Peanow

Prevalence study of Abuse and Violence against Old Women

Literature review:

Finland and the Nordic countries

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1 Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Network of the Prevention of Elder abuse (INPEA) have recognised the abuse of older people as a significant global problem. Elder abuse is a human rights violation and it is an infringement of Article 25 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which recognises and respects the rights of older people to lead lives of dignity and independence, and to participate in social and cultural life.

Elder abuse is a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person (WHO, 2004). It can take various forms: physical, psychological or emotional, sexual, financial or simply reflect intentional or unintentional neglect.

Research on where, when and how often elder abuse occurs is inadequate and inconsistent. In addition to this, violence and abuse against older women in particular is still considered a taboo, although it is acknowledged internationally as a social problem. The rapid ageing of the society means that there will be a growing population of elderly women living at home and most vulnerable of them are dependant on care or assistance. The aim of this national literature review is to map existing research on prevalence of violence against older women. The focus of this literature review is on Nordic countries.

This literature review is part of Prevalence study of Violence and Abuse against Old Women (Peanow) which is funded by the EU’s Daphne III programme. Joint effort of five EU countries, the study aims to to demonstrate the prevalence of violence against older women in the home setting, demonstrate patters of violence and develop a tool for harmonized and comparable surveying (“Peanow website,”). National literature reviews from the five partner countries will result in a European research report that consists of main findings of the literature reviews and of reviewed questionnaires and methods.

Excerpts of two Finnish questionnaires are included in the Appendix. The Welfare and Services in Finland Survey and the Finnish Regional Health and Wellbeing Survey both include question relating to violence and abuse. We have also included in its entirety the questionnaire used both in Swedish and Finnish surveys on male violence against women.
2 Methods

We conducted a comprehensive literature search of the following databases by using the following search terms:

violence (OR )"elder abuse" (OR) "elder neglect" (OR) victimisation (OR) victims (AND)
females (OR) women (OR) "old women" (OR) "old people" (OR) elderly (OR) aged (AND)
Sweden (OR)Norway (OR)Finland (OR)Denmark (OR)Iceland (OR)"Northern Countries" (AND)
prevalence (OR)statistics (OR)trends

Databases

- Academic Search Elite - International database covers virtually every area of academic study
- AgeLine - International database of social gerontology and ageing
- Alcohol and Alcohol Problems Science Database (ETOH)
- ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts - International database covers health, social services, psychology, sociology, economics, politics, race relations and education
- Blackwell-Synergy - (Wiley InterScience) International resource for scientific, technical, medical and scholarly content
- CINAHL - Nursing and allied health international database
- Directory of Open Access Journals - Service covers free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals
- ERIC - Provides access to educational-related literature
- HighWire Press
  Journals@Ovid
- LWW Total Access Collection
- MEDLINE (Ovid) - The United States National Library of Medicine's (NLM) premier bibliographic database providing information from the following fields: Medicine, Veterinary medicine, Nursing, Allied health, Dentistry and Pre-clinical sciences
- NBER Papers in Health Economics - (National Bureau of Economic Research)
• ProQuest Health Management - International database of health administration. Topics including: Hospitals, Insurance, Law, Statistics, Business management, Personnel management, Ethics, Health economics and Public health administration
PsycINFO (Ovid) - Bibliographic database providing abstracts and citations on the scholarly literature in the psychological, social, behavioral, and health sciences
• PubMed
• SAGE Premier 2008 - Database covers Business, Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Technology and Medicine
• ScienceDirect Freedom Collection - An information source for scientific, technical, and medical research
• Social Services Abstracts - Provides bibliographic coverage of current research focused on social work, human services, and related areas, including social welfare, social policy, and community development
• SocINDEX with Full Text - International sociology research database
• Sociological Abstracts - Database provides international literature on sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences
• Web of Science - Content covers impact journals worldwide in the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities

**Finnish and Nordic databases**

• Terveyden ja hyvinvoinnin laitoksen kirjastotietokanta (THLLib)
• Arto; lehtiartikkelitietokanta; suomalaisia lehtiartikkeleita
• Linda; Suomen yliopistokirjastojen yhteistietokanta
• Helsingin yliopiston Julki-tietokanta
• Medic
• LIBRIS; Ruotsin korkeakoulut- ja tutkimuslaitoskirjastojen yhteistietokanta
• BIBSYS; Norjan kansalliskirjaston sekä yliopisto- ja tutkimuskirjastojen yhteistietokanta
Web pages

- Tilastokeskus (Statistiksentralen, Statistics Finland) [http://www.stat.fi/index.html](http://www.stat.fi/index.html)
- SCB Statistiska centralbyrån (Statistics Sweden) [www.scb.se](http://www.scb.se)
- Statistisk Sentralbyrå (Statistics Norway) [http://www.ssb.no/en/](http://www.ssb.no/en/)
- Danmarks Statistik (Statistics Denmark) [http://www.dst.dk/homeuk.aspx](http://www.dst.dk/homeuk.aspx)
- Hagstofa Islands (Statistics Iceland) [http://www.statice.is/](http://www.statice.is/)
- Oikeuspoliittinen tutkimuslaitos (Rättspolitiska forskningsinstitutet, The National Research Institute of Legal Policy); Finland [http://www.optula.om.fi/index.htm](http://www.optula.om.fi/index.htm)
- Brotsförebyggande rådet (National Council for Crime prevention); Sweden [www.bra.se](http://www.bra.se)
- Socialstyrelsen (The National Board of Health and Welfare); Sweden [http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/english](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/english)
- KILDEN (Informassjonssenter for Kjonnsforskning, Information Centre for Gender Research in Norway) [http://eng.kilden.forskningsradet.nor](http://eng.kilden.forskningsradet.nor)
- Genus (Nationella Sekretariatet för genusforskning, Göteborgs universitetet Humanistiska fakultaten, Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research); Sweden [http://www.genus.se/](http://www.genus.se/)
3 General background on violence against older people with a special focus on older women and prevalence

3.1 Definition of used terms: Abuse/Maltreatment/Violence

According to the WHO (WHO, 2005), elder abuse was described for the first time in a British scientific publication in the year 1975 using the term “granny battering”. One of the most common definitions of violence in general is the WHO definition of violence, published in the first “World report on violence and health”: "The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.”(WHO, 2002)

The term elder abuse includes actions of violence or mistreatment. The mistreatment can be an act of commission (abuse) or omission (neglect). It can be intentional or unintentional. Elder abuse entails violation of human rights, suffering, and decreased quality of life (Hudson, 1991). There are many existing definitions of elder abuse and in most definitions are included the types of abuse (e.g., physical, psychological, financial, neglect, self-neglect, and sexual), who does the abusing (perpetrator descriptions), who suffers the abuse (victim descriptions), and where it happens (e.g., domestic violence or institutional settings). The definition adopted by the World Health Organization and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse is as follows: “Elder abuse is a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person” (Action on Elder Abuse's definition of elder abuse, 1995).

3.2 Forms of violence

In this Finnish report we used the following terms to describe the forms of violence against older people:

- Physical Abuse -Inflicting, or threatening to inflict, physical pain or injury on a vulnerable elder, or depriving them of a basic need.
• Emotional Abuse - Inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress on an elder person through verbal or nonverbal acts
• Sexual Abuse - Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind.
• Exploitation - Illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a vulnerable elder.
• Neglect - Refusal or failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care or protection for a vulnerable elder.
• Abandonment - The desertion of a vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.
4 Prevalence, statistical data

4.1 General

According to WHO, abuse of the elderly is a problem that may continue to grow because many countries experience a rapidly ageing population. The abuse of elderly includes physical, sexual and psychological abuse as well as neglect. Elderly people are especially vulnerable to economic abuse, in which relatives or caregivers make improper use of their funds and resources (WHO, 2005). Information on the extent of abuse in elderly populations is scarce. The population based surveys that have been conducted show that between 4 % and 6 % of elderly people experience some form of abuse in the homes and that mistreatment in institutions may be more extensive than generally believed (WHO, 2005).

