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# 2005-06 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3)

## **Documenting Domestic Violence In India**

# ***Why measure domestic violence?***

- A violation of the **human rights** of women
- India a **signatory** to CEDAW, ICPD, and Beijing agreements
- Has significant **economic costs**, including loss of women's labor hours and increased health-care costs
- Has significant **public health consequences**, including effects on
  - Unwanted fertility and contraceptive use
  - Rates of HIV and other STIs
  - Infant and child mortality
  - Immunization and other health care for children

# Approach to Violence Measurement in NFHS-3

- Different forms of violence measured:
  - Physical and sexual violence for all women by anyone
  - ➔ Spousal physical, sexual, and emotional violence for ever-married women
    - Violence initiated by women against their husband
- Followed Indian and international guidelines for the ethical collection of data on violence
- Methodology used in NFHS-3 known to increase validity of results
  - Provides multiple opportunities for disclosure
  - Asks about specific acts of violence

# Forms of Spousal Violence: Definitions

➤ **Physical violence** Any of the following acts of violence perpetrated by her husband:

- Pushed her, shook her, or threw something at her
- Slapped her
- Twisted her arm or pulled her hair
- Punched her
- Kicked her, dragged her, or beat her up
- Tried to choke her or burn her on purpose
- Threatened her or attacked her with a weapon

# Forms of Spousal Violence: Definitions

## ➤ **Sexual violence:** Any of the following:

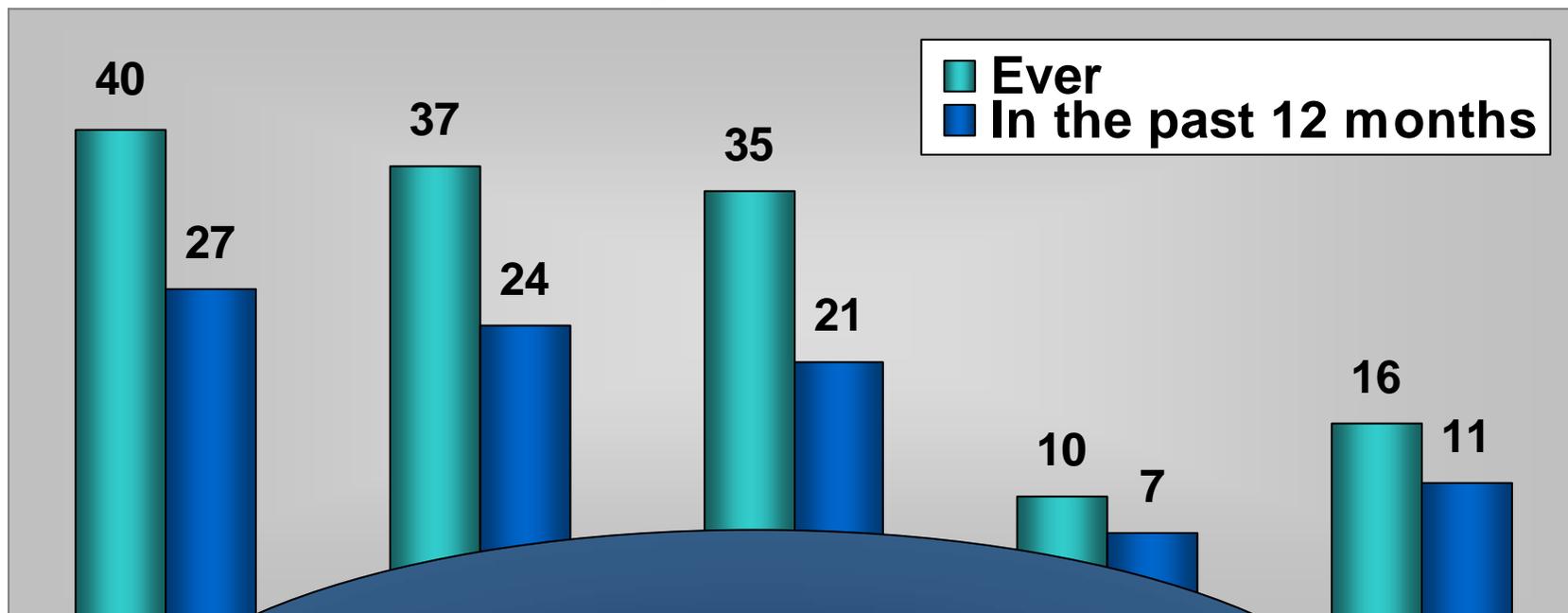
- Forced her to have sexual intercourse when she did not want to
- Forced her to perform sexual acts she did not want to

