

Snapshot 1



Violence against women & health:

Understanding the magnitude & consequences

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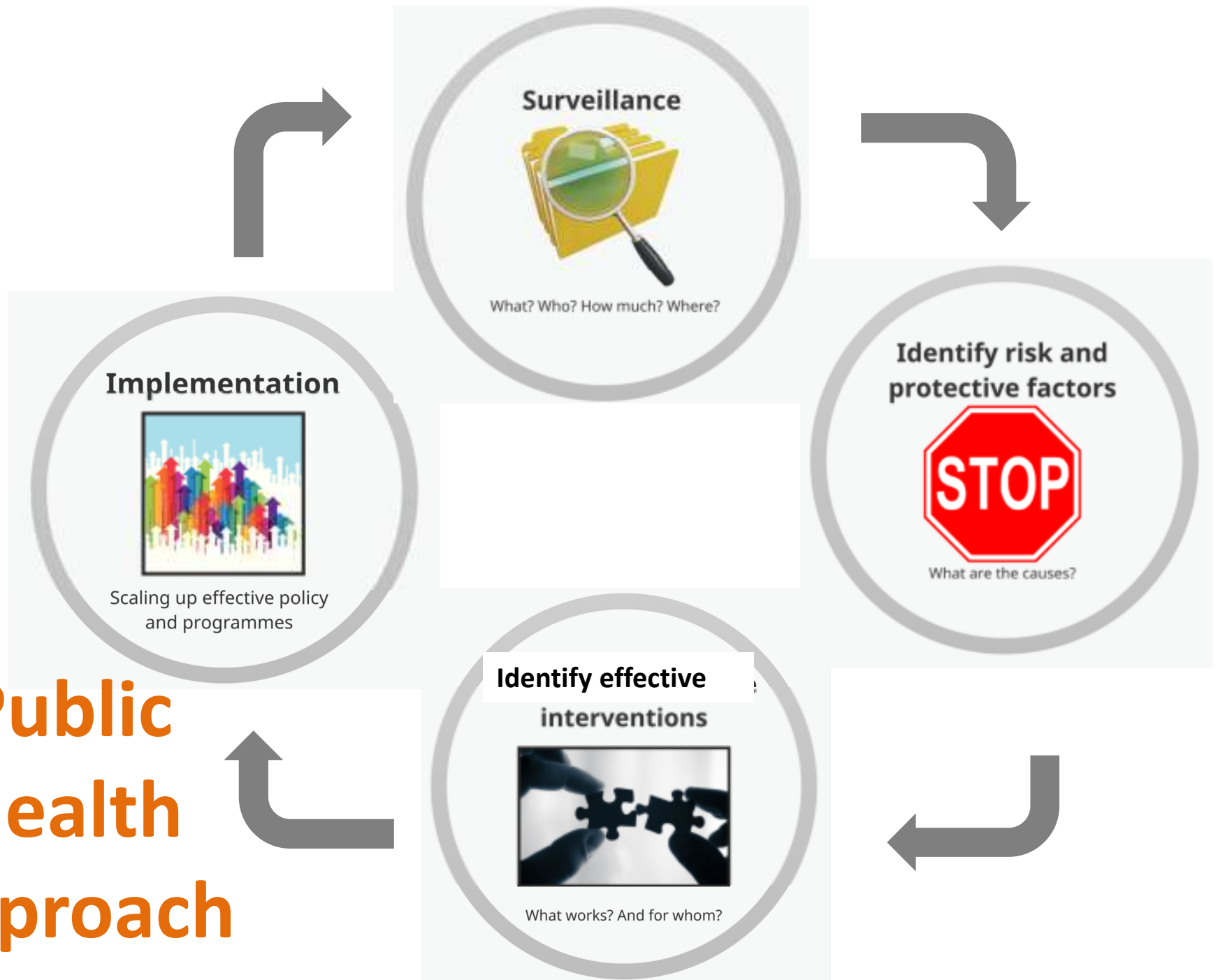


Overview



- ❖ What is a public health approach to violence against women
- ❖ Definitions and forms of violence against women
- ❖ Prevalence of violence against women globally and in Latin America and the Caribbean
- ❖ Health and other social consequences of violence against women

Public Health Approach



Surveillance



What? Who? How much? Where?



Public health approach: Characteristics

- ❖ Population-level
- ❖ Interdisciplinary
- ❖ Multi-sectoral

Global prevalence



- ❖ Violence against women is a violation of human rights
- ❖ is linked with gender inequality.
- ❖ is a serious public health issue.

