





## Jordan's Barometer

The Pulse of the Jordanian Street— (20)

May, 2020

## **Coronavirus Lockdown Exacerbating Domestic Violence in Jordan**

(Results and Indicators)

This poll was conducted with support from Hivos

#### **Abstract**

The coronavirus pandemic has entered every home in one way or another. Strict lockdown measures to prevent the spread of the disease, are giving rise to a surge in domestic violence to which the UN is referring to as 'the shadow pandemic'. To some, it is not safe to be home; therefore, the UN Secretary General has called for governments to incorporate domestic abuse policies as a key part of their national response strategies against COVID-19.

Realizing those serious human rights violations and their direct association to financial hardship; which are on the rise due to the loss of jobs/curfew as a result of the coronavirus crisis. The Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan has immediately launched its 20<sup>th</sup> poll, as part of its "Jordanians' Barometer – The Pulse of the Jordanian Street" series of polls, to reflect on the effect of the coronavirus crisis on the degree of domestic violence exacerbations among Jordanian households during the curfew.

The poll was conducted between the  $20^{th}$  - $26^{th}$  of April, 2020, on a representative sample of the Jordanian community; taking into consideration the different age groups, educational levels and governorates. The collected data was processed and weighed by CSS research experts; to ensure the statistical representation of all governorates, within a margin of  $\pm 3\%$  error.

The outputs of the poll disclosed state-of-the-art statistics on domestic violence surge during COVID-19 lockdown in Jordan, originating a public debate among officials and citizens alike and starting a huge media campaign on television channels, radio stations and social media platforms. Furthermore, a hotline for reporting cases of domestic violence was launched by the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW) and Al-Mamlaka TV; being its foremost impact.

Al-Mamlaka TV showcased the pivotal results of the survey on 'Baad Al-Khabar' talk show on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, 2020, hosting the General Secretary of JNCW and a Psychological and Educational Counselor to discuss the social and psychological repercussions of the coronavirus on Jordanian families.

The link to 'Baad Al-Khabar' full episode: <a href="https://www.almamlakatv.com/singleprogram/10035#">https://www.almamlakatv.com/singleprogram/10035#</a>
The link to 'Baad Al-Khabar' episde brief: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/396902253989412/posts/1234226916923604/">https://www.facebook.com/396902253989412/posts/1234226916923604/</a>

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### **Main Findings**

The vast majority of Jordanians consider themselves to be committed to curfew procedures; whereby 85% reported to be be fully committed and 14% moderately committed. During this period, 69% of Jordanians and their family members are spending their time on the phone, 66% on TV, 56% sitting with other family members, 51% cooking food/ desserts, 44% doing chores, 40% mostly sleeping, 33% homeschooling and 24% reading. The curfew contributed to an increase in smoking rate among 52% of Jordanians (*cigarettes and shisha*).

However, the prolonged lockdown is raising concerns among Jordanians, mainly related to the loss of their jobs (29%) and being exposed to verbal (9%) and physical (2%) abuse. The psychological wellbeing of more than half of the Jordanians (51%) was negatively impacted, and 38% believe that the atmosphere at home is uneasy and tense to varying extents (21% slightly, 11% moderately, 6% highly). The effect of COVID-19 on the social relations of Jordanians was negative on 34% of them, positive on 31% and neutral on 36%.

According to the opinion of 62% of Jordanians, curfew measures are likely to exacerbate the occurance of domestic violence. Whereas in reality, <u>16% of Jordanians reported an increase in the frequency of domestic violence</u> (24% reported no increase and 60% reported no violence).

During the mandatory curfew in response to the coronavirus crisis, a total of 35% of Jordanians have been subject to at least one form of domestic abuse (*noting a 10% total increase*); 58% of which have been the victim of abuse by a male family member (25% father, 16.5% husband, 16.5% brother), 33% by a female family member (25% mother, 8% sister) and 9% by others.

The most prevalent forms of domestic violence reported during quaratine are verbal violence (48%), phsychological violence (26%), neglect (17%) and physical abuse (9%). Those violent acts (between March  $21^{st}$  to April  $20^{th} - 26^{th}$ ) occurred **1-3** times among 75% of the COVID-19 domestic abuse victims, **4-6** among 19% and **7+** times among 7%. (*The main differing parties are represented in figure 7*).