## ➤ **Emotional violence:** Any of the following:

- Said or did something to humiliate her in front of others
- Threatened to hurt or harm her or someone close to her
- Insulted her to made her feel bad about herself

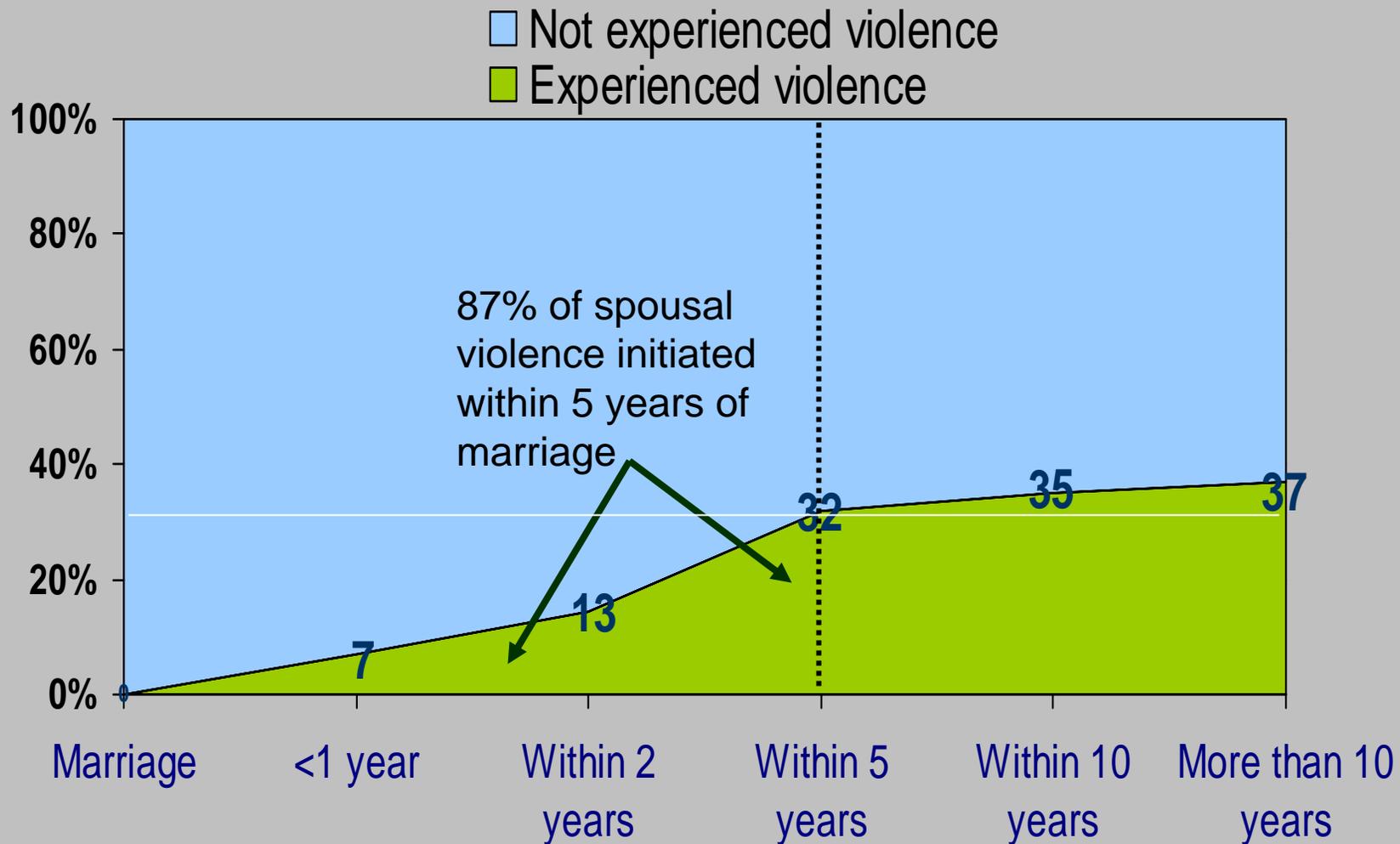
# Spousal Violence: The most common form of violence against married women

Percent of ever-married women age 15-49



Only 1% of married women have ever *initiated* violence against their husbands.