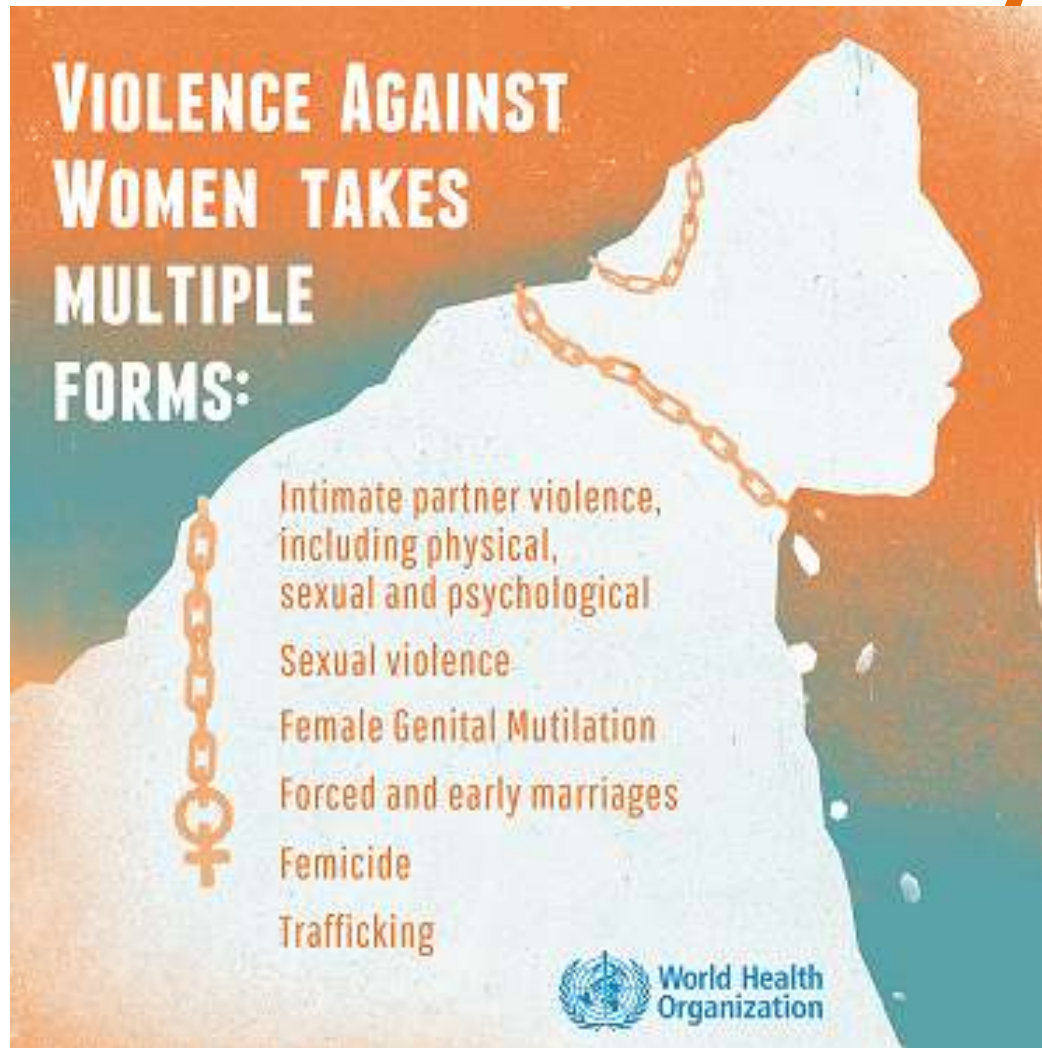
Key message



Violence against women

Any public or private act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty with the family or general community.

Violence against women takes many forms



Intimate partner violence:
the most common form of violence experienced by women



Intimate Partner Violence

Experience of one or more acts of physical and/or sexual violence and/or emotional/psychological abuse by a current or former partner

Physical Violence



- ✓ being slapped
- ✓ having something thrown at you that could hurt you
- ✓ being pushed or shoved
- ✓ being hit with a fist or something else that could hurt
- ✓ being kicked
- ✓ dragged or beaten up
- ✓ being choked or burnt on purpose
- ✓ being threatened with or actually having a gun, knife or other weapon

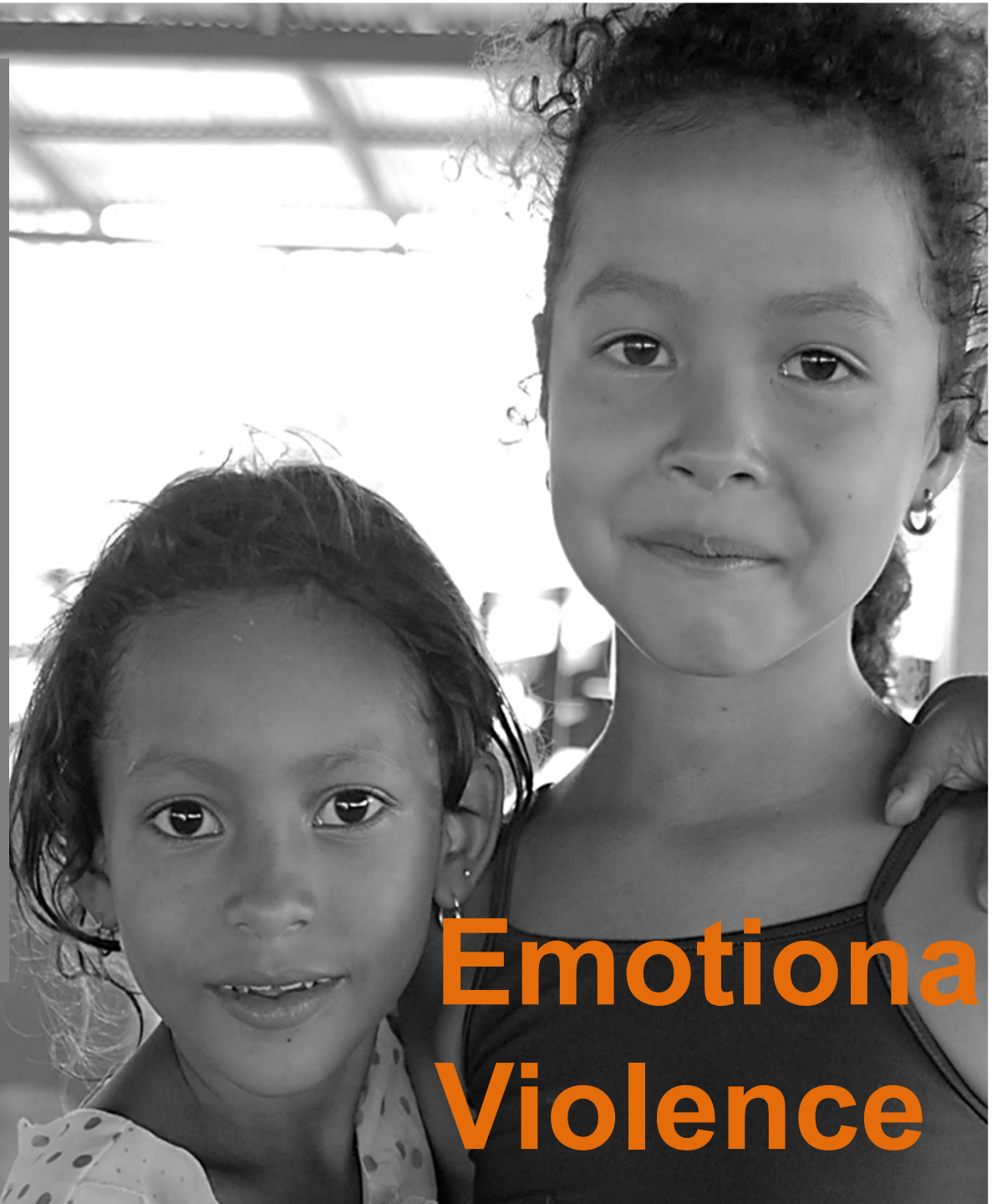
- ✓ being physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you didn't want to
- ✓ having sexual intercourse because you were afraid of what your partner might do
- ✓ being forced to do something sexual that you found humiliating or degrading

Sexual Violence



- ✓ being insulted or being made to feel bad about oneself
- ✓ being belittled or humiliated in front of other people
- ✓ being scared / intimidated by the perpetrator through yelling, the smashing of things; and/or threats to hurt someone she cares about

