

# ***PREGNANCY: PREVALENCE, RISK FACTORS, OUTCOMES AND PREVENTIONS***

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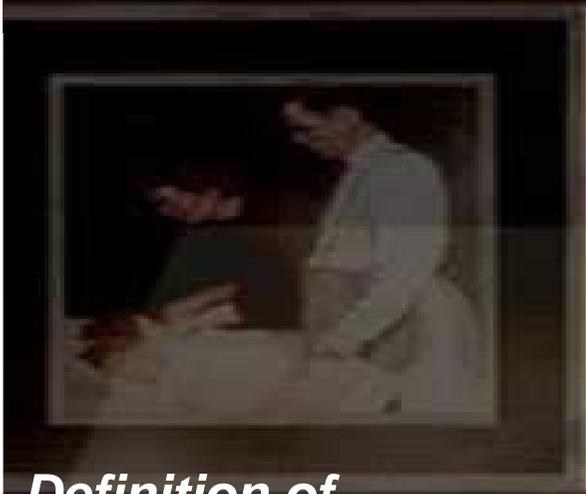
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**Violence against women is a global concern and it is estimated that one in every five women will face some form of violence their lifetime (World Health Organization, 2005)**



***Definition of Domestic Violence:***

“a pattern of coercive behavior designed to exert power and control over a person in an intimate relationship through the use of intimidating, threatening, harmful, or harassing behavior”



***Types of Domestic Violence:***

- 1- physical abuse
- 2- sexual abuse
- 3- verbal threats(emotional abuse)  
isolation, and economic abuse

## Pregnancy and Violence

- Biopsychosocial stresses leads to frustration leads to violence
- Jealousy of fetus or diverted attention
- increase in their physical, social, emotional, and economic needs
- Anger at woman or fetus
- Attempt to end pregnancy-conscious or not
- Business as usual



# Prevalence of violence during pregnancy

Prevalence of violence during pregnancy							
Less Developed Countries				Developed Countries			
	physical	emotional	sexual		physical	emotional	sexual
Rwanda,	38/3%			Lindow (UK) (2003)	3.4%		
South-east Nigeria	17.6%			British Columbia, Canada(2003)	1/9%		
Jordan (2009)	15%						
Nicaragua (2005)	13%	32%	7%				
Kuwait, (1999)	8.2%						
Tehran(2004)	8/1%,56/	56/2%	23/4%				
China (2005, 2007)	0/9%	1/3%					

# RISK FACTORS

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graph TD; RF([RISK FACTORS]) --> A[A: victim-related characteristics]; RF --> B[B: unhealthy lifestyle]; RF --> C[C: physical health problems]; A --> A1[1- Age]; A --> A2[2- Marital Status]; A --> A3[3- Race/Ethnicity]; A --> A4[4- Employment]; A --> A5[5- Social Support]; B --> B1[1- Poor Diet]; B --> B2[2- substance Abuse]; B --> B3[3- Emotional Problems (Anxiety, Depression)]; C --> C1[1- Late Prenatal Care];
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## A: victim-related characteristics

- 1- Age
- 2- Marital Status
- 3- Race/Ethnicity
- 4- Employment
- 5- Social Support

## B: unhealthy lifestyle

- 1- Poor Diet
- 2- substance Abuse
- 3- Emotional Problems (Anxiety, Depression)

## C: physical health problems

- 1- Late Prenatal Care

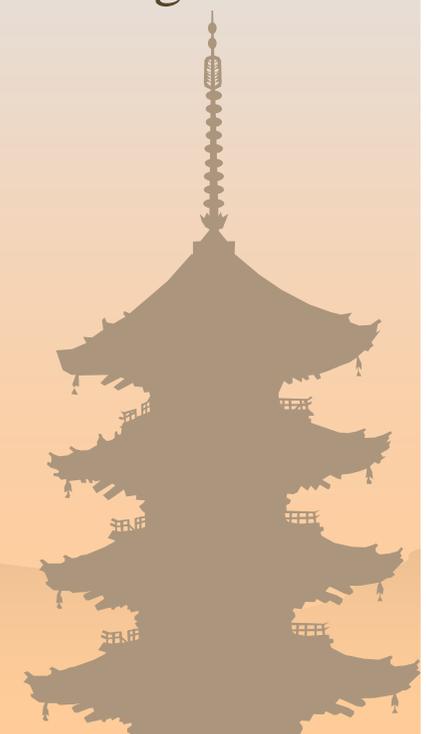
# OUTCOMES

## Direct outcomes

- low birth weight
- abdominal trauma
- abruptio placentae
- fetal fractures
- uterine rupture
- antepartum hemorrhage

