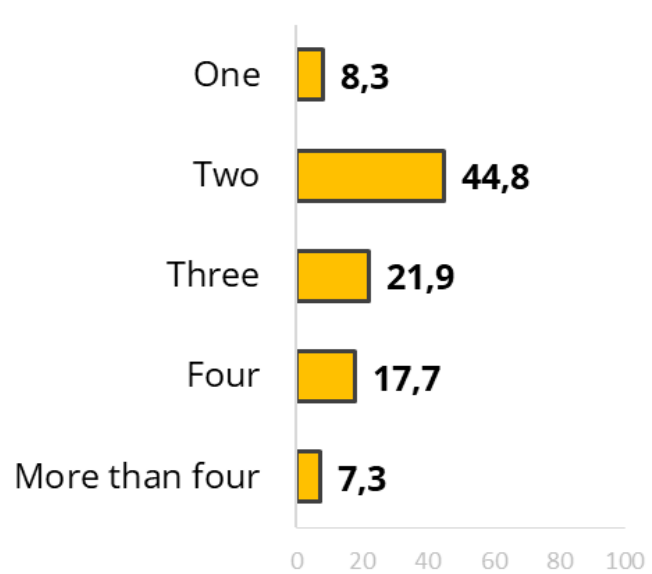
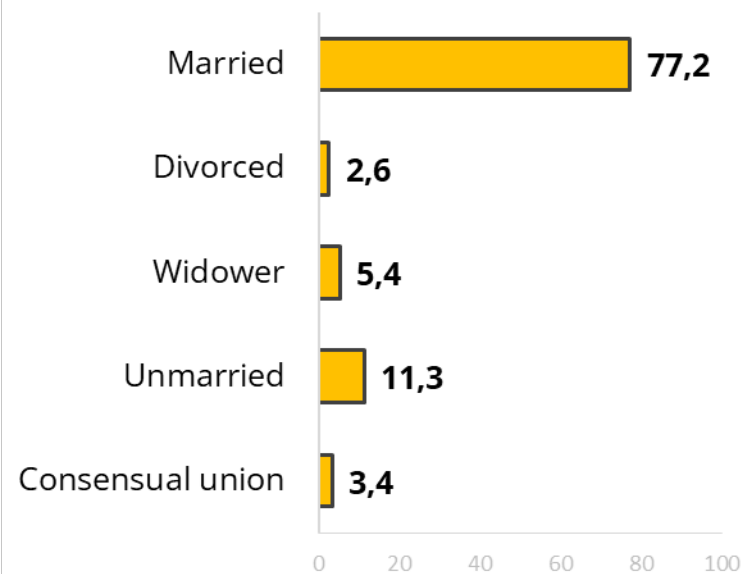
•Total sample N=1112

