

Beating by hand or foot was the most frequent type of physical violence (about 42%) against women in 2002, while biting was the least frequent (4%).

Results from a 2002 public opinion study show that sexual abuse and sexual offenses made up more than half of the sexual assault cases during 2002, while abandonment made up the least number of cases at 20%.

Other studies include

- The Family Survey, which was conducted in 2002-03 in cooperation with the Department of Military Women's Affairs to specify the needs of females aged between 9-65 years in the Ma'an governorate. The sample included 375 families from the governorate of Ma'an. Part of the questions were directed at females aged 15-49, and 461 females were interviewed regardless of their marital status. Thus, the sample included married, divorced, widowed and single women.
- The 2002 Population and Family Health Survey, which was conducted by the Department of Statistics in cooperation with the Macro International Foundation. The sample included 8000 families, with 6000 women interviewed between the ages of 15 and 49 along with those who were previously married. The sample represents all of Jordan, including urban and rural environments, regions and the three main governorates of Amman, Irbid and Zarqa.
- The Jordan Youth Survey from 2001, which was conducted by the Department of Statistics with cooperation with UNICEF. The sample included 7421 male and female youths aged 10-24 along with 3312 parents of youth. The sample covered national, urban, rural and regional levels.
- Data processed by the Family Protection Department in Amman Governorate.

Forms of Violence Against Women

It has been recognized at international and regional levels that all forms of violence against women, whether in their public or private lives, are an offense to human rights. Types of direct violence such as physical abuse and rape are not the primary danger, in a sense, because they can be limited by legislation and law. The real danger is the potential danger found inside the structure of Jordanian society in which social and cultural norms encourage women to accept the practiced forms of violence and abuse against them and believe that it is the husband, father or brother's right to impose

their will upon them. Similarly, women's secondary socio-economic place and continuous dependence on men prevent them from challenging men's practices toward them. This is further supported by society's refusal to accept women's independence. As a result, there are numerous forms of violence against women that women themselves are unaware of but which represent a threat to their well-being.

The phenomenon of violence against women in Jordanian society is not adequately recorded, so it is difficult for one to be informed of its extent. The limited data and information also makes it difficult to specify the detailed characteristics of violence against women, but it is certain that it exists, nonetheless.

Types of violence against women can be categorized in the following ways:

1. Direct violence, such as physical abuse, murder and rape
2. Indirect violence, which can be seen in the cultural and social customs taken from tradition, laws and legislation which discriminate against women

Physical Violence

Physical violence is usually considered the most prevalent type of violence because it is easily noticed and discovered from its marks on the body. This type of violence includes beating with hands and sharp instruments, bruises of different types, strangulation, pushing, biting, pulling hair, pinching and spitting, among others. Some types of violence are so severe that they can lead to death. Results from the Queen Zain Al-Sharaf public opinion survey indicated that around two-thirds of female abuse cases were violent in one way or another. It also found that the most prevalent form of physical violence is beating (53%). This includes beating by hand or foot (42%) and beating by an instrument (12%). This is shown in Table 4.1.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is often disregarded and not mentioned to authorities or taken to court because women's reputation and that of their families are affected by this type of violence.

It occurs both inside the family as well as outside of its reach. Cases occurring inside the family happen when females are pressured or forced to have sex or are sexually abused by males in the family. Sexual abuse outside of the family takes many forms, such as rape and sexual abuse in public, public transport, crowded places or in the workplace.

Table 4.2 shows the percentage distribution of sexual assault cases according to type, as detailed by interviewees in the 2002 study. The most frequent type of sexual assault is sexual harassment, which makes up more than half of the cases (55%). Illegitimate sexual relations came in second, with a ratio of 25%, and abandonment third, with 20% of the total number of sexual assaults.

Table 4.3 indicates that sexual assaults made up the highest ratio of the assaults committed against women in the Amman governorate in the period of 1998-2002, while the ratio of physical assaults was the second highest. The ratio of sexual assaults, in comparison to all the different types of assaults on women, showed significant increase between 1998 and 2002. This ratio increased from 61% in 1998 to around 88% in 2002.

The increase in the number of sexual assaults coincided with a significant decrease in the ratio of physical assaults. Cases of physical assault against women decreased from 19.5% in 1998 to 9.5% in 2002 (10 percentage points). Undoubtedly, this decrease is due to the fact that these crimes are typically not reported, as well as to legislation requiring punishment for those committing such crimes and the role played by specialized institutions to protect women and families from violence.

