

CHAPTER 4:

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

4.1 Introduction

The first part of this chapter takes the form of descriptive analysis of the population under study. This is followed in the next section by an examination of relationships between the demographic and socio-economic factors, and a woman's ever experience of violence; and whether women seek help after victimization.

4.2 Univariate Analysis

4.2.1 Outcome Variables

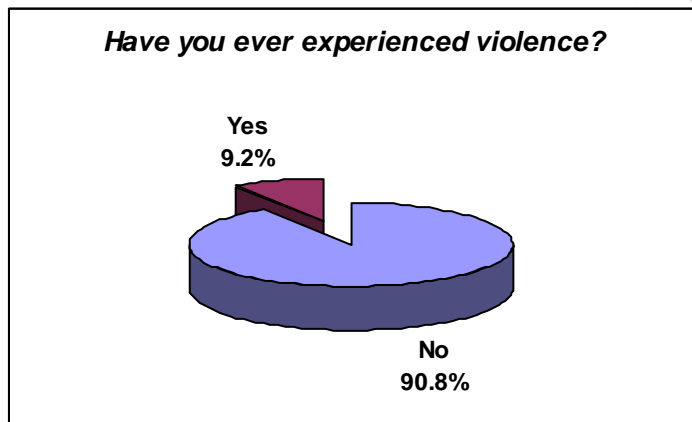


Figure 4.1

Figure 4.1 shows the respondent's ever experience of violence (over the last 12 months). Just over nine percent (9.2%) of the respondents reported experiencing violence over the previous 12 months.

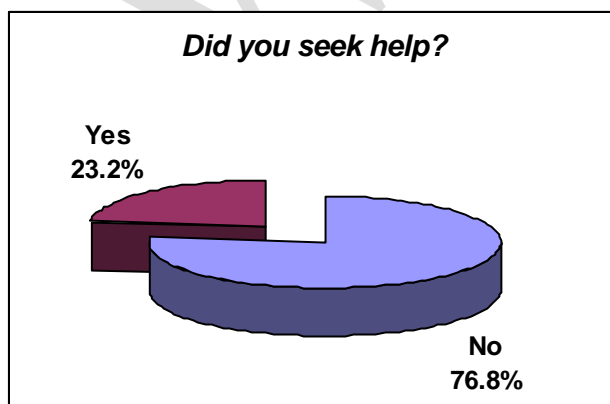


Figure 4.2

Figure 4.2 shows the percentage of respondents who sought help due to their experience of violence. Twenty three percent of the respondents sought help after experiencing violence.

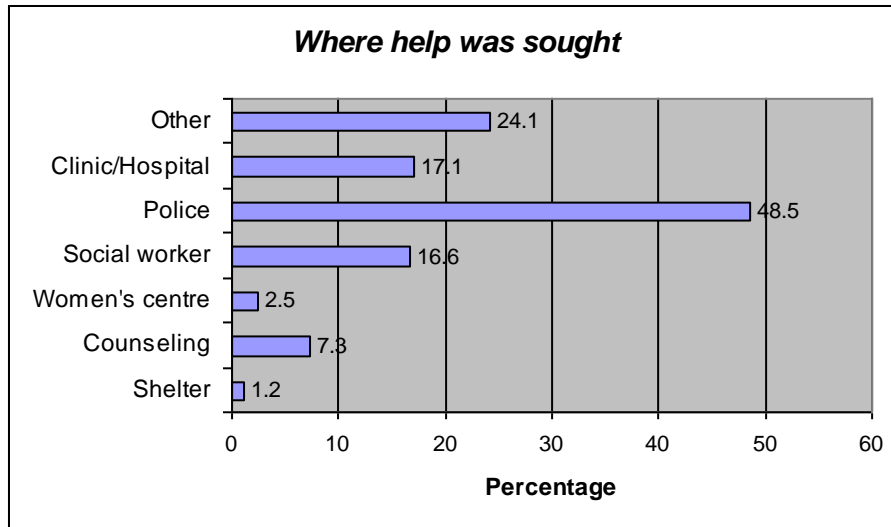


Figure 4.3

Figure 4.3 is a distribution of where the respondents sought help from services after victimization. Close to half (48.6%) of the respondents sought help from the police, while similar percentages (12.7% & 16.3%) sought help from a social worker and a clinic/hospital respectively. Help from a women's centre, counseling and shelter accounted for less than 10% respectively, while help from other places was sought by almost a quarter of the respondents (24.1%).

The first objective of the study was to investigate the prevalence of violence experienced by women in South Africa (in the 12 months preceding The survey). Results in Table 1 show that of the 11735 respondents, 1078 (9.2%) experienced violence over the said period.

