



**Police-Public Partnership**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVEY**

**IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**Yerevan**

**2011**

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## Introduction

Domestic violence is one of the most pressing problems in the Republic of Armenia (RA), and the attention towards that issue has significantly increased especially over the past decades. Undoubtedly the issue has always existed in our society (as well as in any other one), but in the Soviet Union times there were very effective legal leverages deterring the majority of the society from committing violent acts, consequently families tried to at any cost conceal all such incidents.

The collapse of the value system existing in the Soviet society, which occurred after the break-up of the Soviet Union, brought about an anomie<sup>1</sup> and a sharp increase in the dynamics of violent crimes. Furthermore, societal contradictions and hardships contributed to a spread of illegal and immoral, including violent, behaviour within a large portion of the society. Numerous researches into domestic violence have been conducted over the past decade and encompassed analyses of the Armenian legislative framework and public opinion polls<sup>2</sup>. Yet, neither of the mentioned researches has addressed specifically the public-police relations with the view of domestic violence prevention. The purpose of the survey conducted by the *Proactive Society* Human Rights NGO is to identify the extent of domestic violence victims' trust in the police and the response they receive from the police.

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<sup>1</sup> Anomie is a condition of a society, when, in the aftermath of crises of political, economic and social institutions, deteriorate societal values and contradictions come about between capacities of people and new value system proclaimed within the society.

<sup>2</sup> There is no pride in silence: Countering Violence in the Family in Armenia, Amnesty International 2008; Nationwide Survey on Domestic Violence against Women in Armenia, 2008-2009, UNFPA Project on Combating Gender Based Violence in South Caucasus, Yerevan 2010; Nationwide Survey on Domestic Violence and Abuse of Women in Armenia, Women's Rights Center, Yerevan, 2007, Assessment of the Republic of Armenia National Legislation from Gender-Based Violence Perspective, UNFPA Project on Combating Gender Based Violence in South Caucasus, Yerevan 2009.

Unfortunately, no consolidated statistics on domestic violence is held in Armenia to enable an analysis of the situation with domestic violence across decades, its tendencies, causes and contributing factors, therefore alternative sources of information for the present analysis were mainly surveys held both among general population and only women, evaluations provided by the Police and other law enforcement agencies, NGOs, scholars, data<sup>3</sup> supplied by NGOs etc.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.genderbasedviolence.am](http://www.genderbasedviolence.am), There is no pride in silence. Countering Violence in the Family in Armenia, Amnesty International, 2008, Nationwide Survey on Domestic Violence against Women in Armenia 2008-2009, UNFPA Project on Combating Gender Based Violence in South Caucasus, Yerevan 2010, Nationwide Survey on Domestic Violence and Abuse of Women in Armenia, Women's Rights Center, Yerevan, 2007, Assessment of the Republic of Armenia National Legislation from Gender-Based Violence Perspective UNFPA Project on Combating Gender Based Violence in South Caucasus, Yerevan 2009.

# **PART 1. CURRENT SITUATION WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA. LEGAL ISSUES.**

A thorough evaluation of the existing situation is the primary precondition for an effective combat against any illegal phenomena as well as for a control over them and prevention of future cases. This precondition is equally applicable in case of domestic violence.

One of the biggest challenges is to give a definition of the ‘domestic violence’ phenomenon and outline its boundaries. RA legislation does not provide for any characteristic of ‘domestic violence’ as such.

There exists a variety of characteristics of domestic violence – it is viewed as a behaviour within a family whereby one person exercises or maintains influence or control over another family member. Domestic violence can be committed when the parties are in de facto or de jure matrimony or they are divorced, engaged or even when they are only dating. Men or women, young, elderly or children, the badly-off or the very well-off, people without education or with university education can equally fall victim to domestic violence.

The following distinction is made in terms of the parties exercising domestic violence:

1. Violence against children exercised by parents or adult family members,
2. Violence against a partner or a spouse (both wife and husband),
3. Violence exercised by a partner or parents-in-law,
4. Violence exercised by offspring against parents,
5. Violence exercised by one of the siblings against another.

The following distinction is made in terms of forms of domestic violence:

- a. physical violence (battery, physical torture, harming health, pushing, depriving of liberty, slapping etc.)
- b. psychological violence (threats, intimidation, psychological humiliation etc.)
- c. sexual violence (obtainment or demand of unwanted sexual activity etc.)
- d. economic violence (strict control of financial resources of a family member, deprivation of food, clothes etc.)
- e. social violence (ban or strict control of contacts with relatives or friends, ban on work etc.)

The most reported form of domestic violence is physical, moreover, members of the society predominately do not realize that unwholesome jealousy, ban on or strict control of contacts with relatives or friends, strict control of economic resources are also manifestations of domestic violence. Particularly, the findings of the present public opinion poll conducted by the *Proactive Society* NGO for the OSCE Office in Yerevan show that Armenian respondents believe that battery and infliction of bodily injuries are forms of domestic violence, while only 3.3% of the respondents perceive as such the strict control of financial resources of an adult family member and 18.4% – the strict control of the freedom of movement of an adult family member.

It is worth noting that the Armenian legislation is by no means an ideal ground for regulating this field. Specifically, the interests of the victims of domestic violence are protected under the Criminal, Criminal Procedures, Civil, Administrative Violations and Family Codes of the Republic of Armenia.

The role of the Criminal Code is particularly important in the respect. The Armenian legislative field provides for liability under the RA Criminal Code for murder, causing death by negligence, causing somebody to commit suicide, abetment of

suicide<sup>4</sup>, wilful infliction of high, medium or minor gravity damage to the health of a person, infliction by negligence of high or medium gravity damage to the health of a person, battery, torture, abduction of a person or illegal deprivation of freedom, threat to inflict a heavy damage to one's health or to wilfully destroy property, rape, violent sexual actions, forced sexual actions, sexual acts with a person under 16, lecherous acts etc. Although the existence of these norms in the RA Criminal Code makes it possible to call domestic violence perpetrators to liability, they are not applicable to all forms of domestic violence, even physical violence. Specifically, the RA Criminal Code does not provide for a liability for domestic violence in the form of compelling to make an abortion, abduction of a person using the victim's helplessness etc. Further, the concepts stipulated in the active Criminal Code are oftentimes ambiguous and their interpretations have a doctrinal nature, which cannot have a binding force. For example, in the norm providing for a liability for 'Causing somebody to commit a suicide' (Article 110) the Code stipulates 'Causing somebody to commit a suicide or to make an attempt of a suicide by indirect wilfulness or by negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one's dignity'. The concepts of 'cruel treatment' and 'regular humiliation of dignity' used in the definition of that type of crime need clarification and official interpretation, or they render the process of protection of person's rights vulnerable. Another example is the provision in Article 105 of the RA Criminal Code which stipulates a punishment for a murder committed in the state of strong insanity, which specifies 'the murder committed in the state of sudden insanity caused by the violence, mockery, heavy insults or other illegal, immoral actions (inaction) of the victim as well as in the state of a sudden affect arising from a long-term psychologically depressive situation caused by regular illegal and immoral

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<sup>4</sup> Causing somebody to commit a suicide means making a person to commit or attempt a suicide through threats, cruel attitude or personal humiliations, while abetment of suicide means establishing in a person a determination to commit a suicide through encouragement, deceit or other means, if, as a result of such acts, the person committed or attempted a suicide.

behaviour of the victim'. That formulation contains certain notions, which are either ambiguous and need further interpretation or have an evaluative nature. For instance, the notion of 'heavy insult' is subject to evaluation – while the concept of 'insult' is more or less understandable, the determination of the insult to be 'heavy' in the absence of any precise criteria is totally at the discretion of the given law-enforcement officer. The concept of 'violence' has no legal definition either, the Criminal Law doctrine specifies that the legislators imply physical, sexual or psychological violence, while in reality violence can have also economic nature, in which case the application of the given norm becomes problematic.

Calling a domestic violence perpetrator to liability creates a more serious situation when the violator applies psychological or economic violence rather than physical or sexual. The RA Criminal Laws envisage liability for a murder or a threat to inflict heavy damage to one's health or to destroy property. Besides, the issue is to some extent regulated through the elements of hooliganism in case the course of an internal domestic violence escalates into a violation of public order and a nuisance for neighbours. It should be mentioned, however, that according to a ruling of the RA Court of Cassation, which has become a case law, to qualify as a case of hooliganism an act should be driven by hooliganism motives, whereas domestic violence cases normally have other motives such as household issues, self-affirmation or similar ones.

In the absence of elements of hooliganism, such situations are regulated under Article 180 of the RA Administrative Violations Code, which provides for issuance of warning or a fine in the amount of 20-30 minimal salaries in case of disturbing night-time silence (22:00-6:00 hours). First of all, that provision does not provide ample grounds for regulation, if, say, the case occurred in the period between 06:01 and 21:59 hours. Besides, it is not clear, what further measures envisage the Laws in case such behaviour becomes recurrent.



Moreover, the RA Laws do not provide for a criminal or administrative liability and consequently for the means of effective influence or victim protection in the cases, when domestic violence regularly occurs inside a family, but does not exceed internal boundaries to escalate into hooliganism.

Psychological violence such as insult or slander are regulated under civil legislation, i.e. in such cases a victim of domestic violence should be able to protect his/her own rights individually. However, here appears another problem related to evidence gathering and presenting in the court. More often than not, domestic violence is committed without any witnesses, which renders it almost impossible for a victim to protect his/her own rights.

Economic violence is also regulated under the civil and family legislation, whereby the mission of the protection of victim's infringed rights is placed on the victim himself. Probably the main exceptions are Articles 173 and 174 of the RA Criminal Code. Article 173 of the RA Criminal Code provides for a punishment in case of parent's wilful failure to support for more than 3 months his/her child or an offspring who reached 18 years and, by a court ruling, is incapable of labour, and Article 174 in case of offspring's wilful failure to support for more than 3 months a parent who, by a court ruling, is incapable of labour or needs financial support. In both cases the punishment is a fine in the amount of 100 to 200 minimal salaries. Despite being stipulated in the RA criminal legislation, these norms are in fact not applied effectively, one of the reasons being the use in the definitions of the notion of 'wilful', which has an evaluative nature and leaves room for abuse.

Apart from shortcomings in the substantive laws, in the RA Criminal and Criminal Procedures Code there is a number of formulations, which hamper effective prevention and decrease of the latency of domestic violence. This specifically refers to the procedure for initiating a criminal case and exempting from criminal liability. Article 183 of the RA Criminal Procedures Code stipulates a list of crimes for which

a criminal case can be initiated solely based on the victim's complaint and shall be terminated in the event the victim reaches reconciliation with the suspect, the accused or the defendant. Among such crimes are the main elements of crime of the infliction of light damage to one's health, battery, the main elements of crime of torture, threat to murder, to inflict a heavy damage to one's health or to destroy property. At the same time, Article 73 of the RA Criminal Code stipulates that a person who committed a not grave crime can be exempted from criminal liability, if he/she reconciles with the victim, mitigates or compensates the inflicted damage in some other way.

The findings of the public opinion poll, conducted upon the commission of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, show that the main reason why domestic violence victims (41.6%) do not report to law-enforcement agencies is to spare a relative (even a violent one) from a risk of facing a criminal liability. It turns out that, instead of protecting a domestic violence victim, the norms established by the RA legislation do the opposite, i.e. contribute to the latency of the committed offence (i.e. to keeping it undisclosed and unreported) and to the persistence of the victim's abuses. Whereas, broadening the scope of private complaints, i.e. the scope of offences, will make it possible to protect the rights of the victims of domestic violence in the most effective manner.

Besides, under the active Code of Criminal Procedures, when determining the scope of the offences, for which criminal cases are initiated solely based on the victim's complaint, the legislators put limitations in some of the cases, whereby victims may express their will only given specific elements of crime. For instance, under Article 183 of the RA Criminal Procedures Code, in the event a harm of medium gravity has been inflicted to a woman's health, the victim at her will can terminate the further course of the case before the court goes to a consultation room to make a ruling. But the Laws deprive the woman of that opportunity if at the moment of the violence she was pregnant or underage.

A domestic violence victim who, despite the violence against her, does not want to see her relative as a defendant, but is unaware of the legal nuances establishing such differentiation, prefers to refrain altogether from reporting to law enforcers.

A similar situation appears also with the application of Article 73 of the RA Criminal Code, first of all because by specifying that only perpetrators of not grave crimes can be exempted from criminal liability, if they reconcile with the victims, mitigate or compensate the inflicted damages in some other way, the lawmakers significantly limit the scope of the Article. Also, by the phrase in Article 73 that ‘a person can be exempted from criminal liability’ the right to make an arbitrary decision is granted to the court, rather than victims.

The cases where the victims or violators are minors, incapables or people with mental disorders also need to be regulated, since they are not adequately regulated by legislation or judicial practices. In case the victim is a minor, his/her interests naturally should be represented by a legal representative, but this does not always make it possible to express the minor’s viewpoint. A system should be developed for such situations, enabling a victim of domestic violence to have a say in determining violators’ destiny to possibly biggest extent.

In this regards it is crucial to amend the provision obliging medical doctors to immediately report to the police about every patient with traces of violence. Although that mechanism is effective for prevention of violence, it has also adverse results, when a victim of violence with health problems prefers not to seek medical assistance to spare his/her relative, i.e. the violence perpetrator, from law enforcement. A similar case occurred with O.:

***When O., 55, came to know that her 30 years old son was a drug abuser, she tried to start a conversation to discourage him from that fatal route. The conversation with the son took place when he was under drug intoxication and ended up with a violent battery of the mother, and in the aftermath she needed medical assistance.***

*Since O. knew very well that if she applied to a hospital the police would be informed about the case, she preferred to stay without any medical aid.*

Another important aspect for prevention of domestic violence is to stipulate in the RA Laws leverages for ensuring security and sheltering of domestic violence victims. According to the practices established in Armenia as a direct result of the inadequate legal regulation, when people subjected to domestic violence (mainly women) leave their homes they get refuge in the shelters provided by NGOs dealing with the protection of women's rights. According to the 2009 data of the Women's Rights Center NGO, 42 beneficiaries – 15 women and 27 children – found shelter in the Crisis Centre. As a matter of fact, not only did these people fall victim to violence, they were forced to abandon their homes and live in hardship, while the perpetrators could continue thriving without facing any unpleasant consequence or attempting to rectify the situation. In Germany and Austria in such circumstances domestic violence perpetrators are issued 'go orders', and that practice is the most pertinent for adoption by the RA Laws, too. Under that order the perpetrator is obliged to temporarily leave the family house, even if he/she is its rightful owner, while the victim can continue his regular life pending a settlement of the issue. During the period when the perpetrator is required to stay away from home, an obligation might be put on him/her to attend psychological consultation primarily to learn how to check aggression. Besides, the domestic violence perpetrator can be restricted not to approach the victim closer than certain distance. Stipulation of similar legal provisions can ensure the safety of victims as well as increase the effectiveness of law-enforcement activities, especially considering that today it is not possible to ensure personal safety of domestic violence victims through law-enforcement agencies.

The law-enforcement agencies, especially the police have the key role in prevention of domestic violence. Currently within the RA Police system the prevention of domestic violence is mainly a duty of neighbourhood inspectors of the Public Order

Management Department as well as the Juvenile Delinquency Department and other officers involved crime prevention, while the Investigative Department handles the criminal cases which are already initiated.