Furthermore, 13% of Jordanians reported that disputes during the coronavirus lockdown period have led to physical abuse, 9% agreed that domestic violence towards disabled persons has increased, 10% thought helping out (the husband/ father/ mother/ sibling) in house chores leads to violence,

and 91% reported that children are spending more time on the internet/ playing video games. Only 5% of those who experienced violence during the lockdown seeked help.

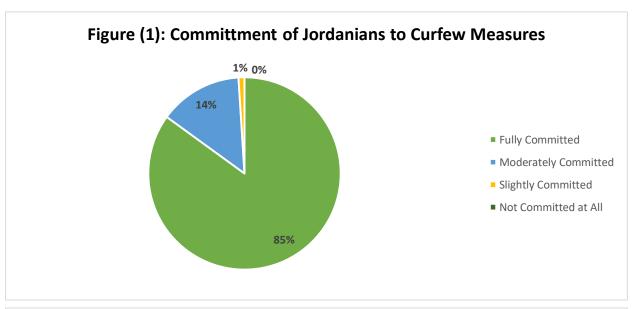
Previous to the coronavirus health crisis, 25% of Jordanians suffered from some sort of domestic violence, quarrels or disputes within the family; third of which (33%) was verbal violence, 25% marital disputes, 18% psychological abuse, 13% negligence, 7% physical abuse and 3% routine family disputes. The frequency of such violent acts used to occur **1-3** times a month among 82% of households with previous domestic violence record, **4-6** times a month among 14% and **7+** times a month among 4%.

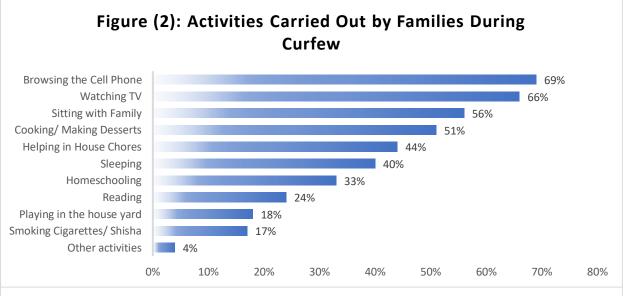
Throughout the past 12 months of the time of the survey, 14% of Jordanians reported to have been confronted with some form of abuse; half of which (50%) did not take any action, 24% contacted a relative, 17% turned to a friend, 6% refuged to local authorities, 2% seeked helped from a non-governmental organization, 2% referred to social media platforms (*Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram*) and a mere **2%** called the **hotline** for reporting domestic violence complaints. A majority of 54% of Jordanians do not know how to contact the institutions that provide support to victims of domestic abuse.

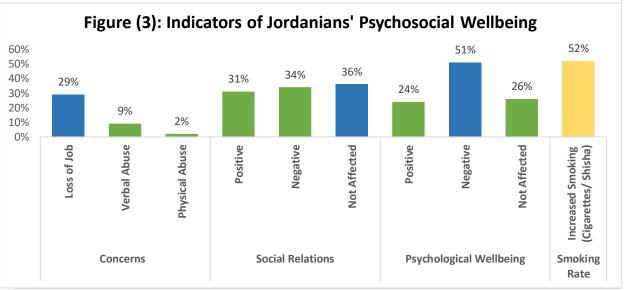
In general, two thirds (66%) the Jordanians believe that family quarrels are normal and acceptable, 16% think that elder family members are entitled to use violence against the younger individuals as means of discipline, 9% agree that males are entitled to use violence against girls to as means of discipline, and only 1% agree that husbands can abuse their wives.

On a positive note, 23% of Jordanians reported to have had positive psychological impact out of the coronavirus curfew, 66% found the time to solve their family/ children's problems, 77% became closer with their children, 80% reconnected with their children/parents and 85% realized the burdens that women bear doing house chores.

## Jordanians' State of Affairs during COVID-19







Tables (1), (2) and (3) show the detailed percentages of Jordanians' current state of affairs in terms of age, gender, education and governorate. Respondents who are males, aged 30-39 years old, have vocational training, or reside in Tafilah or Mafraq governorates are mostly concerned about losing their jobs.

The younger age groups and females are more exposed to verbal and physical abuse during curfew. A mere 1% of females reported sexual abuse; mostly from the governorate of Madaba (5.3%). The social relations of males are mostly affected negatively, whereas 35% of respondents aged 50+ years old reported that their social relations are negatively affected, 35% are not affected and 30% are positively affected.

