

Domestic Violence Met by Educated Finnish Women

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“I cried almost every day during our relationship of six years. I wanted to fall ill and die.”

Finnish background

-Finland is in top 3 countries in highest rate of women to suffer domestic violence in Europe (2014)

-20 % of Finnish women suffer from violence in current relationship (2005, Piispa, Heiskanen et al., 44.)

-49 % of Finnish women have suffered from violence or threat of violence from former husband (2005, Piispa, Heiskanen et al.,46)

Previous study

Piispa & Heiskanen 1997 and 2005.

”Usko, toivo, hakkaus” 1997.

”Naisiin kohdistunut väkivalta 2005” 2005 (Piispa, Heiskanen et al.)

Domestic violence and highly educated Finnish women:

	Current partner	Former partner
1997	24 %	56 %

Finnish questionnaire

- Electric
- Completely anonymous
- Graduates of universities and polytechnics.

Terminology:

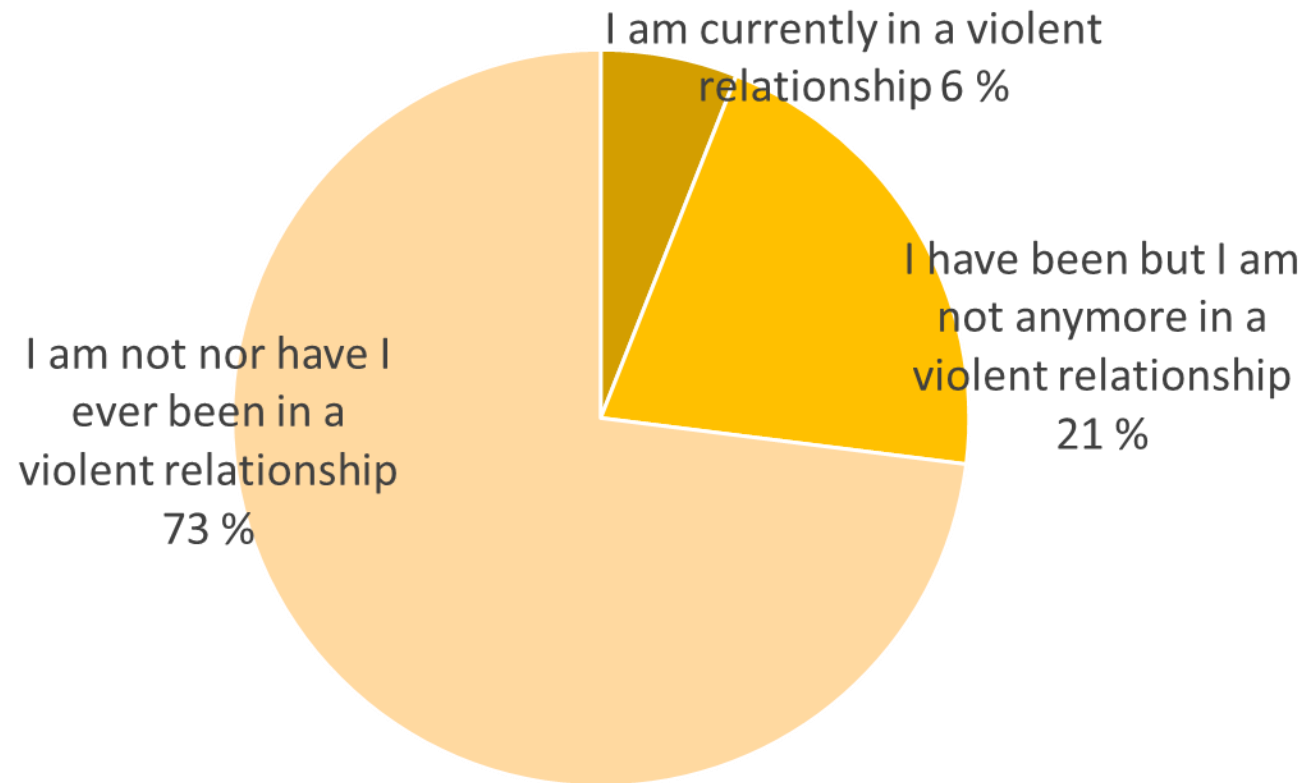
- N= Size of **whole group** of respondents
- Frequency = respondents **per** question

Respondents

- 302 women
- 24–81 years old
- Biggest group 35—44-year old women
- 66 % Masters, 21 % Doctors.
- 110 pages of open answers
- 2 interviews (53 pages)

Frequency of Domestic Violence, %.