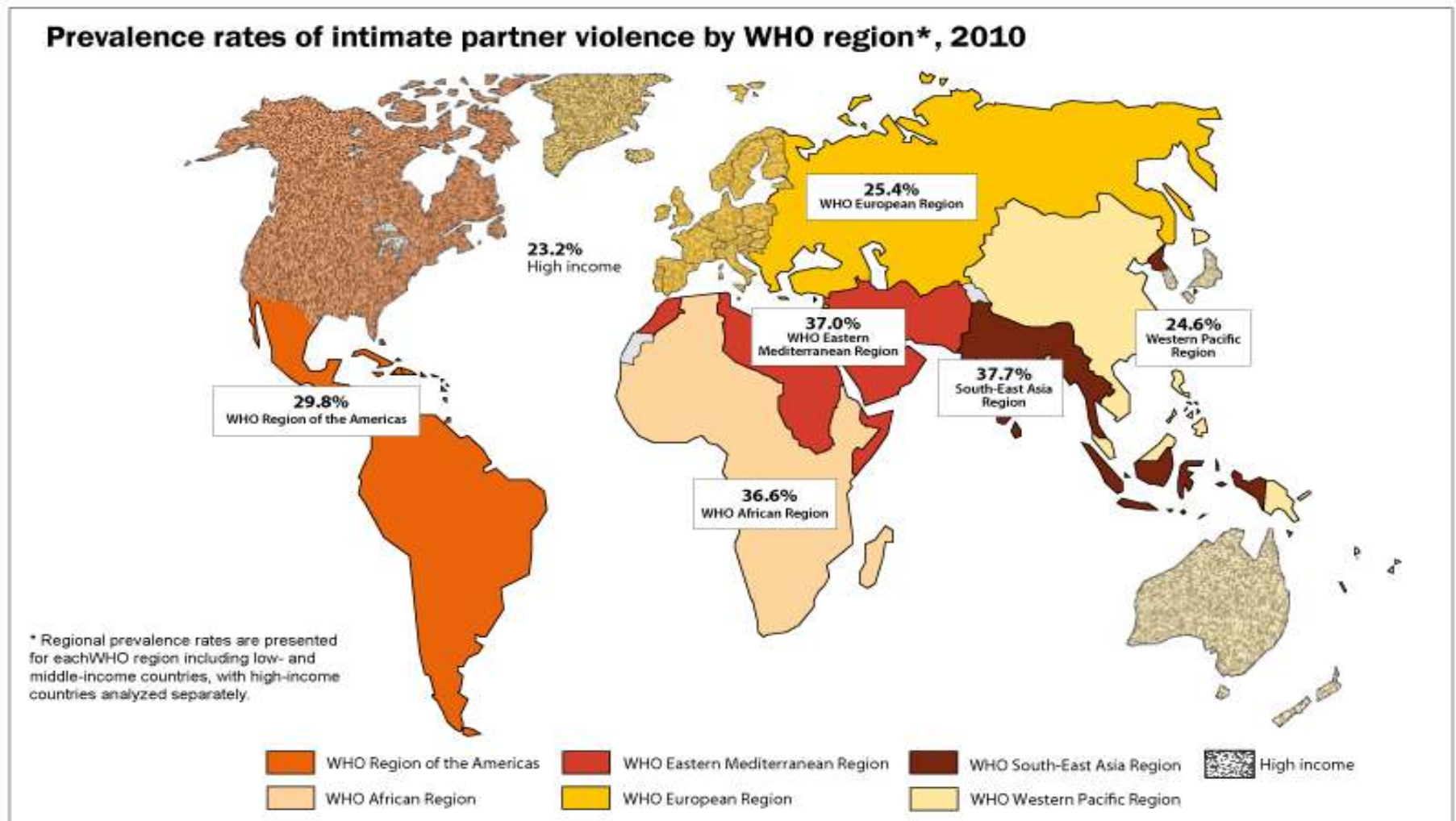
Emotional Violence



Prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence (SV)

- ❖ Can be measured by both **victimization** and **perpetration**.
- ❖ **Underreported** in police and services statistics.
- ❖ Population-based surveys using **self-reports** yield best data.
- ❖ Consequences of IPV & SV are often “**hidden**”

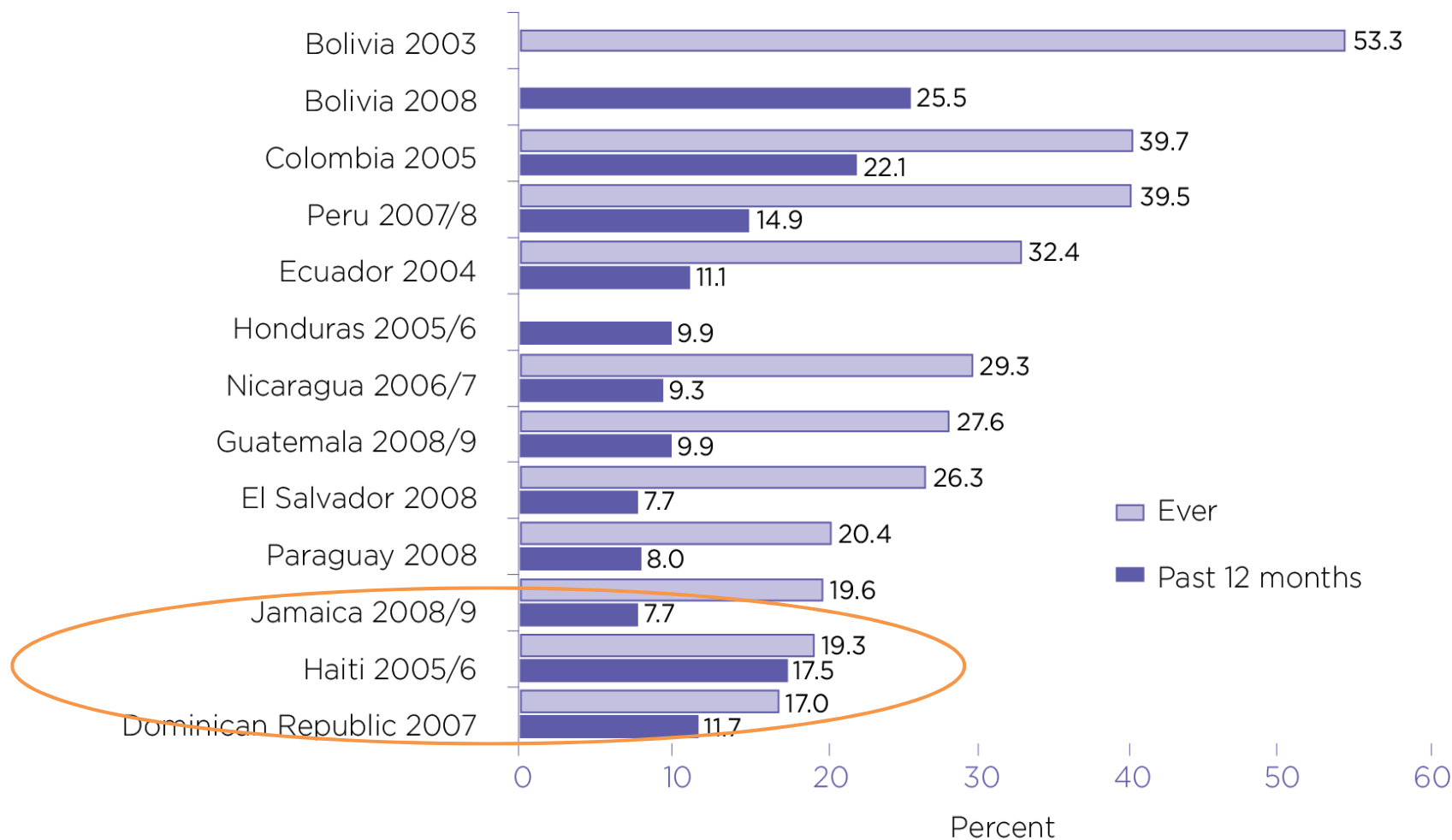
1 in 3 ♀ globally: have experienced physical &/or sexual violence by an intimate partner