However, the first issue that arises immediately when discussing the police's role in the prevention of domestic violence is the number and skills of police officers involved in that function. According to one of the interviewed experts, today in the entire RA territory there are 543 neighbourhood police officers involved in public order management, and only 405 of them are neighbourhood inspectors. It is estimated that two police officers cover 10.000 people, while domestic violence is only one of their numerous functions such as identification of illegal arms and armament, narcotic drugs, stolen vehicles etc. Also, taking into consideration that the population of Armenia is not evenly distributed and in some areas – especially in mountainous provinces – 10.000 people may live in villages situated at several kilometres' distance from each other, the available resources naturally cannot be sufficient. At the same time, in such circumstances it is not possible to ensure neighbourhood inspectors' quick response, since for the lack of technical resources they cannot quickly arrive in the scene to prevent an offence.

Apart from the scarcity of police officers, a significant problem comes up with their professional skills. The below findings of the public opinion poll conducted by the *Proactive Society* Human Rights NGO as commissioned by the OSCE Office in Yerevan show that among the reasons for the reluctance of domestic violence victims to apply to the law-enforcement bodies are the lack of psychological skills of officers (18.4%) and lack of female police officers directly working with the victims (5.3%). Further, where in the city of Yerevan it is possible to assign a female police officer to contact and work with a victim of domestic violence, in the provinces it is mostly not feasible, due to the lack of female police officers.

As for psychological skills of the police officers working with domestic violence victims, although they are graduates of the RA Police Academy, where Psychology

is one of the curricular courses, the course fails to shape the required hands-on skills to competently work with victims of crimes including domestic violence victims. It is necessary to emphasize the development of not only theoretical, but also practical psychological skills of police officers to facilitate their work with various categories of domestic violence victims such as adolescents, women, elderly, mentally disabled and others. Besides, there need to be relevant instructions, which would guideline police officers' relations with victims of various forms of domestic violence. For instance, as psychological researches show, in the first phase of posttraumatic syndrome of rape victims (which may last from several days to several weeks) they try to deny the fact of the offence or are unable to describe it adequately. In such circumstances police officers can obtain corroborative information only applying proper psychological skills.

Besides, police officers should be able to properly record and process the reports on domestic violence. The below findings of the public opinion poll commissioned by the OSCE Office in Yerevan show that according 15.3% of the respondents one of the reasons for mistrusting the law-enforcement services and for reluctance to seek their assistance is that officers recommended them to reconcile with the perpetrator in order to keep the family.

*Nurse K. got married at the age of 18 with V. and had a daughter. Shortly after the marriage V. started to use drugs and lost his job, after that he started to batter his wife routinely. After yet another argument, when the wife went to her hospital duty, V. followed her, started an argument at her workplace and during the row hung her from a six-floor balcony. K. could escape only with the help of her colleagues.*

*The case was reported to the police, but they urged K. to reconcile with the husband not to deprive their daughter of the father. After that case, instead of returning home, K. took her daughter and left Armenia.*

One of the main shortages impeding prevention of domestic violence is the absence of a precise and consolidated statistics, which could have allowed analyses of the offences in terms of overall situation, structural changes, criminological characteristics of victims and offenders. The RA Police maintains statistics, but it refers only to criminal cases, whereas domestic violence is not limited to crimes alone.

The Armenian law enforcement bodies, including the Police, do not have hot-lines to enable domestic violence victims to quickly access and report about the incident and, upon necessity, receive guidance for a proper behaviour with the violator before the arrival of the police, while it should be mentioned that such guidance is extremely important. It would be advisable for the Police to develop guidelines on prevention of victimization to help domestic violence victims minimize the harm of conflicts. The guidance could include, for instance, issues like recommended whereabouts of the victims during a domestic violence incident (e.g. to avoid kitchens and cellars, since there may be sharp objects, and the violator can impulsively use them against the victim), another recommendation might be to collect documents in a separate package in case a necessity to promptly leave the apartment to avoid a possible domestic violence.

It is important for the Police to establish a close co-operation with schools and NGOs providing support to domestic violence victims. There should be comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns to inform the population – i.e. also potential domestic violence victims – about domestic violence forms, perils and prevention methods. A person subjected to domestic violence should be aware that:

- a. if physical violence has occurred once, the frequency and cruelty of the following incidents usually increase,
- b. violence and insults are usually followed by apologies and promises to change, which, however, are very short-lasting,
- c. after severing relationship, the level of threat for the victim escalates.

## **Recommendations**

Summarising the above-mentioned, we deem it important to:

1. Conduct regular campaigns for raising public awareness of the essence and various forms of domestic violence as well as for informing about the organizations, to which victims of domestic violence may apply and about relevant application procedure.
2. Amend the RA Laws pertaining to the norms establishing a liability for domestic violence, revise ambiguous legal provisions and provisions establishing liability for all forms of domestic violence, establish mechanisms for quick response to domestic violence.
3. Support building the civil society and strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations to make them more trustworthy for domestic violence victims and assist the endeavours of non-governmental structures in prevention of domestic violence.
4. Develop the institute of social workers, which, through directly addressing and solving the problems of the most vulnerable groups of population, help prevention of domestic violence.
5. Establish a close co-operation between social workers and police officers to jointly undertake activities for elimination of the factors contributing to domestic violence.
6. Increase the number of female officers involved in responding to and preventing domestic violence, especially ensuring their representation in the provincial police departments.
7. Train police officers to establish and develop specialized psychological skills to competently communicate with domestic violence victims, render first psychological aid and provide required information.
8. Disseminate among the population expert information on how to behave in case of domestic violence and prevent it, compiled by professionals of the field (police officers, criminologists etc.).



## **PART 2. PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

### **PART 2.1. METHODOLOGY**

#### **Public Opinion Poll**

Public opinion polls aimed at assessing the prevalence of domestic violence among the population and findings thereof are a valuable source of data for comparing with official statistics on domestic violence.

The methodology of the public opinion poll in the Republic of Armenia, specifically of the pilot poll, the actual poll, obtainment of data, computerization and processing the data, analysis of the findings, representation of the findings in charts and tables, was developed in close co-operation with the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

- The following methodological approaches were adopted as a result of the discussions.
- A direct opinion poll was conducted among 2695 residents of four Armenian provinces and the city of Yerevan. As it was agreed, the opinion poll covered residents of two towns and two villages of each province and all districts of Yerevan.
- The survey methodology was meticulously elaborated to ensure the utmost effectiveness of both the survey and interpretation of the survey findings.

During the public opinion poll the method of direct interviews was applied using a questionnaire preliminarily developed for the poll in association with the OSCE Office in Yerevan. 2695 residents of Armenia were involved in the opinion poll of the age groups above 14.

The main objectives of the opinion poll were to:

- evaluate the prevalence of domestic violence and the actual scale of the victimized population,
- identify patterns of domestic violence,
- identify public perception of the effectiveness of the police work in prevention of domestic violence,
- identify the triggering factors for domestic violence among the population,
- specify possible urgent changes needed in various fields of public life – including public entities – for prevention of domestic violence.

All districts of Yerevan and four provinces of Armenia were involved in the opinion poll. Considering the variations in the population density in Yerevan and in the provinces, the sizes of the survey samples were not equal. The break-down of the overall number of respondents among the provinces is in Table 1:

***Table 1. Break-down of the respondents among the provinces of Armenia***

	<b>Province</b>	<b>Population number</b>	<b>Estimated size of the opinion poll sample</b>	<b>Actual number of the respondents</b>
1	Aragatsotn	141 000	212	316
2	Armavir	283 000	320	361
3	Lori	281 800	300	353
4	Shirak	281 100	308	324
5	Yerevan	1 103 500	1250	1341
	Total	2090400	2390	2695

The survey covered two towns and two villages in each of the selected provinces. Distribution of the respondents per towns and villages of the provinces is as follows:

*Table 2. Distribution of the respondents across towns and villages of Armenian provinces*

	<b>Province</b>	<b>Town</b>			<b>Village</b>		
1	Aragatsotn	Ashtarak	Talin	211	Tsaghkahovit	Kosh	105
2	Armavir	Echmiadzin	Armavir	250	Tairov	Parakar	111
3	Lori	Vanadzor	Stepanavan	223	Gyulagarak	Kurtan	131
4	Shirak	Artik	Gyumri	210	Ashtsk	Amasia	114
	<b>Total</b>			<b>894</b>			<b>461</b>

*Table 3. Distribution of the respondents across districts of Yerevan*

	<b>District</b>	<b>Population Number</b>	<b>Actual Number of Respondents</b>
1	Achapnyak	106 700	112
2	Arabkir	50 118	111
3	Avan	132 500	103
4	Charbakh	40 600	101
5	Erebuni	119 200	116
6	Kentron	130 800	138
7	Malatia-Sebastia	142 400	115
8	Nork Marash	11 970	98
9	Nor Nork	141 900	130
10	Noubarashen	9 200	95
11	Shengavit	140 400	123
12	Zeitun	77 700	99
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1 103 500</b>	<b>1341</b>

To ensure the reliability and validity of the opinion poll, trainings were held for the interviewers (6 staffers and 8 volunteers) to explain the objectives of the opinion poll, principles and methods of polling and the significance of interview anonymity.

Besides, to ensure a successful accomplishment of the survey the following activities were undertaken:

1. The interviewers were given preliminary instructions to precisely clarify the implication of each of the questions they were to ask, as well as the order of filling the questionnaires in, the procedure of interviews. Prior to the actual opinion poll, a pilot opinion poll had been held, and the problems identified during the pilot phase were later taken into consideration for amending the questionnaire and further course of the poll.
2. During the opinion poll, the project manager would regularly visit the interview sites to check on the reliability of the interviewers' work.
3. After taking the poll in each of the provinces challenges specific for the given province were identified and discussed at the NGO office to possibly avoid them in the later phases of the poll and to eliminate potential obstacles.

### **General Description of the Respondents**

2695 persons were interviewed during the public opinion poll.

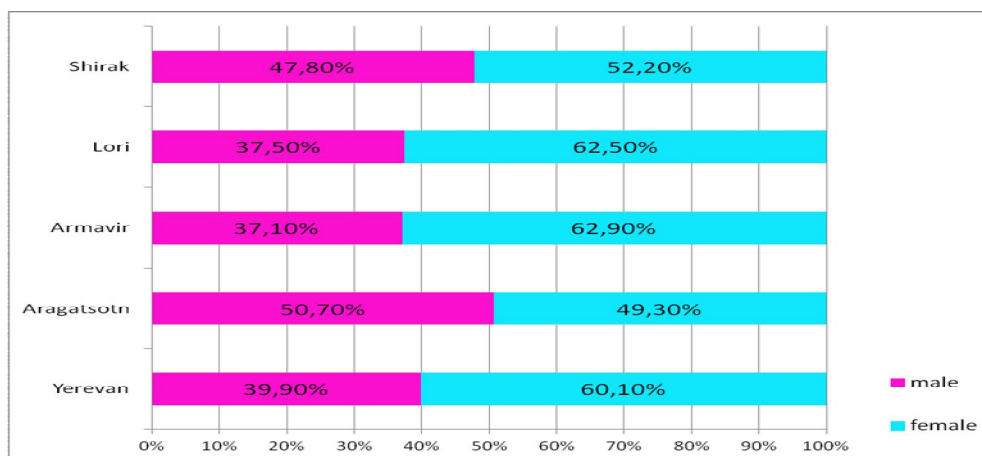
The obtained data were classified in the following categories:

- gender
- age
- educational background
- family status
- occupation
- connections with the Police
- urban/rural resident

## Gender

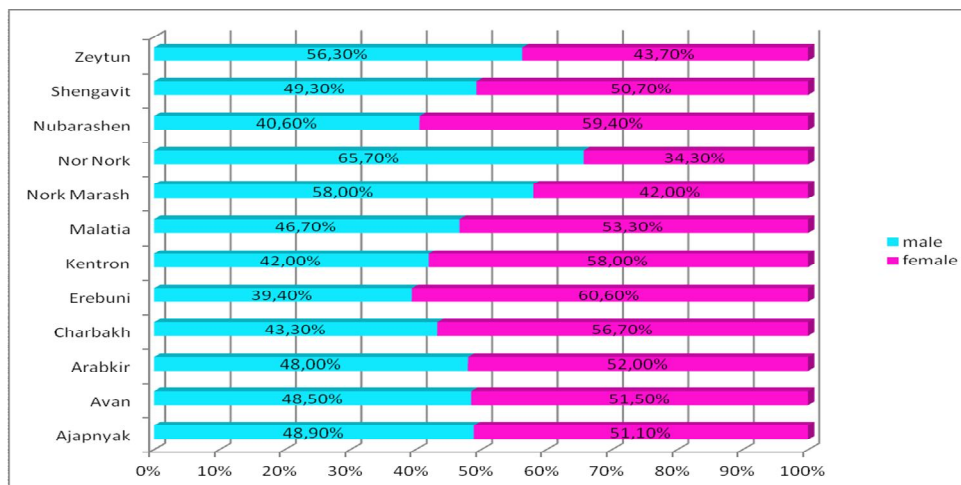
Evaluation of the results of the public opinion poll taken for identification of domestic violence prevalence showed that a random selection resulted in 41.7% of male and 58.3% of female respondents. The overall male-female ratio across the provinces was almost identical, except for Aragatsotn province, where interviewed females outnumbered males.

*Chart 1. Gender-based distribution of the respondents among the provinces.*



In the districts of Yerevan, however, the female respondents outnumbered the male respondents, only among Zeitun, Nor Nork and Nork Marash respondents there were more males than females.

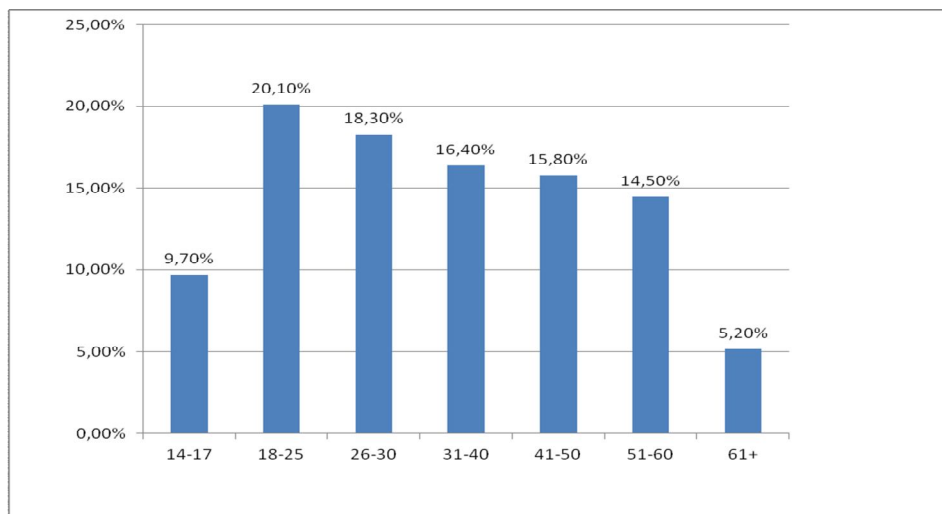
**Chart 2. Gender-based distribution of the respondents among the Yerevan districts.**



## Age

The respondents' average age was 41, the youngest of them was 14 years of age and the oldest – 79.

**Chart 3. Distribution of the respondents by age.**



The analysis of the respondents' age distribution showed that both in Yerevan and provinces the largest proportion of respondents in terms of age was the age group of 18-30, whereas the smallest proportion was that of above-61 age group.