N= 298



-27 % of respondents were or had been in a violent relationship, total of **82 women**

(Compare: 1997: 24 % and 56 %)

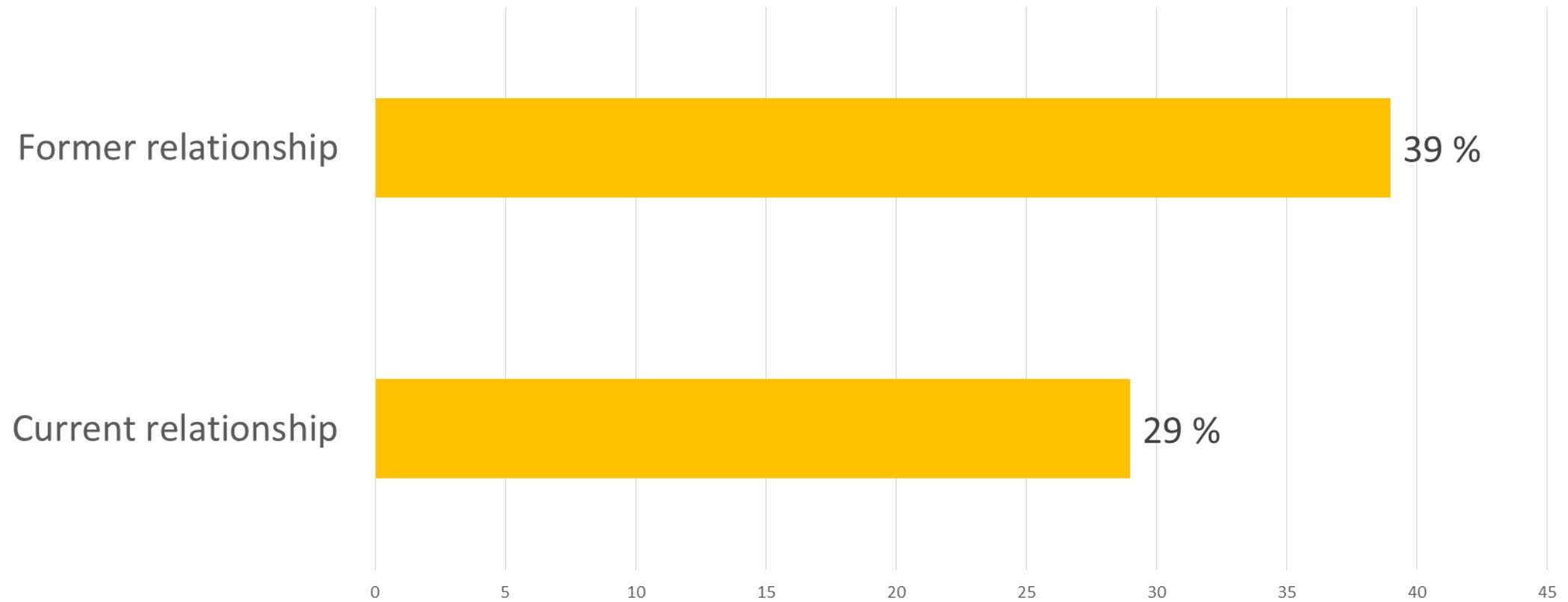
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- Following results concern only the 82 respondents who have experienced domestic violence.
- (Currently in a violent relationship N=19, formerly in a violent relationship N=63)

What is Domestic Violence?