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. © WHO 2013. All rights reserved.

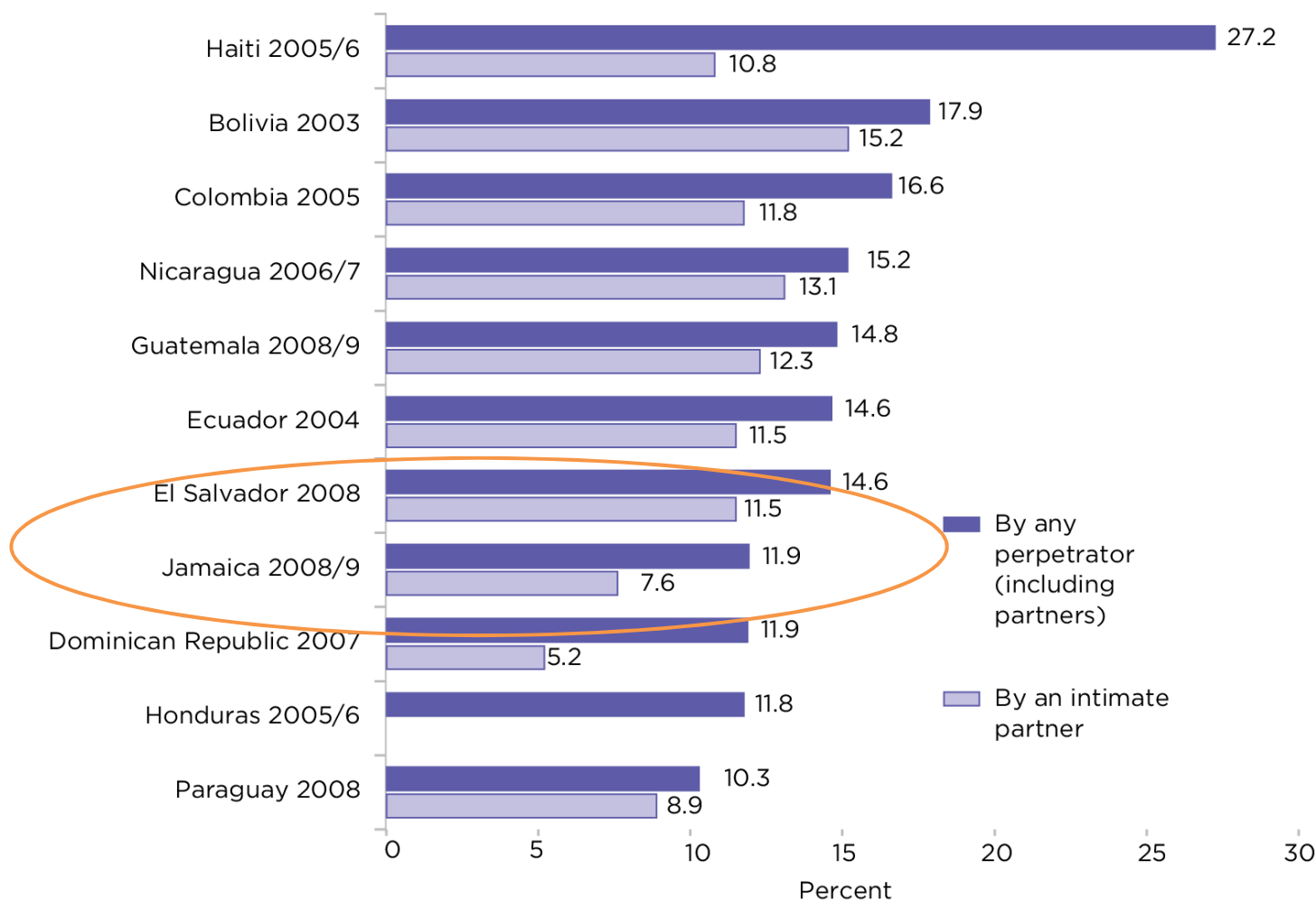
Data Source: *Global and regional estimates of violence against women*. WHO, 2013.

Partner violence (physical and sexual) affects a substantial number of women in LAC: physical or sexual partner violence ever and in the past 12 months



Source: Bott, Guedes, Goodwin, Mendoza (2012) Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A comparative analysis of population-based data from 12 countries. Washington: DC PAHO