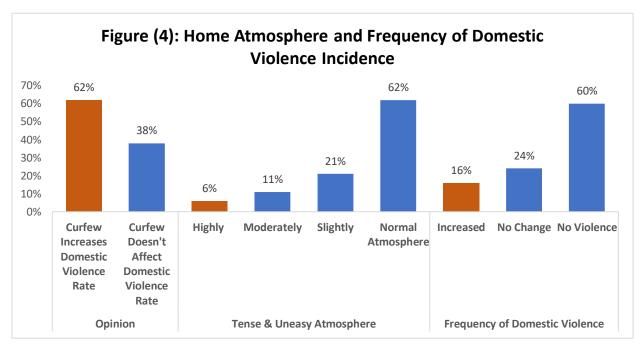
The psychological wellbeing of more than half of the respondents from all educational backgrounds are negatively impacted, with the exception of those with vocational training and diploma, who are suffering less. In addition, approximately both males' and females' psychological wellbeing are equally/negatively affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and the younger age groups (18-29 years old) are affected the most.

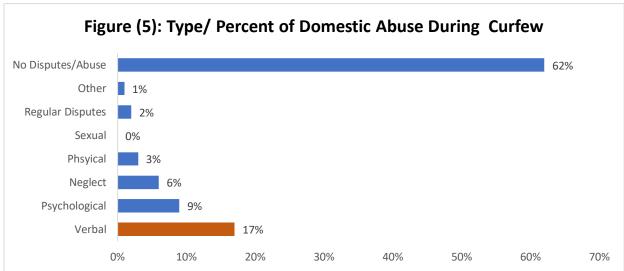
Table (1)		Age	Gender		Education	Governorate	
			Highest Percentages				
	Loss of Job	30-39 yrs	Male	Vo	cational Training	Tafilah, Madaba	
S	%	34%	35%		64%	50%, 47%	
ern	Verbal Abuse	18-29 yrs, 30-39 yrs	Female	Di	ploma, BA, MA+	Mafraq	
Concerns	%	12%, 13%	14%		10%	21%	
ŭ	Physical Abuse	18-29 yrs, 30-39 yrs	Female	Sec	ondary, BA, MA+	Balqa	
	%	3%, 2%	3%	3%, 2%, 2%		6%	
			<u> </u>	owest Pe	rcentages		
	Loss of Job	18-29 yrs	Female	Diploma		Mafraq, Irbid	
	%	26%	22%		25%	17%, 23%	
'ns	Verbal Abuse	40-49 yrs	Male	Vo	cational Training	Tafilah, Aqaba, Karak	
cel	%	4%	4%		0%	0%	
Concerns	Physical Abuse	50+ yrs	Male	Less than	n Secondary, Vocational Training	Tafilah, Aqaba, Karak, Mafraq, Ajloun, Madaba, Maan	
	%	0.30%	1%	0%		0%	

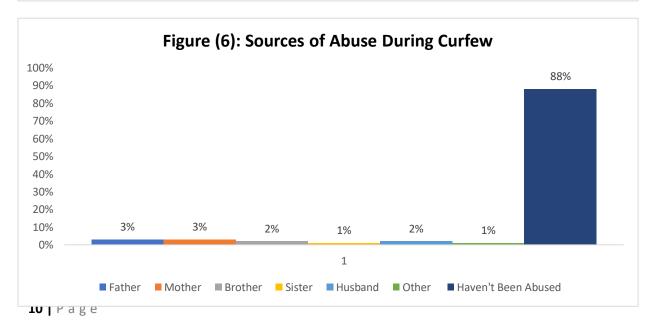
	Table (2)	Age	Gend	er Education	Governorate
			ŀ	lighest Percentages	
SL	Positive	18-29 yrs	Male	<b>Vocational Training</b>	Balqa
Ęi	%	32%	33%	87%	38%
e a	Negative	30-39 yrs	Male	Less than Secondary	Tafilah
Social Relations	%	37%	36%	46%	55%
Cia	Not Affected	18-29 yrs	Female	Diploma	Jerash
SS	%	38%	41%	41%	55%
			L	owest Percentages	
S	Positive	30-39 yrs	Female	Less than Secondary	Ajloun
ion	%	29%	29%	23%	12%
Social Relations	Negative	18-29 yrs	Female	Vocational Training	Karak
- R	%	30%	30%	7%	15%
ocia	Not Affected	30-39 yrs	Male	Vocational Training	Tafilah
S	%	34%	30%	7%	22%