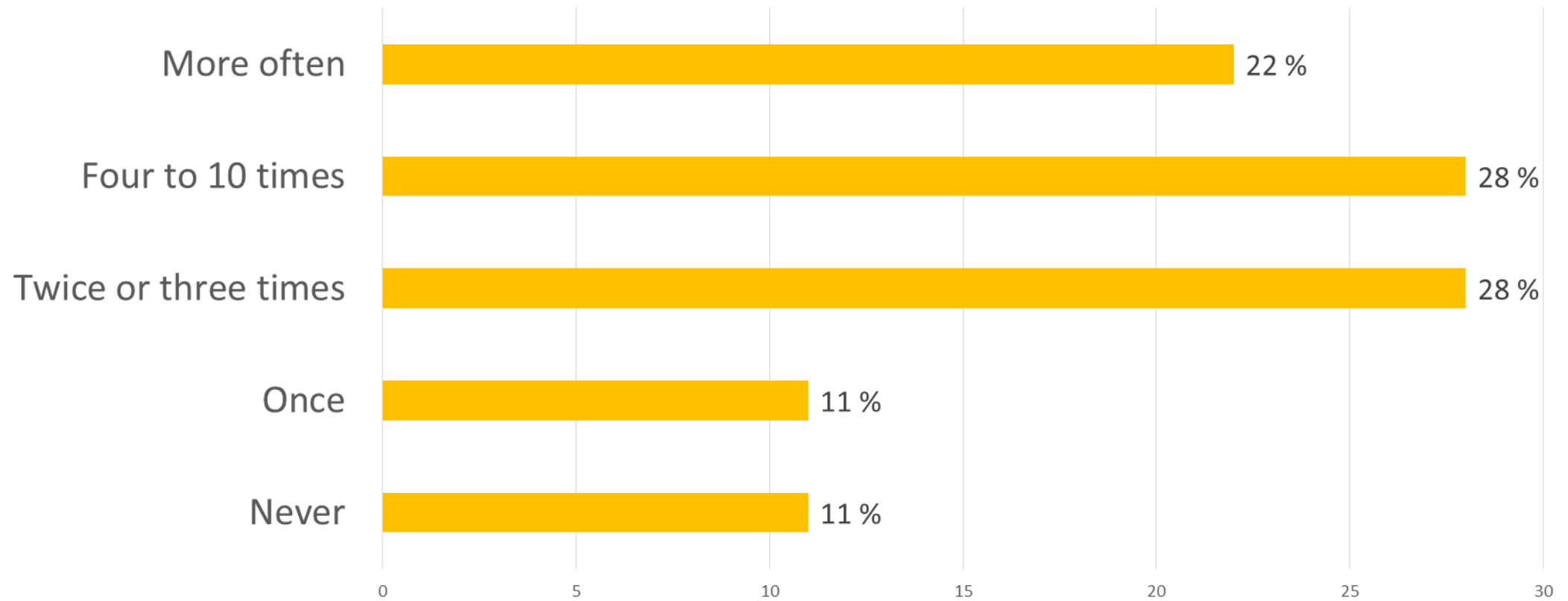
- Psychological**, e.g. name-calling, jealousy, threatening with violence
- Physical** , e.g. hitting, preventing from moving
- Sexual**, e.g. pressuring or forcing into sexual intercourse
- Social**, e.g. restraining woman to see her friends and relatives
- Financial**, e.g. control over money

Is violence continuous? Yes, % (Former, N=62, Current N=17.)



Current relationship

How often has there been violence in the last 12 months? N=18.



Most common psychological abuse 2015

- Name calling(62 %)
- Intimidation with violence (47%)
- Jealousy (27 %)

Most common physical abuse 2015

- Preventing from moving (60 %)
- Slap on the face (41 %)
- Kicking (36 %)

Sexual abuse 2015

-Pushing, trying to force or forcing woman into sexual intercourse (32 %)