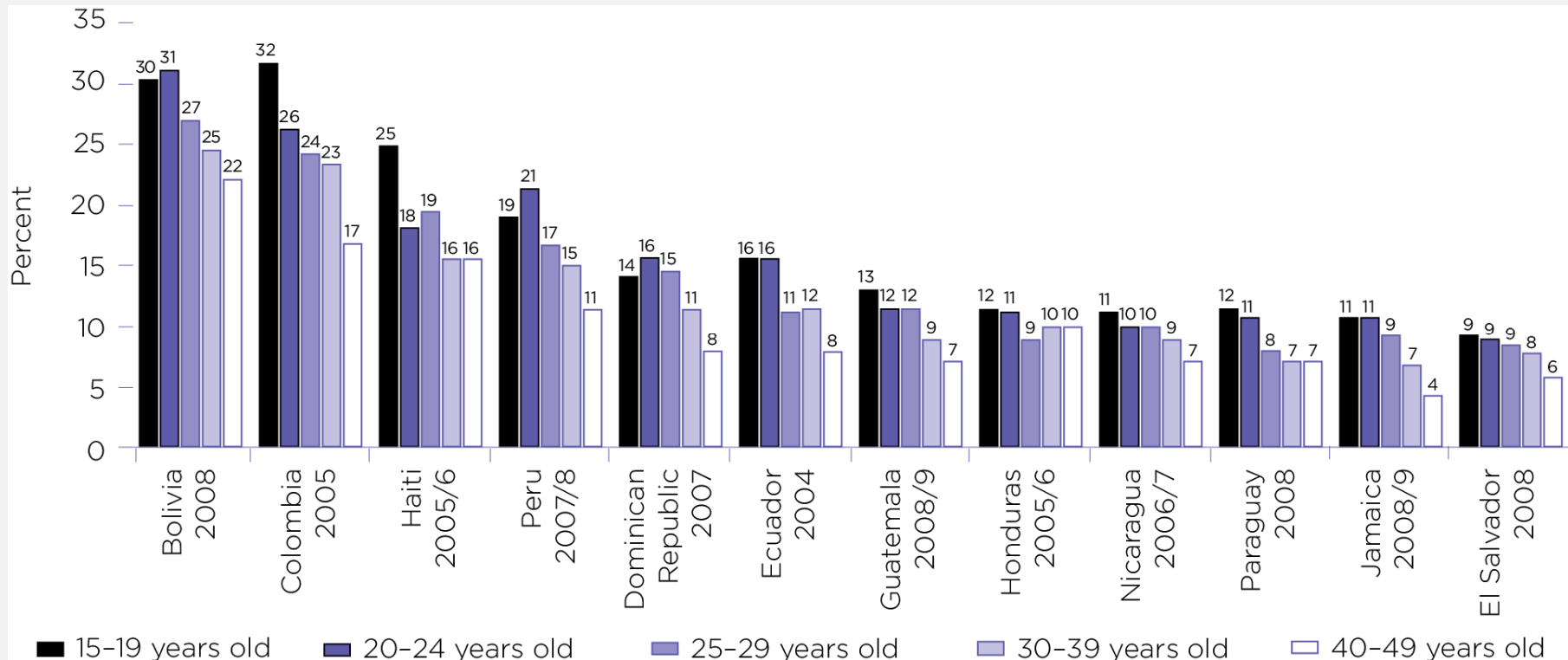
Sexual violence by partners and non-partners, ever



Source: Bott, Guedes, Goodwin, Mendoza (2012) Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A comparative analysis of population-based data from 12 countries. Washington: DC PAHO

Violence starts early in lives of women:

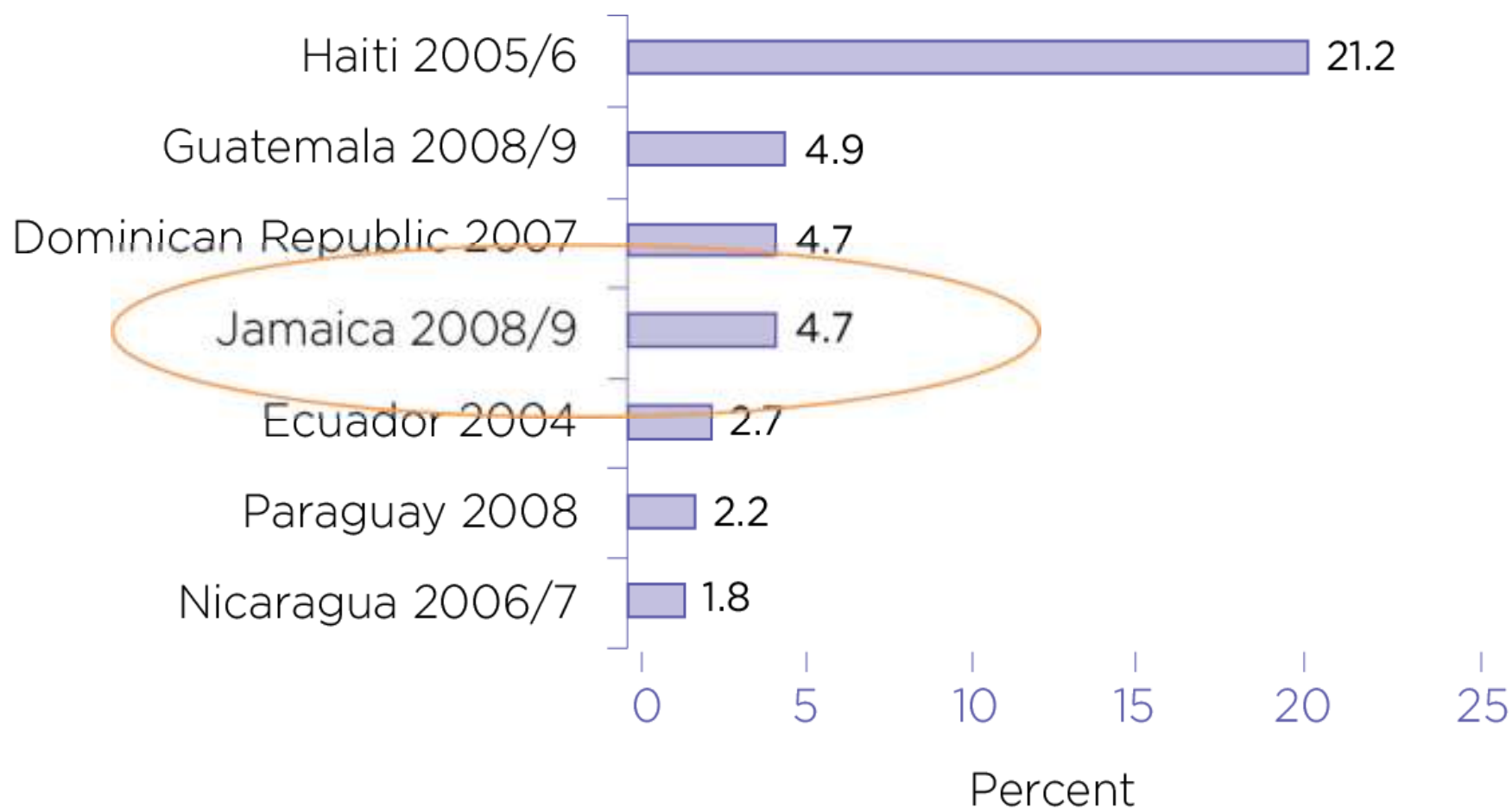
Prevalence of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in the last 12 months, by age