Cooper et al performed a comprehensive literature search on elder abuse. They used multiple databases up to October 2006, supplemented by a search of the references of all relevant articles. Validity of such studies was graded by two authors independently using a standardised checklist. 49 studies met the inclusion criteria, of which only seven used measures for which reliability and validity had been assessed. In the general population studies, 6% of older people reported significant abuse in the last month and 5.6 % of couples reported physical violence in their relationship in the last year. In studies using valid instruments involving vulnerable elders, nearly a quarter reported significant psychological abuse. Five percent of family caregivers reported physical abuse towards care recipients with dementia in a year, and a third reported any significant abuse. Sixteen percent of care home staff admitted significant psychological abuse. Rates of abuse recorded using objective measures (5 %) or reported to home management or adult protective services (1-2% ) were low (Cooper, Selwood, & Livingston, 2008).

First epidemiological endeavour to make elder abuse visible in Nordic countries was the Tornstram study from 1989. The study was conducted in Denmark and Sweden by the National Swedish Institute of Statistics and the Danish National Institute of Statistics. In Sweden a telephone interview of 943 men and women between the ages of 18 and 74 was conducted; in Denmark similar survey was carried out with 1535 men and women, 16 years and over. Individuals were asked whether they knew about specific cases of older people in
their community or among acquaintances who had been battered, threatened, economically exploited, robbed or severely neglected (Tornstram, 1989).

17% of the respondents in Sweden knew about some kind of abuse. When the time frame was limited to abuse within the last 12 months, 8 percent reported knowledge of at least one specific case. This percentage was exactly the same in Sweden and Denmark. Theft and economic abuse were the most frequent types cited in the survey. Theft was reported by 6% in Denmark and 5% in Sweden; percentages for economic abuse were 2 and 3 (Tornstram, 1989). In both these kinds of cases, "staff" were among the perpetrators; in fact, accounting for 20 percent in Sweden. "Physically battered" was the third in the ranking of types of cases, but the percentage of respondents reporting knowledge of a specific case of battering was quite low, 1 percent with time limit in both Sweden and Denmark. The perpetrators were unknown persons, family members, and various types of care providers e.g. home helpers, etc. (Tornstram, 1989)

In 1993 a joint Nordic research project "Level of living" was based on comparable official statistic from Nordic countries: level of living surveys, data registers on mortality and morbidity, demographic data and data on labour force and social security. (Helset, 1993) According to that study fear of violence seems to be a serious problem for older women in some Nordic countries. While victims of violence are usually young men, fear is greatest among older women. In Sweden 47% of women aged 74 - 85 fear violence. There were fewer timid older women in Finland and Iceland, although these countries had the highest crime rates of Nordic countries (Helset, 1993). Comparison within Nordic studies has shown that from 1990 in Finland a higher proportion of ever-partnered women reported violence: 9% as compared to 5,5% in Norway.

In Sweden 11% of the women presently in a relationship reported having experienced violence with their current partner - this figure being more in accordance with the Norwegian study (Neroien & Schei, 2008). In this joint study the questions on violence in the relationship were adapted from the two previous national studies in Finland and Sweden. The questionnaire did not include questions about the frequency of violence (Neroien & Schei, 2008).
4.2 Nordic countries

4.2.1 Finland

National victimization studies about injuries and crime have been conducted in Finland six times since 1980. The latest of the series of interview studies was conducted in 2006 when data was collected by telephone or face-to-face interviews with 8 209 people aged 15 years and over (Tiirikainen & Lounamaa, 2007).

According to the 2005 survey 43.5 per cent of women had at least once experienced a man’s physical or sexual violence or threat after having reached 15 years of age. In the 1997 survey the corresponding share was 40 per cent. Thereby there has been a slight increase in women’s experience of violence (Piispa & Heiskanen, 2006). 4 % of women aged 65 - 74 had been victims of violence (n = 462), (Piispa & Heiskanen, 2006), however, no incidents were reported for women over 74 years of age ( n. 373) (Tiirikainen & Lounamaa, 2007). When asked how concerned women of over 64 were of the risk of sexual harassment or rape, 94 % responded "not at all", 4,3 % "a little" and 1 % "very concerned". According to these results, women over 64 felt the safest of all age groups interviewed.

Women's experience of violence year 2005 % by age group (Piispa & Heiskanen, 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are statistics available about crimes and according to them 30 women were killed in 2005. The figure has gone down 40 % since mid 1990s. In 2006 28 % of all people who had suffered a violent death were women. (Honkatukia, 2008) A significant part of all criminal homicides against women have happened in a relationship. Violence within an intimate
relationship was the cause of death for 9 women in 2006 - 2 of them were over 64 years of age. Typically victims of all homicides are middle-aged, one third of them being women (Honkatukia, 2008)

Assessing the prevalence of violence against elderly there are results from two Finnish studies available. According to the first study 9 % of women and 3 % of men said that they had been abused after the age of retirement (60-65 years). (Kivelä, Köngäs-Saviaro, Kesi, Pahkala, & Ijäs, 1992) In the second study the prevalence rate for abuse by spouse, child or relative was 2.5 % for men and 7 % for women (Kivelä, 1995)

4.2.2 Norway

There is a recent study by Neroien et al which aims to estimate the prevalence of partner violence in Norway and the relationship between victimization and somatic health and depression and anxiety and post-traumatic stress symptoms. In total 26.8 % of 2 143 ever-partnered women had experienced any violence by their partner during their lifetime, and 5.5 % in the year before the study.

Like in other Nordic countries, research in Norway vis-à-vis the elderly has not been very concerned with the issue of elder abuse or with bringing about greater understanding of the issue. In 2007 Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies published a report on current studies on elder abuse in Norway attempting to chart the current state of affairs (Juklestad, 2007).

The report notes that only a minor fragment of violence against the elderly is reported to the police and in national victimization studies elderly victims are almost non-existent. Abuse against elderly is only reflected to a small extent in general statistics on violence and abuse which are presented in the form of crime statistics and studies on living conditions (Juklestad, 2007) Surveys targeted more directly at the elderly and clinical experience from work with old people suggest that old people are considerably more exposed to abuse than shown by public figures.
No real study of the extent of elder abuse has been undertaken in Norway. Several smaller, local studies have however endeavoured to establish the occurrences of abuse locally or within certain limited populations (Juklestad, 2007). In 1984 Stang and Evesen carried out a study on the number of cases of violations Oslo's home nurses were acquainted with among their patients. A questionnaire was carried out by home nursing services. There was an occurrence of 42 cases (34 women and 8 men) of elder abuse amongst a total of 4 200 patients and this gave a period prevalence of 1 % over four months. Psychological form was most common, but physical abuse such as assaults, pushes and possible sexual abuse were also reported. 62 % of the victims lived in the same household with the abuser, who were most often children or a spouse (Juklestad, 2007).

A project on elder protective services - the Manglerud Project - was established with the purpose of bringing staff from the Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies into contact with victims of elder abuse in the home and motivating the victim to seek help as well as to initiate and co-ordinate action based on the client's needs. In the course of 2,5 years, from 1991 - 1994, 57 clients were registered, which comprised 3,1 % of the population of over 65 in that precinct. The cases covered all types of abuse, psychological, physical, sexual and economic. It was not possible to generalise for the elderly population of Norway from the experience from Manglerud (Juklestad, 2007).