**Table 4. Distribution of the respondents by age among the provinces**

Province	Age Group						
	14-17	18 -25	26-30	31 - 40	41 - 50	51-60	61+
Yerevan	10.3%	21%	20.1%	17.4%	14.6%	12.2%	4.4%
Aragatsotn	11%	20.7%	16.1%	13.8%	16.1%	15.4%	5.9%
Armavir	5.2%	25.3%	15.4%	16.9%	15.5%	15.5%	6.2%
Lori	9.5%	16.7%	14.6%	18.1%	16.2%	17.2%	7.7%
Shirak	10.9%	19.7%	21.1%	14%	17.6%	13.2%	4.5%

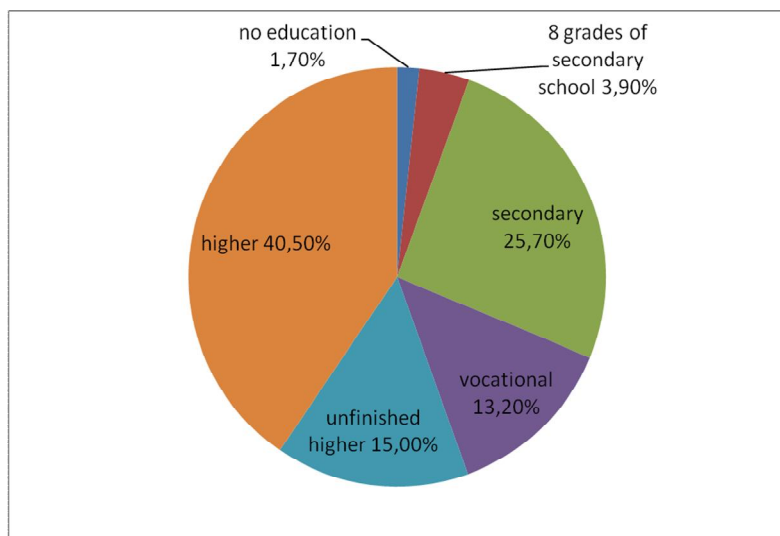
**Table 5. Distribution of the respondents by age among the Yerevan districts**

District	Age Group						
	14-17	18 -25	26-30	31 - 40	41 - 50	51 - 60	61+
Achapnyak	11.1%	19.8%	25.6%	16.7%	10.1%	11.3%	5.4%
Avan	9.7%	20.7%	16.7%	18.1%	15.4%	15.4%	4%
Arabkir	11%	21%	18.8%	15%	15.8%	13.4%	5%
Charbakh	10.4%	26.1%	19.4%	14.4%	13.1%	12.3%	4.3%
Erebuni	9.8%	23%	20.6%	16.9%	12.4%	11.7%	5.6%
Kentron	10.6%	17.2%	18.1%	18.8%	14.3%	15.3%	5.7%
Malatia-Sebastia	9.9%	17.7%	19.9%	17.8%	16.8%	12.9%	5%
Nork Marash	12.9%	20.6%	21.4%	11.6%	17.8%	7.8%	4.9%
Nor Nork	12.4%	21.4%	19.6%	13.9%	18.6%	9.7%	4.4%
Noubarashen	9.7%	20.6%	21.8%	14.7%	17.4%	11.7%	4.1%
Shengavit	10.9%	23.1%	18.9%	20.9%	12.3%	10.4%	3.5%
Zeitun	10.5%	20.7%	21.5%	18.5%	10.5%	12.5%	5.8%

## Educational Background

The analysis of the respondents' educational background showed that the majority of them (40.5%) had a higher education.

**Chart 4. Distribution of the respondents by educational background.**



The majority of the respondents in all the provinces of Armenia had higher education. As for the respondents in the administrative districts of Yerevan, the majority of the poll sample had higher education in all the districts, but Shengavit and Charbakh, where the majority of the surveyed had secondary school education.



**Table 6. Distribution of the respondents by educational background among the provinces**

Province	Education					
	Non	8 grades of secondary school	Secondary	Secondary vocational	Unfinished higher	Higher
Yerevan	1.6%	2.3%	22.9%	14%	18.1%	41.1%
Aragatsotn	1.3%	8.7%	30.8%	15.4%	6%	37.8%
Armavir	2.8%	3.5%	24%	11.2%	14%	44.5%
Lori	4.9%	7.7%	27.5%	9.8%	14.6%	35.5%
Shirak	2.2%	1.5%	27.8%	13.3%	14.1%	41.4%

**Table 7. Distribution of the respondents by educational background among the districts of Yerevan**

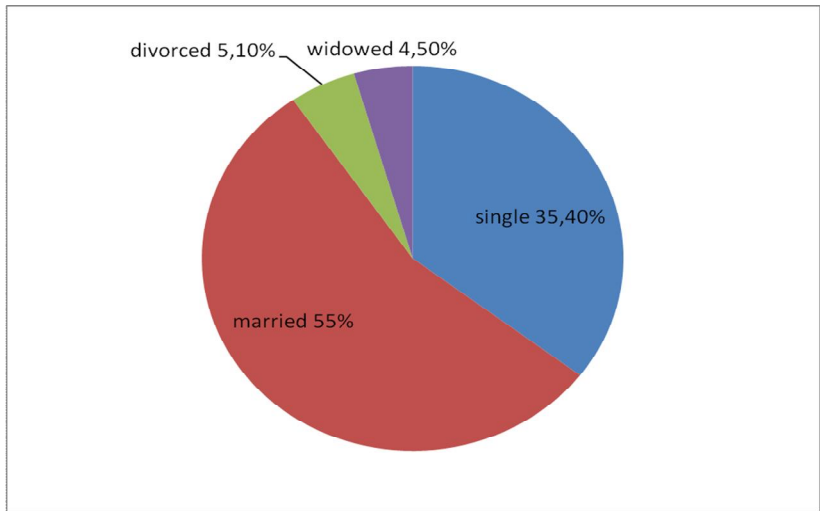
District	Education					
	Non	8 grades of secondary school	Secondary	Secondary vocational	Unfinished higher	Higher
Achapnyak	0%	2.9%	24.3%	10.6%	18%	44.2%
Avan	1.8%	5.9%	38.5%	7.7%	7.7%	38.4%
Arabkir	0%	2.1%	32.2%	8.2%	26.4%	31.1%
Charbakh	4%	4.3%	33.4%	20.8%	16.7%	20.8%
Erebuni	3.3%	0%	23.9%	30%	20.8%	22%
Kentron	0%	1.9%	23.8%	10.5%	30.2%	33.6%
Malatia-Sebastia	2%	4%	21.1%	23.2%	15.3%	34.4%
Nork Marash	0%	2%	21.8%	2%	27.5%	46.7%
Nor Nork	5.5%	6%	24.4%	12.9%	7.2%	44%

Noubarashen	0%	2.9%	15.9%	31.2%	17.6%	32.4%
Shengavit	0%	5.3%	36.3%	15.8%	12.3%	30.3%
Zeitun	0%	0%	25%	10%	31.3%	33.7%

**Family Status**

The majority of the respondents were married (55%), while the percentage of divorced and widowed respondents was very low.

*Chart 5. Distribution of the respondents by family status.*



In all the provinces, the ratio of married respondents significantly exceeded the other family status groups. A similar situation existed in Yerevan districts, with the exception of Kentron and Zeitun, where the unmarried respondents exceeded the married ones.

**Table 8. The respondents' family status among the provinces**

Province	Family Status			
	Not Married	Married	Divorced	Widowed
Yerevan	39.7%	52.5%	4.3%	3.5%
Aragatsotn	35.1%	51.4%	5.4%	8.1%
Armavir	36.6%	58.5%	2.1%	2.8%
Lori	25.2%	60.8%	7%	7%
Shirak	29.1%	59.5%	7.6%	3.8

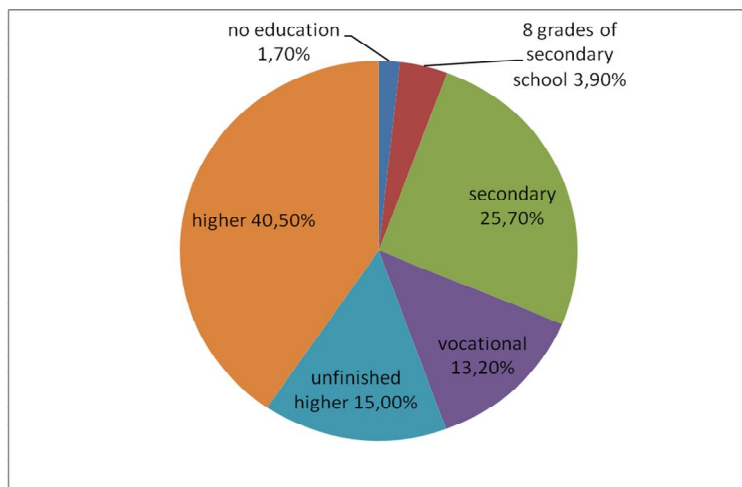
**Table 9. The respondents' family status among the districts of Yerevan**

District	Family Status			
	Not Married	Married	Divorced	Widowed
Achapnyak	44.4%	44.5%	2.8%	8.3%
Avan	39%	56.2%	3.2%	1.6%
Arabkir	44.0%	46%	8%	2%
Charbakh	41.7%	55.2%	3.1%	0%
Erebuni	45.6%	45.5%	6.1%	2.7%
Kentron	58%	36%	2%	4%
Malatia- Sebastia	35.4%	57.6%	3%	4%
Nork Marash	23.4%	68.1%	8.5%	0%
Nor Nork	29%	65.2%	4.3%	1.5%
Noubarashen	26.5%	68.6%	2%	2.9%
Shengavit	41.1%	46.4%	5.4%	7.1%
Zeitun	52.1%	45.4%	2.5%	0%

## Occupation

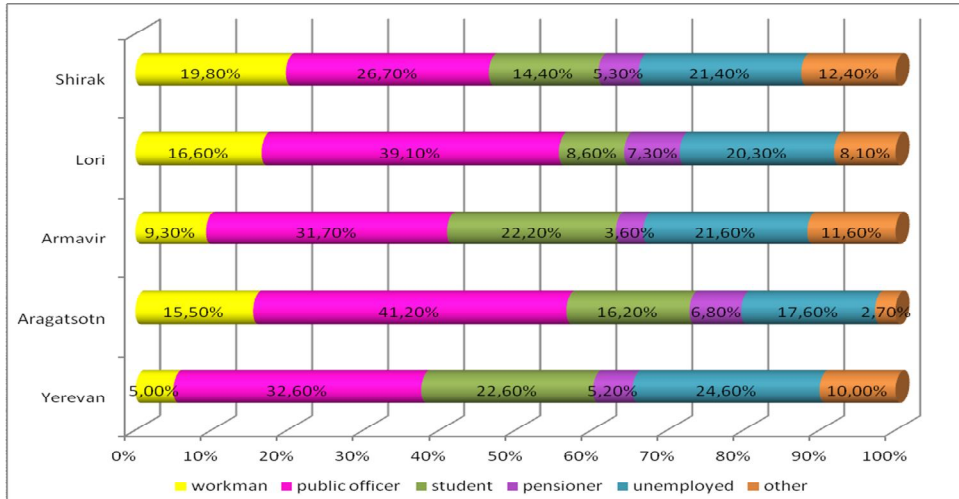
53.2% of the respondents stated that they had occupation, the rest was either students without employment or unemployed and retired persons.

**Chart 6. Distribution of respondents by occupation.**

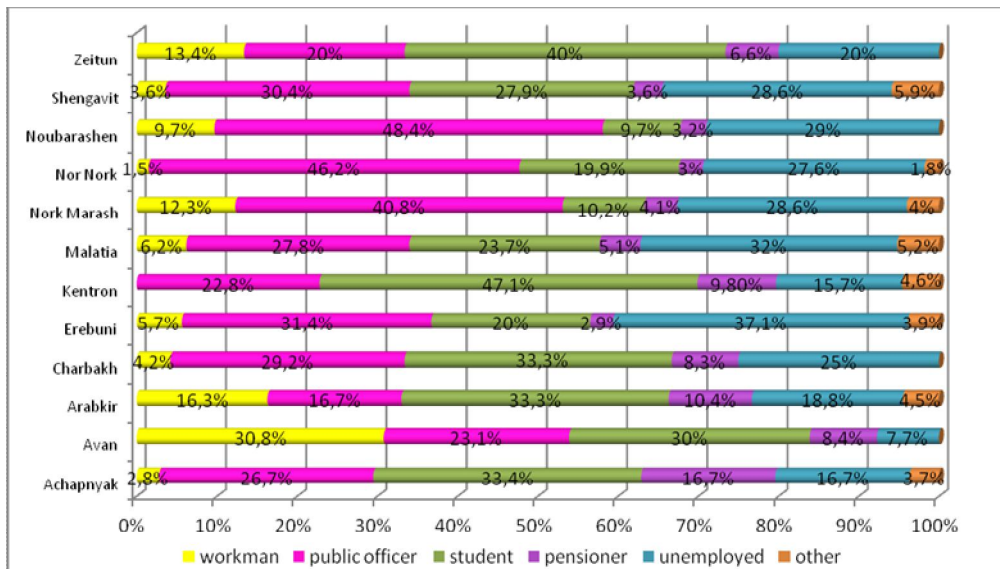


The proportional distribution of the respondents by occupation among the provinces and Yerevan districts is represented below in Charts 7 and 8.

**Chart 7. Proportional distribution of the respondents by occupation among Armenian provinces.**



**Chart 8. Proportional distribution of the respondents by occupation among Yerevan districts.**

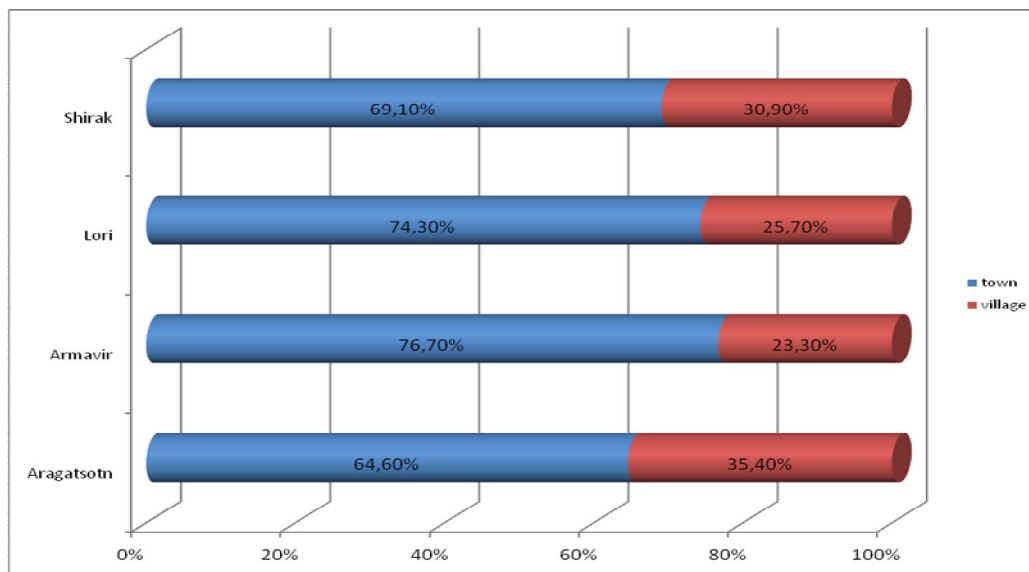


The Charts clearly show that most of the respondents both in Yerevan and provinces had employment.