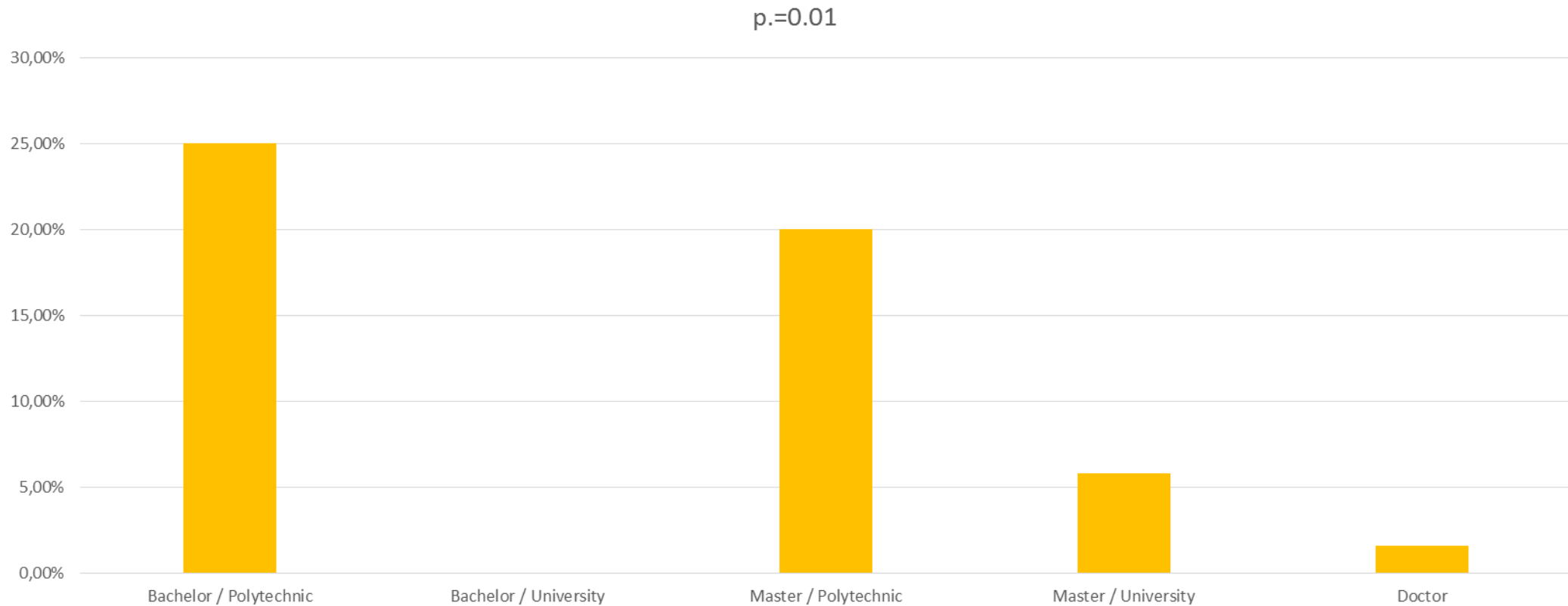
Social violence 2015

- He is jealous and does not want me to talk to another men (27 %)
- He insists of knowing where I am, who I am with and when I return (27 %)
- He restrains me from seeing friends and relatives (24 %)