4.2.3 Sweden

In Sweden, until 2001 no statistics existed to indicate the extent of violence against women. "Captured Queen - men's violence against women in "equal" Sweden - a prevalence study" is the fist major enquiry that has been carried out on the topic. The results are of interest not only because of the high percentage of responses - of the 10 000 women aged from 18 to 64 who received the questionnaire 70 per cent responded - but also because knowledge of the phenomenon of violence to women contributed to the design and execution of the study (Lundgren, Heimer, Westerstrand, & Kalliokoski, 2002)

The researchers found out that almost every second woman, i.e. 46 %, has been subjected to violence by a man since her fifteenth birthday. 56 % per cent of all women have been sexually
harassed. Twelve per cent of women have been subjected to such violence in the last year. Among women aged 45 - 64 the figure is 9 per cent. (Lundgren et al., 2002)

In 2001 a prevalence study on elder abuse was published. Hjelde Erisksson used a mail survey to investigate self reported "violence" after the age of 64 in a population of men and women aged 65 - 80. The response rate was 76 %, in total 1091 persons responded. Eriksson's results are problematic to interpret as she has not followed a standard procedure of asking about victimization during the last year. Eriksson uses broad definition of violence, similar to that of abuse. Her definition includes incidents from the domestic setting as well as public settings and encounters with the health care system. In total 16 % of women (n=592) has experienced violence: neglect -also healthcare - 7 %, threats and humiliation 6.4 %, physical violence 1.4 %, sexual harassment 5.1 %, sexual violence 0.3 % and economic violence 1 %. More women were victims of abuse and most offenders were men. Women reported more repeated and severe victimization before the age of 65 and victimized women had poorer health than victimized men. (Jönson & Åkerström, 2004)

Saveman conducted a study to describe the awareness among Swedish general practitioners (GPs) of elderly patients at risk of or suffering from abuse during a 12-month period. A questionnaire was sent to 110 GPs working in one regional health care district in Sweden and 59% answered and returned the questionnaire. As a result of the study 77 % of the GPs had patients at risk of abuse and/or neglect, and 25 % were aware of patients who were subjected to either verified or suspected elder abuse. The most commonly seen risk situations involved patients with dementia, carers with personal problems or aggression and patients with a family history of alcohol and other personality problems. (Saveman & Sanvide, 2001)

### 4.3 Risks and consequences of violence

The study on men's violence against women from 1997 by Heiskanen and Piispa indicated that violence directed against women is still quite common in Finland. Piispa's analysis was limited to women aged 18 to 64 who had experienced violence in their current partnership during the past 5 years. Originally data was classified into three age groups, but differences between the oldest groups were so small that they were combined (Piispa, 2004). Piispa found out that younger women of 18 - 29 reported less severe violence more often than other women.
did. More severe forms of violence were more frequent among women older than 30 than among their juniors (Piispa, 2004)

Out of psychological consequences aroused by violence, most typical of them hatred, fear and depression, old women felt shame and anger more then younger women. However, older generations typically swept partnership conflicts under the carpet, forgetting them and emphasising the good sides of life, whereas young women had talked about problems in their relationship more (Piispa, 2004).

There is some qualitative research available and the studies have found out that Finnish women, often regarded as strong, find it difficult to admit to being victims and discuss their experiences as victims of violence with outsiders. Many of them also refuse to seek help. According to a study from 2005 only 31 per cent of women who had lived in a violent relationship had looked for help from public authorities (Honkatukia, 2008)

Neglect towards the elderly seems to be in a specific relation to the older person being in a care dependent relationship to his or her grown-up child. This often culminates in problems within the family dynamics (Kalliomaa-Puha, 2007). The elderly parent might feel guilty for limiting his/her child's life; problems from years back can come to the fore; the child can feel very alone looking after the parent. Caring for an elderly and dealing with the inevitable dependency from the parent can prove to be burdensome if the interrelation between the parent and the child is not balanced: problem can stem from unhappy childhood or trouble gaining independence. (Kallioma-Puha, 2007)

Neglect can have a connection also with the separation of families and possible great distances between family members. Loneliness can push people to unhealthy psychologically and economically dependent relationships. Lonely elderly person can feel that a destructive and pathological relationship can be better than nothing. Typically a neglected person is over 75 year old and weak woman who is dependant on others, who is socially withdrawn and whose cognitive or mental functionalities have been slightly lessened (Kallioma-Puha, 2007)
5 Methods used in prevalence studies

5.1 General

Christer Erlingsson's study from 2007 aimed to describe trends and patterns in elder abuse literature and research. Results clearly showed a lack of diversity in elder abuse literature. Results also confirmed what many in the field of elder abuse have maintained: that there is particular lack of elder abuse research (Erlingsson, 2007)

In Erlingsson study (2007) citations in PUB MED, CINAHL, and PsychINFO databases using the search term "elder abuse" were retrieved (3059 citations) and 2418 unique references were identified. Using manifest content analysis, non-research material (1,986 references) was sorted by type and research references (34 dissertations and 398 research articles) were categorized. Research article references most commonly: (1) investigated prevalence, typology, and definitions of elder abuse; (2) utilized quantitative methodology; (3) had first author affiliations to medicine, nursing, and social sciences; and (4) sampled populations of professionals, personnel, cases, or charts. The USA was most frequently listed of 24 identified countries of origin.

Analysis of article research references showed a concentration of references in only a few aim areas and the primary focus was on investigating prevalence, typology, and definitional issues of elder abuse. This reflects what appears to be the steady state of elder abuse research: that we continue to search for the nature of elder abuse, searching for an inclusive, comprehensive definition. Among non-research references, General Reviews was the most common type and showed a steady increase in all intervals. The decreasing number of referenced dissertations is also noteworthy. (Erlingsson, 2007)

Elder abuse is a major component of family violence. In light of this it is noteworthy that older persons and family caregivers were involved as participants in only one-fourth of the research references. In other words, researchers have investigated elder abuse by involving other professionals and personnel or by analyzing what other professionals and personnel have written about elder abuse (Erlingsson, 2007).
As a result of the analyses Erlingsson concluded that more research on elder abuse is needed since research shows lack of diversity, slow increase of qualitative research, limited involvement of older persons and family members as participants, and minimal research from developing countries. (Erlingsson, 2007)

Recently Cooper et al produced a systematic review of the prevalence of elder abuse using standardised criteria of study quality. According to them there are a wide range of prevalence figures perhaps because studies employ different populations, measures and definitions of abuse. Numerous instruments measure abuse: they vary in items included and in the level and frequency of abusive acts considered to constitute and abuse case. Accurate estimates of elder abuse are vital for service and policy planning in our ageing society (Cooper et al., 2008)

5.2 How the data has been collected

In Finland the first survey of male violence against women was carried our in the 1997. The research data were collected by a postal survey. The Central Population Register provided a sample of 7,100 women between the ages of 18 and 74 years. The sample covered the whole country, by systematic sampling. The response rate was as high as 70 per cent. (Heiskanen & Piispa, 1998) The second survey was carried out in 2005. The sample of the study consists of 7 213 randomly chosen women aged 18-74 years. The response rate was 62 per cent. In the 2005 survey the share of 65-74 year old women respondents was somewhat higher than in 1997 (Piispa & Heiskanen, 2006).

The design of the the questionnaire used in Nordic studies of male violence against women has been influenced by the Finnish survey from 1997. The design also facilitated comparisons between the Nordic countries(Lundgren et al., 2002). What the researches asked for was women's experiences of violence, which means that in designing the questionnaire they had had to allow for women making their own interpretations as to which experiences they consider to constitute violence (Lundgren et al., 2002).