Table 1: Outcome Variables

	(11735)	(%)
Experienced violence		
No	10609	90.8
Yes	1078	9.2
Sought help		
No	825	76.8
Yes	253	23.2
Where help was sought*		
Shelter	1	0.4
Counseling	19	7.6
Women's centre	7	2.8
Social worker	32	12.7
Police	121	48.2
Clinic/Hospital	41	16.3
Other	69	27.5

**Some respondents sought help from more than one service; the total numbers need not add up to 250*

In comparison, in the first large scale community-based prevalence study undertaken in South Africa, the prevalence of abuse in the year preceding the study was reported to be 10.9% in the Eastern Cape, 11.9 % in Mpumalanga, and 4.5% in the Limpopo Province (Jewkes et al., 2001). Another study showed that 1 in 4 women in the general population in South Africa have experienced physical violence at some time in their lives (Jewkes et al. 2001).

Table 1 also shows that only 23.2% of the respondents who experienced violence in the study period reported seeking help after victimization.

About half of the women who sought help, did so from the police while a quarter sought help from other services. The least (0.4%) respondents sought help from a shelter followed by those that did so from a woman's centre (2.8 %).

4.2.2 Background Characteristics

The respondent's background characteristics are given in appendix one, a summary of which is given in Table 2.

Table 2: Respondent's background characteristics

	Number	Percent
Age group		
15-19	2373	20.2
20-24	2086	17.8
25-29	1811	15.4
30-34	1616	13.8
35-39	1628	13.9
40-44	1255	10.7
45-49	966	8.2
Total	11735	100
Education		
No education	810	7.0
Primary	3134	26.7
Secondary	6929	59
Higher	862	7.3
Total	11735	100
Marital status		
Never married	5811	49.2
Married/Living together	4948	42.2
Separated	976	8.3
Total	11735	100
Socio-economic status		
Low	5034	43.5
Medium	1649	14.2
High	4896	42.3
Total	11579	100
Household size		
Small	4531	38.6
Medium	4594	39.1
Large	2610	22.2

Total	11735	100
Household head		
Female	5476	46.7
Male	6259	53.3
Total	11735	100
Province		
Western Cape	919	7.8
Eastern Cape	2756	23.5
Northern Cape	1041	8.9
Free State	936	8.0
KwaZulu Natal	1826	15.6
North West	931	7.9
Limpopo	1138	9.7
Mpumalanga	1131	9.6
Gauteng	1057	9
Total	11735	100
Residence		
Urban	6518	55.5
Rural	5217	45.5
Total	11735	100
Ethnicity		
African/Black	8993	77
Colored	1533	13.1
White	755	6.5
Indian/Asian	393	3.4
Total	11674	100

The largest proportion (20%) of the respondents is in the age group 15-19 years. The proportion of respondents reduces from the youngest group to the oldest, with age groups 30-34 years and 35-39 years having an almost equal percentage (13.8% & 13.9%) of respondents.

Almost 60% of the respondents have a secondary education, while 27% have primary education. Respondents of both higher education and no education represent about 7% each respectively.

Just fewer than 44% of the respondents are from households with low socio-economic status, while those from households with a high socio-economic status make up 42%. Fewer than 15% of the respondents are from households that have a medium socio-economic status. In terms of geographical distribution, the highest percentage

(23.5%) of respondents is from the Eastern Cape followed by KwaZulu Natal and the Limpopo Province (15.6% & 9.7%) respectively, while respondents from the North West contributed the lowest percentage (7.9%). Seventy seven percent of the respondents are Blacks with Coloreds making up 13%; Whites 7%; and Indians 3%. More than half (55%) of the respondents reside in urban areas while the remaining 45% reside in the rural areas. Almost half (49.5%) of the respondents have never been married. Forty two percent of the respondents are either married or living together. The remaining eight percent are made of respondents that are divorced, widowed and not living with a partner. The data revealed that there are slightly more male headed households than there are female headed households.

Figure 4.4 is a distribution of the victim's perpetrators. It was found that about 60% of the perpetrators were intimate partners while other known offenders accounted for about 25%. Almost six percent of the perpetrators were reported to be strangers, and 15.5% as other perpetrators.

