



BRIDGING RESEARCH & ACTION FOR CHANGE

The Global
Women's Institute

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Candies in Hell + 20

20 year of research
and action to end
violence against
women in Nicaragua

Mary Ellsberg



The Global
Women's Institute

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After he beat me, he would court me and buy me clothes, but my grandmother said to me,

“Child, what are you going to do with Candies in Hell?”

Ana Cristina, Candies in Hell, 1995

Leon, Nicaragua



Candies in Hell 1995

1st prevalence
study on VAWG
in Central
America

488 women
interviewed in
Leon, Nicaragua



1 out of 2 women experienced physical or sexual abuse by an intimate partner

1 out of 4 experienced violence in the last year

Candies in hell

Research and action on
domestic violence against
women in Nicaragua

Mary Carroll Ellsberg



Confites en el infierno

Prevalencia y características
de la violencia conyugal
hacia las mujeres en Nicaragua

Mary Ellsberg
Rodolfo Peña
Andrés Herrera
Jerker Liljestrand
Anna Winkvist



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Boletina

"No quiero confites
en el infierno..."

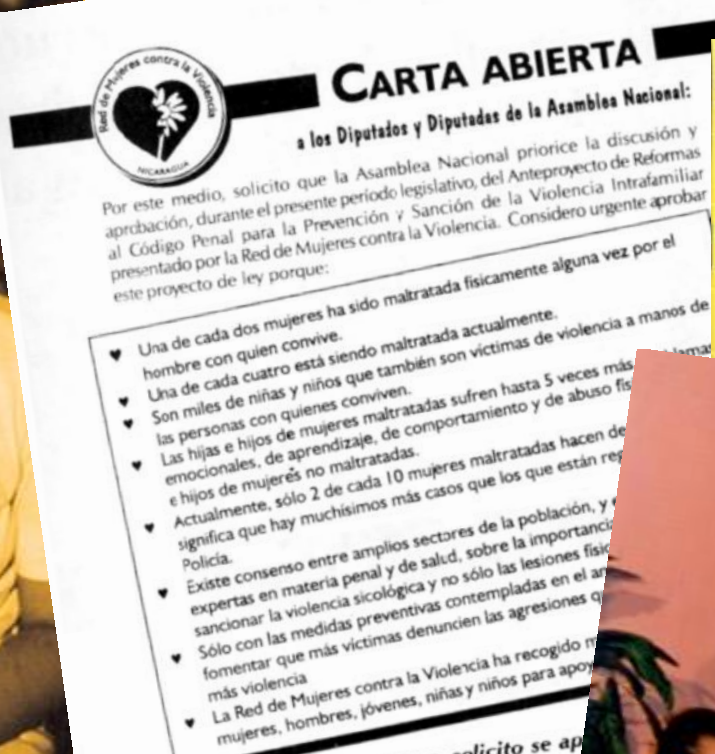


■ En Esteli:
Mujeres taxistas
al volante

■ En Waslala:
No es lo mismo estar juntas
que ser "revueltas"

Un aporte de Puntos de Encuentro a la comunidad

Los acuerdos
de Beijing



- LAW 230 against family violence:**
- passed in 1996
 - recognizes psychological injuries, family violence as an aggravating circumstance
 - Includes restraining orders for prevention



Candies in Hell +20

20 year follow-up
study in Leon,
Nicaragua, using
same methods and
sampling frame



1400 women aged
14-64 were
interviewed about
experiences of
different forms of
violence in their
lifetimes and last
12 months using
WHO instrument





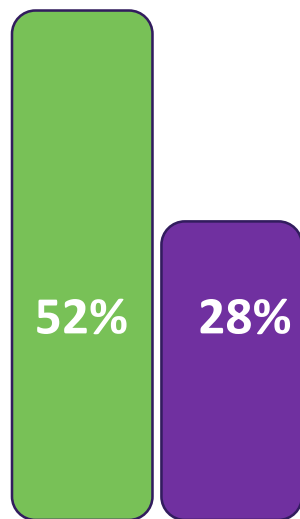
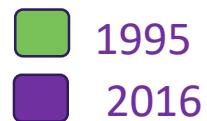
Special measures taken to ensure privacy and confidentiality and to protect safety of respondents and interviewers

Qualitative
interviews with
community men
and women,
service
providers,
government
officials and
women's rights
activists

