

Key Findings on Women's Status and Domestic Violence from the 2005 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (2005 CDHS)

The 2005 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey provides up-to-date information on the population and health situation in Cambodia. The 2005 CDHS is the second in a series of national demographic and health surveys conducted here.

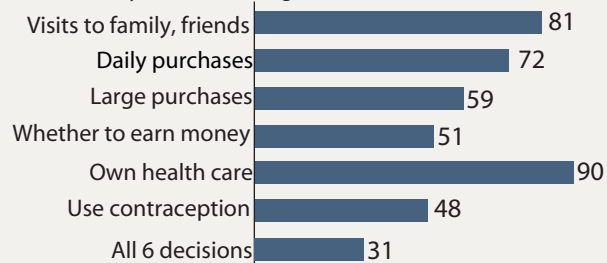
The survey is based on a nationally representative sample. It provides estimates for the rural and urban areas of the country and for each of 19 regions. 16,823 women and 6,731 men were interviewed for this CDHS. For the first time, the CDHS asked women about their experiences with domestic violence and looked at various women's status indicators.

Economic Autonomy

Few women own assets independently. Only 14 percent of women own land alone, and only 9 percent own their dwelling. Only 15 percent have ever applied for or taken out a loan. However, almost two-thirds control the money for at least one household item.

Women's Participation in Household Decisions

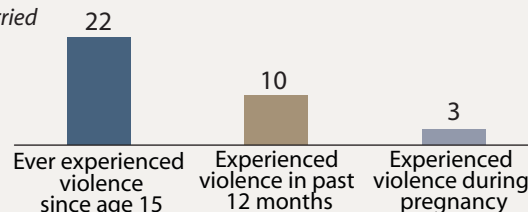
Percent of married women who alone or jointly have the final say in the following decisions:



Most women participate in at least some household decisions. Nine in ten women have the final say in their own health care, but less than half have the final say in whether or not they use contraception.

Experiences with Violence

Percent of ever-married women

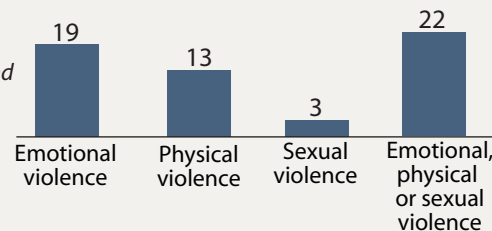


Almost one-third of ever-married women have ever experienced physical violence since the age of 15. Ten percent had experienced physical violence in the year before the survey. Only 3 percent had experienced violence during pregnancy.

In more than two in five cases, husbands were the perpetrators of this violence.

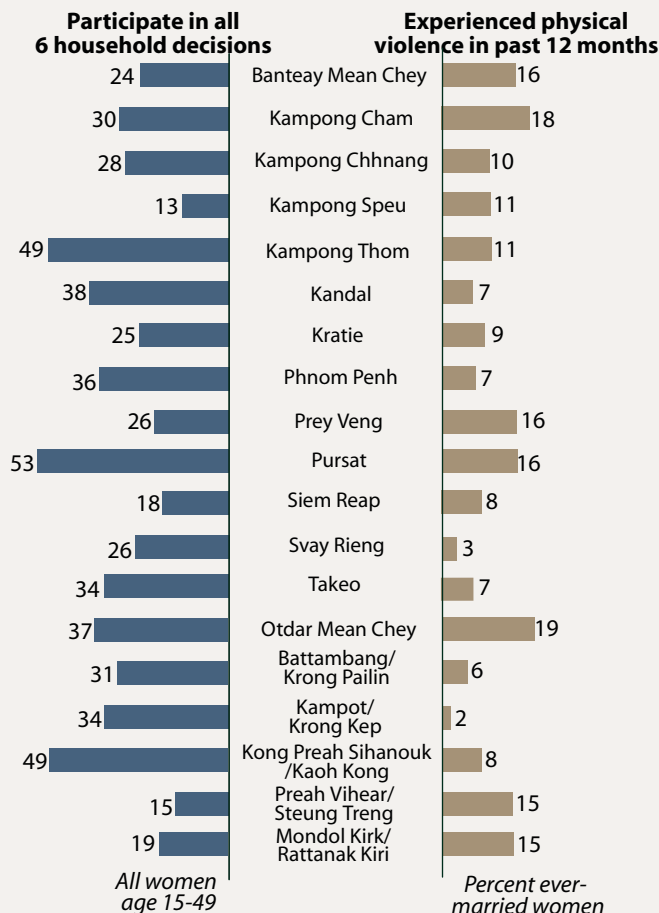
Marital Violence

Percent of ever-married women who have experienced violence by their husband



Almost one quarter of ever-married women have experienced some type of violence by their partner. One-third of those reporting violence in the past year reported that violence occurred on three or more occasions.

Decisionmaking and Violence by Province



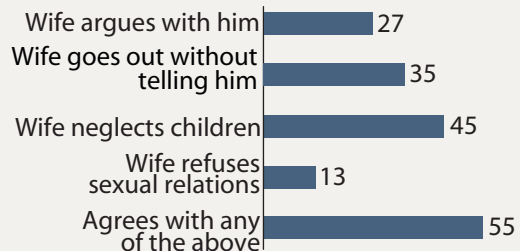
Women in Pursat and Kampong Thom participate in the largest number of household decisions. Women in Kampong Speu and Preah Vihear/Steung Treng are least likely to participate in decisionmaking.

Women in Kampong Cham and Otdar Mean Chey were most likely to report violence in the last year.



Attitudes Towards Wife Beating

Percent of women who agree that husbands are justified in beating their wives for the following reasons:



Many Cambodian women agree that men are justified in beating their wives for certain reasons. Neglecting the children is the most common justified reason.

Marital Control Exercised by Husband

Percent of women whose husbands display various controlling behaviors:



Almost one in ten men exhibit at least three of the controlling behaviors listed above. Women who are married to men who exhibit the most control (3 to 6 items) are seven times as likely to have experienced physical or sexual violence in the year before the survey as women whose husbands exhibit the least amount of control (0 items).

For additional information on the results of the 2005 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey, please contact:

In Cambodia:

NIS, MOP
386, Monivong Blvd
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel. (855) 23 213 650
Fax (855) 23 213 650
email: hdarith@nis.gov.kh

NIPH, MOH
02, Kim Il Sung Blvd
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel. (855) 23 880 345
Fax (855) 23 880 346
email: usa@camnet.com.kh

In USA:

MEASURE DHS
Macro International
11785 Beltsville Drive
Calverton, MD 20705 USA
Telephone: 301-572-0200
Fax: 301-572-0999
www.measuredhs.com

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Fact Sheet on Women's Status and Domestic Violence



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