The Swedish data was collected in cooperation with Statistics Sweden (SCB). A probability sampling of 10 000 women aged 18 - 64 resident in Sweden was extracted from SCB's register of the total population. The data was collected between 15 October 1999 and 17
January 2000. By the time the collection of data had been completed, 6 926 replied had been received, signifying a response rate of 70 per cent.

The Norweigian data was collected by Statistic Norway. Among a random sample of women aged 20 - 55 years, 2 407 women returned the questionnaire (63,3 %), of whom 2 143 were ever-partnered. Considering the length of the questionnaire and the sensitive nature of the questions, the percentage of responses must be considered high.
6 Influence of social and biographical factors

The demographic factors most frequently associated with partner violence were being divorced/separated or unmarried and having low economic status, studies in Finland, Norway and Sweden (Neroien & Schei, 2008).

Seeking help in cases of violence varies by age. According to the 1997 survey young women seek help in the first instance via informal channels, while more adult women are more likely to resort to the authorities. Exceptions are the oldest women 65+, many of whom never tell anyone about the violence. Women in the age bracket 45-54 were found to resort more often to official channels when seeking help (Piispa & Heiskanen, 2001).

Women who have become victims of violence normally rely on informal support: more than half of respondents mentioned that they had talked about the violence with a close friend, both in case of partner violence and also in violence outside a partnership. To resort to official support and help is considerably less common than relying on informal support: about two thirds said that they had not sought help from any official body. When official help is sought, it is most frequently sought from the police and health service providers. (Piispa & Heiskanen, 2006)

The study also indicates that it has become somewhat more common to rely on official help and treatment. According to the 2005 study 31 per cent of those who had sometimes experienced partner violence had sought help from some agency, whereas the percentage in the study of 1997 was 26. (Piispa & Heiskanen, 2006)

The same phenomenon can also be seen in the cases of women that have sought for treatment for a serious physical injury because of partner violence. It has become more common to seek treatment, compared to the findings of the previous study. It might be the case that the threshold for seeking support has lowered. During past years, more attention has been paid to partner violence than before, and women have become increasingly aware of their position as victims of violence. This could also be explained by increased availability of treatment and support. (Piispa & Heiskanen, 2006) According to the 1997 study the experiences of
frightening stalking grew more frequent with increasing age, the prevalence of being highest in the age group of 65-74 (Heiskanen & Piispa, 1998).
7 Conclusions

According to different studies and reviews the prevalence of elder abuse varies from 4-6% of the general population. The Nordic population based surveys that have been conducted shows that between 1 % and 9 % of elderly women experience some form of abuse. In Finland the prevalence among elderly women varies from 3,1 %; (Piispa & Heiskanen, 2006), 7 % (Kivelä, 1995) 9% (Kivelä et al., 1992) depending on year and study. In Norway the prevalence varies 1- 3,1 % again depending on study. In Sweden the corresponding figures are as high as 16%, however the Swedish study used broader definition of violence and therefore is not comparable. We did not manage to get any prevalence figures from Denmark and Iceland.

Based on the literature review we can conclude that elder abuse prevalence/incidence data in the Nordic countries are shaky and inconsistent.

The design of the questionnaire used in Nordic studies of male violence against women was influenced by the Finnish survey from 1997 and they were conducted in a similar way. The data was extracted from each country's registers of the total population. Sample sizes have been representative. Unfortunately the surveys has been sent to women aged 20-55 in Norway and 18-64 in Sweden. Finland is the only country that has sent the survey to women aged 18-74.

As Piispa points out though that all estimates of the prevalence of violence against women measured by surveys are likely to be underestimates, because women tend to forget and minimize violence. In the survey, too, it can be assumed that women who had lived in a violent partnership for long time belittled both their experiences of violence and its consequences. This could mean that in reality the difference between young women and older women can be even greater. (Piispa, 2004) Furthermore the fear of violence in the Nordic countries is greater among older women. (Helset, 1993). We urgently need the the prevalence data and specific needs of older women to be identified. Knowledge on domestic violence among caredependent older women living at home is especially limited.
8 References


Tornstram, L. (1989). Abuse of the Elderly in Denmark and Sweden: Results from a Population Study

*Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, 1*(1), 35-44.


Appendix

Questionnaire 1: Questions relating to violence and abuse from The Welfare and Services in Finland Survey

The Welfare and Services in Finland is a panel survey which combines telephone and personal visit interviews, mail questionnaires and register based data. The survey is conducted every other year with the same content. The aim is to develop the survey into reliable data-collection institution and provide researchers with micro level data source with up-to-date, reliable and comprehensive information on Finnish people's welfare and their welfare service use.

F5 How safe do you feel in your everyday life?
1. not at all
2. little
3. reasonable safe
4. safe
5. very safe

D9 Is anybody officially your carer as a close relative?
(This refers to a close relative who has an agreement to take care of you with your local municipality)
1. yes
2. no

D10 Has somebody not given you the help you would have needed during the last 12 months?
1. yes
2. no -> D12

D11 Was this person close to you?
- somebody other than an official or a care worker.
1. yes
2. no
E10a Has somebody taken advantage of you financially during the last 12 months?
1. yes
2. no

E10b Was this person close to you?
- somebody other than an official or a care worker.
1. yes
2. no

E11a Has somebody hit you or otherwise attacked you during the last 12 months?
e.g. kicked, pulled your hair, choked, thrown a hard object at you
1. yes
2. no

E11b Was this person close to you?
- somebody other than an official or a care worker.
1. yes
2. no
Questionnaire 2: Question relating to violence and abuse from the Finnish Regional Health and Wellbeing Survey

Has anybody behaved violently towards you in the last 12 months?
(You can choose multiple options)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nobody</th>
<th>Unknown person or somebody I barely know</th>
<th>My current partner or spouse</th>
<th>Someone else you closely know (ex-partner, member of your family, a friend, an acquaintance, colleague)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threatened to harm you physically on the phone, by mail, email or text message.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatened to harm you physically face to face.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit you or otherwise attacked you by kicking, pulling your hair, choking you, throwing a hard object at you or using some kind of weapon.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced you or tried to force you to have sexual intercourse / relations.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackmailed you for money or other possessions/property</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaved violently in some other way. Please describe how:……….</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To facilitate comparisons between Nordic countries, Swedish researchers designed the questionnaire according to the study conducted in Finland in 1998 "Faith, hope, battering: A Survey on Men's Violence against Women in Finland".

1. How many persons are there in your household?
*Household means people who live and eat together and/or use their incomes jointly.*
Include yourself.

2. Who else belongs to your household besides yourself?
*You may select more than one alternative:*
- My husband or cohabitant partner
- My children by my partner
- My own children
- My partner's own children
- My own or my partner's parents
- Other persons
- No one else; I live alone

3. How many children are there in your household?
- Number of children aged 0-7
- Number of children aged 7-14
- Number of children aged 15-18

4. What is the highest stage of education which you have completed?
- I have not completed compulsory schooling
- Compulsory schooling (elementary school, comprehensive school, nineyear school)
- Secondary schooling (junior secondary school, girls' school, upper secondary school, folk high school)
- University/College without a degree
- University/College with a degree

5. What is your occupation?

6. What is your monthly income after tax?
*Income includes salary, sickness benefit, pension, student grant and unemployment benefit*
*State the approximate amount*
- Not more than 5 000 SEK
- 5 001 – 10 000 SEK
- 10 001 – 15 000 SEK
- 15 001-20 000 SEK
- More than 20 000 SEK
7. What is your present employment status?
- Full-time employee (35 hours a week or more)
- Part-time employee (less than 35 hours a week)
- Self-employed farmer
- Other self-employment
- On parental leave
- Unemployed
- Retired
- On long-term sick leave (more than 3 months)
- On temporary disability pension
- Student
- Looking after the home
- Other; please specify