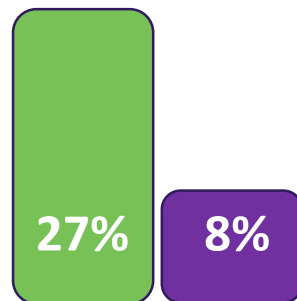


Results

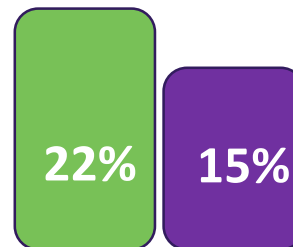
IPV was reduced by nearly half in 20 years



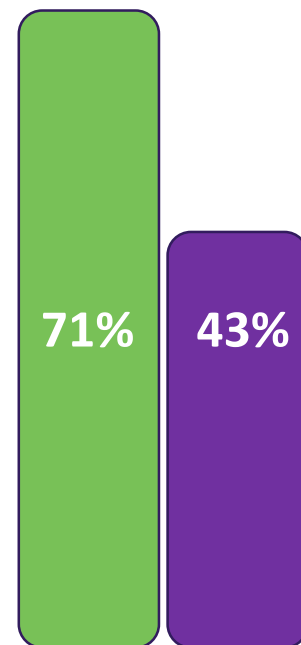
Lifetime physical
violence



12 months
physical violence



Lifetime sexual
violence

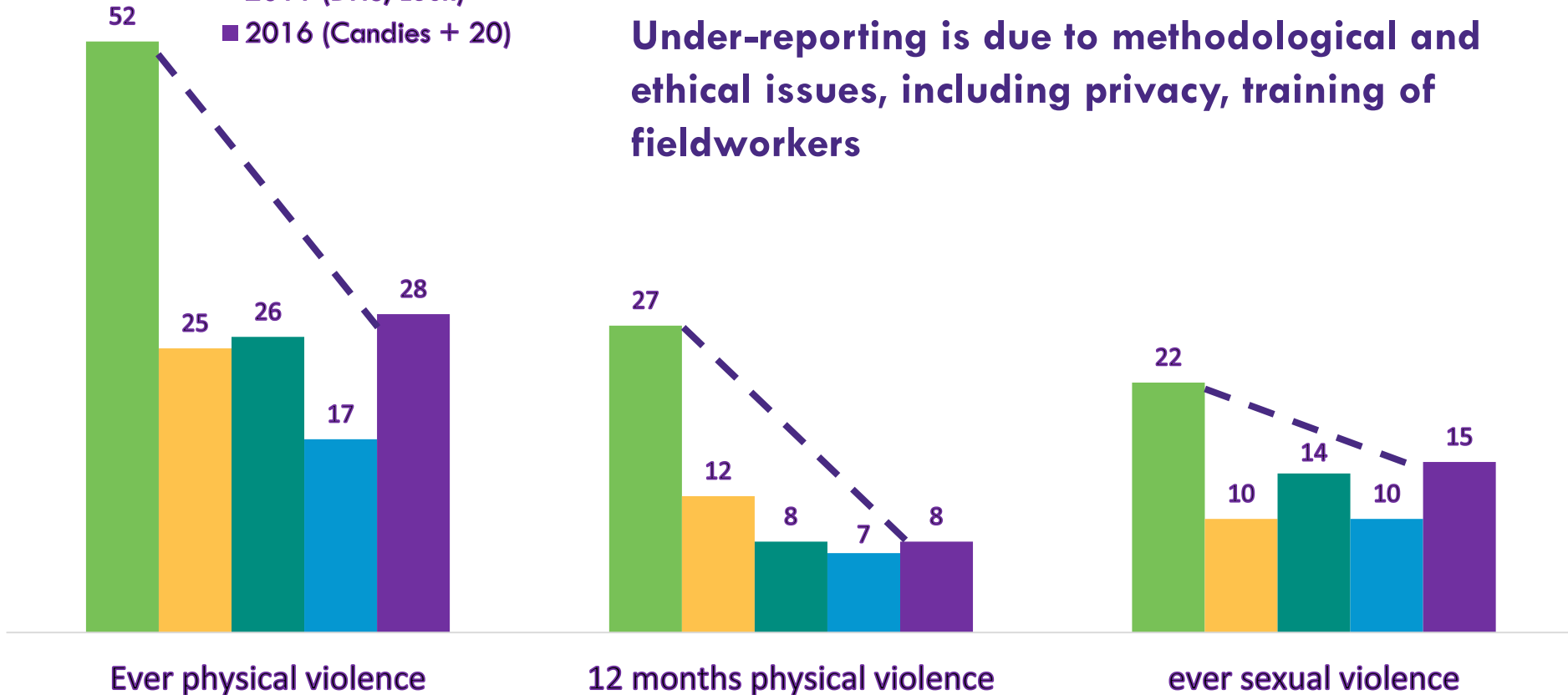


Lifetime
emotional violence

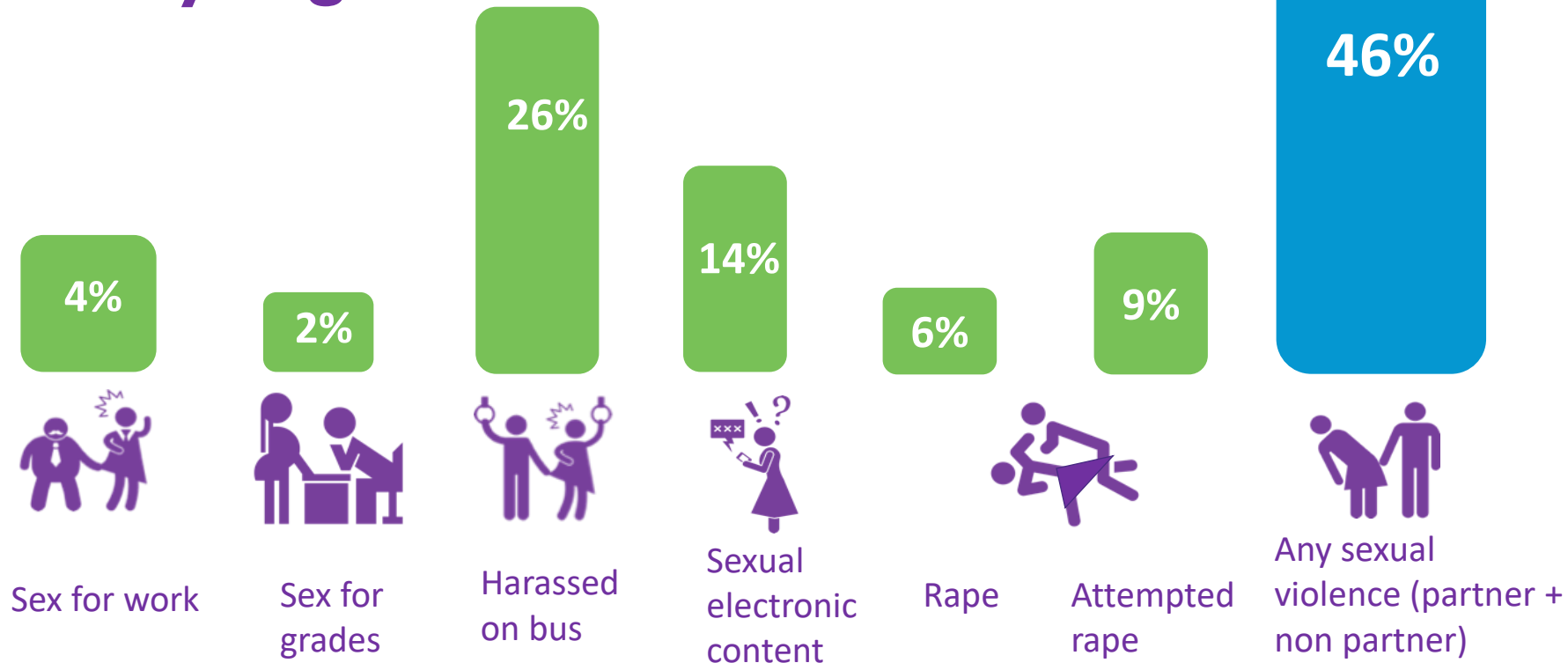
- 1995 (Candies in Hell)
- 1998 (DHS, Leon)
- 2006 (DHS, Leon)
- 2011 (DHS, Leon)
- 2016 (Candies + 20)

But it is still unacceptably high and much higher than official numbers

Under-reporting is due to methodological and ethical issues, including privacy, training of fieldworkers



Sexual violence remains very high





Violence affects reproductive health

Partner refused condom
OR 2.4

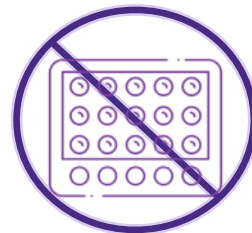


Ever had abortion
OR 2.5



Ever had miscarriage
OR 1.8

Does not use birth control
OR 1.4



Pregnancy unwanted by respondent and partner
OR 2.6



What are risk factors for partner violence?