## Urban and Rural Residents

29% of the respondents resided in rural communities, while 71% were urban residents. This proportion across the provinces is reflected in the chart below.

*Chart 9. Proportional distribution of the respondents in the provinces by urban/rural place of residence.*



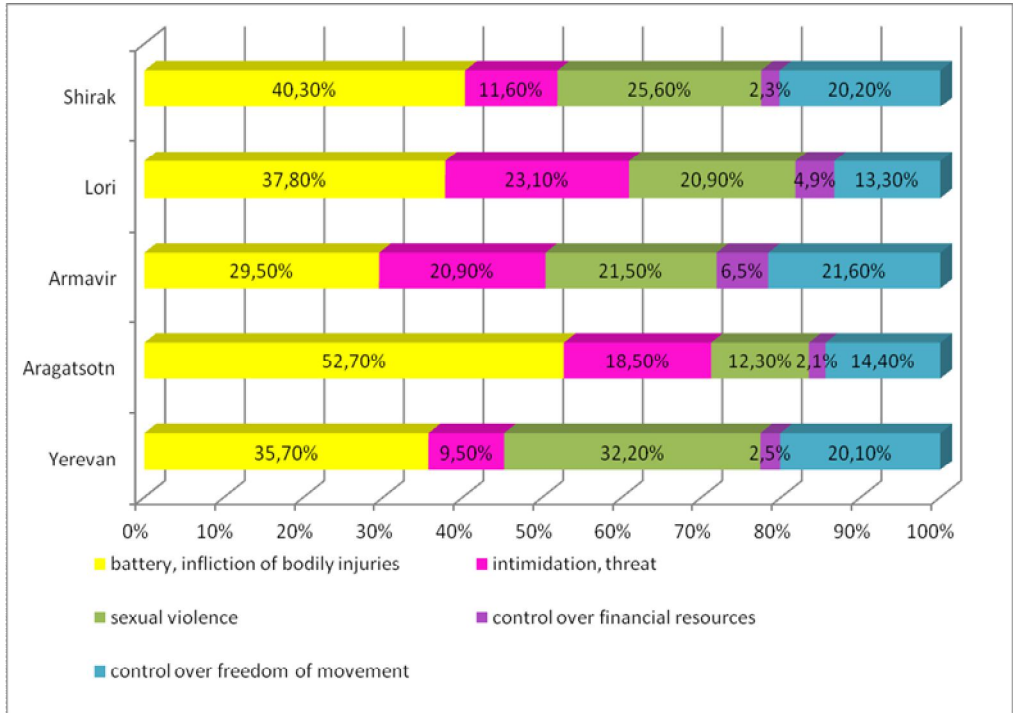
## **PART 2.2. ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS OF THE PUBLIC OPINION POLL IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

### **Analysis of the Public Opinion Poll Findings**

One of the key preconditions for a correct evaluation of domestic violence is identification of the public perception of the scales of the phenomenon. To that end the respondents were suggested to respond how they perceived domestic violence. Respondents were asked to select from among five optional responses, and they could select more than one of the options which they deemed correct. The analysis of the findings show that 38% of the Armenian respondents consider that only battery and infliction bodily injuries, i.e. physical violence, can be qualified as domestic violence. 14.3% of the respondents think that psychological violence (i.e. intimidation, threat) is also a form of domestic violence alongside the physical violence, 25.7% of the respondents add sexual violence to the opinions of the previous groups, while 18.4% supplement the physical, sexual and psychological forms of violence with strict limitation of adult family members' freedom of movement and apart from all the above-mentioned only 3.3% cite also strict restriction of financial resources of an adult family members.

The opinions about the forms of domestic violence identified in the four provinces involved in the poll and Yerevan are presented in Chart 10.

**Chart 10. In your opinion, which of the below constitutes domestic violence (among the provinces)?**

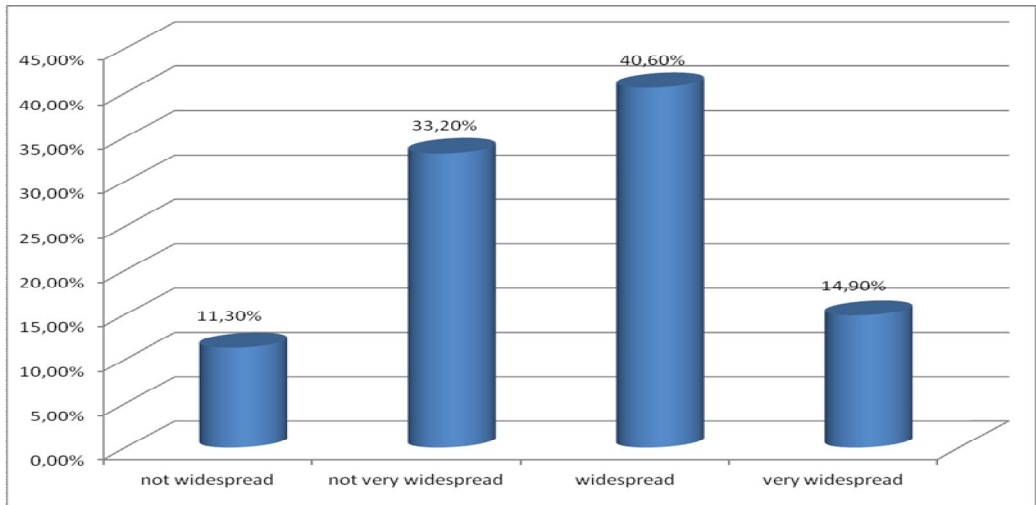


It is obvious that among the population there is an enrooted perception that battery and infliction of bodily injuries are forms of domestic violence. On the other hand, only some 20% of the respondents hold as such also psychological compulsion and around 5% - strict control over financial resources. The most pessimistic data in terms of the perception of domestic violence was obtained in Aragatsotn province, where over 50% of the respondents considered domestic violence to be an equivalent to mere physical violence.

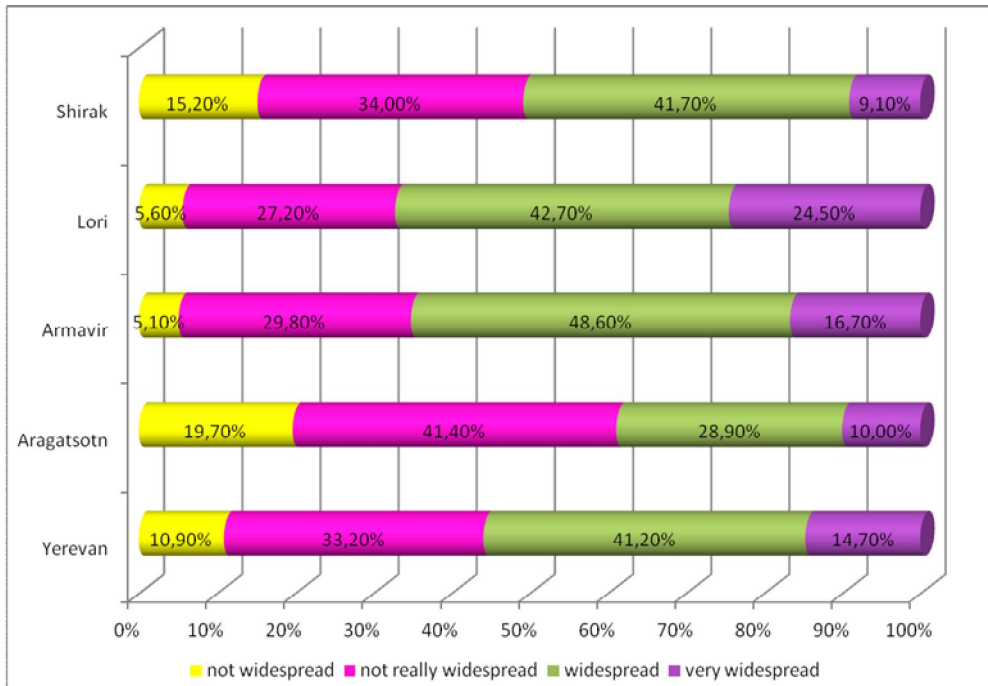
This might explain the fact that from among the provinces included in the survey only in Aragatsotn the majority of the population (61.1%) thinks that domestic violence is not a widespread phenomenon. Whereas, responding the question on whether domestic violence is widespread in Armenia, 55.5% of the overall respondents stated that it had become widespread.



**Chart 11. In your opinion, is domestic violence widespread in Armenia?**

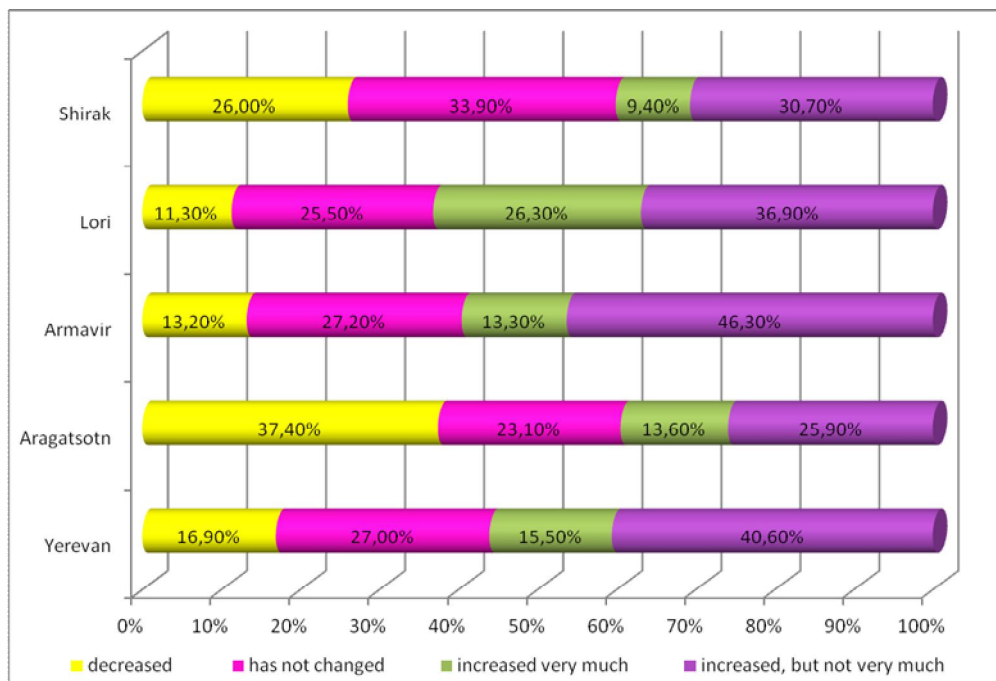


**Chart 12. In your opinion, is domestic violence widespread in Armenia (among the provinces)?**



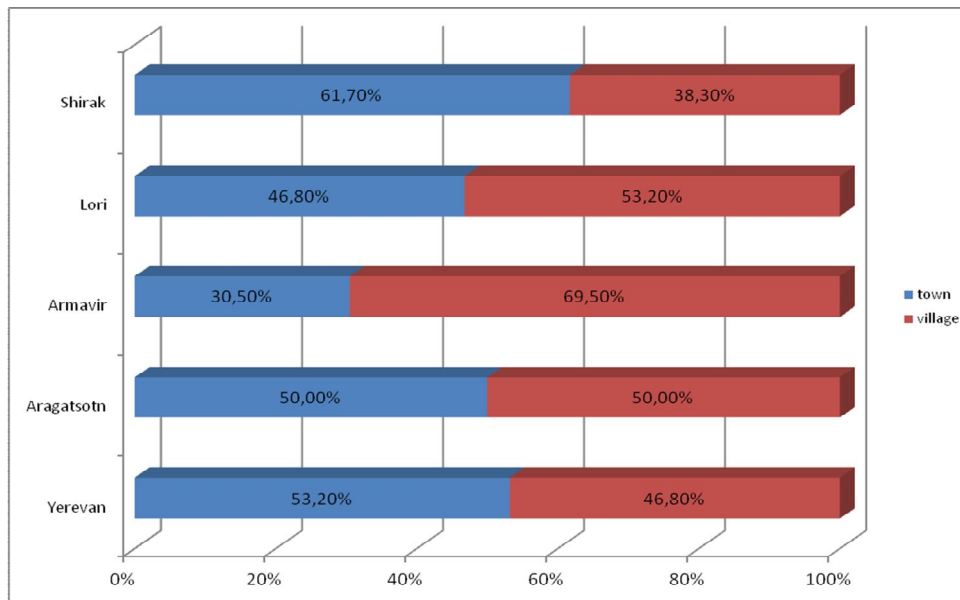
In the opinion of 64.6% of the respondents over the past three years the domestic violence rate has increased, and only 19.8% think it has decreased. The public opinion about exacerbation of domestic violence was especially noticeable in Lori and Armavir provinces (63.2% and 59.6% respectively).

**Chart 13. In your opinion, has domestic violence increased or decreased in Armenia over the past three years (among the provinces)?**



The question on where domestic violence is more widespread received responses in almost equal proportions, specifically, 49.9% of those surveyed believe that it is more common in the towns, another 49.9% - in the villages.

**Chart 14. In your opinion, where is domestic violence more widespread (among the provinces)?**



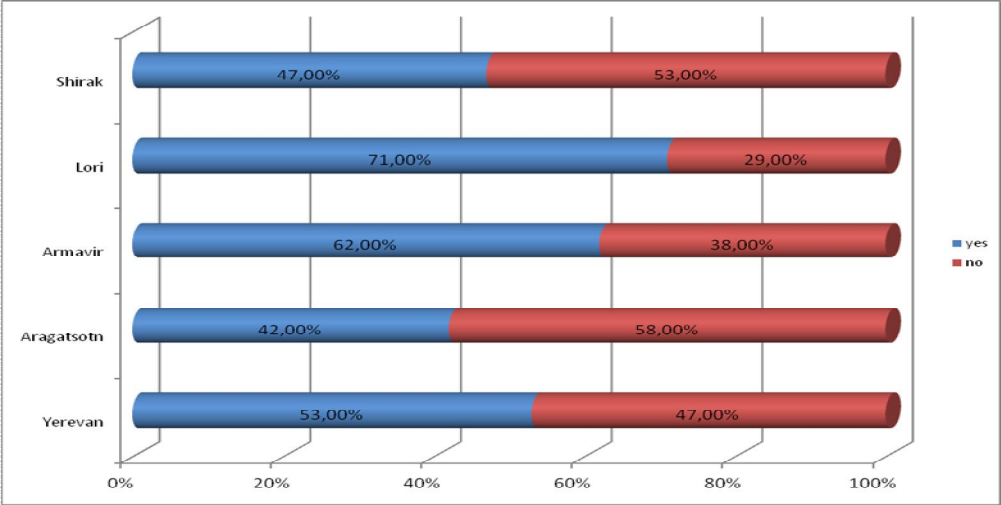
The responses given in Shirak and Armavir skewed from the general pattern, i.e. predominant number of responders in Shirak (61.7%) believes that domestic violence is more common in urban areas, whereas the majority in Armavir province lean to diametrically opposite opinion, i.e. that domestic violence is more common in rural areas.

In an attempt to evaluate the level of prevalence of domestic violence, the respondents were suggested to answer a question as to whether they have been victims of domestic violence either during their lifetime or the past two years.