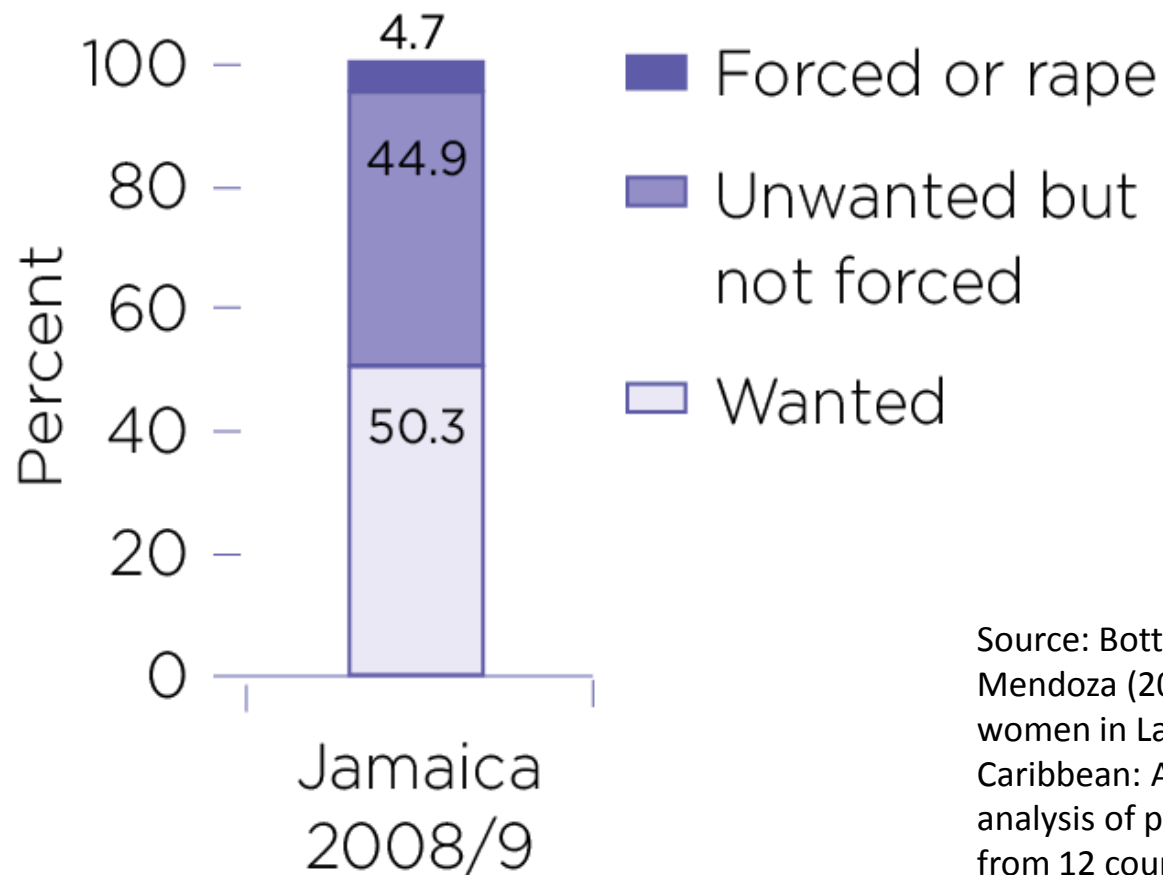
Source: Bott, Guedes, Goodwin, Mendoza (2012) Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A comparative analysis of population-based data from 12 countries. Washington: DC PAHO

First sexual intercourse was forced or

rape: % of women age 15-24 who reported that their first sexual intercourse was 'forced' or 'rape'



% of women aged 15-24 who reported forced, unwanted, wanted 1st sexual intercourse

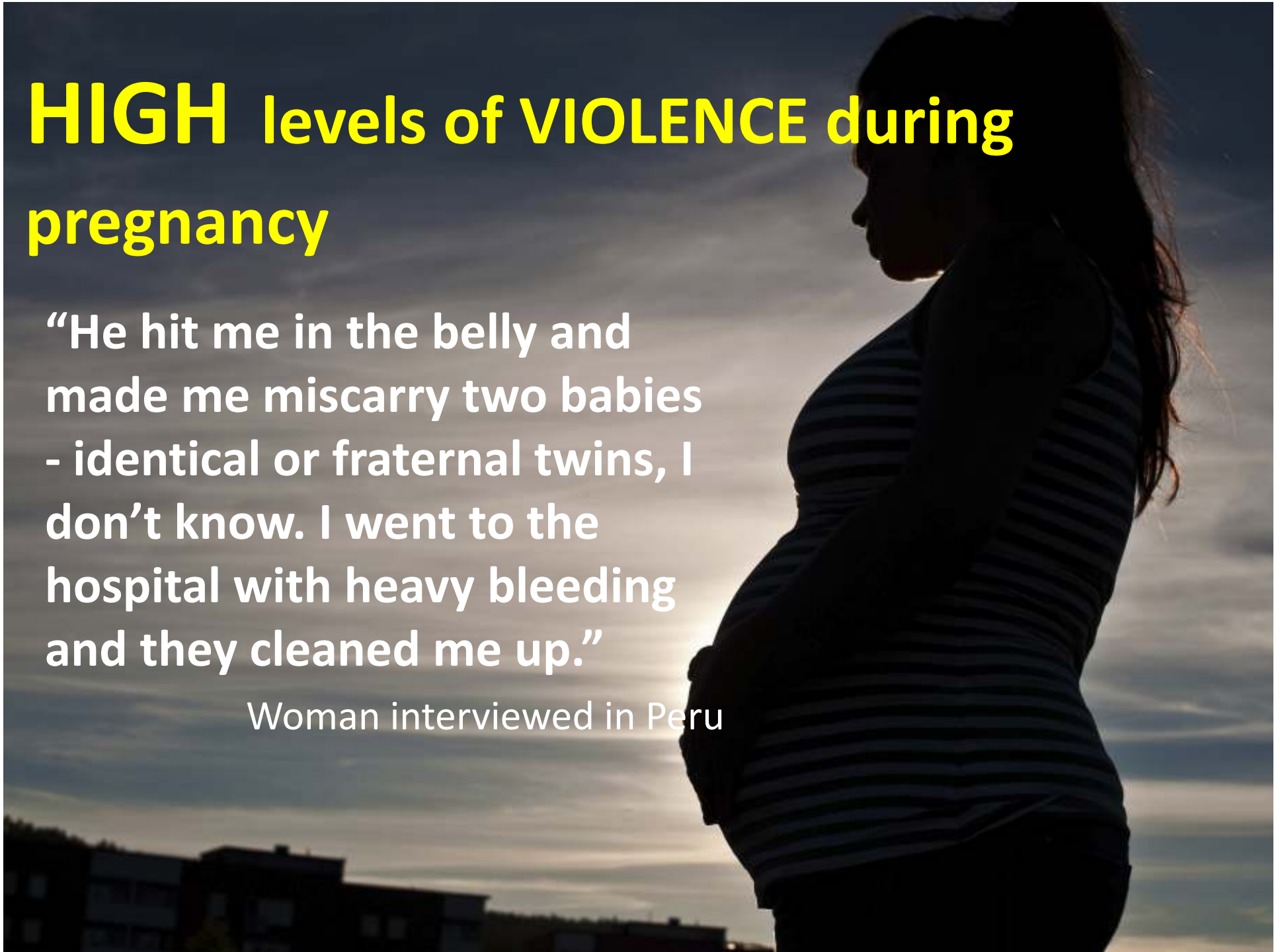


Source: Bott, Guedes, Goodwin, Mendoza (2012) Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A comparative analysis of population-based data from 12 countries. Washington: DC PAHO