8. In which year were you born? 19

9. Where were you born?
- Sweden
- Another Nordic country
- Another European country
- Africa
- Asia
- North America
- Latin America
- Australia
- Don’t know

10. Where were your parents born?
Your mother Your father
- Sweden  Sweden
- Another Nordic country  Another Nordic country
- Another European country  Another European country
- Africa  Africa
- Asia  Asia
- North America  North America
- Latin America  Latin America
- Australia  Australia
- Don’t know  Don’t know

11. How would you describe your state of health? Would you say that it is...
- excellent
- very good
- good
- fairly good
- poor
- very poor
12. Are there things you cannot do at home, at work or at school because of functional disorder/disability or long-term health problems?
   - Yes
   - No  Go to question 14

13. What is the functional disorder/disability or long-term health problem which restricts your activities?

14. In the last month, have you suffered much, little or not at all from the following?
   Much Little Not at all
   - Headaches
   - Recurrent pain in other parts of the body
   - Stomach trouble
   - Numbness or weakness of arms or legs
   - Palpitation of the heart or irregular heartbeat
   - Nausea or vomiting
   - Dizziness
   - Shakiness of the hands
   - Heavy perspiration without having exerted the body

15. In the last month, have you had the following symptoms?
   Much Little Not at all
   - Over-exertion
   - Impaired memory or impaired concentration
   - Weakness or tiredness
   - Sleeplessness
   - Nervousness or tension
   - Irritability
   - Depression
   - A feeling of everything becoming too much for you

16. How often do you engage in the following recreational activities?
   - Visiting friends, relatives or acquaintances
   - Charitable or other voluntary work
   - Cultural activities or entertainments (cinema, concert, theatre etc.)
   - Dancing or going out with friends
   - Studying (e.g. through an educational association) or any other hobbies (e.g. music)
   - Physical exercise or sport

17. In the last month, how many times have you used alcohol and/or drugs?
   Alcohol
   (except low-alcohol and medium-strength beer); Drugs
   - Every day
   - 2-3 times a week
18. In the last month, have you taken medication in order to sleep, calm your nerves or relieve depression?  
Select one alternative or more  
- Yes, in order to sleep  
- Yes, in order to calm my nerves  
- Yes, to relieve depression  
- No, I do not use medication in order to sleep, calm my nerves or relieve depression  
Go to question 20

19. Name the medication used

20. When it is dark and you are walking home alone, how do you feel?  
- Very worried  
- A little worried  
- Not worried at all  
- I never walk home alone when it is dark because I am afraid of violence  
- I never walk home alone when it is dark  
- Don’t know  
Every 1-3 times Occasionally  
a month nally Never  
-  
-  
-  
-  
-  
-  

21. How worried are you in case a family member/relative may employ violence towards you?  
- Very worried  
- A little worried  
- Not worried at all  
- I have no family  
- Don’t know

22. How worried are you in case you may be raped by an unknown man?  
- Very worried  
- A little worried  
- Not worried at all  
- Don’t know

23. Have you prepared yourself for possible violent situations by...  
Yes No
- carrying an object on your person capable of being used in self-defence or to call for help
- thinking about how to act in a violent situation
- attending a course in self-defence

Below are some questions about your experiences of harassment by men with whom you do not have and have not had a sexual relationship (for example friends, relatives, colleagues and unknown men).

ALL QUESTIONS REFER TO EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER YOUR FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY

24. Many women receive unwanted attentions from men. Has it ever happened that a man with whom you do not have and have not had a sexual relationship has ...

Place a cross in one box for “In the last twelve months” and one for “Earlier”, i.e. two boxes completed for each response

In the last

Twelve months Earlier

Yes No Yes No

- made indecent or obscene telephone calls to you?
- exposed himself indecently to you?
- made you feel uneasy by commenting on your body or private life, or by making sexual allusions?
- made you feel uneasy by asking you out several times and not taking no for an answer?
- leaned over you, come too close or forced you into a corner in a way that made you feel uncomfortable?
- acted in a way that you felt to be sexually threatening?
- followed you in a way that frightened you?
- given you to understand that it might be bad for you in your job or your studies if you did not agree to have sex with him?

25. If you have experienced any of the above, who was/were the man/men in question?

You may select more than one alternative
- Superior at work/supervisor/teacher
- Work colleague/fellow-student/fellow-pupil
- Client/customer/patient
- Doctor/psychologist/clergyman
- Father or stepfather
- Brother or stepbrother
- Son/stepson
- Grandfather
- Other relative
- Friend
- Acquaintance/neighbour
- Someone unknown
- Someone else; state who….
Below are some questions about various kinds of threats, physical violence and sexual abuse. The questions still refer only to men with whom you do not have and have not had a sexual relationship.

**ALL QUESTIONS REFER TO EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER YOUR FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY**

**26. Has any man with whom you do not have and have not had a sexual relationship ever…**

*Place a cross in one box for “In the last twelve months” and one for “Earlier”, i.e. two boxes completed for each response *

- forced you into any form of sexual activity by threatening you, holding you or hurting you in any way?
- tried to force you into any form of sexual activity by threatening you, holding you or hurting you in any way?
- forced you or tried to force you into any form of sexual activity when you were unable to defend yourself, e.g. because you were asleep or under the influence of drugs?
- touched you in a sexual way against your will, e.g. by grabbing, holding, kissing or hugging you?
- subjected you to physical violence (physical violence means e.g. being struck on the face or body, being pushed, forced against a wall, kicked, held in order to be struck, bitten, cut with a knife or shot)?
- threatened face to face to harm you physically?
- threatened by telephone or letter to harm you physically?

*If you have never experienced any of the situations specified in question 26, please proceed to question 33.*

**27. How many times have you experienced the situations specified in question 26?**

*In the last twelve months* *Earlier*

- Once
- 2-10 times
- 11-50 times
- More than 50 times
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
- Never

*In the last*

**28. Which of the alternatives specified in question 26 happened most recently?**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
29. When did this happen?
- Less than a year ago
- 1-5 years ago
- 6-10 years ago
- More than 10 years ago

30. Where were you the last time it happened?
- At my home
- At someone else’s home
- In the courtyard or stairway of a block of flats
- At school or at work
- At a restaurant or dance hall
- In a car
- On public transport, e.g. a bus
- In some other indoor location
- In a street, square or other public place
- In a park or wood
- In some other outdoor location
- Don’t know/Don’t remember

31. Who was/were the man/men who harassed you on the last occasion?
- Superior at work/supervisor/teacher
- Work colleague/fellow-student/fellow-pupil
- Client/customer/patient
- Doctor/psychologist/clergyman
- Father or stepfather
- Brother or stepbrother
- Son/stepson
- Grandfather
- Other relative
- Friend
- Acquaintance/neighbour
- Someone unknown
- Someone else; state who….
Don’t know
/Don’t remember

32. Where were you when it last happened?
- In Sweden, in my then home district
- In Sweden, in a place other than my home district
- Abroad

The following questions (33-39) refer to threats, physical violence etc. on the part of boyfriends and other men with whom you have or have had a sexual relationship but have not been married to or lived with.

If you have never had such a relationship, please proceed to question 40.