Verbal Abuse

This type of abuse affects women's psychological health, particularly when it is directed towards their personality, dignity and conception of identity. Verbal abuse includes cursing and using demeaning words, threatening phrases and phrases used to undermine one's dignity with the intent to humiliate. This type of abuse is not legally penalized as it is difficult to measure, identify and attest due to lack of data, on one hand, and the decision by victims not to report it.

Table 4.1:
Percentage Distribution of Physical Violence Cases by Type of offense, 2002

Type of Offense	Number	%
Beating by hand or foot	42	41.6
Beating by instrument (stick, ashtray, teapot, etc.)	12	11.9
Murder or attempted honor killing	12	11.9
Pushing	10	9.9
Burning	8	7.9
Tying up by wire or rope	8	7.9
Pulling (hair or body part or clothing)	5	5.0
Biting	4	4.0
Total	101	100.0

Source: Queen Zain Al-Sharaf Development Institute and the Family Protection Project Research Unit, "Study of Abuse and Family Violence," 2002.

Fig. 4.1:

Percentage Distribution of Physical Violence Cases by Type of Offense, 2002

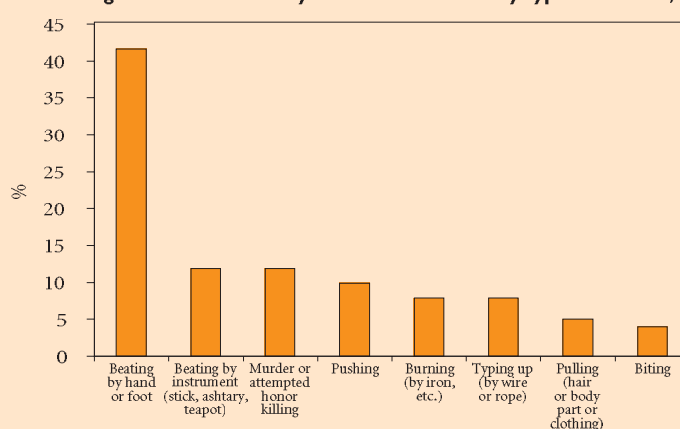


Table 4.2:

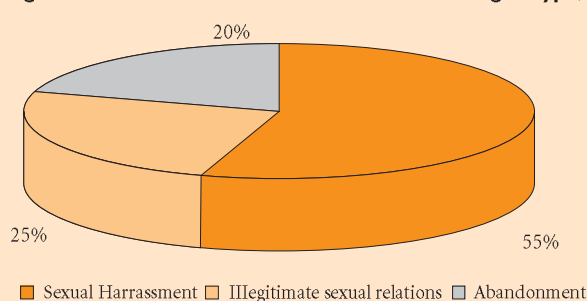
Percentage Distribution of Sexual Assault Cases According to Type 2002

Type of Violence or Assault	Number	%
Sexual harassment (relative females)	11	55
Illegitimate sexual relations	5	25
Abandonment	4	20
Total	20	100.0

Source: Queen Zain Al-Sharaf Development Institute and the Family Protection Project Research Unit, "Study of Abuse and Family Violence," 2002.

Fig. 4.2:

Percentage Distribution of Sexual Assault Cases According to Type, 2002



The ratio of sexual assaults increased significantly in the Amman governorate between 1998 and 2002.

This ratio increased from 61% of the total assaults against women in 1998 to around 88% in 2002.

Table 4.3:
Percentage Distribution of Assaults Against Females in the Amman Governorate According to Type of Assault in 1998-2002

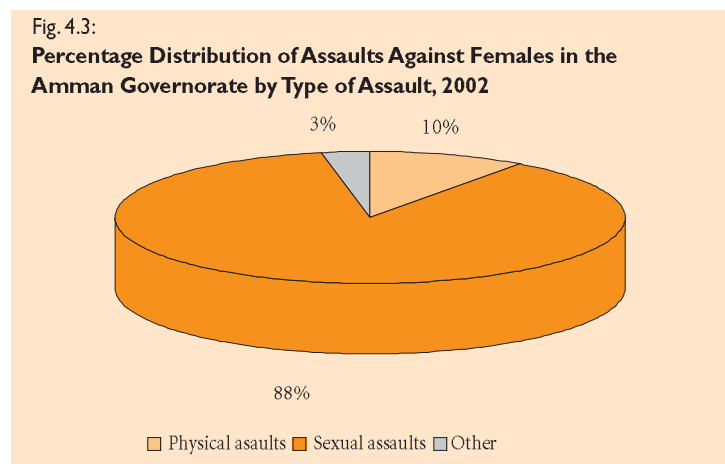
Year	Total	%	Physical Assaults	Sexual Assaults	Other Types of *Assault
1998	169	100.0	19.5	60.9	19.5
1999	211	100.0	14.7	81.5	3.8
2000	235	100.0	14.5	83.0	2.6
2001	211	100.0	10.4	82.5	7.1
2002	315	100.0	9.5	87.6	2.9

Source: Family Protection Department, Public Security Department, Jordan.

