

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

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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

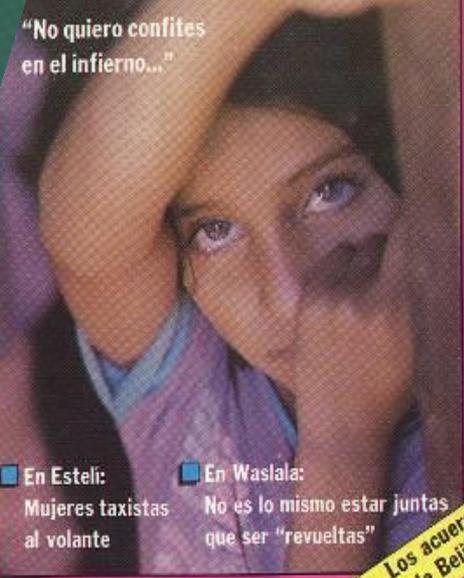
Mary Ellsberg
Rodolfo Peña
Andrés Herrera
Jerker Liljestrand
Anna Winkvist



2ª Edición

Nº 25 Marzo 1996

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



CARTA ABIERTA

a los Diputados y Diputadas de la Asamblea Nacional:

Por este medio, solicito que la Asamblea Nacional priorice la discusión y aprobación, durante el presente periodo legislativo, del Anteproyecto de Reformas al Código Penal para la Prevención y Sanción de la Violencia Intrafamiliar presentado por la Red de Mujeres contra la Violencia. Considero urgente aprobar este proyecto de ley porque:

- ♥ Una de cada dos mujeres ha sido maltratada físicamente alguna vez por el hombre con quien convive.
- ♥ Una de cada cuatro está siendo maltratada actualmente.
- ♥ Son miles de niñas y niños que también son víctimas de violencia a manos de las personas con quienes conviven.
- ♥ Las hijas e hijos de mujeres maltratadas sufren hasta 5 veces más problemas emocionales, de aprendizaje, de comportamiento y de abuso físico que los hijos de mujeres no maltratadas.
- ♥ Actualmente, sólo 2 de cada 10 mujeres maltratadas hacen denuncias a la Policía, lo que significa que hay muchísimos más casos que los que están registrados.
- ♥ Existe consenso entre amplios sectores de la población, y de expertos en materia penal y de salud, sobre la importancia de sancionar la violencia psicológica y no sólo las lesiones físicas.
- ♥ Sólo con las medidas preventivas contempladas en el anteproyecto se podrá fomentar que más víctimas denuncien las agresiones que sufren.
- ♥ La Red de Mujeres contra la Violencia ha recogido más de 1000 casos de violencia contra mujeres, hombres, jóvenes, niñas y niños para apoyar el proyecto de ley que solicito se apruebe.

Texto y explicación de la **Ley N° 230:**

Reformas y Adiciones al Código Penal para prevenir y sancionar la violencia intrafamiliar

Managua, Nicaragua Noviembre 2, 2005



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





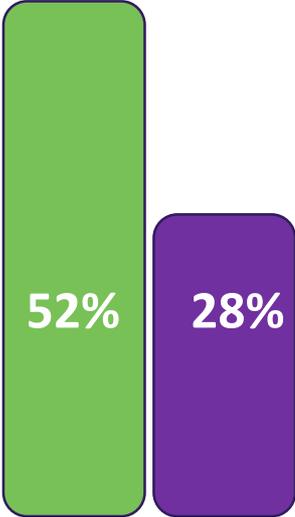
Special measures taken to ensure privacy and confidentiality and to protect safety of respondents and interviewers