HIGH levels of VIOLENCE during pregnancy

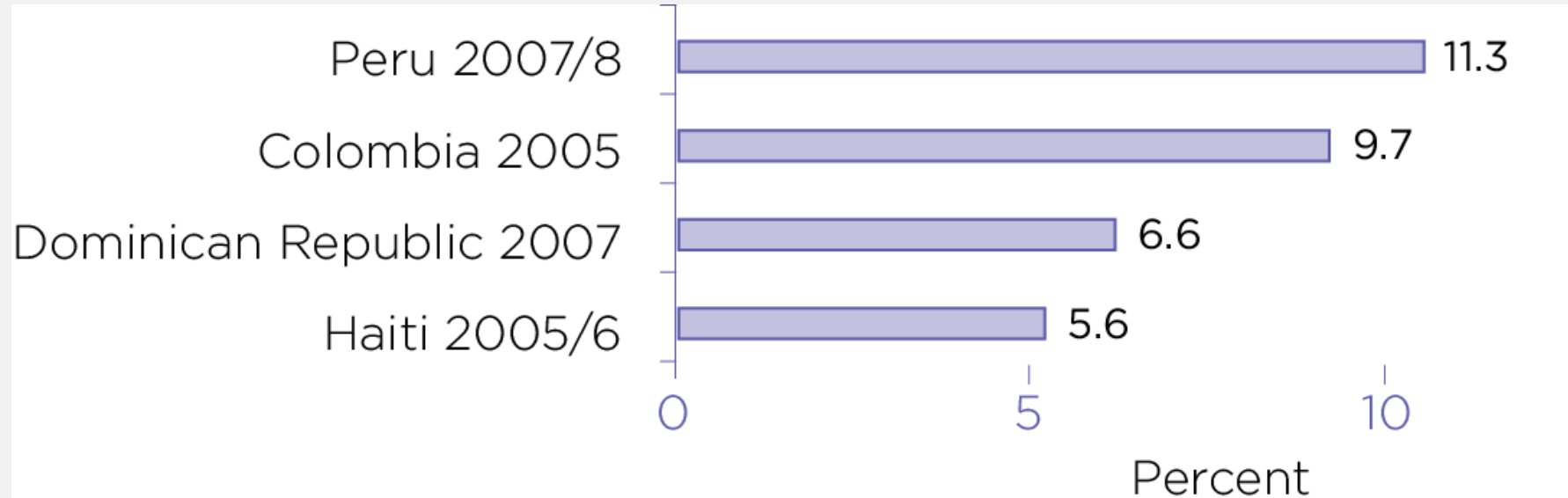
“He hit me in the belly and made me miscarry two babies - identical or fraternal twins, I don’t know. I went to the hospital with heavy bleeding and they cleaned me up.”

Woman interviewed in Peru



Pregnancy does not protect women from violence:

% of women who report intimate partner violence during pregnancy

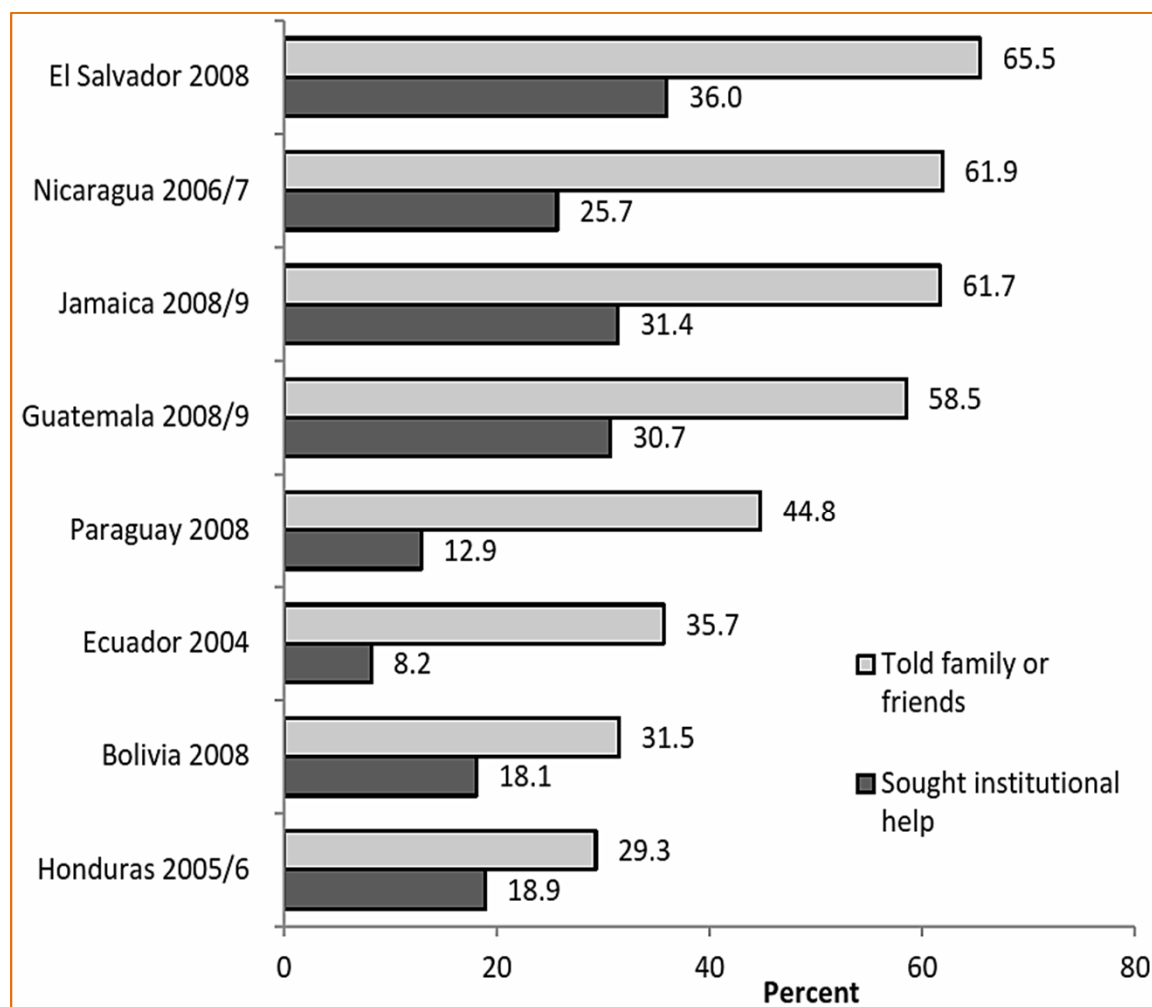


Source: Bott, Guedes, Goodwin, Mendoza (2012) Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A comparative analysis of population-based data from 12 countries. Washington: DC PAHO