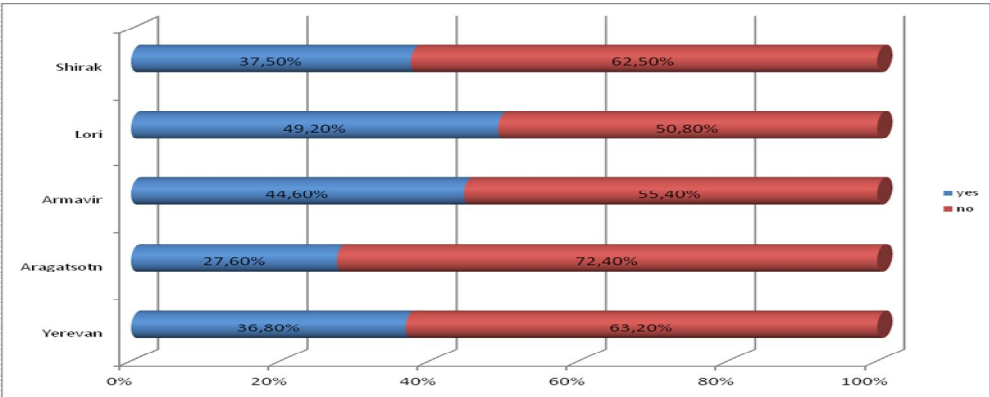
The analysis of the responses has revealed that 59.6% of the respondents has been subjected to domestic violence during their lifetime, while 38.4% - during the past two years.

The distribution of domestic violence cases among the provinces covered by the poll is represented in Charts 15 and 16.

**Chart 15. Have you ever been a victim of domestic violence (among the provinces)?**



**Chart 16. Have you ever been a victim of domestic violence during the past two years (among the provinces)?**



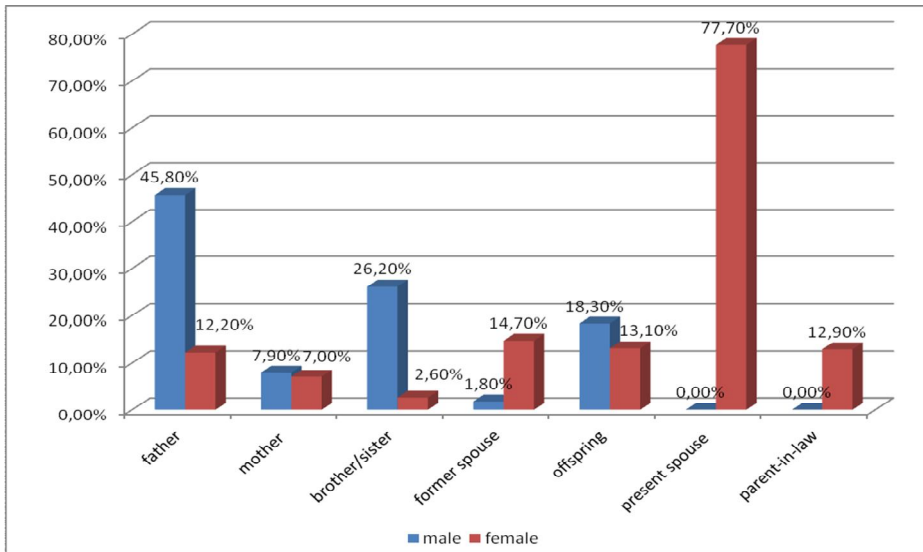
We can see that the respondents in the provinces of Lori, Armavir and Shirak mention being subjected to a victim of domestic violence more often, while the lowest ratio was recorded in Aragatsotn. The reason for such distribution might be the difference in the perception of the forms of domestic violence, i.e. over 50% of

the respondents in Aragatsotn believe that domestic violence is reduced to mere physical or sexual violence, hence it is understandable that most of the persons subjected to psychological and economic violence do not view the incidents as domestic violence.

Whereas, as the analysis of the responses revealed, the most common forms of domestic violence are psychological and economic. To the question requesting to select one of the forms of domestic violence committed by a family member 34.8% of the respondents mentioned battery or infliction of bodily injuries, 44.8% selected the option of threats or intimidation, 5.6% claimed to fell victim of sexual violence, 15.1% were subjected to strict limitation of financial resources and 16% – to strict limitation of the freedom of movement.

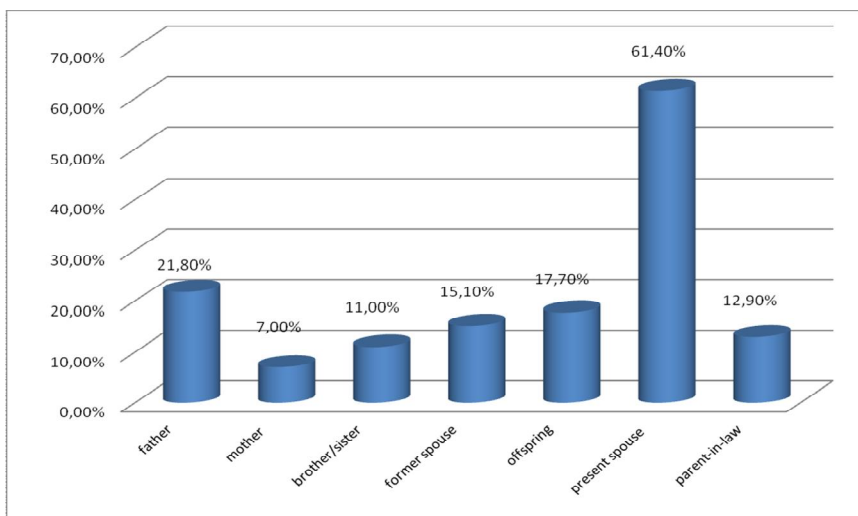
It is worth mentioning that the perception that only women become victim of domestic violence is faulty. The analyses of the poll findings prove that 11.9% of the surveyed men have also suffered domestic violence during their lifetimes. However, the difference is that for the majority of female victims of domestic violence the perpetrators were husbands, partners or fathers-in-law/mothers-in-law, while the overwhelming majority of male respondents were victimized by parents, brothers or offspring.

**Chart 17. Who has been the perpetrator of domestic violence (by the genders)?**

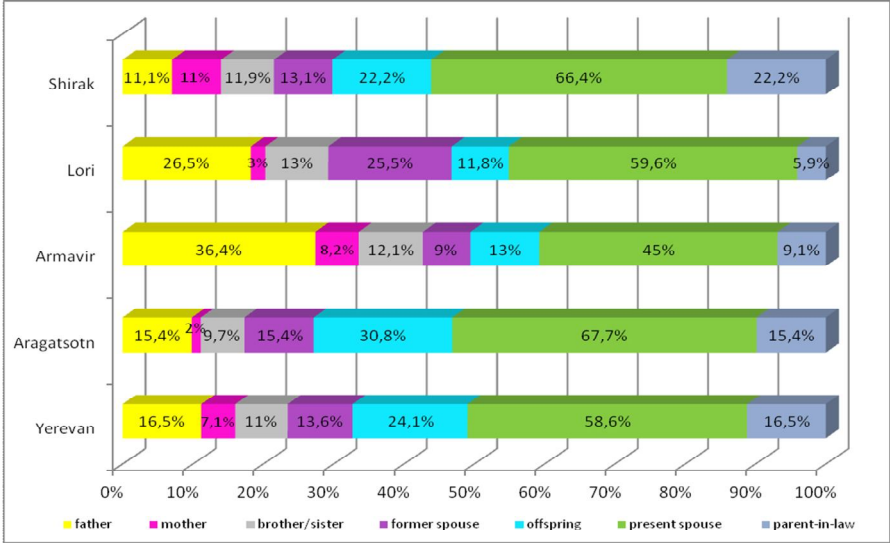


Considering that women fell victim of domestic violence more frequently than men, it should be viewed as natural that to the question 'Who has been the perpetrator of domestic violence?' 61.4% of the victims responded that the perpetrator was their husband.

**Chart 18. Who has been the perpetrator of domestic violence?**

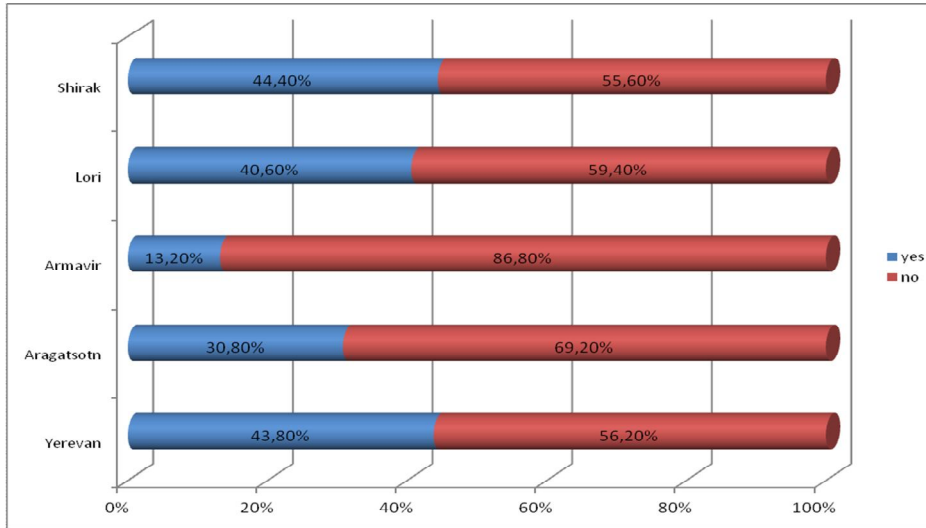


**Chart 19. Who has been the perpetrator of domestic violence (among the provinces)?**



Only 35.8% of domestic violence victims responded positively to the question whether he/she has ever left home after being subjected to domestic violence. Furthermore, the lowest percentage of those who left home after suffering domestic violence was recorded in Armavir and Aragatsotn provinces, 13.2% and 30.8% respectively. The distribution of the responses among the provinces is represented in Chart 20.

**Chart 20. Have you ever left home after being subjected to domestic violence (among the provinces)?**

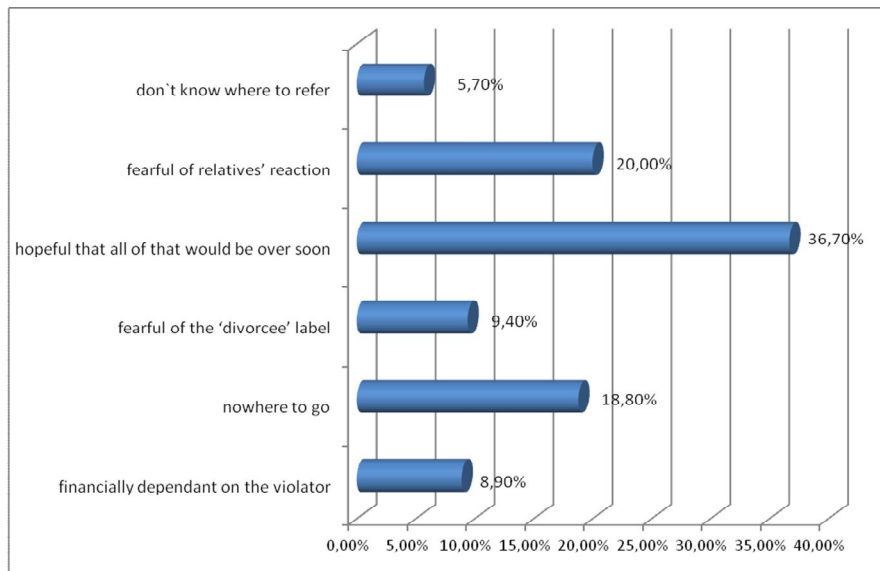


The majority of those victims of domestic violence who mentioned that, after suffering violence, they did not leave homes justified their behavior by being hopeful that the violence would finish soon and the violator would improve. Such response was given by 36.7% of the poll sample. As a reason for not leaving home, 29.4% of those who suffered domestic violence mentioned also the fear of negative reaction of people, while 18.8%, especially those who had children, said that they had nowhere to go.

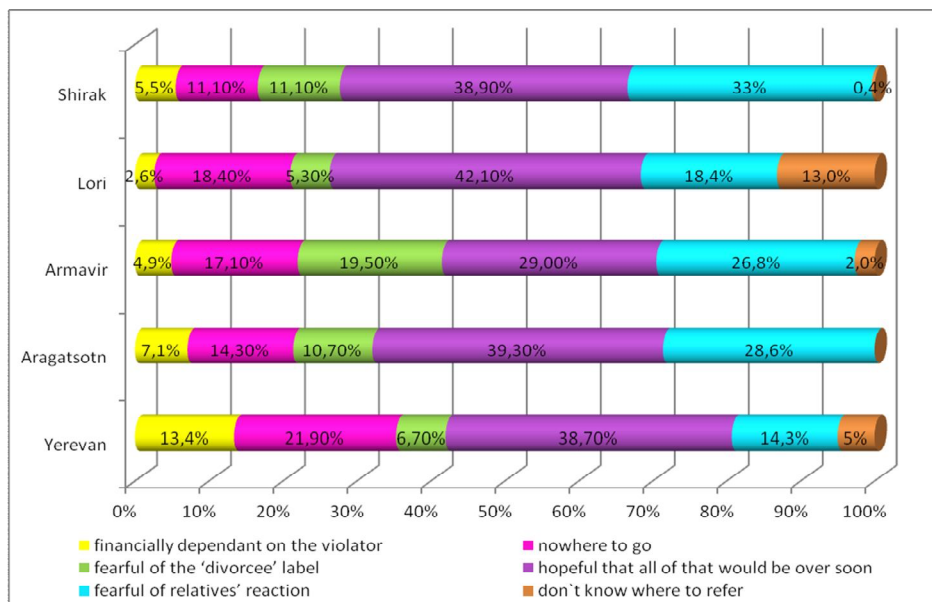
The distribution of the responses about the reasons for not leaving home retains the same proportion also in the provinces; the strongest fear of negative reaction of public was recorded in Shirak, Armavir and Aragatsotn, 44.1%, 46.3% and 39.3% respectively.



**Chart 21. The reason for not leaving home after being subjected to domestic violence.**

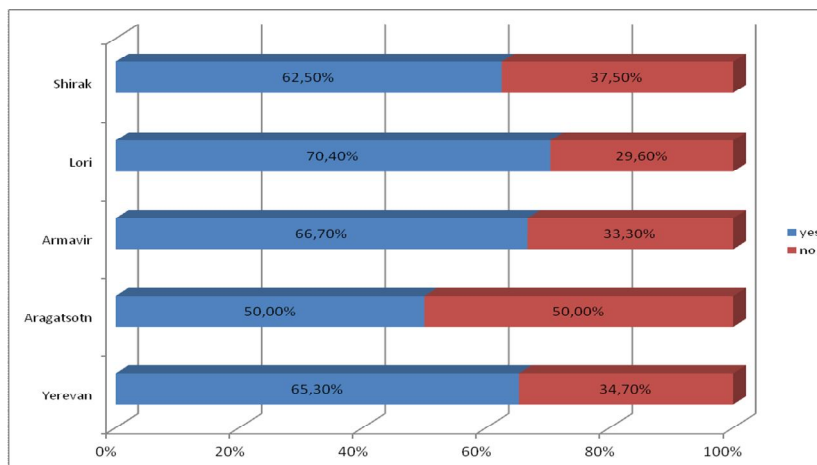


**Chart 22. The reason for not leaving home after being subjected to domestic violence (among the provinces).**



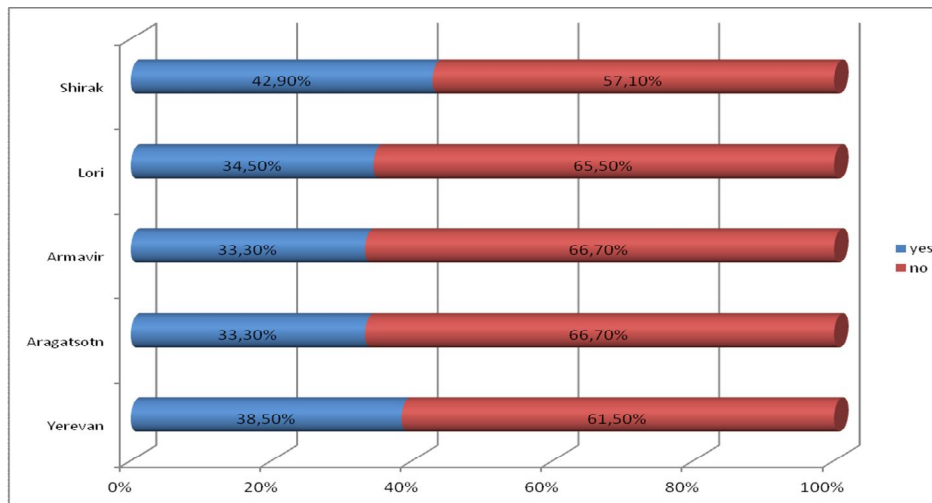
The respondents subjected to domestic violence were asked the following question aimed to evaluate the significance of having a shelter and being financially independent in the decision-making about abandoning the violator ‘Would you leave the person who was violent against you if you had an apartment or financial independence?’ 65.7% of them responded positively. The distribution of the responses among the provinces is represented in Chart 21.