# At what marital duration does spousal violence first occur?



# ***How does prevalence of spousal violence vary by individual characteristics?***

- **What characteristics of women and their husbands are relevant?**
- **What is the relationship of spousal violence with **education**?**
  - **Does violence decline with education?**
  - **Whose education has a stronger effect: The woman's or her husband's?**
- **Other than education, what factors affect the prevalence of violence?**

# Selected Differentials in the Prevalence of Spousal Violence

## Spousal violence

➤ **Increases** with:

- Age
- Number of children

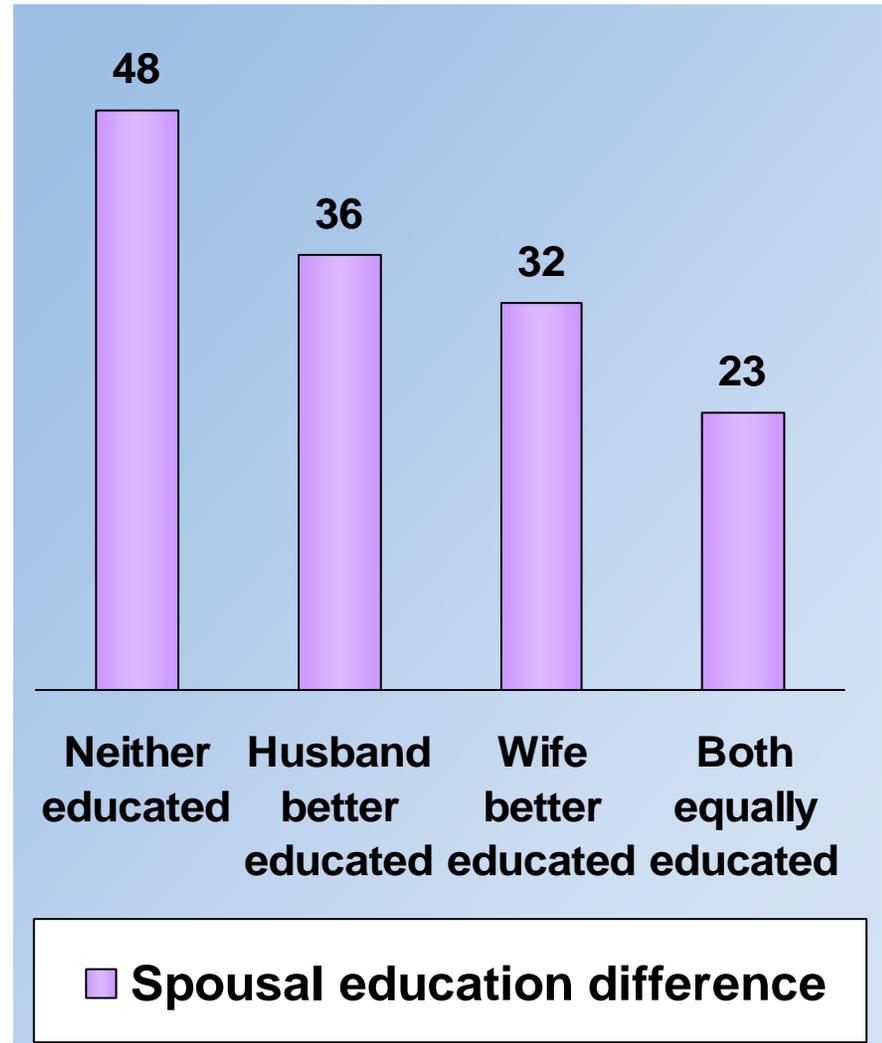
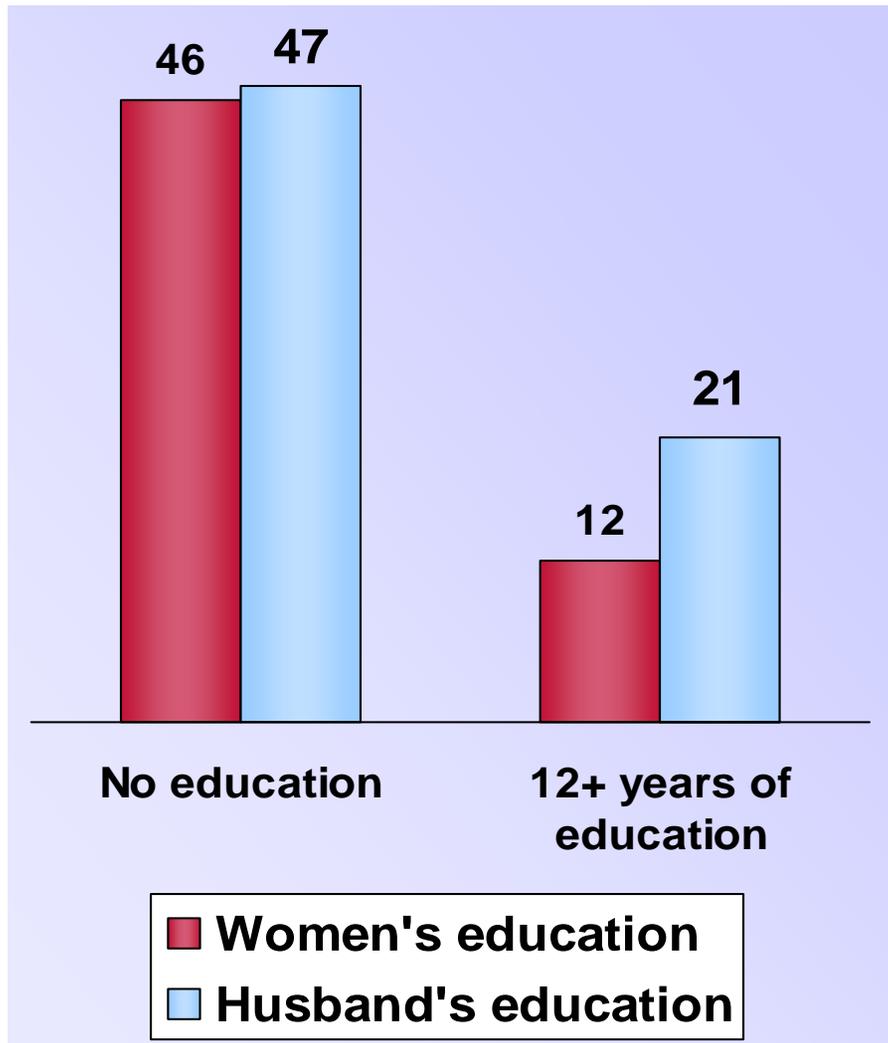
➤ **Decreases** with:

- Wealth

➤ **Higher** for employed women

# Education and Spousal Violence

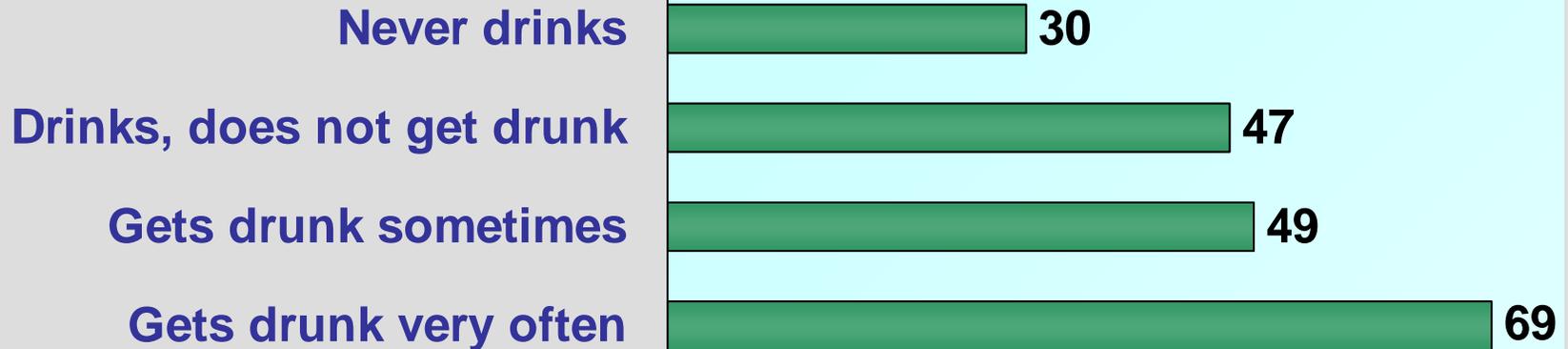
Percent of ever-married women



# ***What other factors are strongly associated with the likelihood of spousal violence?***

Percent of ever-married women

## **HUSBAND'S ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION**



## **RESPONDENT'S FATHER BEAT HER MOTHER**

- No
- Yes

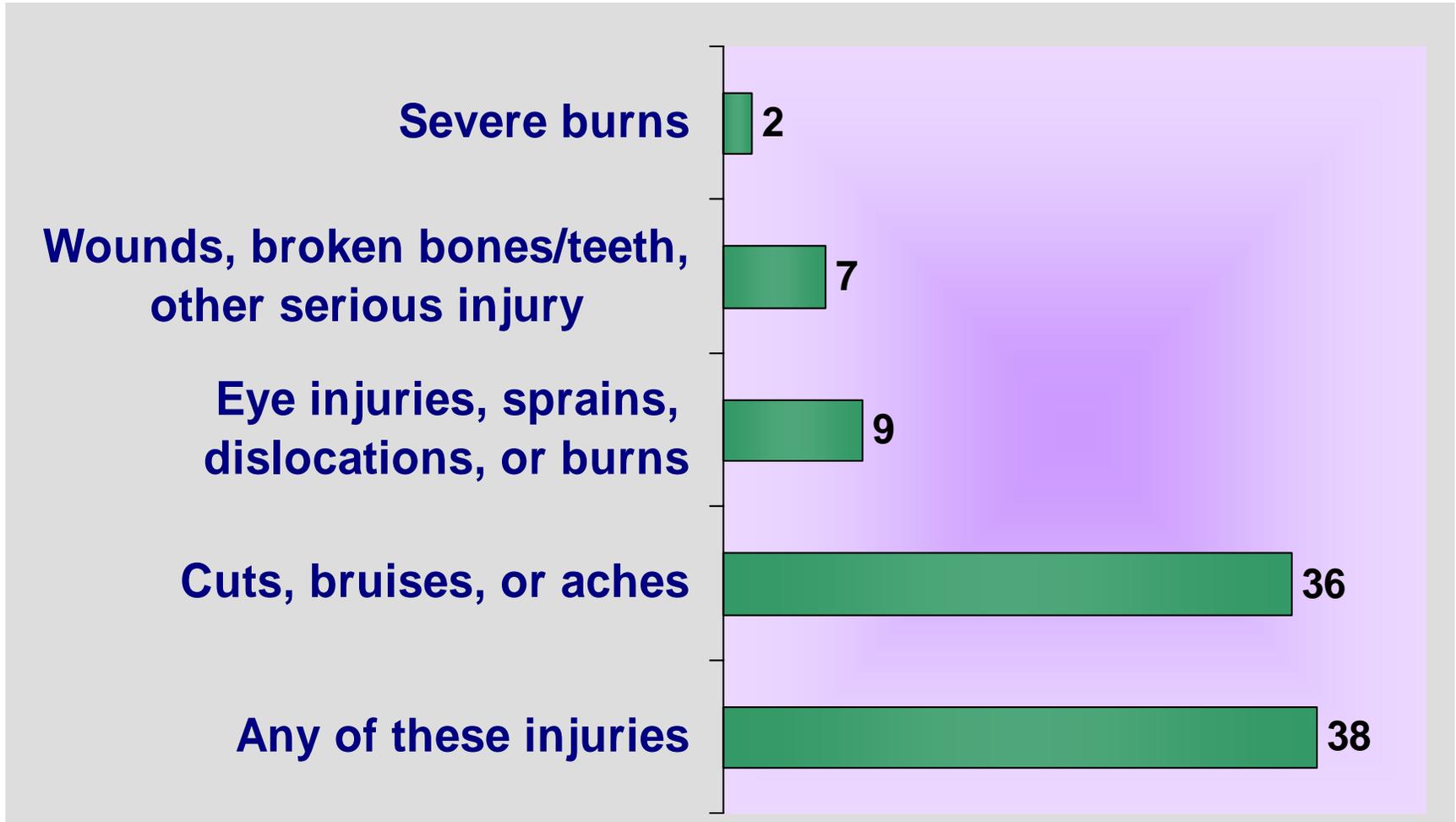
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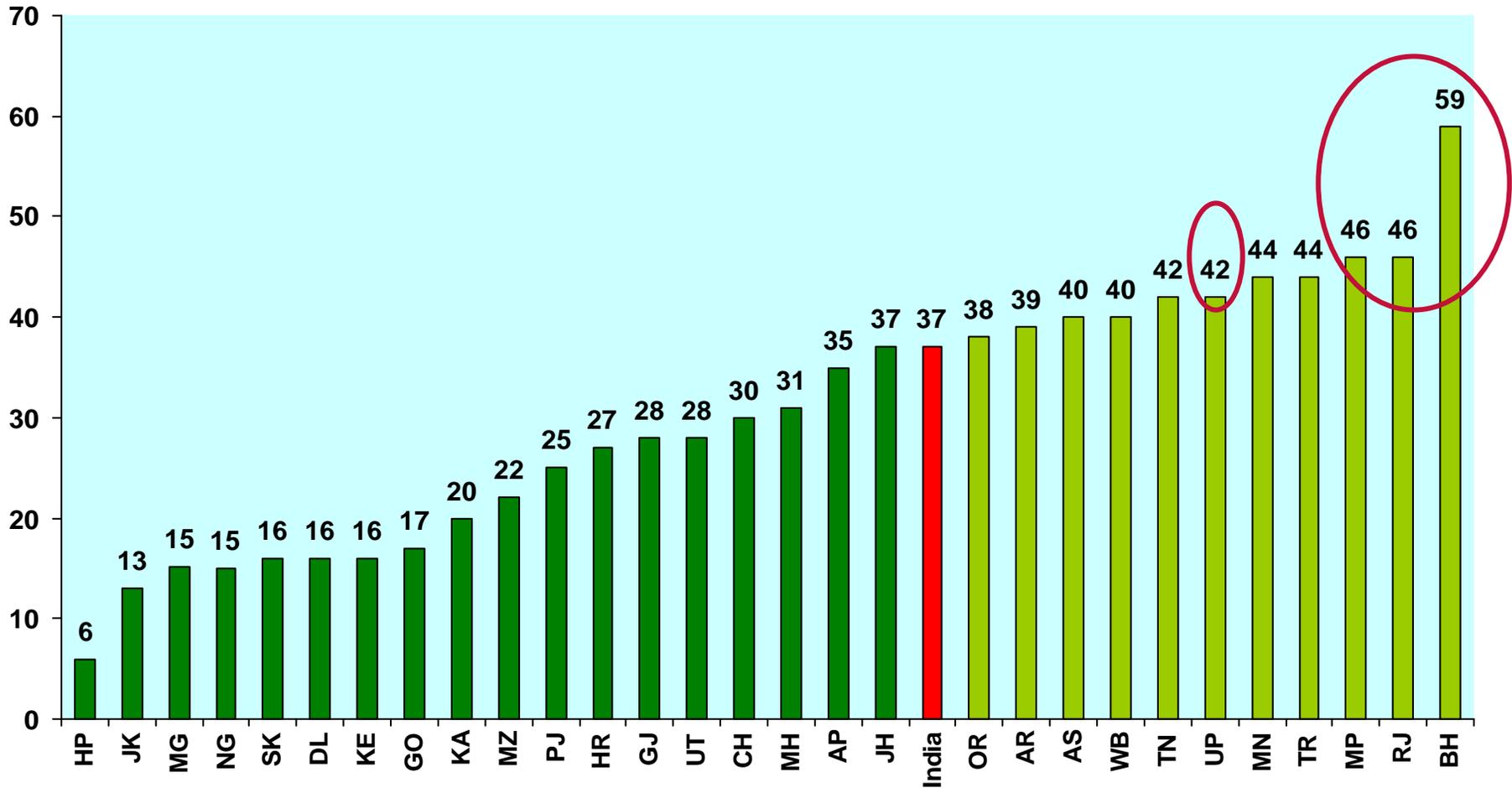
# Injuries Due to Spousal Violence

Percent of women who have experienced spousal violence who had:



# Spousal Violence by State

Percent of ever-married women



# ***From whom do women who are abused seek help?***

- **Only one in four abused women have ever sought help**
  - **Women are much less likely to seek help for sexual violence, than for physical violence**
- **When women seek help, they do so mainly from family members, not from institutions:**
  - **Police: 2%**
  - **Social service organizations: 1%**
  - **Religious leaders: 1%**
- **Help seeking varies very little by background characteristics, including education and wealth**

# Summary

- Almost **two out of five** ever-married women in India are subject to spousal violence
- Women **rarely initiate violence** against their husband
- Most spousal violence **begins within five years** of the start of the marriage
- Most women **suffer violence in silence**

*If we knew that more than a third of women had a debilitating disease that is wearing them down mentally and physically, would we continue to ignore it ?*