Financial violence 2015

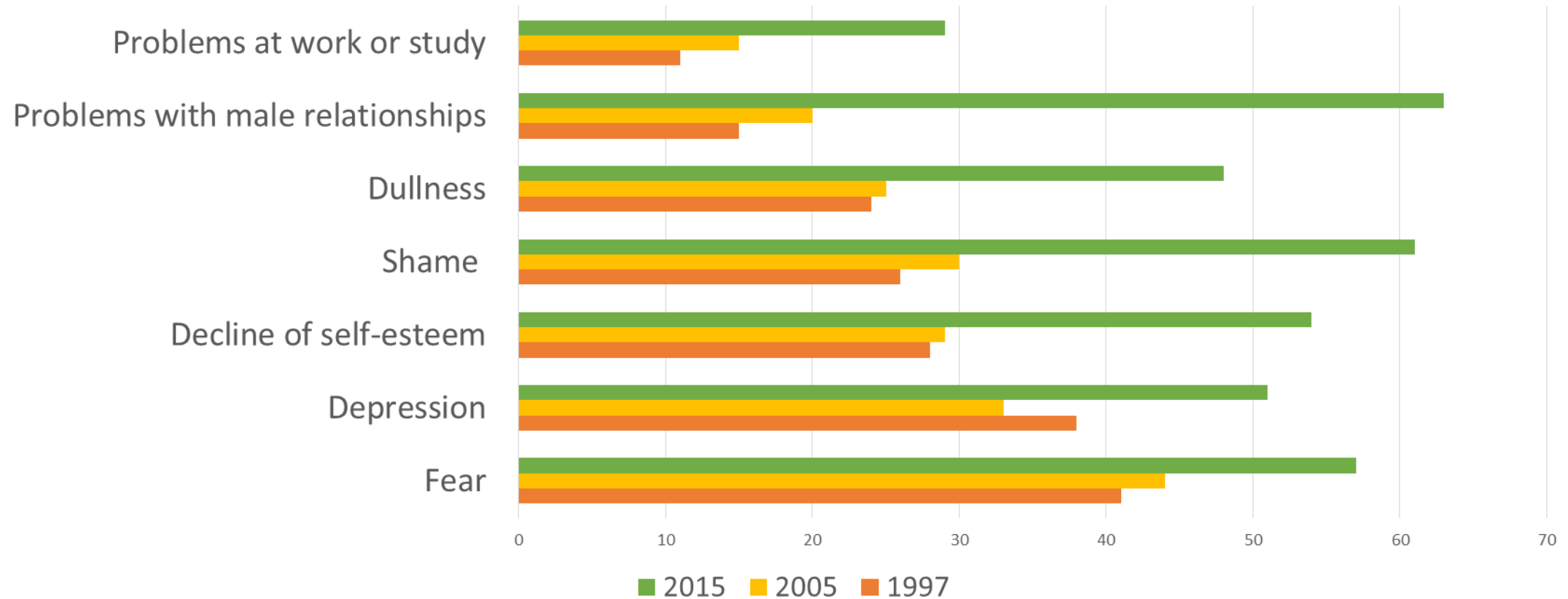
- He deliberately destroys our collective belongings (24 %)
- He prevents me of doing financial decisions in our household (17,5%)
- He prevents me of getting a job outside our home (5 %)