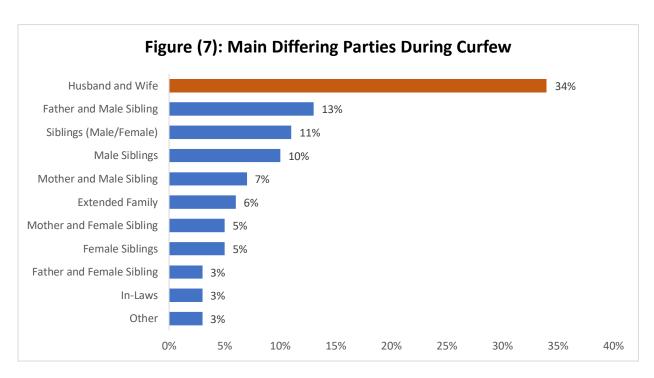
	Table (3)	Age	Gender		Education	Governorate
			Highest Percentages			
_	Positive	30-39 yrs	Female	Vocatio	nal Training, Diploma	Tafilah
ica Jg	%	26%	24%		36%, 30%	48%
sychologic	Negative	18-29 yrs	Female	Les	s than Secondary	Madaba
cho	%	54%	51%		65%	70%
Psychological Wellbeing	Not Affected	50+ yrs	Male	Vo	cational Training	Irbid
	%	31%	27%		29%	32%
				Lowest Pe	rcentages	
	Positive	18-29 yrs	Male	Les	s than Secondary	Madaba
la S	%	21%	22%		15%	5%
Psychological Wellbeing	Negative	50+ yrs	Male	Vo	cational Training	Ajloun
cho	%	46%	50%		36%	36%
Psy	Not Affected	30-39 yrs	Female	Les	s than Secondary	Tafilah
	%	24%	25%		19%	14%

#### Rise in Tension in Jordanian Households









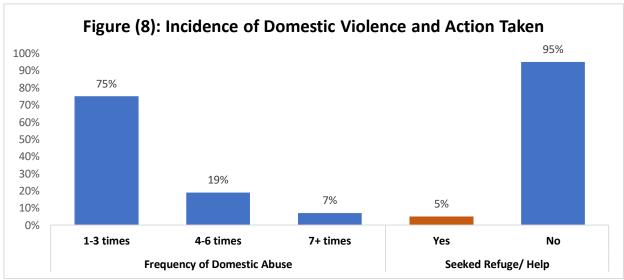


Table (4)	Yes	No	Total
Disputes during the coronavirus curfew have led to physical abuse	13%	87%	100%
Domestic violence towards disabled persons has increased	9%	91%	100%
Helping out (the husband/father/mother/sibling) in house chores leads to violence	10%	90%	100%
Being exposed to violence during home curfew	8%	92%	100%
Children are spending more time on the internet/ playing video games	91%	9%	100%

Tables (5), (6) and (7) show the detailed percentages of Jordanian households' rise in tension in terms of age, gender, education and governorate. In general, females, younger age groups (18-39 years old) and respondents from higher educational backgrounds (Secondary certificate, BA, MA) reported higher rise in household tension, frequency of abuse and all types of domestic violence, as well as sought less help compared to the rest.

Mafraq governorate reported the highest rise in household tension (21%). Frequency of violence is highest in Jerash (27%), Mafraq (28%) and Madaba (30%). Most types of violence are reported to be of highest prevalence in Amman, followed by Irbid. Only victims of domestic abuse in Zarqa (17%), Irbid (6%) and Amman (4%) during lockdown sought help. In general, domestic violence during the coronavirus outbreak in Jordan is reported to be highest in the central and northern regions of the kingdom, sparing the southern region (Karak, Tafilah, Aqaba and Maan governorates).

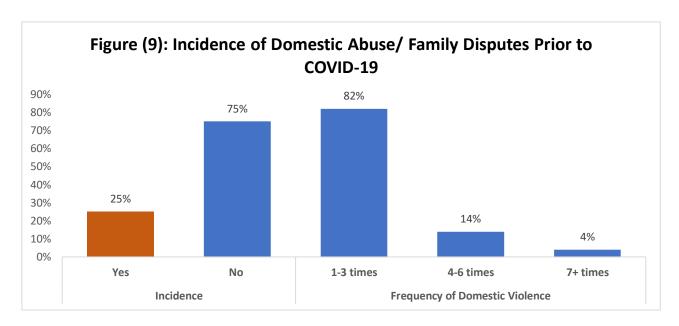
Majority of respondents who have less than secondary education (96%) or vocational training (93%) are <u>males</u>; which might explain why respondents from these educational categories are less exposed to domestic abuse.