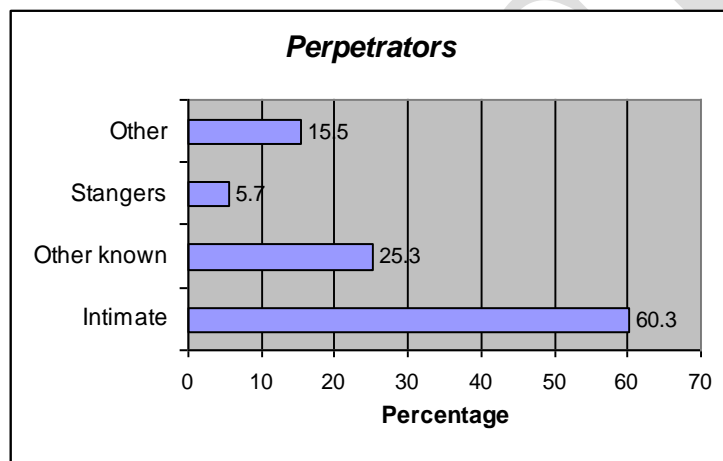


Figure 4.4: Perpetrators

4.3 Bivariate Analyses

The second objective of this study was to examine the associations that the demographic and socio- economic factors have with women's experience of violence and whether victims seek help after experiencing violence. This was done by cross tabulating age group, education, marital status, socio-economic status, household

size, household head, province, residence and ethnicity with experience of violence (last 12 months), and whether women seek help after their experience of violence.

A summary of the findings are presented in Table 3 which shows the percentage distribution of respondents who have experienced violence (in last 12 months), and those who sought help from selected services after victimization, by selected background characteristics.

Table 3: Summary of cross tabulations of the selected background characteristics of respondents by (1) Experience of violence (in the last 12 months) and (2) Seeking help after experiencing violence

	(1)	(2)
	(9.2%)	(23.2%)
Age group		
15-19	12.3	16.4
20-24	10.4	24.1
25-29	9.2	19.9
30-34	8.9	27.8
35-39	8.4	25.0
40-44	5.7	40.8
45-49	5.5	32.1
Education		*
No education	6.6	22.6
Primary	10.3	21.7
Secondary	9.5	23.9
Higher	5.4	30.4
Marital status		
Never married	10.1	17.3
Married/Living together	7.9	29.2
Separated	10.7	36.5
Socio-economic status		*
Low	9.8	22.6
Medium	10.8	21.5
High	8.0	25.3
Household size		
Small	9.6	25.5
Medium	8.6	21.9
Large	9.6	22.4
Household head	*	
Male	9.2	25.8
Female	9.2	20.8
Province		
Western Cape	11.8	25.9
Eastern Cape	7.0	20.2
Northern Cape	13.2	11.7
Free State	8.9	20.5

KwaZulu Natal	8.4	23.7
North West	6.7	24.2
Limpopo	9.5	23.1
Mpumalanga	11.6	25.2
Gauteng	9.9	41.7
Residence		*
Urban	9.9	23.8
Rural	8.4	23.2
Ethnicity		
African/Black	8.6	22.7
Colored	15.2	22.3
White	6.3	40.4
Indian/Asian	6.1	33.3

$p < 0.5$; * $p > 0.5$

The results show that young women experience higher level of violence than do older women. For instance women from the youngest age group (15-19) years are most likely to experience higher levels of violence (12.3%), followed by those between the ages of 20-24 years (10.4%). This percentage decreases with age from just over 9.2% among women in the age group 25-29 years to 5.5% in the age group 45-49 years.

Age was found to have a significant influence on the respondent seeking help after victimization. This observation varies among the different age groups with the youngest age group, 15-19 years seeking help the least (16.4%), and those between ages 40-44 years seeking help the most (40.8%). These observations imply that although younger women experience violence more than twice as many times than older women, they seek help less than half the times that older women do. This could probably be an indication of fear of stigmatization of young people if they seek help, or a lack of resources. This could also show the willingness of young women to stay in violent relationships.

Education was found to have a negative but significant influence on the women's experience of violence, with those having only primary education experiencing the highest percentage of violence (10.3%), while the lowest percentage (5.4%) was experienced by those who have higher education. Women that have no education were found to experience a lower percentage (6.6%) of violence than those that have primary and secondary education (10.3% & 9.5%). Conditional on experiencing

violence, education was found to have a positive influence on the respondent seeking help after victimization, although this finding is not significant. The rate at which victims with no education, primary and secondary education seek help does not vary much (22.6%, 21.7%, & 23.9%), while those with higher education seek help the most (30.4%).

It is rather surprising that women with no education experience less violence than those with primary and secondary education. This is contrary to expectation because uneducated people are generally thought to be poor and hence it is believed that poverty is associated with higher levels of violence. It is also thought that being uneducated generally limits a woman's ability to seek for help from services, but this study shows that uneducated women seek help at almost the same levels as women that have primary and secondary education.

Marital status was found to have a significant influence on the respondent's experience of violence, as well as on whether women seek help after victimization. Being never married and being separated are associated with higher rates (10.1% & 10.7% respectively) of experiencing violence than those that are married or living together (7.9%). The highest percentage (36.5%) of women that sought help after victimization is those that are separated, followed by women that are living together with their partners (29.2%). Women that were never married sought help the least (17.3%).