* This category includes neglect, forced indecency, kidnapping, defamation and fabrication of crimes.

Fig. 4.3:

Percentage Distribution of Assaults Against Females in the Amman Governorate by Type of Assault, 2002



Cursing is the most common type of verbal abuse, with a ratio of around 59% of the total number of verbal abuse cases in 2002. Shouting is less common, with a ratio of around 14%.

The Zain Al-Sharaf study on family violence and abuse indicates a small number of verbal abuse cases against females. Table 4.4 shows their percentage distribution.

The table shows that cursing is the most common type of verbal abuse, with a ratio of around 59% of the total number of verbal abuse cases. Next comes the category of degrading, with a ratio of around 27%, and then shouting (about 14%). There is a difference between cursing and degrading, in that

cursing may be directed towards the wife or her family in cases of anger, and degrading attempts to focus on the victim's defects or faults to reduce her magnitude and degrade her dignity. Shouting refers to raising of the voice during conversation to threaten or impose one's opinion, and it is not necessarily accompanied by cursing.

Table 4.5 shows results from the Department of Military Women's Affairs study carried out in the Ma'an governorate in 2002-03. Data indicates that the ratio of women who are beaten or physically assaulted reached 8 percent of the total number of women aged 15-49. Women who face verbal abuse (cursing) reached around 14%, and the largest ratio of physical violence against women can be found in the age group of 45-49 (around 14%). It can also be seen that the younger the age group, the higher incidence of verbal abuse. This is due to customs and traditions which reproach young women, particularly, on their behavior. Divorced women face larger scale abuse compared with other women, since their families often act in ways in which to inhibit their freedom. One-third (1/3) of all divorced women suffer physical and verbal abuse. Women who have taken

Table 4.4:
Percentage Distribution of Verbal Assaults by Type of Assault 2002

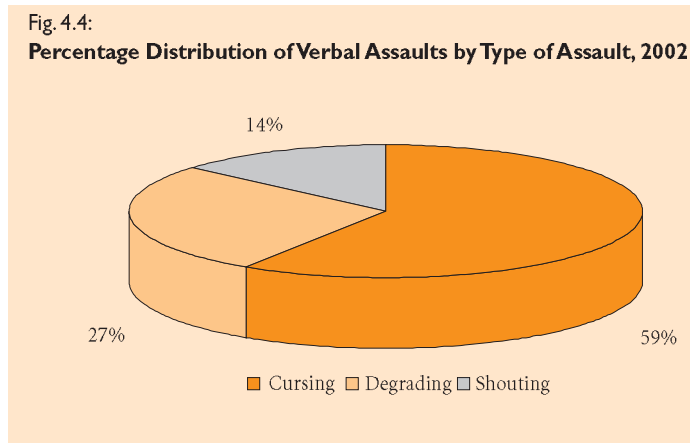
Type of Violence or Assault	Number	%
Cursing	26	59.1
Degrading	12	27.3
Shouting	6	13.6
Total	44	100.0

Source: Queen Zain Al-Sharaf Development Institute and the Family Protection Project Research Unit, "Study of Abuse and Family Violence," 2002.

up or completed higher educational study do not face physical violence as much as other groups (around 1 percent), while women with elementary, basic or secondary education are more likely to suffer from verbal abuse (about 19%, 13% and 16%, respectively). Additionally, divorced women face more violence than all other groups of women.

Table 4.6 shows the percentage of women who incurred physical and verbal abuse in Ma'an Governorate according to the husband's age.

There is a clear variance in the ratio of women who are physically abused by their husbands. Data indicates that 14% of women whose husbands aged 45-49 face this type of violence, while women who are married to men aged 22-24 and 35-39 do not reveal any violence against them. This indicates that women in these groups likely hid incidences of violence against them.



Data also shows that older husbands (50+) tend to physically abuse their wives more than younger husbands. Additionally, verbal abuse is common among all married age groups without exception. The ratio of wives who face verbal abuse ranges from 8.7 percent by husbands aged 35-39 to 28.6% by

About 8 percent of females aged 15-49 in the Ma'an governorate incurred physical abuse, while the ratio increased to 14% for women who incurred verbal abuse.