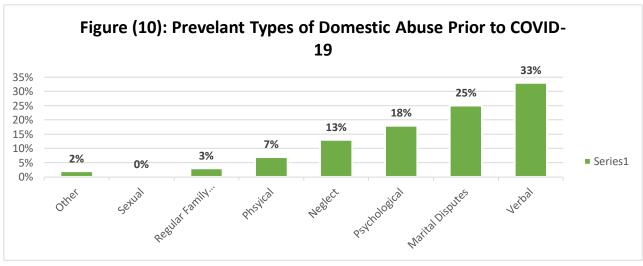
Table (5)		Age	Gender		Education	Governorate
			ercentages			
ē	Highly tense/uneasy atmosphere	18-29 yrs	Female	Les	s than Secondary	Mafraq
ohe	%	8%	8%		15%	21%
Atmosphere	Frequency of Violence Increased	18-29 yrs, 30-39 yrs	Female	;	Secondary, BA	Madaba, Mafraq, Jerash
1	%	18%, 21%	20%	17%		30%, 28%, 27%
			ı	Lowest Pe	rcentages	
ere	Highly tense/uneasy atmosphere	50+ yrs	Male	Male Diploma		Karak, Ajloun, Maan
hd	%	3%	4%		2%	0%
Atmosphere	Frequency of Violence Increased	50+ yrs	Male		Diploma	Tafileh, Ajloun
⋖	%	9%	11%		10%	5%, 6%

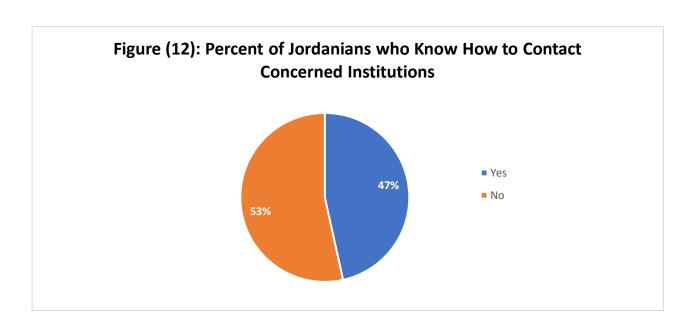
	Table (6)	Age	Gend	er	Education	Governorate		
		Highest Percentages						
	Verbal	18-29 yrs	Female		ВА	Irbid		
9	%	51%	65%		50%	27%		
Type of Violence	Psychological	18-29 yrs	Female		ВА	Amman		
Vio	%	45%	73%		50%	37%		
of	Physical	18-29 yrs	Female		ВА	Amman		
pe	%	52%	81%		74%	42%		
	Neglect	18-29 yrs	Female		ВА	Amman		
	%	43%	75%	61%		51%		
			<u> </u>	owest Pe	ercentages			
	Verbal	40-49 yrs	Male	Vo	cational Training	Karak		
	%	11%	35%		1%	0%		
Type of Violence	Psychological	50+ yrs	Male		s than Secondary, cational Training	Ajloun, Karak, Tafileh, Maan, Aqaba		
Χ̈́	%	11%	27%		1%	0%		
of	Physical	50+ yrs	Male		Diploma	Ajloun		
/pe	%	2%	19%	2%		0%		
Ē.	Neglect	40-49 yrs, 50+ yrs	Male	Les	s than Secondary	Ajloun, Karak, Tafileh, Maan, Aqaba		
	%	8%, 10%	25%		3%	0%		