REMEMBER THAT ALL QUESTIONS REFER TO EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER YOUR FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY

33. Has a man with whom you have or have had a sexual relationship, but have
not been married to or lived with ever...

Place a cross in one box for “In the last twelve months” and one for “Earlier”, i.e. two boxes completed for each response

- used pornography in a way that you felt was unpleasant or offensive

34. Has any man with whom you have or have had a sexual relationship but have not been married to or lived with ever...

Place a cross in one box for “In the last twelve months” and one for “Earlier”, i.e. two boxes completed for each response

- forced you into any form of sexual activity by threatening you, holding you or hurting you in any way?
- tried to force you into any form of sexual activity by threatening you, holding you or hurting you in any way?
- forced you or tried to force you into any form of sexual activity when you were unable to defend yourself, e.g. because you were asleep or under the influence of drugs?
- touched you in a sexual way against your will, e.g. by grabbing, holding, kissing or hugging you?
- subjected you to physical violence?
- threatened face to face to harm you physically?
- threatened by telephone or letter to harm you physically?

In the last
twelve months Earlier
Yes No Yes No

In the last
twelve months Earlier
Yes No Yes No

If you have never experienced any of the situations specified in question 34, please proceed to the instructions at question 40.

35. How many times have you experienced the situations specified in question 34?

In the last twelve months Earlier
-
Once Once
-
2-10 times 2-10 times
-
11-50 times 11-50 times
-
More than 50 times More than 50 times
-
Don’t know/Don’t remember Don’t know/Don’t remember
-
Never Never
36. Which of the alternatives specified in question 34 happened most recently?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

37. When did it happen?
- Less than a year ago
- 1-5 years ago
- 6-10 years ago
- More than 10 years ago

38. Where did it happen?
- At my own home
- At someone else’s home
- In the courtyard or stairway of a block of flats
- At school or at work
- At a restaurant or dance hall
- In a car
- On public transport, e.g. a bus
- In some other indoor location
- In a street, square or other public place
- In a park or wood
- In some other outdoor location
- Don’t know/Don’t remember

39. Where were you when it happened?
- In Sweden, in my then home district
- In Sweden, at a location other than my home district
- Abroad

The following questions (40-79) refer to marriage or cohabitation with a man.

40. What is your present civil status?
- Unmarried and not cohabiting with a man
- Married, living with my husband
- Cohabiting with a man
- Married but living apart from my husband
- Divorced/separated from a former male partner
- Non-cohabitant partner
- Widow

41. How many men have you been married to or cohabited with?
Include your present husband/cohabitant partner

The questions which follow refer to your present marriage or cohabitant relationship. If you are not currently married or cohabiting but used to be, please proceed to question 62. If
you have never been married to or cohabiting with a man, please proceed to the instructions at question 80.

42. How long has your present marriage/cohabitant relationship lasted?
Please state number of years and months
If more than two years, please state number of years only
years and months

43. In what year was your present husband/cohabitant partner born?
19

44. How would you describe the relationship between you and your present husband/cohabitant partner?
- Very good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Not so good
- Bad
- Very bad

45. What is your present husband's/cohabitant partner's present employment status?
- Full-time employee (35 hours a week or more)
- Part-time employee (less than 35 hours a week)
- Self-employed farmer
- Other self-employed
- On parental leave
- Unemployed
- Retired
- On long-term sick leave (more than 3 months)
- Student
- Looking after the home
- Other; please specify

46. What is your present husband's/cohabitant partner's occupation?

47. What is the highest stage of education that your present husband/cohabitant partner has completed?
- He has not completed compulsory schooling
- Compulsory schooling (elementary school, comprehensive school, nineyear school)
- Secondary schooling (junior secondary school, upper secondary school, folk high school)
- University/College without a degree
- University/College with a degree
- Other. Please specify.................................................................

48. Where was your present husband/cohabitant partner born?
49. Where were your present husband’s/cohabitant partner’s parents born?

His mother
His father

- Sweden
- Another Nordic country
- Another European country
- Africa
- Asia
- North America
- Latin America
- Australia
- Don’t know

50. How often does your present husband/cohabitant partner drink alcohol and/or use drugs?

Alcohol
(except for low-alcohol and medium-strength beer) Drugs

- Every day
- 2-3 times a week
- 1-2 times a week
- Once a month or so
- Every other month
- Once a year or so
- Never during the past year
- Never
- Don’t know

51. Place a cross in the box(es) for any one or more of the following descriptions applying to your present husband/cohabitant partner.

Yes No

- He is jealous and wants to know whom you have met and what you have been doing
- He calls you disparaging names
- He makes you feel inferior and useless
- He often provokes a quarrel when you are going to see relatives or friends
- He forbids you to see relatives or friends
- He does not let you make decisions about money or buy things you want
- He forbids you to work outside the home
He threatens to harm your children
He deliberately damages your belongings or things you like
He threatens to harm himself if you leave him

52. Has your present husband/cohabitant partner ever...
Place a cross in one box for “In the last twelve months” and one for “Earlier”, i.e. two boxes completed for each response.
- used pornography in a way that you felt was unpleasant or offensive

53. Has your present husband/cohabitant partner ever...
Place a cross in one box for “In the last twelve months” and one for “Earlier”, i.e. two boxes completed for each response.
- forced you into any form of sexual activity by threatening you, holding you or hurting you in any way?
- tried to force you into any form of sexual activity by threatening you, holding you or hurting you in any way?
- forced you or tried to force you into any form of sexual activity when you were unable to defend yourself, e.g. because you were asleep or under the influence of drugs?
- touched you in a sexual way against your will, e.g. by grabbing, holding, kissing or hugging you?

In the last

54. Has your present husband/cohabitant partner ever been violent towards you in any of the following ways?
Place a cross in one box for “In the last twelve months” and one for “Earlier”, i.e. two boxes completed for each response.
- Thrown something at you which could have injured you
- Pushed you, held you or dragged you
- Punched you, struck you with a hard object or kicked you
- Throttled you or tried to suffocate you
- Banged your head against something
- Threatened you with or used a knife, firearm or any other weapon
- Been violent in any other way; please specify...

If you have never experienced any of the situations specified in questions 53 and 54, please proceed to the instructions at question 62.

55. How many times has your present husband/cohabitant partner subjected you
to any of the experiences specified in questions 53 and 54?

In the last
twelve months Earlier

- Once
- 2-10 times
- 11-50 times
- More than 50 times
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
- Never

56. When was the first time your present husband/cohabitant partner subjected you to some form of violence (threats, physical violence or sexual abuse)?

- Less than a year ago
- More than a year ago
- 2 years ago
- 3-4 years ago
- 5-6 years ago
- 7-10 years ago
- More than 10 years ago
- Don’t know/Don’t remember

In the last
twelve months Earlier

Yes No

- Once
- 2-10 times
- 11-50 times
- More than 50 times
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
- Never

57. When was the last time your husband/cohabitant partner did this?

- During the last month
- 2-3 months ago
- 4-6 months ago
- 7-11 months ago
- One year ago
- 2 years ago
- 3-4 years ago
- 5-10 years ago
- More than 10 years ago
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
58. Were you threatened or subjected to physical violence or sexual abuse by your present husband/cohabitant partner before you got married or moved in together?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Don’t know/Don’t remember

59. If you have been pregnant by your present husband/cohabitant partner, did he subject you to any form of threats while you were pregnant?
   - Yes, but the threats began before the pregnancy
   - Yes, the threats began during the pregnancy
   - No, but the threats began before the child was one year old
   - No
   - Don’t know/Don’t remember
   - I have never been pregnant by my present husband/cohabitant partner

60. If you have been pregnant by your present husband/cohabitant partner, did he subject you to any form of physical violence or sexual abuse while you were pregnant?
   - Yes, but the violence began before the pregnancy
   - Yes, the violence began during the pregnancy
   - No, but the violence began before the child was one year old
   - No
   - Don’t know/Don’t remember
   - I have never been pregnant by my present husband/cohabitant partner

61. If you have children, (whether by your present husband/cohabitant partner or not), have any of them...
   - seen or heard your husband/cohabitant partner behave violently towards you?
   - been subjected to violence by your husband/cohabitant partner?
   - been subjected to any form of sexual abuse by your husband/cohabitant partner?