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

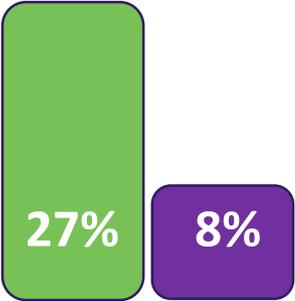


Results

IPV was reduced by nearly half in 20 years



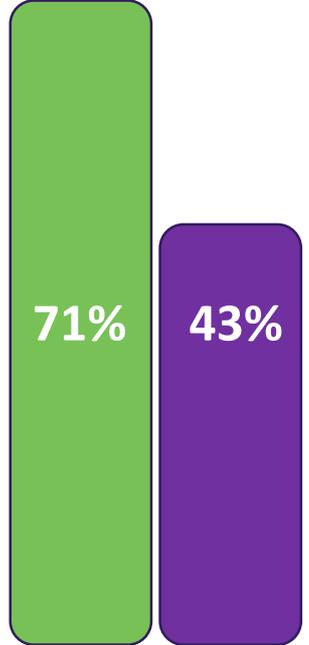
Lifetime physical violence



12 months physical violence



Lifetime sexual violence

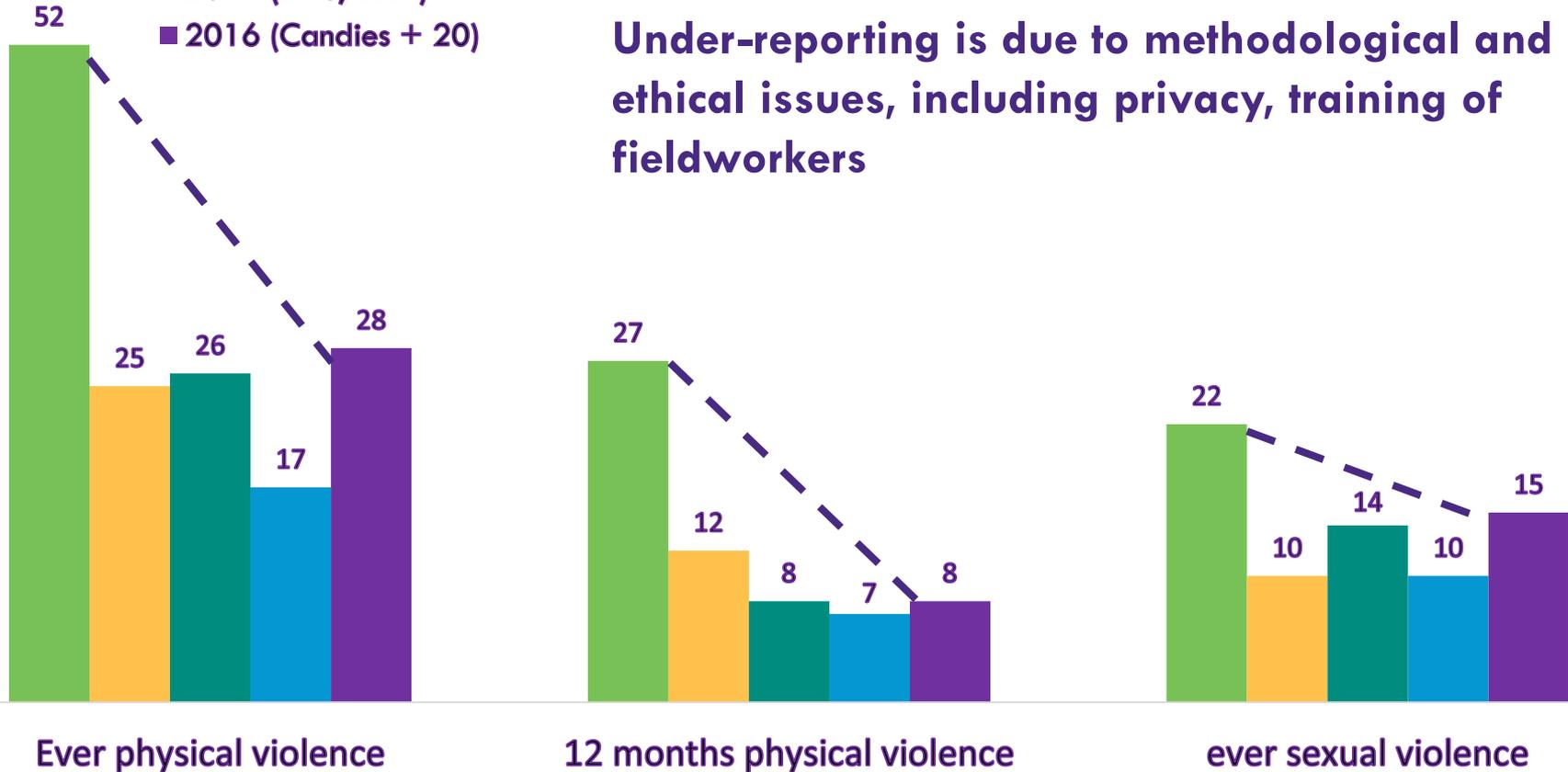


Lifetime emotional violence