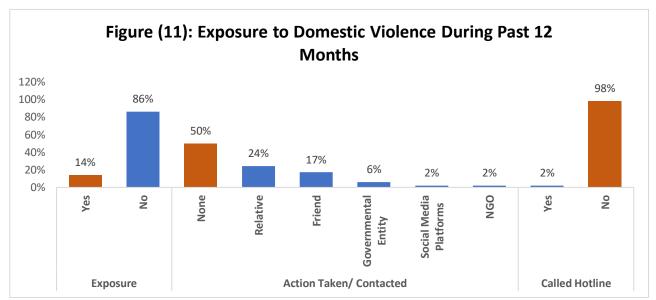
Table (7)		Age	Gend	er	Education	Governorate	
			Highest Percentages				
	Sought Help	18-29 yrs	Female		BA, MA	Zarqa	
	%	9%	7%		8%, 6%	17%	
Other	Disputes led to Physical Abuse	30-39 yrs	Female		BA, Diploma	Amman	
<del> </del>	%	18%	18%		14%	12%	
	Violence towards Disabled Persons	18-29 yrs	Female		Secondary	Maan	
	%	12%	13%		14%	14%	
			L	Lowest Pe	rcentages		
	Sought Help	40-49 yrs	Male		Less than BA	Balqa, Tafilah, Mafraq, Jerash, Madaba	
	%	0%	2%		0%	0%	
Other	Disputes led to Physical Abuse	50+ yrs	Male	Vo	cational Training	Ajloun, Balqa	
ð	%	5%	8%		0%	6%, 8%	
	Violence towards Disabled Persons	40-49 yrs, 50+ yrs	Male	Les	s than Secondary	Mafraq	
	%	5%	4%		0%	0%	

### **Domestic Abuse Prior to COVID-19 Health Crisis**









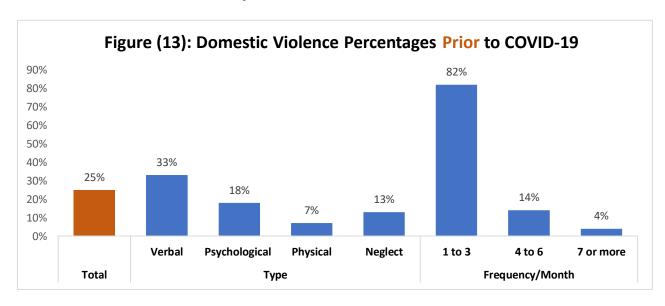
Tables (8) and (9) show the detailed percentages of domestic abuse in Jordanian households prior to COVID-19 crisis in terms of age, gender, education and governorate. In general, younger age groups (18-39 years old), females and respondents with higher educational backgrounds are exposed to higher percentages of all types of domestic violence. The central and northern provinces have highest cases of domestic abuse. None of the 50+ years old respondents reported physical abuse, but the remaining age groups reported incidence of all types of violence, to varying extents (verbal 10%-59%, psychological 5%-61%, physical 1%-63% and neglect 13%-51%).

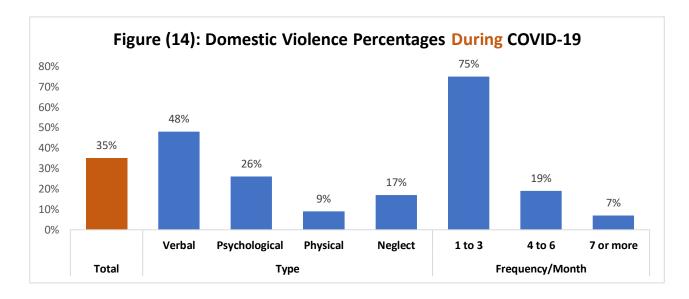
Male respondents are least exposed to physical abuse (5% of all physical abuse cases reported). Respondents of lower educational backgrounds are also exposed to less domestic violence (same explanation of gender/educational level applies).

Table (8)		Age	Gender		Education	Governorate
		Highest Percentages				
Prior	Incidence of Domestic Violence	18-29 yrs, 30-39 yrs	Female	Vo	cational Training	Jerash
	%	32%, 26%	31%		47%	35%
Incidence to COVII	7+ times/month abuse	18-29 yrs, 30-39 yrs	Female		Secondary	Madaba
= -	%	5%	6.3%		8%	50%
				Lowest Pe	rcentages	
Prior 0-19	Incidence of Domestic Violence	40-49 yrs, 50+ yrs	Male	lale Less than Secondary		Karak
	%	18%, 15%	18%		15%	0%
Incidence Pr to COVID-2	7+ times/month abuse	40-49 yrs, 50+ yrs	Male	Less tha	nn Secondary, Vocational Training	Tafileh, Aqaba, Mafraq, Jerash, Ajloun, Maan
=	%	1%, 0%	0%		0%	0%