Reported statistics are under-estimates: % of women reporting IPV who sought help

Only
10%-36%
of survivors
seek
institutional
support

Source: Bott, Guedes, Goodwin, Mendoza (2012) Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A comparative analysis of population-based data from 12 countries. Washington: DC PAHO



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

PHYSICAL TRAUMA

PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA/STRESS

FEAR AND CONTROL

42% of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a partner have experienced injuries as a result

Mental Health

TWICE as likely to experience depression

ALMOST TWICE as likely to have alcohol use disorders

NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES

- cardiovascular disease
- hypertension

SOMATOFORM

- irritable bowel
- chronic pain
- chronic pelvic pain

LIMITED SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE CONTROL

- lack of contraception
- unsafe sex

HEALTH CARE SEEKING

- lack of autonomy
- difficulties seeking care and other services

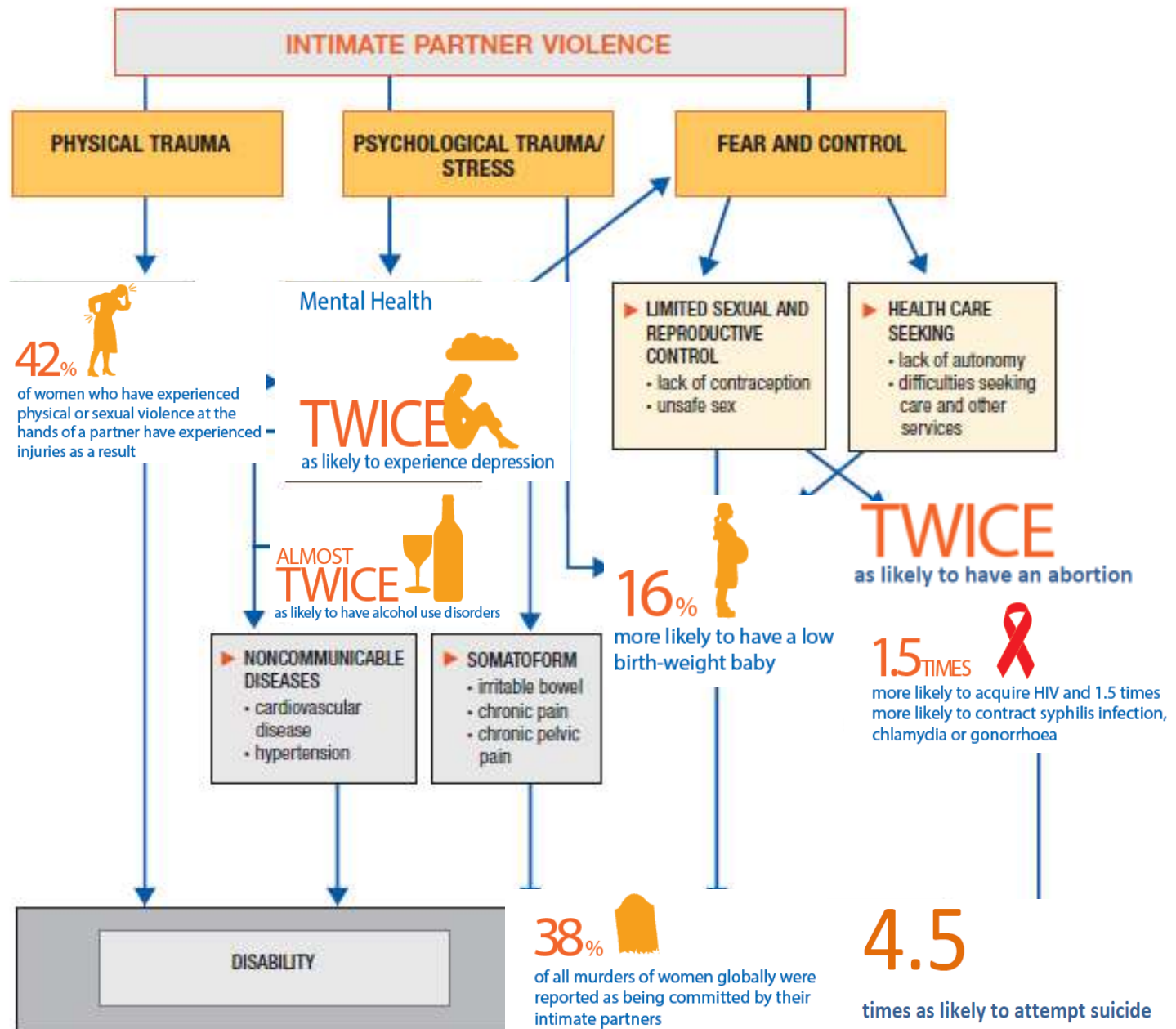
16% more likely to have a low birth-weight baby

15 TIMES more likely to acquire HIV and 1.5 times more likely to contract syphilis infection, chlamydia or gonorrhoea

DISABILITY

38% of all murders of women globally were reported as being committed by their intimate partners

4.5 times as likely to attempt suicide



Inter-generational & socio-economic consequences

Effects on children of women who experience abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Higher rates of infant mortality• Behavior problems• Anxiety, depression, attempted suicide• Poor school performance• Experiencing or perpetrating violence as adults• Physical injury or health complaints• Lost productivity in adulthood
Effects on families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inability to work• Lost wages and productivity• Housing instability
Social and economic effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Costs of services incurred by victims and families (health, social, justice)<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 42% higher health care expenditure in the US• Lost workplace productivity and costs to employers<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 3.7% of GDP in Peru• Perpetuation of violence

Violence against women



1. is widespread
2. has serious health consequences for women and their children
3. has intergenerational consequences
4. has adverse socio-economic impact on families, communities & society

Take home points