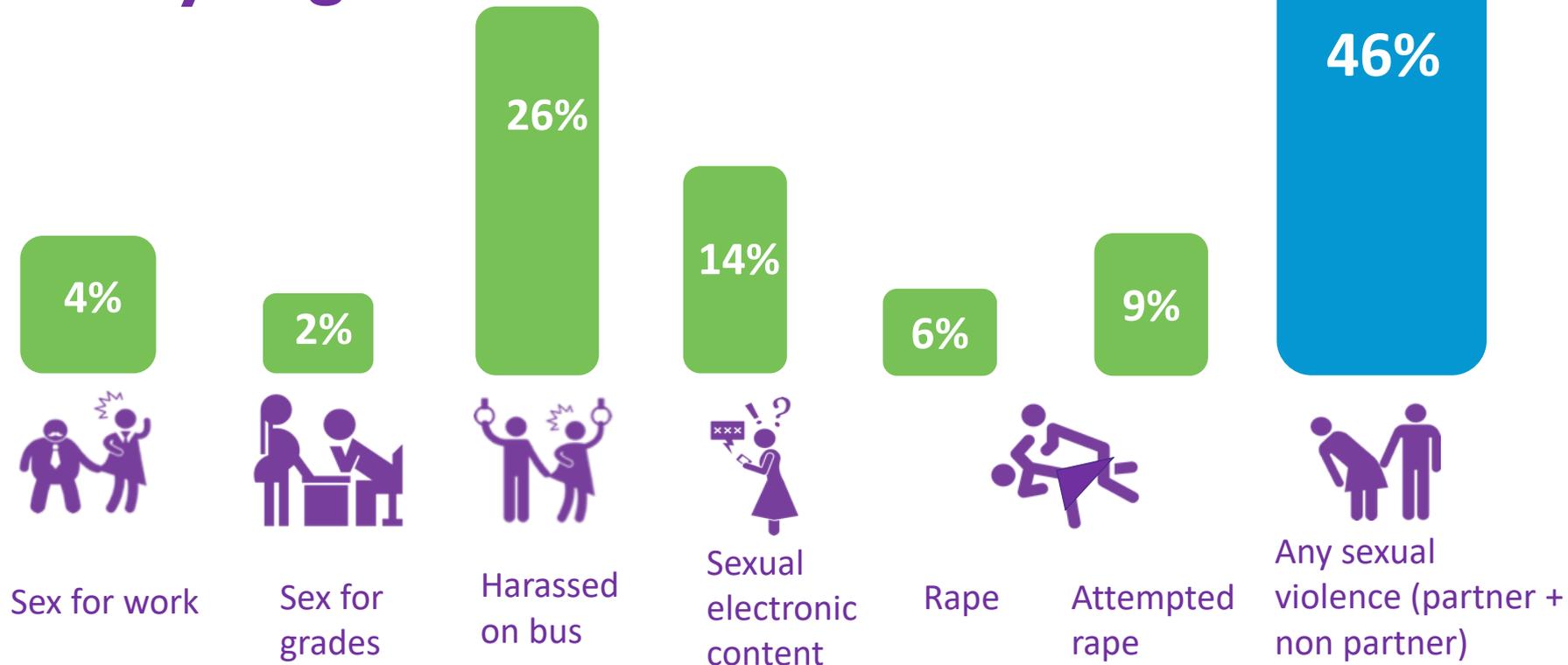
- 1995 (Candies in Hell)
- 1998 (DHS, Leon)
- 2006 (DHS, Leon)
- 2011 (DHS, Leon)
- 2016 (Candies + 20)

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

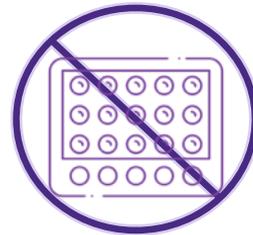


Ever had abortion
OR 2.5



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?