There is tendency to expect that living with a spouse or partner would expose women to additional violence (spousal violence). But these results indicate that married women experience less violence than those that are never married or separated. This relationship is worth exploring to see if it holds when other variables are controlled for, because it does not tie with the distribution of perpetrators of violence of which 60% were found to be intimate partners. This suggests the possibility of married women, and those living with partners, under-reporting their experience of violence. Also separated women could have the highest rates of seeking help because they not

only experience more violence, hence the need to seek help more, but they also do not fear losing their relationships, or being seen as disloyal as they have already exited them.

Socio-economic status was found to have a significant influence on a woman's experience of violence. Violence prevails more in households that are of low and medium SES than in household of a high SES. Results show that respondents that have a medium SES experience the highest levels (10.8%) of violence followed by those with a low SES (9.8%). A high SES was found to be associated with a lower experience of violence (8%). A woman's SES was found to have no significant influence on whether she seeks help, although those having a lower and higher SES tend to seek help more (22.6% & 25.3%) than women with a medium SES (21.5%).

Household size was not found to have a significant influence on women's experience of violence or whether they seek help after victimization. It was found that respondents from small and large households experience violence to a similar extent (9.6%), while those from a medium sized household experience slightly lower levels of violence (8.6%). Women from small households were found to seek help the most (25.5%) when compared to those from medium and large households (21.9% & 22.4%).

There appears to be not much of a difference in the levels of violence that the different household sizes experience. One would expect there to be higher levels of violence experienced by women in households with larger sizes due to reasons such as fighting over limited resources in the household and resistance to being controlled by in-laws. But this does not seem to be the case in this study population. Women from medium and large households would probably seek help less from services as they could have good support systems in their households, when compared to those from small households.

Sex of household head was also not found to have a significant influence on a woman's experience of violence, but was found to influence significantly whether

women seek help after victimization. Women from households where the male is the head, and those from households where the female is the head experience the same level of violence (9.2%). Respondents from a male headed household seek help more (25.8%) than those from female headed households (20.8%). This observation needs to be investigated further as the levels of experiencing violence in both male and female headed households are the same.

Province is found to have a significant influence on women's experience of violence, and on whether they seek help after victimization. For example while respondents from the Northern Cape experienced the highest levels (13.2%) of violence, those from the Western Cape and Mpumalanga experienced 11.8% & 11.6% respectively. With the exception of the North West, whose respondents experienced the lowest levels of violence (6.7%), results from the rest of the provinces shows that the level of experiencing violence is between 7% and 9.9%. Women from Limpopo Province have the highest percentage (41.7%) of those that seek help after victimization followed by those from the Western Cape (25.9%). It was found that women from the Northern Cape seek help the least from the services available (11.7%), while women from the rest of the provinces report low levels of seeking help after victimization (about 20%-25%).

Notably women from the Northern Cape experience the highest levels of violence yet they seek help from services the least. This could probably indicate a lack of services in the province. High rates of women seeking help from services in Gauteng could be attributed to the abundant supply of services in the province when one considers that they do not experience the highest levels of violence.

The levels of women experiencing violence and seeking help after victimization do not vary much by place of residence, although residence was found to have a significant influence on the respondent's experience of violence. Women in the urban areas reported experiencing higher levels (9.9%) of violence than those in the rural areas (8.4%), while the difference in seeking help did not vary widely between urban 23.8% & rural 23.2% residences.

The study found ethnicity to have a significant influence on the respondent's experience of violence, as well as on whether they seek help after victimization, though to a lesser extent. Colored women reported experiencing the highest levels of violence (15.2%), which is almost twice as many times as African women (8.6%), while White and Asian women reported similar levels 6.3% and 6.1% respectively. Although White women had the second lowest level of experiencing violence, they sought help the most (40.4%). This was followed by Asian women (33.3%), and then by African women (22.7%). Colored women were found to seek help the least (22.3%). It is generally thought that African women experience the highest levels of violence, but this study shows that Colored women experience twice as high a rate of violence than do Black women. It is highly possible that Black women are under-reporting their experience of violence as their rate of seeking help is higher than that of Colored women. White women on the other hand could have a much higher rate of seeking help because they are able to do so from more than one service due to the generally higher SES that they enjoy, and also underreporting by White and Indian women cannot be ruled out.

4.4 Summary

The study at bivariate level of analysis found that age, education level, marital status, SES, province, residence, and ethnicity to have a significant influence on a woman's experience of violence. It also revealed that marital status, household headship, province, and ethnicity influence significantly whether a woman seeks help after victimization or not.

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