## Indirect Outcomes

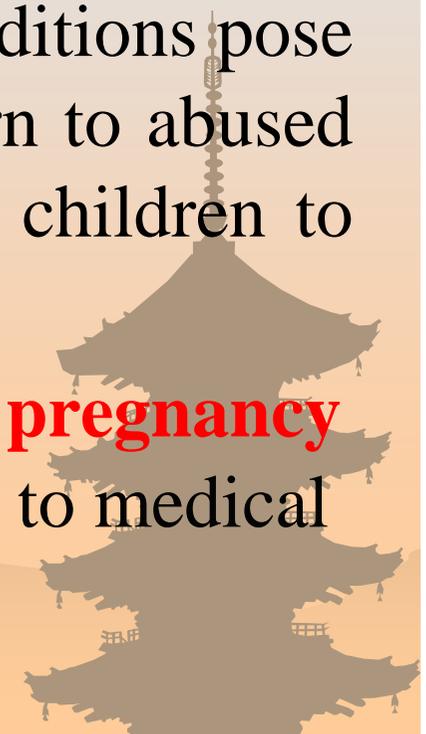
- physical and psychological stress of the mother
- poor access to prenatal care
- poor maternal nutrition
- behavioral risks such as smoking cigarettes



Women experiencing abuse in the year prior to and/or during a recent pregnancy were **40% to 60%** more likely than non-abused women to report **high-blood pressure, vaginal bleeding, severe nausea, kidney or urinary tract infections and hospitalization** during this pregnancy.

Abused women were **37%** more likely to **deliver preterm**, and children of abused women were **17%** more likely to be born **underweight**. Both of these conditions pose grave health risks to newborns, and children born to abused mothers were over **30%** more likely than other children to require **intensive care upon birth**.

higher incidence of **miscarriage, termination of pregnancy** and **neonatal death** in abused women in addition to medical problems such as **asthma and epilepsy**.