>30 years old

A white icon of a woman's head and shoulders on a green background.

Disabled

A white icon of a person in a wheelchair on a green background.

Urban residence

A white icon of a city skyline with a sun, trees, and buildings on a green background.

Early marriage

A white icon of a man and a woman on a green background.

Not Married

A white icon of a couple holding hands under a heart on a green background.

Partner beaten as a child

A white icon of a person being hit by another person on a teal background.

partner uses alcohol

A white icon of a beer bottle on a teal background.

Sexual abuse in childhood

A white icon of a person looking through a telescope on a blue background.

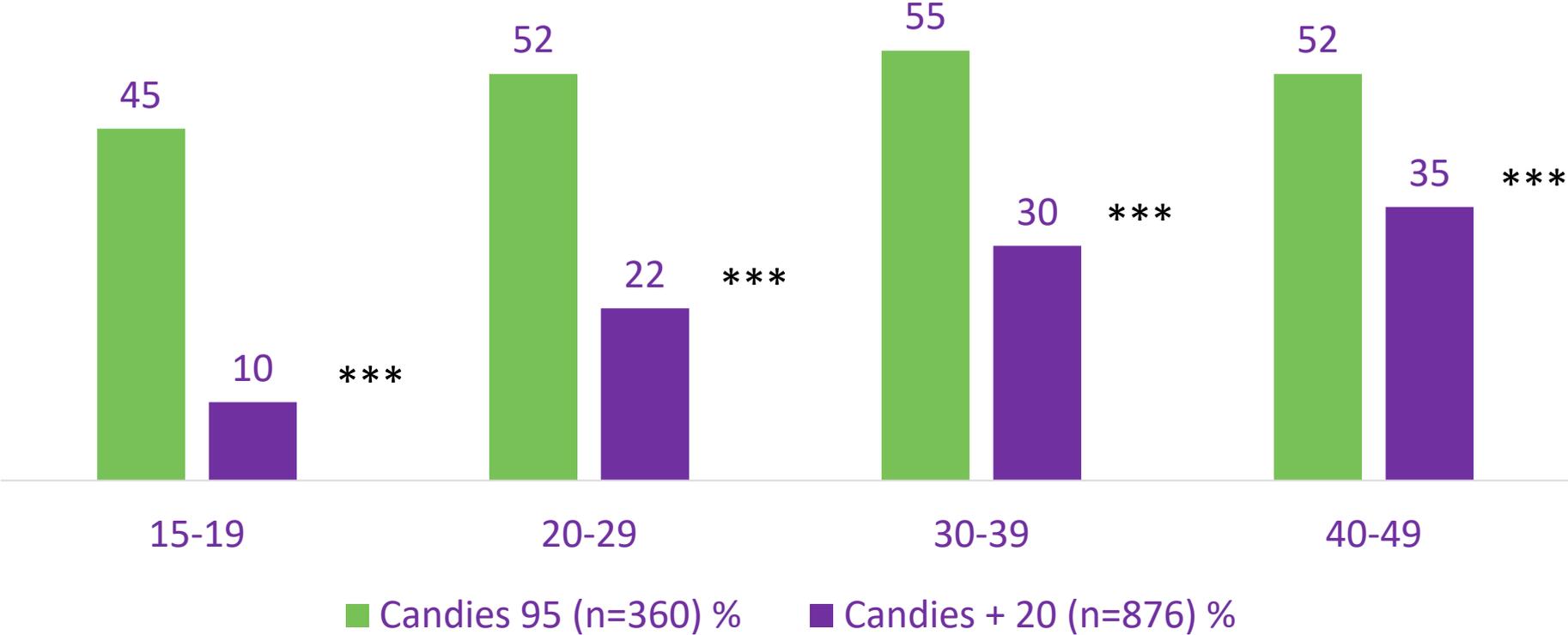
2 X

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



Foto: Mathieu-Etienne Gagnon/Oxfam

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



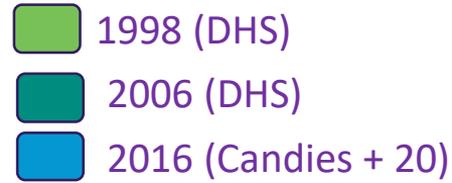
2016



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