If your present relationship is the first time you have been married or cohabiting, please proceed to the instructions at question 80.

Questions 62-79 refer to former husbands/cohabitant partners.

62. Place a cross in the box(es) for any one or more of the following descriptions applying to a former husband/cohabitant partner of yours
   - Yes
   - He was jealous and wanted to know whom you had met and what
you had been doing 
- He called you disparaging names 
- He made you feel inferior and useless 
- He often provoked a quarrel when you were going to see relatives or friends 
- He forbade you to see your relatives or friends 
- He did not let you make decisions about money or buy things you wanted 
- He forbade you to work outside the home 
- He threatened to harm your children 
- He deliberately damaged your belongings or things you liked 
- He threatened to harm himself if you left him 

63. Has a former husband/cohabitant partner ever...
Place a cross in one box for “In the last twelve months” and one for “Earlier”, i.e. two boxes completed for each response
- used pornography in a way which you felt to be unpleasant or offensive?

64. Has a former husband/cohabitant partner ever...
Place a cross in one box for “In the last twelve months” and one for “Earlier”, i.e. two boxes completed for each response
- forced you into any form of sexual activity by threatening you, holding you or hurting you in any way?
- tried to force you into any form of sexual activity by threatening you, holding you or hurting you in any way?
- forced you or tried to force you into any form of sexual activity when you were unable to defend yourself, e.g. because you were asleep or under the influence of drugs?
- touched you in a sexual way against your will, e.g. by grabbing, holding, kissing or hugging you?

65. Has a former husband/cohabitant partner ever behaved violently towards you in any of the following ways?
Place a cross in one box for “In the last twelve months” and one for “Earlier”, i.e. two boxes completed for each response
- Threatened to injure you physically
- Thrown something object at you which could have injured you
- Pushed you, held you or dragged you
- Punched you, struck you with a hard object or kicked you
- Throttled you or tried to suffocate you
- Banged your head against something
- Threatened you with or used a knife, firearm or other weapon
- Behaved violently in some other way; please specify

If you have never been subjected by a former husband/cohabitant partner to the kind of
physical/sexual violence or threats described in questions 64 and 65, please proceed to the instructions at question 80.

The following questions concern your most recent past relationship (marriage or cohabitation) in which you were subjected to threats, violence or sexual abuse. Thus, do not include your present relationship, even if in this relationship you are being subjected to violence and threats.

66. How many times have you been subjected by your former husband/cohabitant partner to the abuses specified in questions 64 and 65?

In the last twelve months
- Once
- 2-10 times
- 11-50 times
- More than 50 times
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
- Never

67. Did your former husband/cohabitant partner subject you to any form of threats, physical violence or sexual abuse before you got married or moved in together?
- Yes
- No
- Don’t know/Don’t remember

68. If you have been pregnant by your former husband/cohabitant partner, did he subject you to any form of threats during your pregnancy?
- Yes, but the threats began before the pregnancy
- Yes, the threats began during the pregnancy
- No, but the threats began before the child was one year old
- No
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
- I have never been pregnant by my former husband/cohabitant partner

69. If you have been pregnant by your former husband/cohabitant partner, did he subject you to any form of physical violence or sexual abuse during the pregnancy?
- Yes, but the violence began before the pregnancy
- Yes, the violence began during the pregnancy
- No, but the violence began before the child was one year old
- No
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
- I have never been pregnant by my former husband/cohabitant partner

70. Since you and your former husband/cohabitant partner divorced or separated, has he...
- Yes
- No
- Don’t know/
- Don’t remember
- threatened you face to face or over the telephone?
71. Has your former husband/cohabitant partner ever subjected you to threats, violence or harassment of the kinds specified in question 70 in connection with access to or contact with your children by that husband/cohabitant partner, or on occasions when you/he have been collecting or handing over the children?

- I have no children by my former husband/cohabitant partner  Please proceed to question 73
- No
- Yes. Please place a cross in the appropriate box/boxes to specify which of the alternatives in question 70 you have experienced
  1 2 3 4
- Don’t know/Don’t remember

72. If you have children, have any of your children...

- seen or heard your former husband/cohabitant partner behave violently towards you?  
- been subjected to violence by your former husband/cohabitant partner?  
- been subjected to any form of sexual abuse by your former husband/cohabitant partner?  

73. What is the highest stage of education that your former husband/cohabitant partner has completed?

- He has not completed compulsory schooling
- Compulsory schooling (elementary school, comprehensive school, nine-year school)
- Secondary schooling (junior secondary school, upper secondary school, folk highschool)
- University/College without a degree
- University/College with a degree
- Other. Please specify. ........................................................................................................

74. What was your former husband’s/cohabitant partner’s occupation while you were married/cohabiting?

75. Where was your former husband/cohabitant partner born?

- Sweden
- Another Nordic country
- Another European country
- Africa
- Asia
- North America
- Latin America
- Australia
- Don’t know
76. Where were your former husband's/cohabitant partner's parents born?

**His mother**
- Sweden
- Another Nordic country
- Another European country
- Africa
- Asia
- North America
- Latin America
- Australia
- Don’t know

**His father**
- Sweden
- Another Nordic country
- Another European country
- Africa
- Asia
- North America
- Latin America
- Australia
- Don’t know

77. During the last month you were living together, how often did your former husband/cohabitant partner drink alcohol and/or use drugs?

**Alcohol (except low-alcohol and medium-strength beer)**
- Every day
- 2-3 times a week
- 1-2 times a week
- Every fortnight
- Once
- Never
- Don’t know

**Drugs**
- Every day
- 2-3 times a week
- 1-2 times a week
- Every fortnight
- Once
- Never
- Don’t know

78. When did you separate for good?

19

79. How long had your relationship lasted?

*Please state number of years and months*

*If it lasted more than two years, please state number of years only*

70 years and months

**THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS REFER TO EVERY INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE AND/OR THREATS TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED BY ANY MAN AFTER YOUR FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY.**

*If you have no experiences of a man subjecting you to threats, violence or sexual abuse, please proceed to the instructions at question 102.*

80. Have you ever been physically injured as a result of physical violence or sexual abuse?

*One or more alternatives may be selected*
- No physical injuries
- Bruises, grazes
- Wounds
- Pulled muscle, rupture or dislocation of joint(s)
- Fracture
- Broken tooth
81. Did you consult a doctor about your injuries?
- No, since they were only minor  Please proceed to question 86
- No, but I should have  Please proceed to question 86
- Yes, I saw a doctor or nurse but was not admitted to hospital
- Yes, I was admitted to hospital

82. Did you tell the person treating you that the cause of your injuries was violence by a man?
- Yes
- No

83. Were you satisfied with the treatment you received?
- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Not so satisfied
- Dissatisfied

84. Did you experience any of the following problems in your contacts with the medical service?
- Yes
- No
- The staff made light of your case or seemed uninterested
- You received little information as to other possibilities of obtaining support and help
- The staff broke their professional secrecy obligation
- Any other problem, please specify...

85. Has an affidavit regarding your injuries ever been issued during your contacts with the medical service?
- Yes
- No
- Don’t know/Don’t remember

86. How have your experiences affected you? Do you think that they have resulted in any of the following?
- Yes
- No
- Fear
- Feelings of shame
- Feelings of guilt
- Anger or hatred
- Depression
- Tiredness and listlessness
- Poor self-esteem
- Sleeplessness or nightmares
- Difficulties in concentrating
- Difficulties in relationships with men
- Difficulties during gynaecological examinations
- Difficulties at work or with studies
- Other problems; please specify

To be able to estimate the prevalence of violence against women, it is important to find out whether women report violent incidents to the police. The questions which follow refer to your most recent experience of violence and whether you reported it to the police.