**Chart 23. Would you leave the person who was violent against you if you had an apartment or financial independence (among the provinces)?**



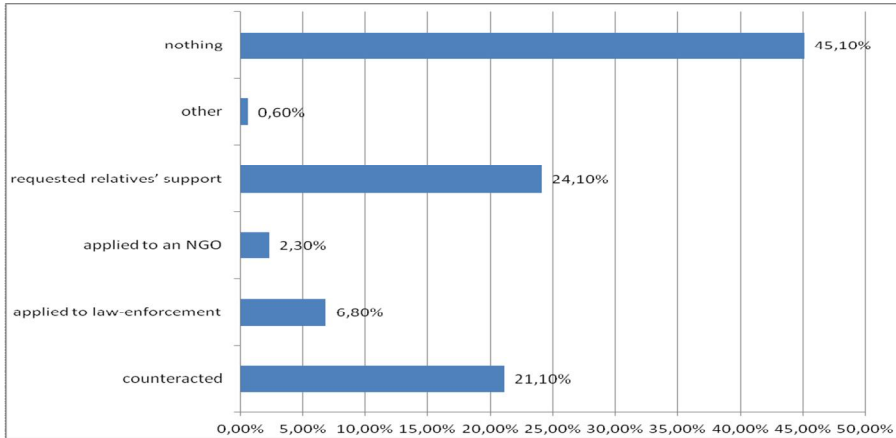
Although there is a common perception that domestic violence is committed mainly by those under alcohol or drug intoxication, the poll findings testify that only 36.5% of the perpetrators of domestic violence were under drug or alcohol intoxication. This proportion retains also in provinces – only in Shirak 42.9% of the surveyed victims of domestic violence stated that during the offence the perpetrator was under drug or alcohol intoxication. The distribution of the responses among the provinces is represented in Chart 24.

**Chart 24. Was the violator under drug or alcohol intoxication while committing violence (among the provinces)?**



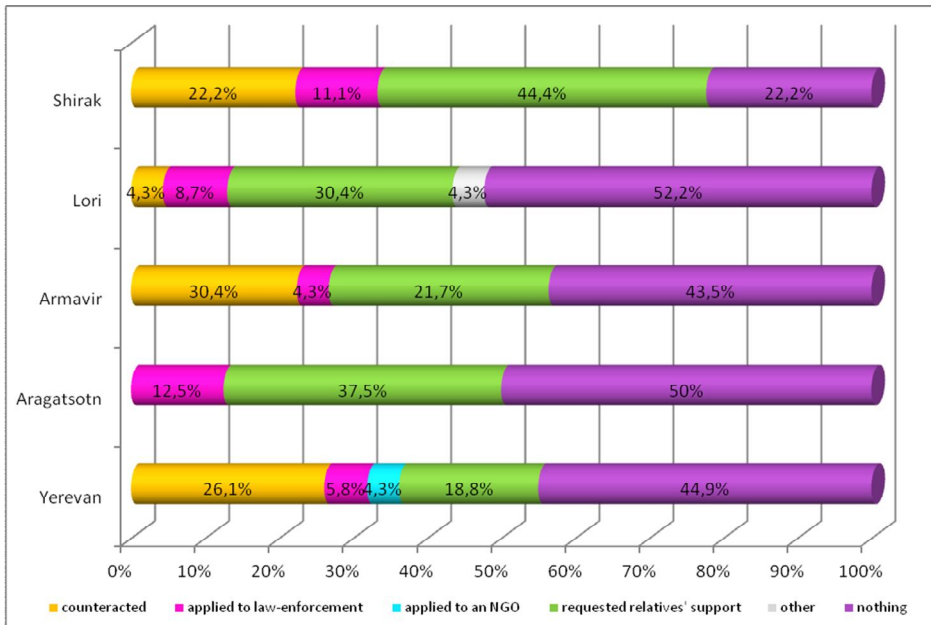
One of the key prerequisites for prevention and control of any kind of offences, including domestic violence is examination of victims' behaviour during and after the offence. Therefore the surveyed victims of domestic violence were suggested to specify what they did when the violence was over. 45.1% of the domestic violence victims from among the respondents behaved passively and did not do anything and only 6.8% reported to the police.

**Chart 25. What did you do to stop the violence?**



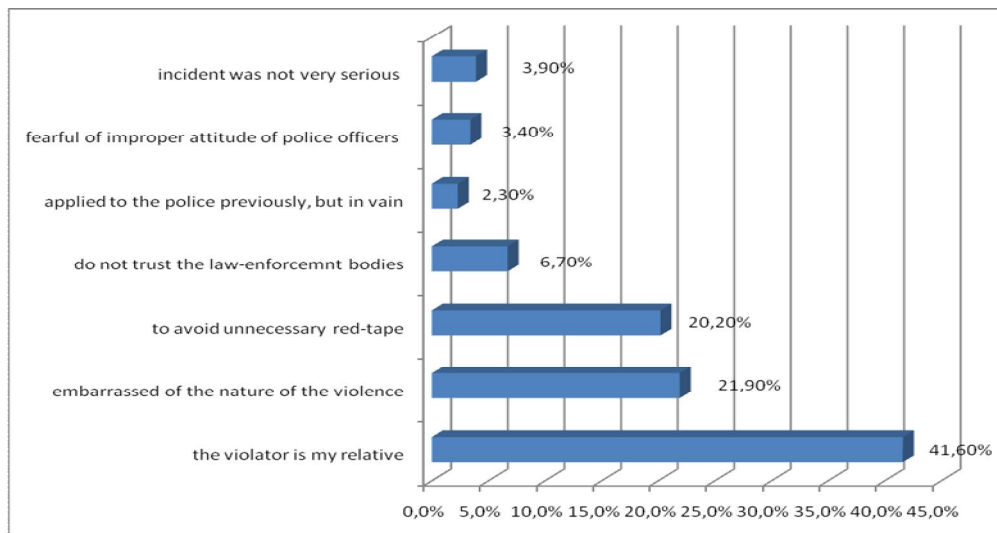
The majority of the respondents in the provinces also displayed passive attitude or at most requested the relatives' support.

**Chart 26. What did you do to stop the violence (among the provinces)?**

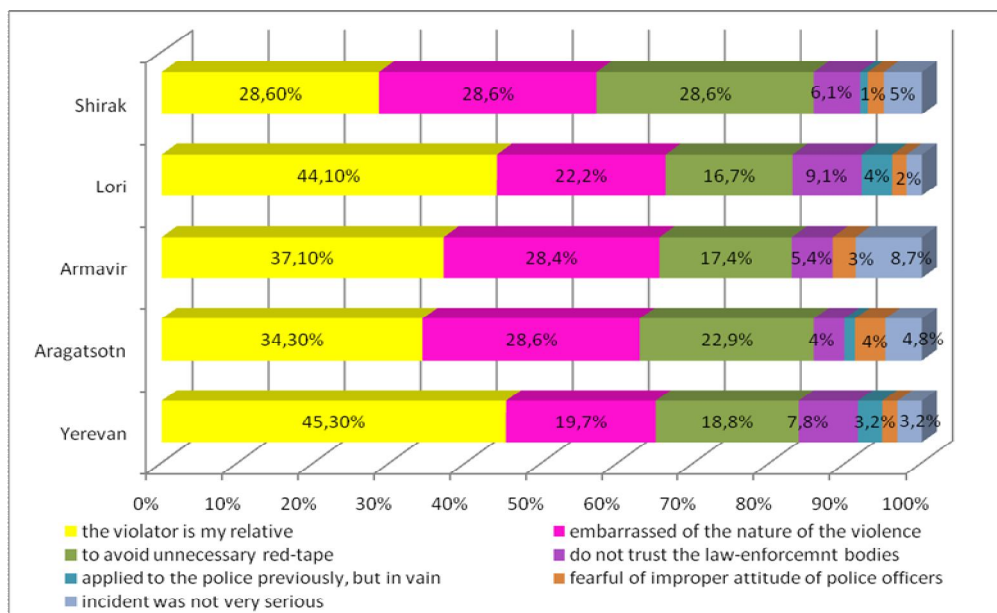


The following responses were given to the question about the reason why domestic violence victims did not apply to the law-enforcement bodies:

**Chart 27. If you did not apply to the law-enforcement bodies, what was the reason for that?**



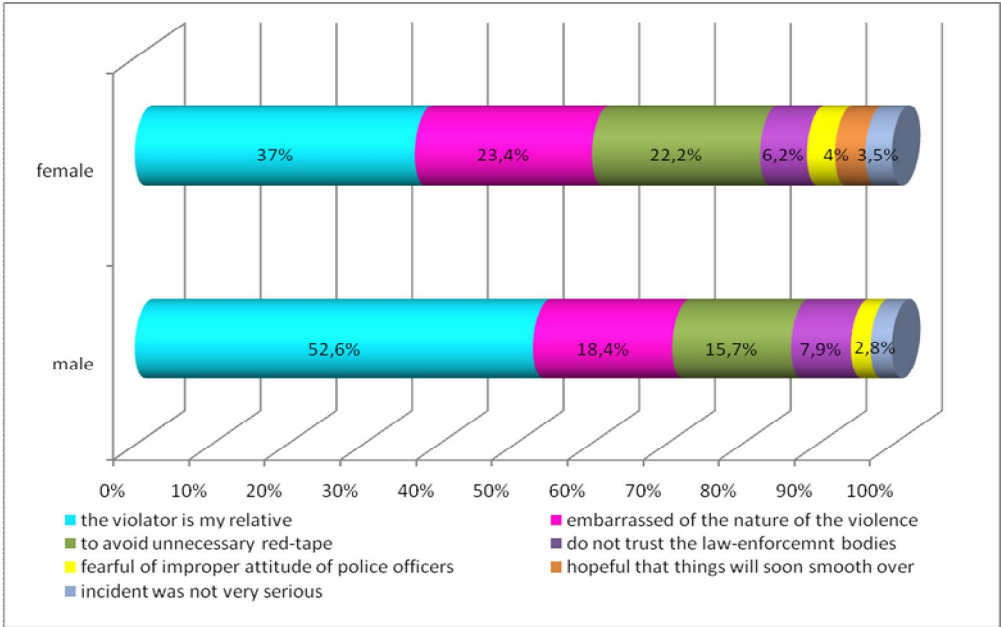
**Chart 28. If you did not apply to the law-enforcement bodies, what was the reason for that (among the provinces)?**



The analyses of the answers given by the respondents who suffered domestic violence, but did not report to law-enforcement bodies revealed that the main justification for their behaviour (for 41.6% of them) was to spare her/his relative (albeit violator) of the risk of criminal liability, for 21.9% of them the reason was being embarrassed of the incident and its publicity, while for 20.2% - the desire to avoid red-tape.

Certain discrepancy was revealed in the distribution of the responses when they were analysed from the gender perspective. Particularly, a bigger ratio of male respondents avoid reporting to law-enforcement bodies because the violence was committed by relatives. However, men were more realistic and almost never mentioned as a deterrant for applying to law-enforcement the hope that the violator would improve and stop the offences.

**Chart 29. If you did not apply to the law-enforcement bodies, what was the reason for that (by the genders)?**



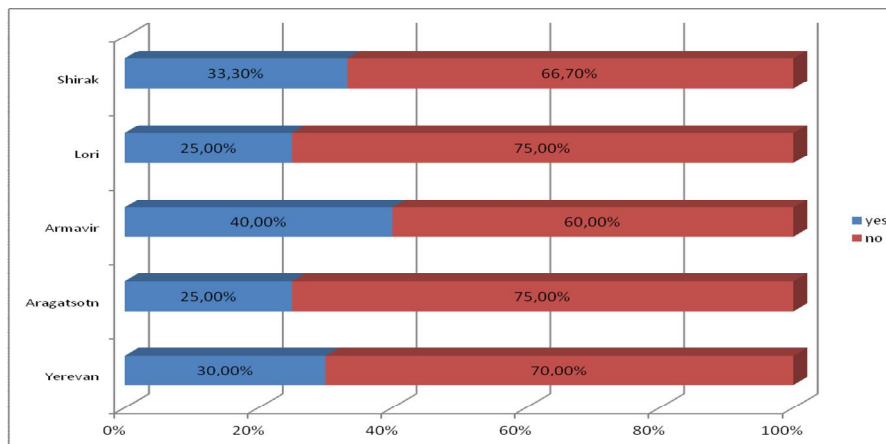
To find out the reason why victims of domestic violence do not apply to law-enforcement bodies, particularly the police, the respondents were suggested to state their positions in this respect, and these positions are presented in Table 10.

**Table 10. If you do not trust the police, what is the reason for that?**

corruption of the police	<b>11.2%</b>
the police do not have sufficient material and technical resources to help me	<b>3.9%</b>
they recommend to tolerate not to destroy the family	<b>15.3%</b>
their attitude is indifferent	<b>40.3%</b>
domestic violence issues are dealt by police officers of opposite gender and do not feel comfortable to tell them about the incident that happened with me	<b>5.3%</b>
I did not have material evidences to corroborate the incident	<b>2.6%</b>
police officers do not have basic psychological skills to understand or listen to victims of domestic violence	<b>18.4%</b>

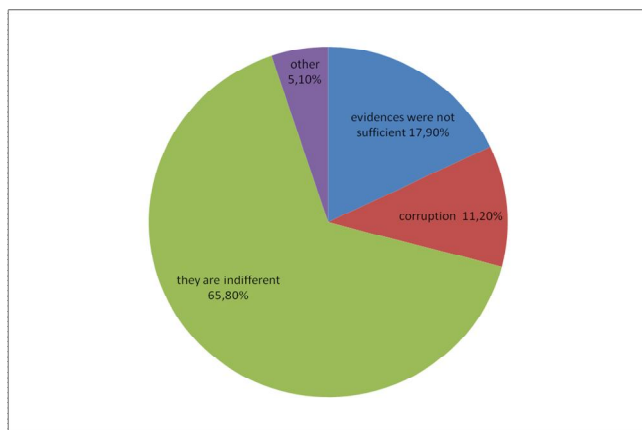
These data show that for the victims of domestic violence one of the main reasons to avoid law-enforcement bodies, particularly the police, is the officers' indifference as well as the lack of psychological skills to understand and support the victims. Moreover, only 27.5% of the victims of domestic violence were satisfied with the police response, and 20.5% mentioned that the violator was punished. The degree of satisfaction of those who applied to the police in the provinces is represented in Chart 30.