DEMOGRAPHICS. OCCUPATION AND HH INCOME



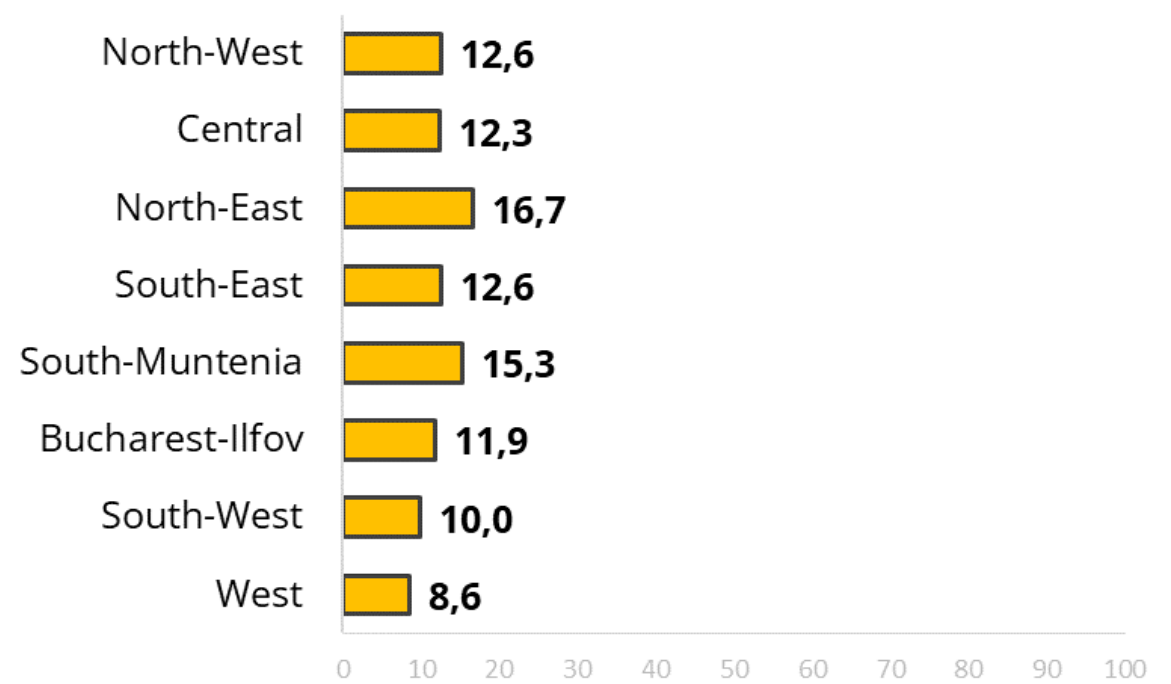
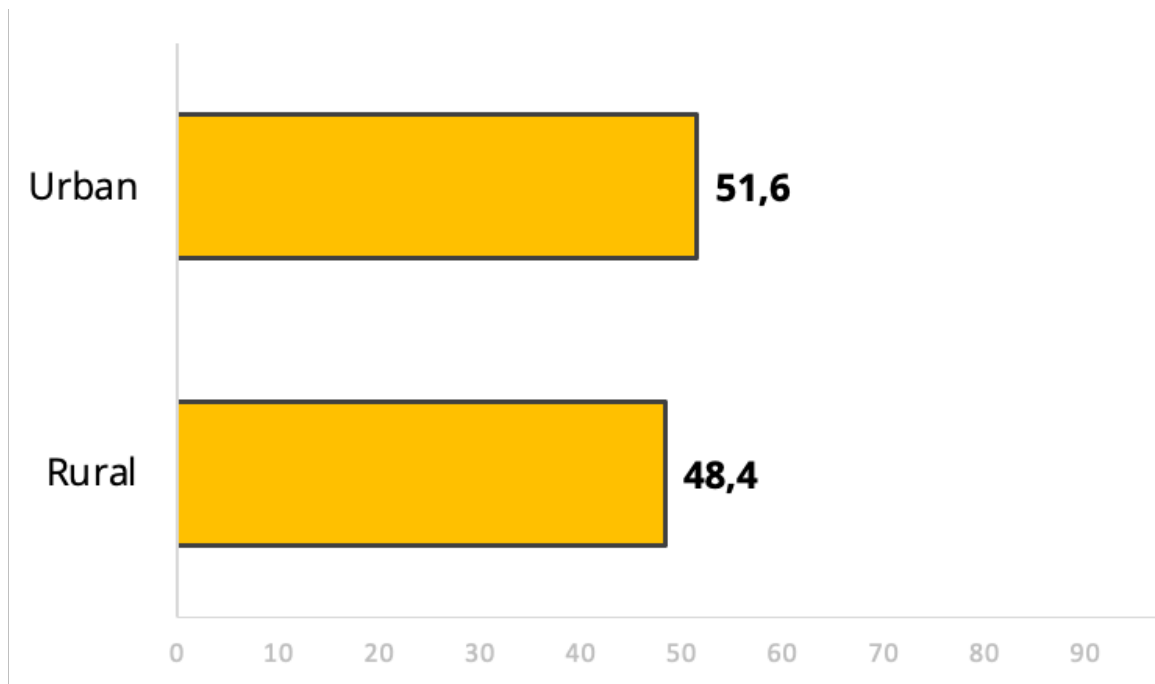
•Total sample N=1112

DEMOGRAPHICS. MARITAL STATUS, HH MEMBERS AND KIDS



•Total sample N=1112

DEMOGRAPHICS. PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND REGION



•Total sample N=1112



Thank you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

vlad.tureanu [at] ddresearch.ro

cosmin.peleasa [at] ddresearch.ro