2 X

>30
years
old



Disabled



Early
marriage



Partner beaten as
a child



Urban
residence



Not Married



partner
uses
alcohol



Sexual abuse
in childhood

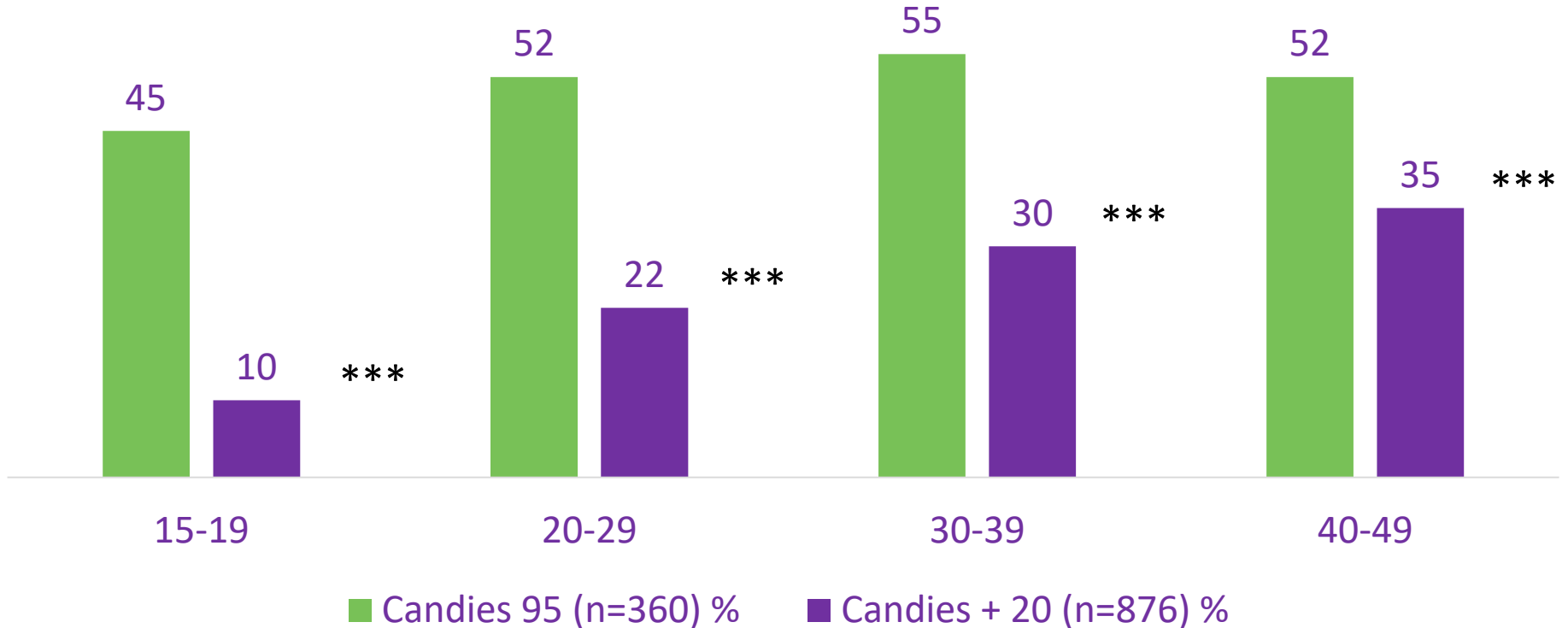


4 X

Adjusted odds ratios in
multivariate logistic regression,
controlling for education

Why did violence decrease in
Leon?

Lifetime prevalence of IPV has decreased particularly among younger women



LAW 779 on Violence against women and girls

- Passed in 2011
- Includes different forms of violence
- Recognizes need for prevention of VAWG

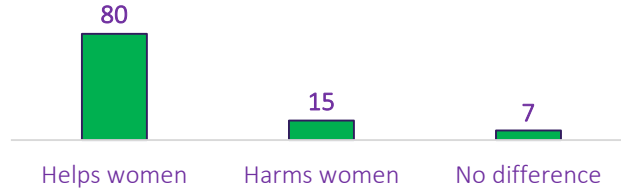


Why did violence decrease in Leon?



Judicial – Law 779 on violence against women and girls

Does Law 779 help or hurt women?



Change in police attitudes

1995

“When I went to the police they told me that they have nothing to do with family fights”

2016

“I knocked on so many doors: a woman police commissioner helped me a lot. I saw a psychologist at the police station and they helped my children as well.”