# Preventions

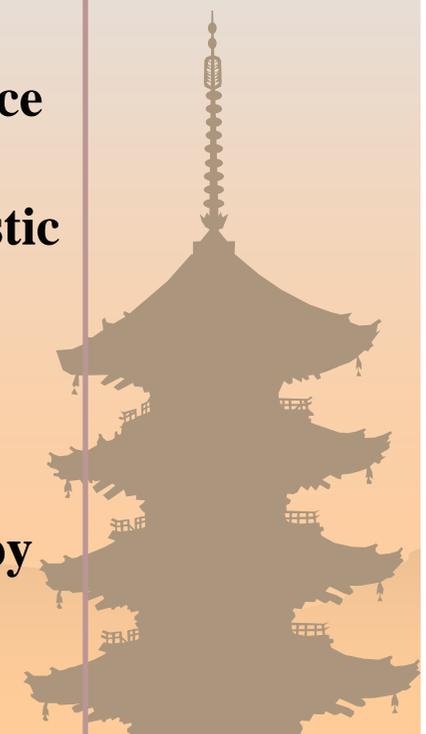
## Primary Intervention

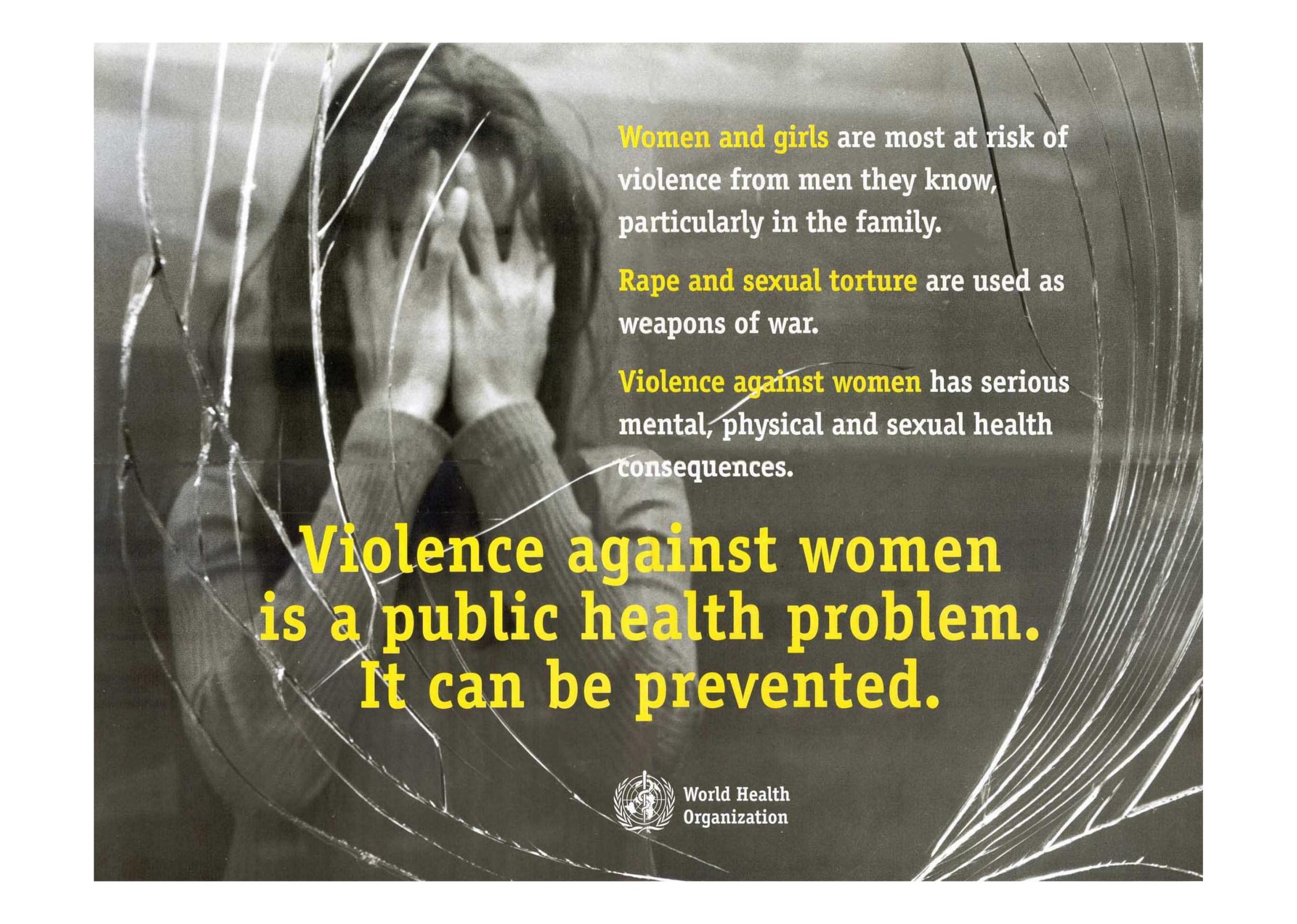
- 1- changing cultural and societal circumstances
- 2- political activism & efforts
- 3- decrease pornography and violence
- 5- promotion of healthy images of women in the media
- 6- increased penalization of abusers
- 7- Advocation of birth control options for women
- 8- informed women about available support services to them
- 9- clinicians participation in primary prevention

## Secondary Intervention

- 1- identification of domestic violence and referrals for safe havens and/or treatment
- 2- providing nonjudgmental support to women once situations of domestic violence have been identified
- 3- discussing issues of domestic violence with men
- 4- encouraging intervention programs for abusive men
- 5- volunteering for services that serve families affected by domestic violence

## Tertiary Intervention





**Women and girls** are most at risk of violence from men they know, particularly in the family.

**Rape and sexual torture** are used as weapons of war.

**Violence against women** has serious mental, physical and sexual health consequences.

**Violence against women  
is a public health problem.  
It can be prevented.**



World Health  
Organization



A painting depicting a woman with long dark hair kissing a man's cheek. The man's face is partially visible, and a dark silhouette of a man's head is shown in profile in the background. The scene is framed by intricate, dark vine-like patterns with small flowers. The text "Thank You for Your Attention." is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

Thank You for Your Attention.