	Table (9)	Age	Gende	er Education	Governorate		
		Highest Percentages					
	Verbal	18-29 yrs	Female	ВА	Amman		
9	%	59%	74%	52%	40%		
Type of Violence	Psychological	18-29 yrs	Female	ВА	Amman		
\ Si	%	61%	86%	56%	36%		
of	Physical	18-29 yrs	Female	ВА	Amman		
pe	%	63%	95%	58%	38%		
	Neglect	18-29 yrs	Female	ВА	Amman		
	%	51%	76%	53%	32%		
			L	owest Percentages			
	Verbal	40-49 yrs, 50+ yrs	Male	Less than Secondary	Karak, Tafileh, Maan		
ου,	%	23%, 10%	26%	1%	0%		
enc	Psychological	40-49 yrs, 50+ yrs	Male	Diploma	Ajloun, Karak		
į	%	7%, 5%	14%	8%	0%		
Type of Violence	Physical	40-49 yrs, 50+ yrs	Male	Diploma	Ajloun, Balqa, Karak, Aqaba, Tafileh, Maan		
, d ,	%	1%, 0%	5%	5%	0%		
<b>–</b>	Neglect	40-49 yrs, 50+ yrs	Male	Less than Secondary	Karak, Aqaba, Maan		
	%	13%	24%	4%	0%		

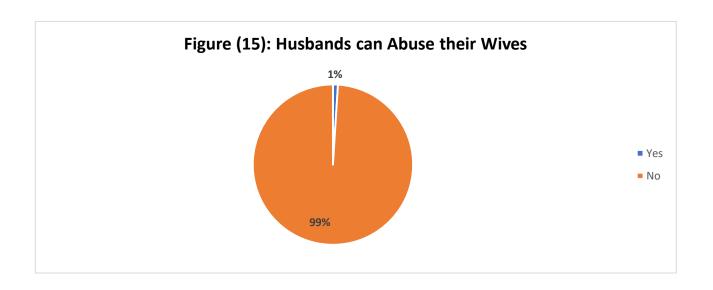
## Visualization of Domestic Violence Exacerbation





## Normalization of Domestic Violence

Table (10)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Family quarrels are normal and acceptable	10%	56%	24%	11%
Elder family members are entitled to use violence against the younger individuals as means of discipline	2%	14%	31%	53%
Males are entitled to use violence against girls to as means of discipline	2%	7%	22%	70%



Tables (11) and (12) show detailed percentages of normalization of domestic violence in terms of age, gender, education and governorate. Almost half (50%-55%) respondents of all age groups, 42% of males and 63% of females strongly disagree that elder family members are entitled to use violence against the younger individuals as means of discipline. Whereas 62%-77% of respondents of all groups, 54% of males and 85% of females strongly disagree that males are entitled to use violence against girls to as means of discipline. Thus, more Jordanians think that it is not acceptable for males to use force against females as means of discipline, versus the elderly members of the family. Also, as educational level increases (BA, MA), tolerance to domestic violence is decreased.

Most respondents who agree to a husband being allowed to abuse his wife are; 8% of those with less than secondary education, 1% of those aged 18-39 years old, 2% of males, 18% of Tafileh and 2% of Irbid residents. Half percent (0.5%) of females agree that husbands are allowed to abuse their wives. Majority (98%-100%) of respondents from all governorates in Jordan, with the exception of Tafileh (in the southern region) reported that a husband has no right to abuse his wife.

•	Table (11)	Highest Percentages				
	Age Gender Education (				Governorate	
Domestic Agree to ements	Force can be Used by Elders	18-29 yrs, 30-39 yrs	Males	Secondary	Balqa	
of Dor ghly Ag	%	3%	8%	5%	7%	
Normalization of E Violence/ Highly <u>f</u> Following State	Force can be used by Males	18-29 yrs, 30-39 yrs	Males	ВА	Tafileh, Irbid	
N S	%	2%	3%	3%	5%	

Table (12)		Highest Percentages			
		Age	Gender	Education	Governorate
Normalization of Domestic Violence/ Highly <u>Disagree</u> to Following Statements	Force can be Used by Elders	18-29 yrs, 30-39 yrs	Females	ВА	Zarqa
	%	53%, 55%	63%	55%	60%
	Force can be used by Males	18-29 yrs	Females	BA, MA	Ajloun
	%	77%	85%	72%, 75%	76%

# **Positive Findings**

Table (13)	Yes	No	Total
Found the time to solve their family/ children's problems	66%	34%	100%
Became closer with their children	77%	23%	100%
Reconnected with their children/parents	80%	20%	100%
Realized the burdens that women bear doing house chores	85%	15%	100%