He deliberately destroys our collective belongings. %. N= 82

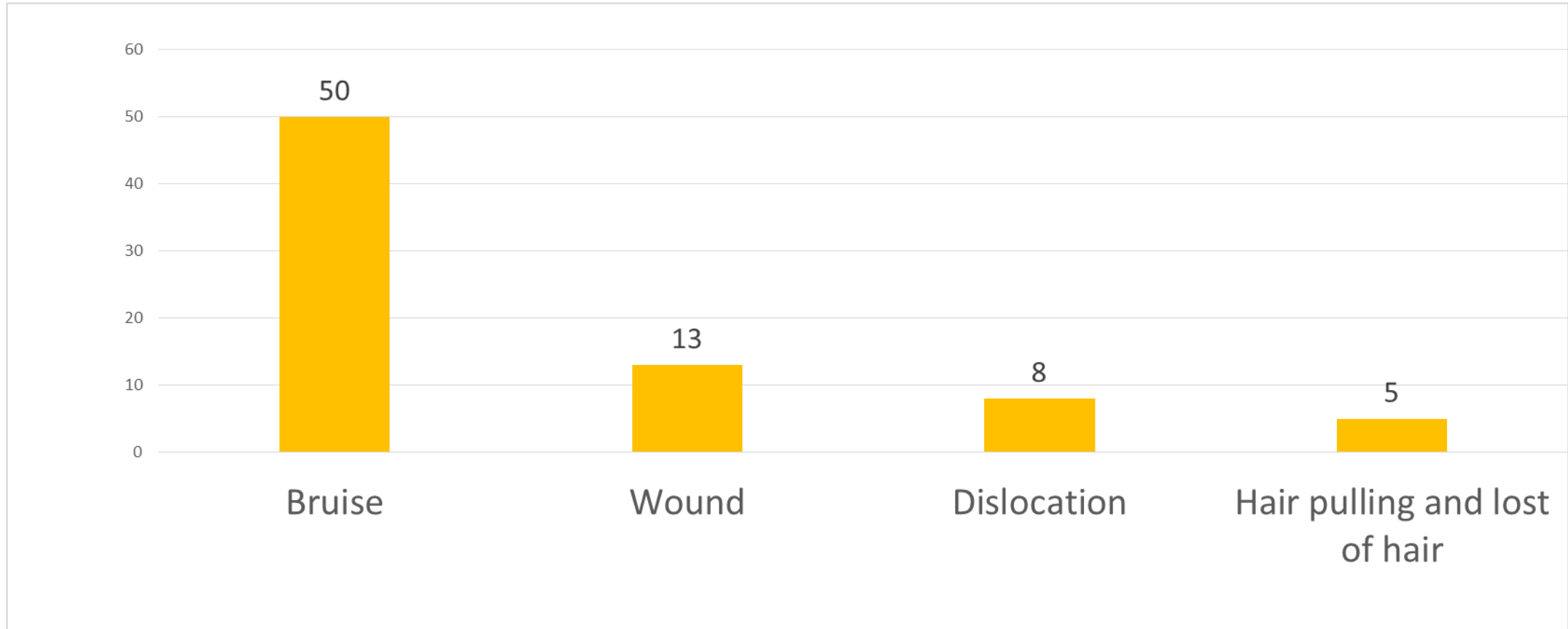


“Getting over has taken years and required years of therapy.”

How did the most violent act affect you? Did it cause: % (2015 N=79, 2005 N=1267, 1997 N=1349)



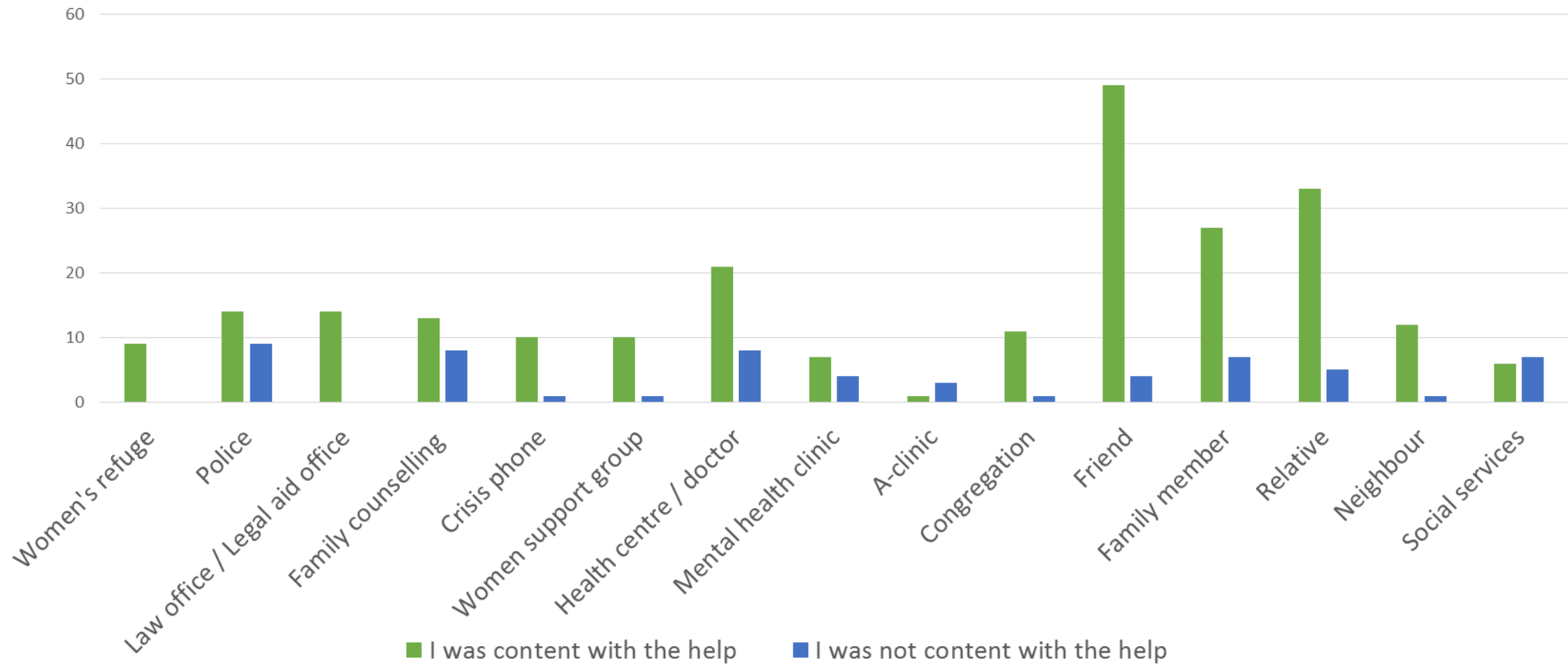
Physical injuries, frequencies. N=82.