87. What was the most recent type of violence/abuse to which you were subjected?
- A man exposed himself indecently to me
- An unknown man touched me in a sexual way against my will
- Attempted rape by an unknown man
- Rape by an unknown man
- Attempted rape by a man with whom I have or have had a sexual relationship
- Rape by a man with whom I have or have had a sexual relationship
- Some other type of sexual abuse by a man with whom I have or have had a sexual relationship
- Attempted rape by another man whom I know
- Rape by another man whom I know
- Some other type of sexual abuse by another man whom I know
- Physical violence by an unknown man
- Physical violence by a man with whom I have or have had a sexual relationship
- Physical violence by another man whom I know
- Threats by an unknown man
- Threats by a man with whom I have or have had a sexual relationship
- Threats by another man whom I know
- Other; please specify

88a. Where were you when this happened?
- At my own home
- At someone else’s home
- In the courtyard or stairway of a block of flats
- At school or at work
- At a restaurant or dance hall
- In a car
- On public transport, e.g. a bus
- In some other indoor location
- In a street, a square or other public place
- In a park or wood
- In some other outdoor location
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
88b. In which country did it happen?
- In Sweden
- Abroad

89. When did it happen?
- Less than a year ago
- 1-5 years ago
- 6-10 years ago
- More than ten years ago

90. Did you report the incident to the police?
- Yes  Please proceed to question 92
- No, but the police found out about the incident in some other way
- No

91. If you did not report the incident to the police, what was the main reason for not doing so?
Select one alternative only
- I did not think the police would believe me
- I did not think the police would be able to do anything
- I thought the incident was too trivial
- I was ashamed or had feelings of guilt
- I was afraid the perpetrator might take revenge
- I did not want the police to get involved
- I did not want the perpetrator to go to prison
- Other reason, please specify…
- Don’t know/Don’t remember

If you have never been in contact with the Swedish police as a result of having been subjected to violence, threats or sexual abuse, please proceed to the instructions at question 95
The following questions refer to your experience of contact with the Swedish police.

92. When was the last time you were in contact with the police as a result of having been subjected to violence, threats or sexual abuse?
- Less than a year ago
- 1-5 years ago
- 6-10 years ago
- More than ten years ago

93. How satisfied were you with the way the police handled your case?
- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Not so satisfied
- Dissatisfied

94. Did you experience any of the following problems in your contacts with the police?
Questions 95-101 refer to your most recent marriage/cohabitant relationship in which threats, physical violence or sexual abuse occurred. (This includes your present marriage/cohabitant relationship, if applicable.)

If you have never been subjected to threats, violence or sexual abuse by a husband/cohabitant partner, please proceed to question 102.

95. Have you ever sought assistance from any of the following services?
If so, were you satisfied with the help you received?

- Women’s refuge
- Victim support
- Social emergency service
- Social welfare secretary
- Lawyer
- Family counselling
- Psychiatrist
- Other medical service
- Other service, please specify…

Yes and satisfied
No with the help received
Yes but dissatisfied
with the help received

96. If you have never sought assistance from any of the services mentioned in question 95, what was your main reason for not doing so?
Select one alternative only

I did not know where to apply for help
There were no such services available
The waiting lists were too long
I thought the incident was too trivial
I felt ashamed
I was afraid I would be treated as if it were my own fault
No one would have believed me
My husband/cohabitant partner prevented me
I was afraid of losing the children
I did not want to end the relationship
I did not want or did not need help
Other reason; please specify…
Don’t know/Don’t remember

97. Have you ever left your husband/cohabitant partner or been separated from
him because of his threats, physical violence or sexual abuse?

- No  Please proceed to question 102
- Yes, I moved out
- Yes, he moved out  Please proceed to question 99

98. If you moved out, where did you stay?
One or more alternatives may be selected

- With friends/relatives
- In a new home
- At a women’s refuge
- At a social services hostel
- At a hotel or the like
- Other place; please specify…

99. Did you resume cohabitation?

- Yes
- No  Please proceed to question 101

100. If you resumed cohabitation, what was the main reason?
Select one alternative only

- My husband/cohabitant partner promised to change
- Financial reasons
- I had nowhere to go
- For the sake of the children
- I was ashamed to divorce/separate
- I wanted to give it another try
- I still loved him
- Other reason, please specify…………………………………………………

101. If you did not resume cohabitation, what was the main reason?
Select one alternative only

- My husband’s/cohabitant partner’s violence towards me or the children
- I wanted to lead my own life
- My husband/partner wanted a divorce/separation
- I found a new partner
- I wanted the children to have a better life
- My husband/cohabitant partner died
- I did not love him anymore
- Other reason; please specify…………………………………………………

The following questions apply to EVERYONE

102. Was your father/stepfather ever violent towards your mother/stepmother?

- Yes
- No
- I had no father/stepfather
- I had no mother/stepmother
- Don’t know/Don’t remember

103. Was your present husband’s/cohabitant partner’s father/stepfather ever
violent towards his partner or any other member of the family?
- Yes
- No
- My husband/cohabitant partner had no father/stepfather
- I have no husband/cohabitant partner
- Don’t know/Don’t remember

104. Did anyone subject you to physical violence before you turned fifteen years of age?
Yes No Don’t know/Don’t remember
- Father/stepfather
- Mother/stepmother
- Brother
- Sister
- Other family member, please specify...
- Friend or acquaintance
- Someone unknown

105. Before you turned fifteen, did any man ever...
Yes No Don’t know/Don’t remember
- Act in a way which you felt to be sexually threatening?
- Force you into any form of sexual activity?
- Try to force you into any form of sexual activity?

106. After you turned fifteen, did any man ever get you to take part in some form of sexual activity although you did not really want to?
- Yes Please proceed to question 109
- No
- Don’t know/Don’t remember

107. Who was it who got you to do this?
Select all those applicable
- Boyfriend
- Husband/cohabitant partner
- Chance acquaintance
- Other, please specify...

108. How many times has this happened?
In the last twelve months Earlier
- Once
- 2-10 times
- 11-50 times
- More than 50 times
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
- It has never happened
109. Have any of your children been subjected to violence by a partner of yours?
- Yes, by a former husband/cohabitant partner
- Yes, by my present husband/cohabitant partner
- Yes, by a boyfriend/chance acquaintance
- No
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
- I do not have any children

110. Have any of your children been subjected to sexual abuse by a partner of yours?
- Yes, by a former husband/cohabitant partner
- Yes, by my present husband/cohabitant partner
- Yes, by a boyfriend/chance acquaintance
- No
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
- I do not have any children

111. If you have been subjected to rape, attempted rape or sexual abuse, were there ever two or more perpetrators?
- Yes
- No
- Don’t know/Don’t remember
- I have not been subjected to rape, attempted rape or sexual abuse

112. Have you ever...
Yes No
- attempted suicide?
- contemplated suicide?

113. Have you ever...
Yes No
- taken part in sexual activity for money?
- posed for pornography for money, for example by being photographed or videotaped?
- worked at a so-called porno club?

*We would also like to ask you if you would consider taking part in a follow-up to this questionnaire. This is irrespective of whether or not you have experienced violence or other abuse. Your anonymity is of course still guaranteed, but the research team making this study may contact you.*

You may at any point change your mind and terminate your participation.

114. Would you consider taking part in a follow-up to this questionnaire?
- Yes, I would consider taking part
- No, it is too painful
- No, I do not have time
- No, I am not interested
- No, other reason; please specify

115. Finally we would like to ask you what advice you would give to a woman
who is being subjected to violence