Table 4.5:
Percentage Distribution of Women Aged 15-49 Who Suffer Physical and Verbal Abuse in the Ma'an Governorate, 2002-2003

Characteristics	Physical Abuse	Verbal Abuse
Age		
19-15	11.6	17.0
24-20	4.7	12.8
29-25	7.0	15.1
34-30	11.3	12.9
39-35	1.9	5.8
44-40	2.6	145.4
49-45	13.6	13.6
Marital Status		
Single	7.1	15.9
Married	7.5	11.8
Divorced	33.3	33.3
Widowed	0.0	6.7
No. of Years of Education		
Without education	8.9	7.1
6-1	10.2	19.4
9-7	8.1	12.9
12-10	8.8	16.3
18-13	1.2	7.1
Total	7.6	13.7

Source: Shakhathreh, Farooq and Atef Eidhaibat, "The Family Survey on the Needs of Females Aged 9-65 in the Governorate of Ma'an, 2002-2003," Amman, 2003.

Social violence impedes women's freedom, prevents them from practicing their rights in a normal manner and deprives them from social participation, which affects their status and future.

Table 4.6:
Percentage of Married Women Aged 15-49 Who Incur Physical and Verbal Abuse in the Ma'an Governorate According to Husband's Age, 2002-2003

Husband's Age	Physical Abuse	Verbal Abuse
22-24	0.0	28.6
25-29	12.9	9.7
30-34	9.8	13.7
35-39	0.0	8.7
40-44	12.1	18.2
45-49	14.3	10.7
50+	4.1	10.2
Total	7.8	11.8

Source: Shakhathreh, Farooq and Atef Eidhaibat, "The Family Survey on the Needs of Females Aged 9-65 in the Governorate of Ma'an, 2002-2003," Amman, 2003.

husbands aged 22-24. This can be attributed to socio-economic factors, but it is necessary to study these forms of violence to better identify their directions.

Social Violence

Social violence can be defined as women's deprivation from exercising their personal and social rights and women's intellectual and emotional dependence on their husbands. It can also be seen in the barriers put

in front of women that prevent them from practicing their social roles, which, in turn, negatively affects their emotional growth and social status. In this type of abuse, females can also face limitations on their freedom, be prevented from practicing their right to live comfortably and be deprived of social interaction.

Table 4.7 shows the percentage distribution of social violence during 2002 according to type of violence. Data shows that depriva-

Table 4.7:
Percentage Distribution of Social Violence by Type, 2002

Type of Violence	Number	%
Education deprivation	14	15.7
Imprisonment	12	13.5
Prevention from going out or leaving the house	10	11.2
Forcibly choosing spouse for daughters and sometimes sons	10	11.2
Prevention from expressing opinion on different issues	10	11.2
Imposing hijab	7	7.9
Choosing child's field of study	6	6.7
Forbidding make-up and beautification	6	6.7
Not allowing visits to relatives	5	5.6
Preventing from work	5	5.6
Interference in selection of friends	4	4.5
Total	89	100.0

Source: Queen Zain Al-Sharaf Development Institute and the Family Protection Project Research Unit, "Study of Abuse and Family Violence," 2002.

tion from educational study makes up the highest ratio (around 16%), while imprisonment comes in second at 13.5%.

Families or one of their members practice a number of forms of social abuse on females, such as preventing them from going out, forcibly choosing their husbands without their consent or depriving them from expressing their opinion on issues important to their future. The above abuses make up around one-third (1/3) of the total number of social violence cases.

Certainly, these types of violence result in negative repercussions on women's sense of self as well as their social future, since prevention from leaving the house, for example, deprives them of the ability to socially interact and exchange ideas with others and subsequently limits their social ability. Similarly, forcing a woman to marry a particular person without her consent violates religious restrictions and results in a number of negative outcomes, such as the creation of conflicts in the family which may lead to divorce, family breakup and vagrancy of their children.

Abusive divorce is another form of social violence. It refers to instances in which men divorce their wives without their wives' knowledge. This type of divorce is not based on socially accepted justifications or reasons allowed by religious guides. Various explanations for this type of divorce are the imposition of marriage on the couple, marital conflicts, living with relatives, non-birth and relations with other woman, among others.

Table 4.8 lists the percentage distribution of divorces and reasons for them by governorate in 2002. Data indicates that family conflicts are the main reason couples divorce (around 97%), while other reasons include financial reasons, the wife's infertility, an age gap between couples and chronic sickness.