Change in women’s attitudes and help seeking behavior

1995



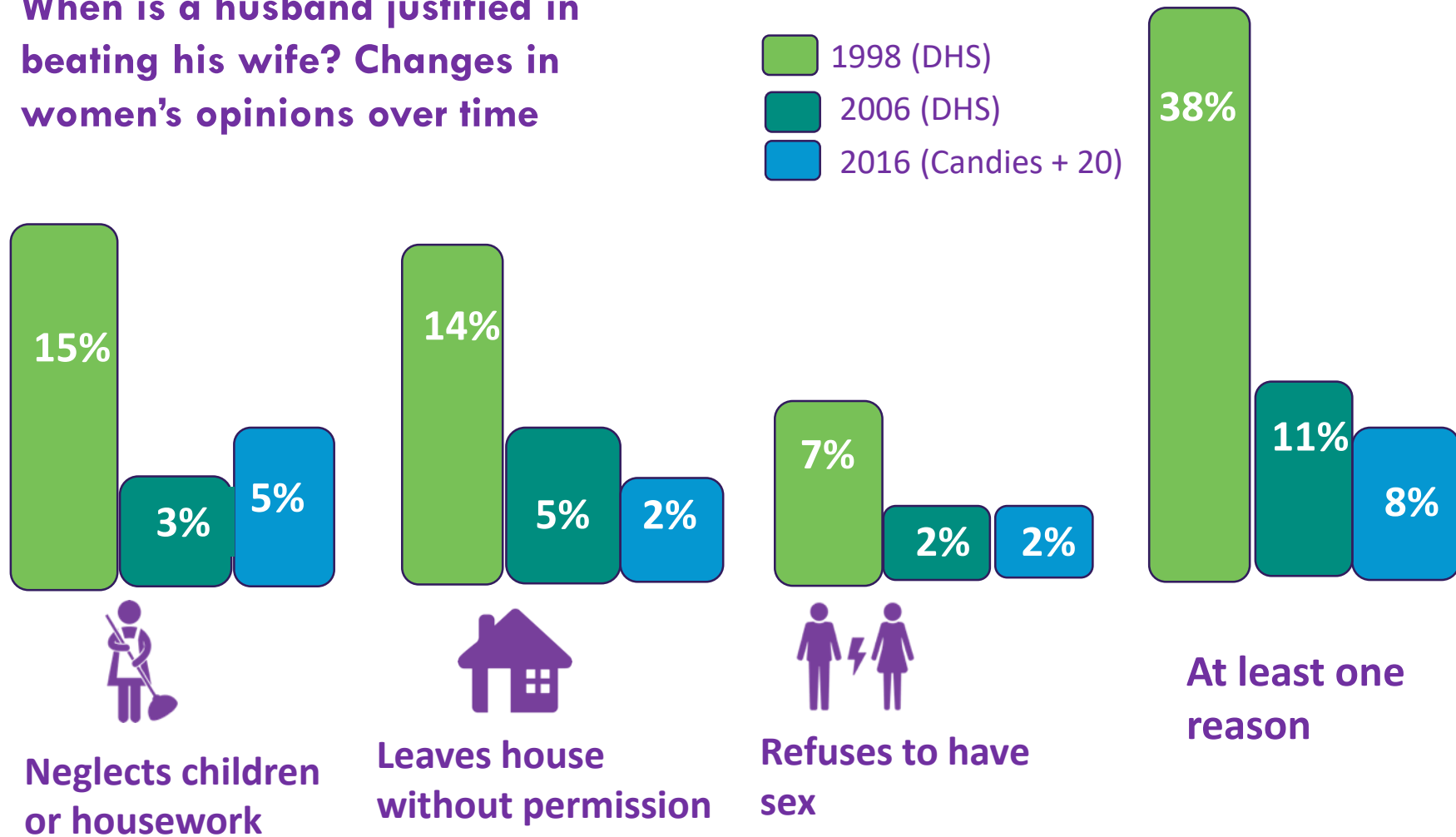
2016



Awareness campaigns and media



When is a husband justified in beating his wife? Changes in women's opinions over time



Before, it was taboo, something you shouldn't talk about. Now people see it as something that shouldn't exist - there is more rejection of violence.

I think that women are more decisive, that they won't just stay in a relationship because it's their husband and they are going to stick with him til the end. That doesn't happen anymore.

Ana Cristina, 2016

**Specialized police stations for
increased access to justice for
women and girls**

**1995 3
2012 34
2017 0**

**Shelters for
survivors**

**1995- 1
2014 – 13
2017- 3**



Violence
against
women and
girls can be
prevented...



AND it
requires
sustained
efforts from
both
governments
and civil
society