**Chart 30. The degree of satisfaction of domestic violence victims who reported to the police (among the provinces).**



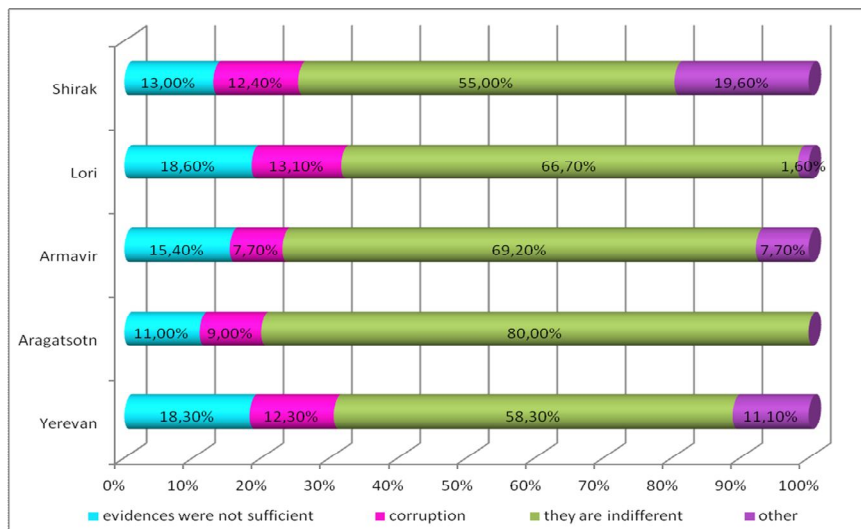
The main reason for the discontent with the police's response of those victims of domestic violence who applied to the police was the officers' indifference (65.8%). 17.9% of those who expressed discontent with the police response mentioned insufficiency of evidences to call the violator to responsibility. The same proportion of responses was recorded in the Armenian provinces.

**Chart 31. Reasons for dissatisfaction of the victims of domestic violence who applied to the police.**



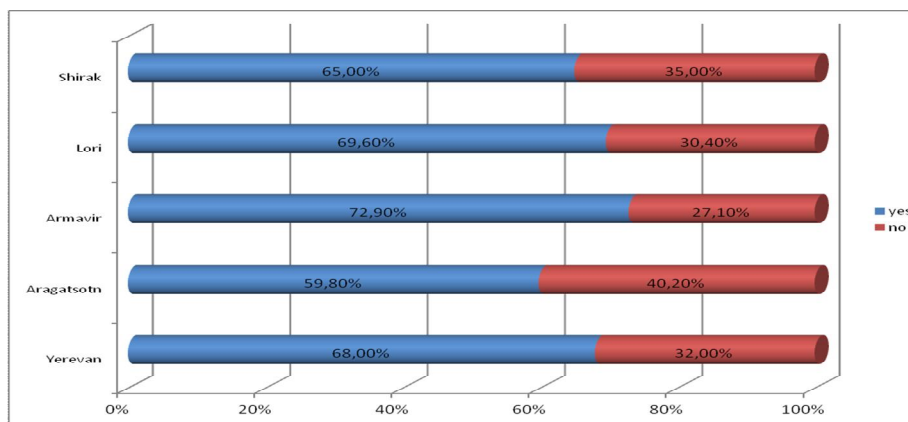


**Chart 32. Reasons for dissatisfaction of the victims of domestic violence who applied to the police (among the provinces).**



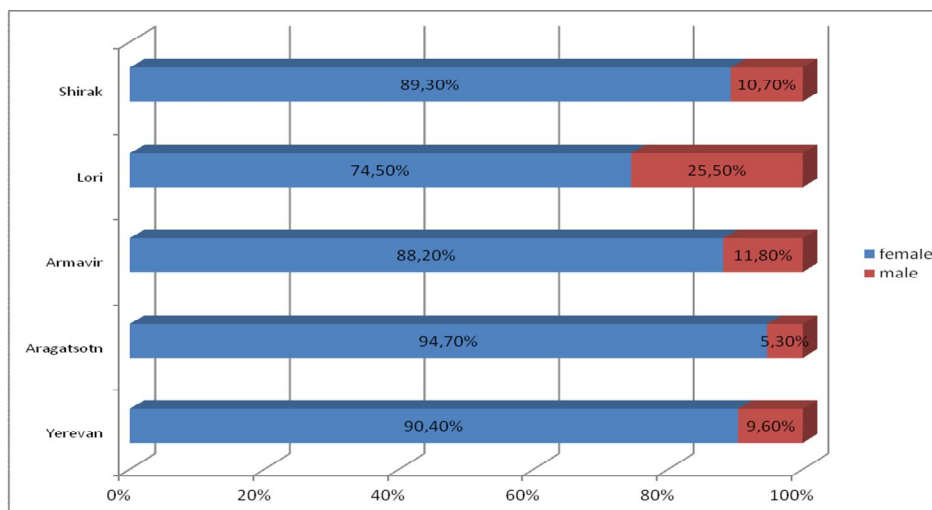
The respondents were suggested a series of questions about having been a witness of domestic violence. To the question about having witnessed domestic violence during the last two years 67.1% responded positively.

**Chart 33. Have you been a witness of domestic violence during the past two years (among the provinces)?**



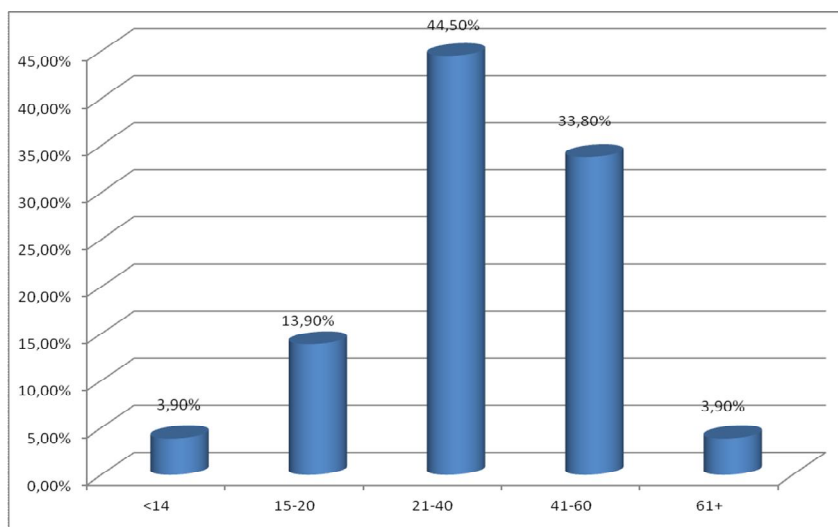
88.3% of the witnesses of domestic violence specified that the victim was a female.

**Chart 34. What was the gender of the domestic violence victim?**

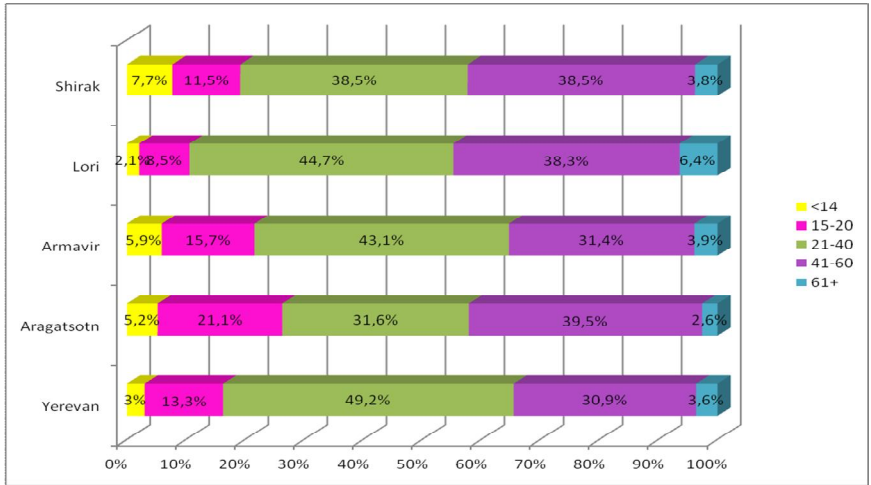


Further, the largest age group of the domestic violence victims was 21-40.

**Chart 35. The age of the domestic violence victim.**

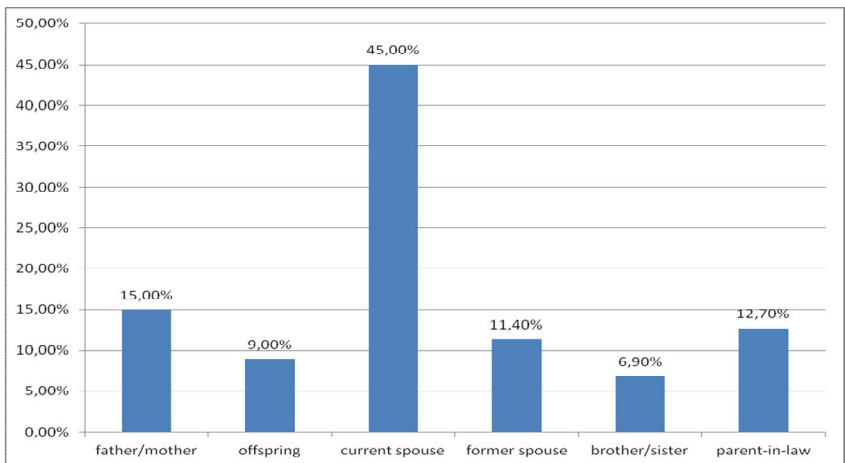


**Chart 36. The age of the domestic violence victim (among the provinces).**

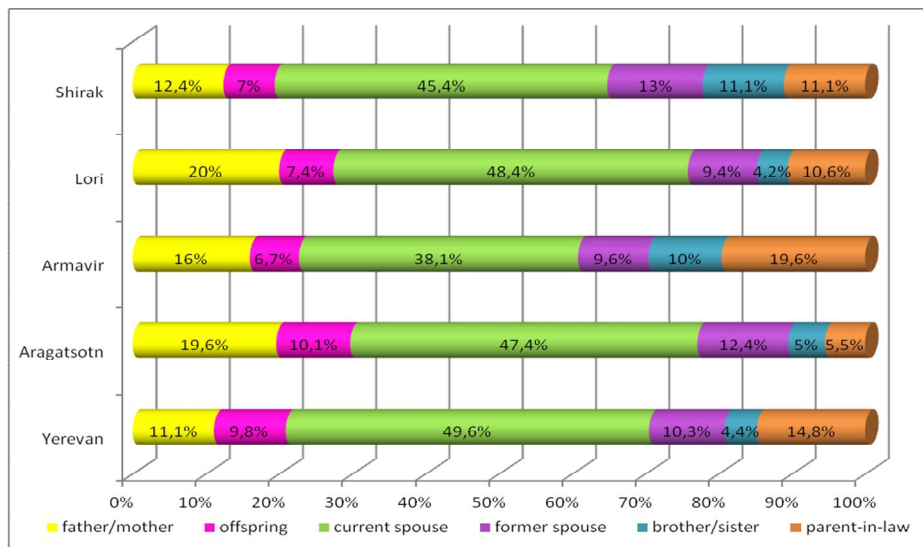


56.4% of the witnesses of domestic violence mentioned that the violence against the victim had been committed by either present or former spouse of the victim. 9% of the respondents who witnessed domestic violence reported that the perpetrator had been the offspring, while 12.7% - mother-in-law/father-in-law.

**Chart 37. Who was the perpetrator in the case of the domestic violence that you witnessed?**

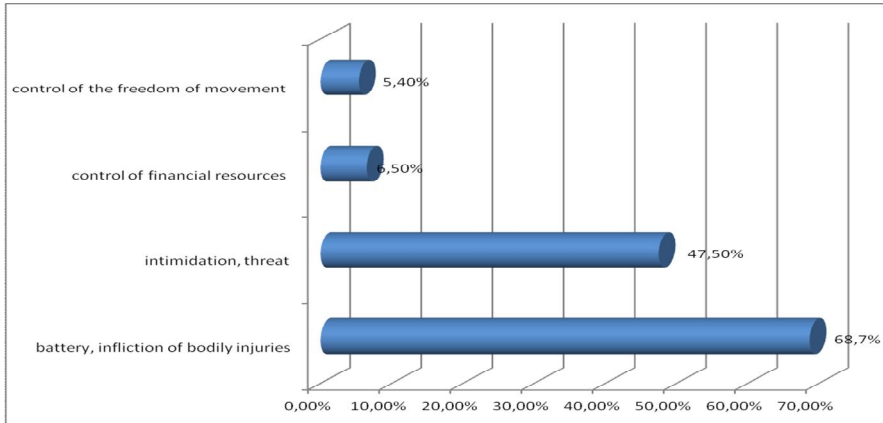


**Chart 38. Who was the perpetrator in the case of the domestic violence that you witnessed (among the provinces)?**

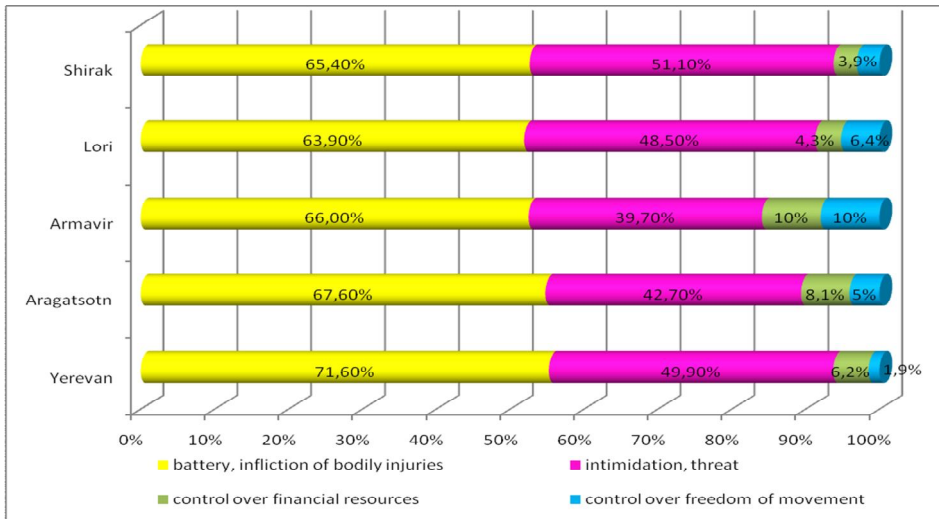


The witnesses of domestic violence mentioned that in most of the cases domestic violence applied by the perpetrator was in the form of battery and infliction of bodily injuries (68.7%), while 47.5% said it was intimidation and threats. The same pattern came up also in the provinces of Armenia.