The ratios of divorces caused by family conflicts vary significantly between governorates (from 88% in the Ajloun governorate to 100% in the Tafila governorate). The data also shows that divorce is most likely to occur because of family conflicts. Table 4.9 shows the percentage distribution of divorces during 1998-2002 according to the

Table 4.8:
Percentage Distribution of Divorces by Governorate and Reason for Divorce, 2002

Governorate	Total	%	Financial Reasons	Family Conflicts	Infertility	Age Gap	Chronic Sickness	Other
Amman	3928	100.0	1.1	97.7	0.2	0.1	0.0	1.0
Balqa	456	100.0	0.0	98.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
Zarqa	1771	100.0	0.9	97.0	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6
Madaba	208	100.0	4.8	90.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	3.4
Irbid	1381	100.0	0.2	97.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.9
Mafraq	413	100.0	0.2	98.1	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Jerash	185	100.0	0.0	98.9	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
Ajloun	98	100.0	1.0	87.8	0.0	0.0	1.0	10.2
Karak	192	100.0	1.6	96.9	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.1
Tafila	64	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ma'an	150	100.0	0.0	99.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0
Aqaba	168	100.0	3.6	93.5	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	9014	100.0	0.9	97.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.2

Source: Courts.

age of divorcées. The highest cumulative percentage of divorces occurs in the 18-27 age group (60% from 1998 to 2002). The second highest percentage is for the 28-37 age group, with one-fourth (1/4) of the divorces for the abovementioned years.

Early marriage is considered a negative social phenomenon, but it is common in many countries, including Jordan. Females who marry at young ages are generally deprived of educational opportunities and are exposed to the dangers of pregnancy and childbirth.

Table 4.10 shows the percentage distribution of marriage contracts recorded according to the wife's age during the years 1998-2002. Data indicates that there was a significant decrease in the ratio of marriage contracts for females aged less than 18 (from 16% out of the total recorded marriage contracts in 1998 to 12% in 2002) after the personal civil law amendment which increased the age of marriage. The increase in marriage among females by yearly basis can also be seen (ages 15, 16 and 17, for example).

Table 4.9:
Percentage Distribution of Divorces According to Age of Divorcée, 1998-2002

Age	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
15	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
16	2.7	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.0
17	4.2	3.2	3.2	4.3	3.8
27-18	60.3	61.5	60.4	61.1	59.8
37-28	23.0	24.6	23.0	23.7	24.1
47-38	6.6	6.4	9.5	6.9	8.1
48+	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.3
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	7671	7885	8209	9017	9032

Source: Courts.

Table 4.10:
Percentage Distribution of Registered Marriages by Age of Wife, 1998-2002

Age	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
14	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.4	2.0
16	5.5	5.1	4.9	5.2	3.7
17	7.0	6.9	6.3	6.4	6.2
18-27	69.4	69.4	69.7	69.4	71.8
28-37	11.8	12.5	13.0	12.7	13.2
38-47	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5
48+	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	39430	39426	45618	49794	46873

Source: Courts.

Health Care Violence

This type of violence refers to women's deprivation from suitable health conditions, their reproductive health care, and their difficulties in obtaining health care. Table 4.11 shows the percentage distribution of married women who face health care problems according to their selected characteristics and reasons for their problems.

Table 4.11:
Percentage Distribution of Married Women Aged 15-49 with Problems in getting Health Care and Reasons for Their Problems 2002

Characteristics	Takes Permission to Go Out	Obtains Medical Care Expenses	Does Not Want to Go Alone	Wants Female Medical Care Provider
Age				
19-15	6.7	22.5	51.0	41.0
29-20	8.7	29.3	35.4	28.0
39-30	7.0	28.8	23.7	25.4
49-40	5.5	34.3	23.4	22.8
Marital status				
Married	7.0	29.4	27.8	26.2
Divorced	20.1	47.9	35.1	21.8
Widowed	1.0	42.0	30.5	23.0
Residence				
Urban	6.2	29.4	26.2	25.5
Rural	10.9	33.2	35.6	27.8
Region				
Middle	6.3	29.2	25.6	25.1
North	8.5	31.3	33.1	28.5
South	9.2	34.3	31.7	25.3
Educational level				
No education	13.7	52.4	32.5	30.0
Elementary	11.6	45.6	32.4	28.7
Preparatory	9.3	38.1	30.6	27.8
Secondary	5.5	27.4	28.4	26.6
Higher	4.2	15.3	22.4	21.3
Work status				
Employed	7.5	31.7	28.8	26.9
Unemployed	3.7	16.6	21.3	17.3
Total	7.2	30.2	28.1	26.0

Source: Department of Statistics, "Survey of Population and Family Health," 2002.