**Chart 39. What form of domestic violence have you witnessed?**

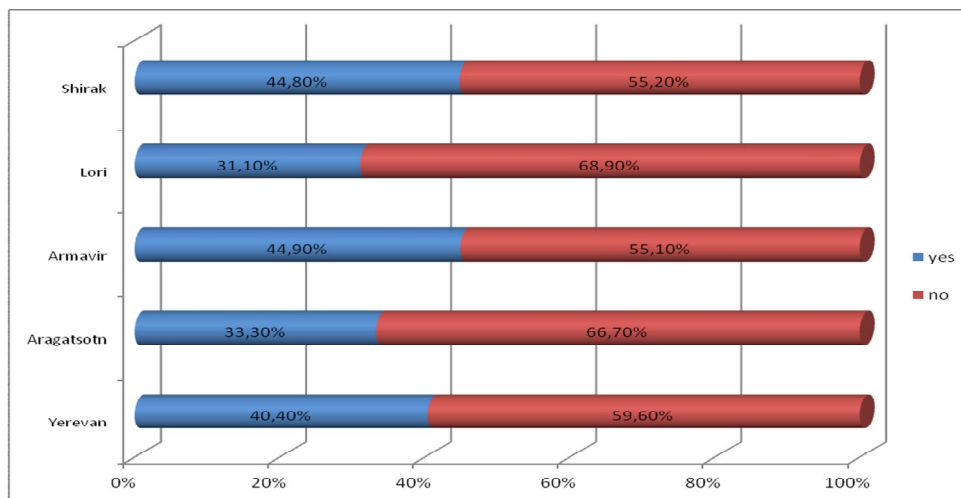


**Chart 40. What form of domestic violence have you witnessed (among the provinces)?**



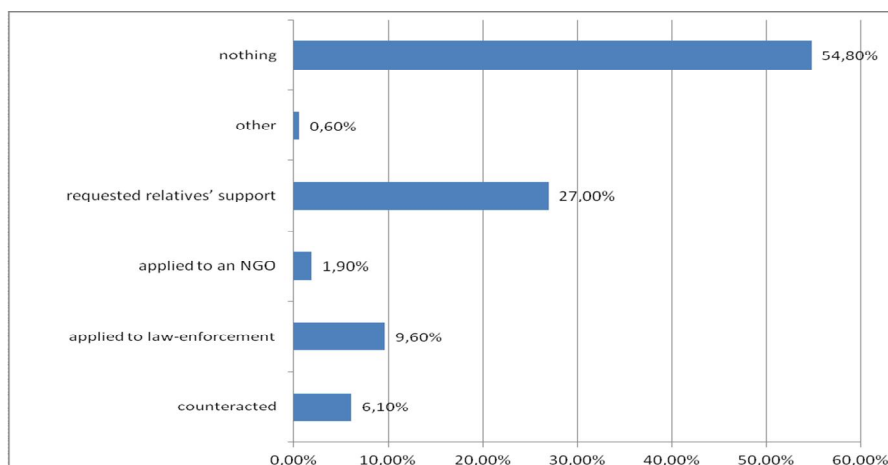
In 39.4% of the cases the respondents who witnessed domestic violence pointed out that the perpetrator was under drug or alcohol intoxication. The situation in the provinces is presented in Chart 41.

**Chart 41. Was the violator under drug or alcohol intoxication while committing violence (among the provinces)?**



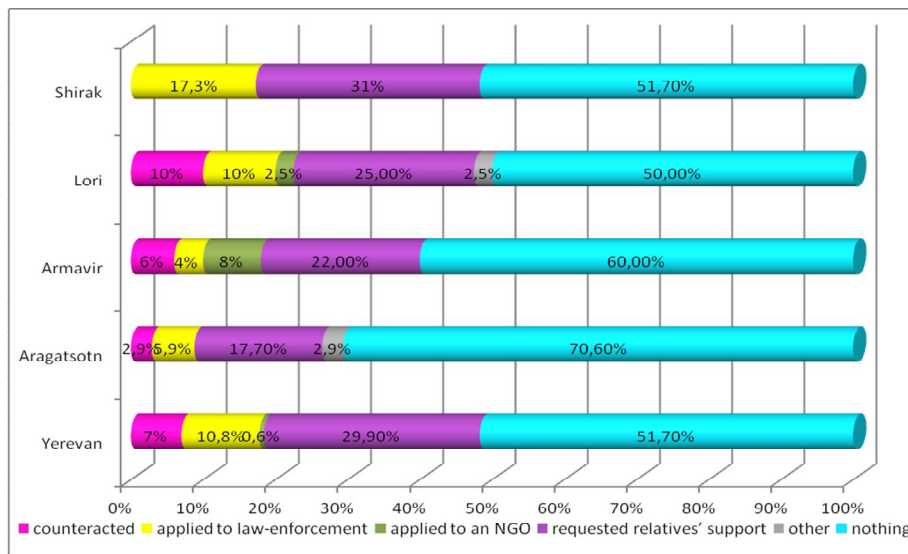
54.8% of the witnesses of the domestic violence, the victim did not do anything during and after the incident, while 27% requested relative's assistance.

**Chart 42. What did the victim do during the witnessed case of domestic violence?**



The analysis of the responses given by the witnesses of domestic violence showed that 70.6% of the victims of domestic violence in the province of Aragatsotn had passive attitude.

**Chart 43. What did the victim do during the witnessed case of domestic violence (among the provinces)?**



**Table 11. If in case of domestic violence the victim did not trust the police, what is the reason for that?**

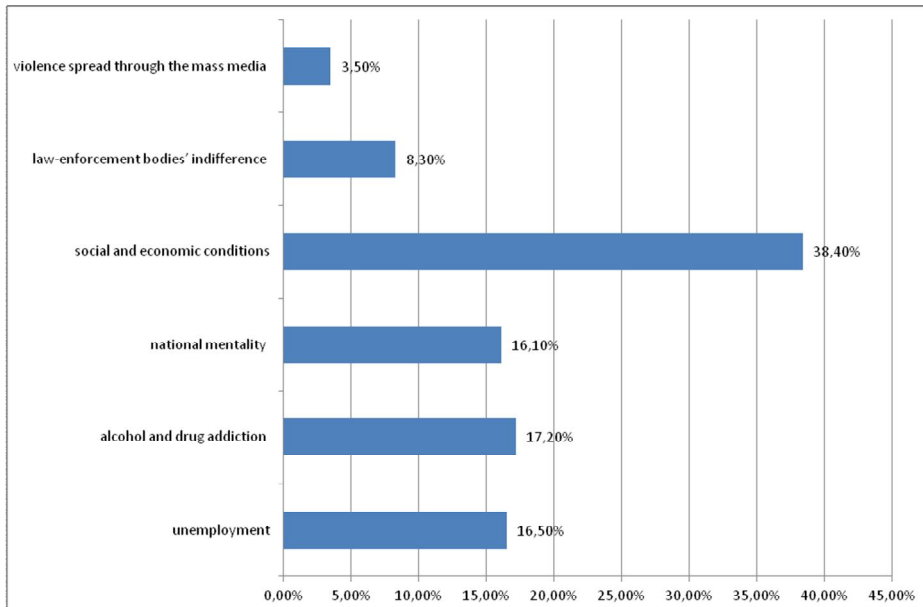
<i>the violator is his/her relative</i>	<b>35.3%</b>
<i>embarrassed of the nature of the violence applied against him/her</i>	<b>18.1%</b>
<i>to avoid unnecessary red-tape</i>	<b>12.1%</b>
<i>he/she does not trust the police for the latter are corrupt</i>	<b>3.9%</b>
<i>he/she does not have evidence to corroborate the incidence</i>	<b>2.2%</b>
<i>you applied to the police previously, but in vain</i>	<b>0.9%</b>
<i>you fear improper attitude of police officers</i>	<b>2.6%</b>
<i>you hope that things will soon smooth over</i>	<b>10.3%</b>

<i>the incident was not sufficiently serious</i>	<b>3.4%</b>
<i>you fear the violator's retaliation</i>	<b>4.3%</b>
<i>the police recommend to tolerate not to destroy the family</i>	<b>1.7%</b>
<i>the have attitude is indifferent</i>	<b>1.7%</b>
<i>police officers do not have basic psychological skills to understand or listen to victims of domestic violence</i>	<b>3.5%</b>

The analyses of the domestic violence victims' as well as witnesses' responses showed that the main reason for reluctance to apply to law-enforcement was the kinship with violators hence the desire to spare the relative from being subjected to liability.

In response to the question 'In your opinion, what is the main reason for domestic violence in Armenia?', 54.9% cited social and economic hardships and unemployment, while 17% mentioned alcohol and drug abuse and 16.15% national mentality.

**Chart 44. In your opinion, what is the main reason for domestic violence in Armenia?**





**Table 12. In your opinion, what is the main reason for domestic violence in Armenia?**

	unemployment	alcohol and drug addiction	national mentality	social and economic conditions	indifference of law-enforcement bodies	ubiquitous scenes of violence in the mass media
Yerevan	15.1%	17.4%	17%	38.7%	7.6%	4.2%
Aragatsotn	9.4%	14.6%	15.6%	53.1%	5.2%	2.1%
Armavir	12.4%	18.6%	21.7%	35.7%	9.3%	2.3%
Lori	22.8%	17.6%	12.5%	32.4%	10.3%	4.4%
Shirak	25.9%	16.7%	9.3%	35.2%	10.2%	2.8%

## Questionnaire

Dear Respondents,

The purpose for taking this public opinion poll is to identify the situation with domestic violence, the level of perception and the level and frequency of victimization as well as the main factors contributing to domestic violence in Armenia and the role of the police in the prevention of domestic violence. The questionnaire is anonymous, and there is no need to include your personal information (first name, second name, address). Your responses are ultimately important, since based on the findings it is planned to develop activities for prevention of domestic violence and particularly for ensuring the effective police work in that area.

### 1. Gender

- male  female

### 2. Age

- 14-17  18-25  26-30  31-40  
 41-50  51-60  above 61

### 3. Family Status

- not married  married  divorced  widowed

### 4. Education

- no education  8 grades of secondary school  
 secondary  unfinished higher  
 secondary vocational  higher

### 5. Occupation

- workman  farmer  
 public officer  pupil  
 businessman  unemployed  
 police officer  pensioner  
 student

### 6. Place of Residence

province \_\_\_\_\_

town \_\_\_\_\_

village \_\_\_\_\_

community \_\_\_\_\_

**1. In your opinion, which of the below constitutes domestic violence (more than one options can be selected)?**

- battery, infliction of bodily injuries
- intimidation, threat
- sexual violence
- strict control over financial resources of an adult family member
- strict control over the freedom of movement of an adult family member

**2. In your opinion, is domestic violence widespread in Armenia?**

- not widespread
- not really widespread
- quite widespread
- very widespread

**3. In your opinion, has domestic violence increased or decreased in Armenia over the past three years?**

- decreased
- has not changed
- increased, but not very much
- increased very much

**4. In your opinion, where is domestic violence more widespread?**

- in towns
- in villages

**5. Have you been subjected to any of the following by your family member?**

- battery, infliction of bodily injuries
- intimidation, threat
- strict control over the freedom of movement
- control over financial resources
- sexual violence
- none
- other-----

**6. If yes, then by whom?**

- by father
- by mother
- by brother
- by present spouse (partner)
- by former spouse (partner)
- by sister
- by offspring

- by father-in-law/mother-in-law
- by another family member

**7. Which of the following has been applied against you over the past two years by a family member?**

- battery, infliction of bodily injuries
- intimidation, threat
- strict control over the freedom of movement
- control over financial resources
- sexual violence
- none
- other-----

**8. If yes, then by whom?**

- by father
- by mother
- by brother
- by present spouse (partner)
- by former or present spouse (partner)
- by father-in-law/mother-in-law
- by another family member
- by sister
- by offspring

**9. Have you ever left home after being subjected to domestic violence?**

- Yes
- No

**10. If no, then why?**

- you are financially dependent on him/her
- you hoped that all of that would finish soon
- you had nowhere to go
- you feared your relatives' reaction
- you feared the 'divorcee' label
- you did not know to whom to apply in such a situation
- other -----

**11. Would you leave the person who was violent against you if you had an apartment or financial independence?**

Yes

No

**12. Was the violator under drug or alcohol intoxication while committing violence?**

Yes

No

**13. What did you do to stop the violence?**

counteracted

other-----

requested relatives' support

applied to law-enforcement bodies

applied to NGOs

did not do anything

**14. If you did not apply to law-enforcement bodies, then why?**

the violator is your relative

you were embarrassed of the nature of the violence applied against you

you wanted to avoid unnecessary red-tape

you do not trust the police

you had applied to the police previously, but in vain

you feared improper attitude of police officers

you hoped that things would soon smooth over

the incident was not very serious

you feared the violator's retaliation

other -----

**15. If you do not trust the police, what is the reason for that?**

corruption of the police

the police do not have sufficient material and technical resources to help me

they recommend to tolerate not to destroy the family

their attitude is indifferent

my previous encounters with them have been negative

domestic violence issues are dealt by police officers of opposite gender and do not feel comfortable to tell them about the incident that happened with me

I did not have material evidences to corroborate the incident

- police officers do not have basic psychological skills to understand or listen to victims of domestic violence
- other-----

**16. If you applied to the police, have you been satisfied with their response?**

- Yes
- No

**17. If no, then why?**

- the evidences were not sufficient
- the police did not take action on the case for corruption reasons
- the police ignored the incident
- the police response was belated
- other-----

**18. Has the violator been punished?**

- Yes
- No

**19. Have you been a witness of domestic violence during the past two years?**

- Yes
- No

**20.If yes, what was the victim's gender?**

- Female
- Male

**21. Victims' age**

- under 14
- 15-20
- 21-40
- 41-60
- 61+

**22. Who was the offender?**

- victim's father/mother
- victim's sister/brother
- victim's offspring
- victim's father-in-law/mother-in-law
- victim's present spouse (partner)
- victim's former spouse (partner)
- by another family member of the victim

**23. What was the form of domestic violence?**

- battery, infliction of bodily injuries
- intimidation, threat
- sexual violence
- strict control over the freedom of movement
- strict control over financial resources
- other-----

**24. Was the violator under drug or alcohol intoxication?**

- Yes
- No

**25. What did the victim do after being subjected to domestic violence?**

- counteracted
- requested relatives' support
- applied to law-enforcement bodies
- applied to NGOs
- did not do anything
- other-----

**10. If the victim did not do anything, then why?**

- He/she was financially dependent on the violator
- He/she hoped that all of that would finish soon
- He/she had nowhere to go
- He/she was afraid of public reaction
- He/she was afraid of the 'divorcee' label
- He/she did not know to whom to apply in such a situation
- Other -----

**14. If he/she did not apply to law-enforcement bodies, then why?**

- the violator is his/her relative
- embarrassed of the nature of the violence applied against him/her
- to avoid unnecessary red-tape
- do not trust the police for being corrupt
- did not have material evidences to corroborate the incident
- he/she had applied to the police previously, but in vain
- he/she feared improper attitude of police officers
- he/she hoped that things would soon smooth over
- the incident was not very serious

- he/she feared the violator's retaliation
- the police recommend to tolerate not to destroy the family
- the police have indifferent attitude
- police officers do not have basic psychological skills to understand or listen to victims of domestic violence
- other -----

**28. If he/she applied to the police, have he/she been satisfied with their response?**

- Yes
- No

**29. If no, then why?**

- the evidences were not sufficient
- the police did not take action on the case for corruption reasons
- the police ignored the incident
- other-----

**30. In your opinion, what is the main reason for domestic violence in Armenia?**

- unemployment
- prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse
- national peculiarities
- social and economic hardships and poverty
- law-enforcement bodies' indifference in this respect
- ubiquitous scenes of violence in the mass media
- other -----

**Thank you for co-operating with us and responding to the questions.**