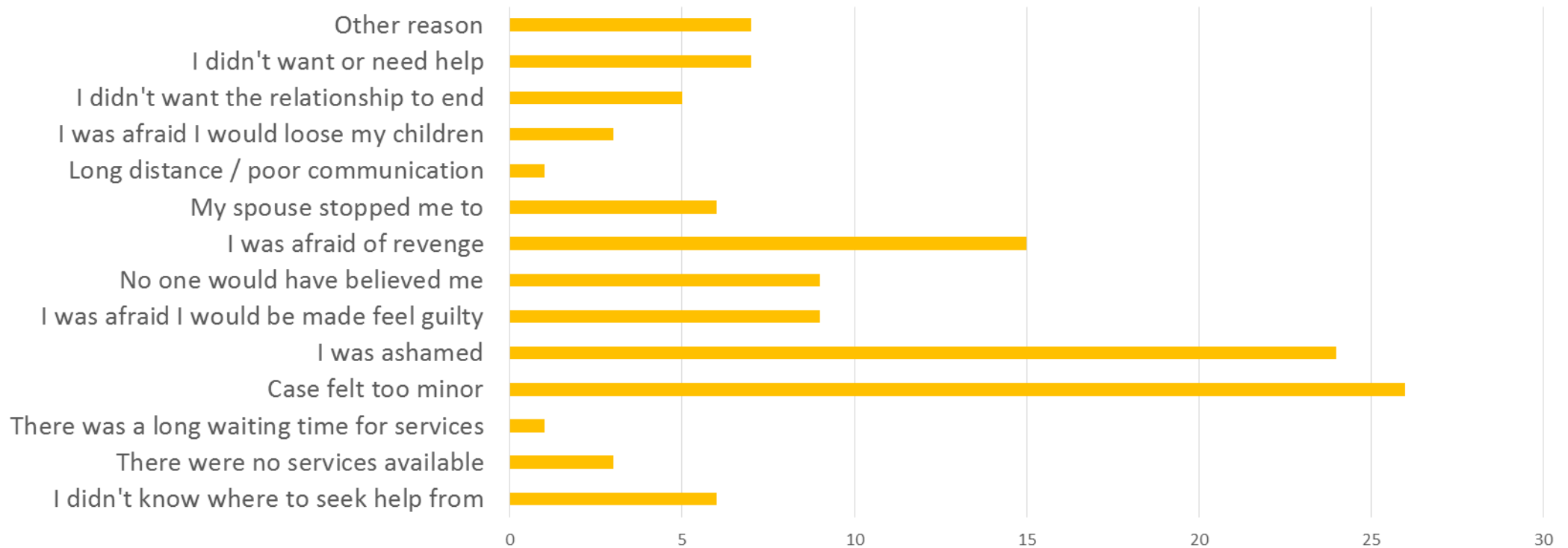
“It was really hard to seek help because of the shame I felt. But it wasn’t easy to get help even when I sought it.”

Have you sought or did you seek help?

N= ca 78. Frequencies.



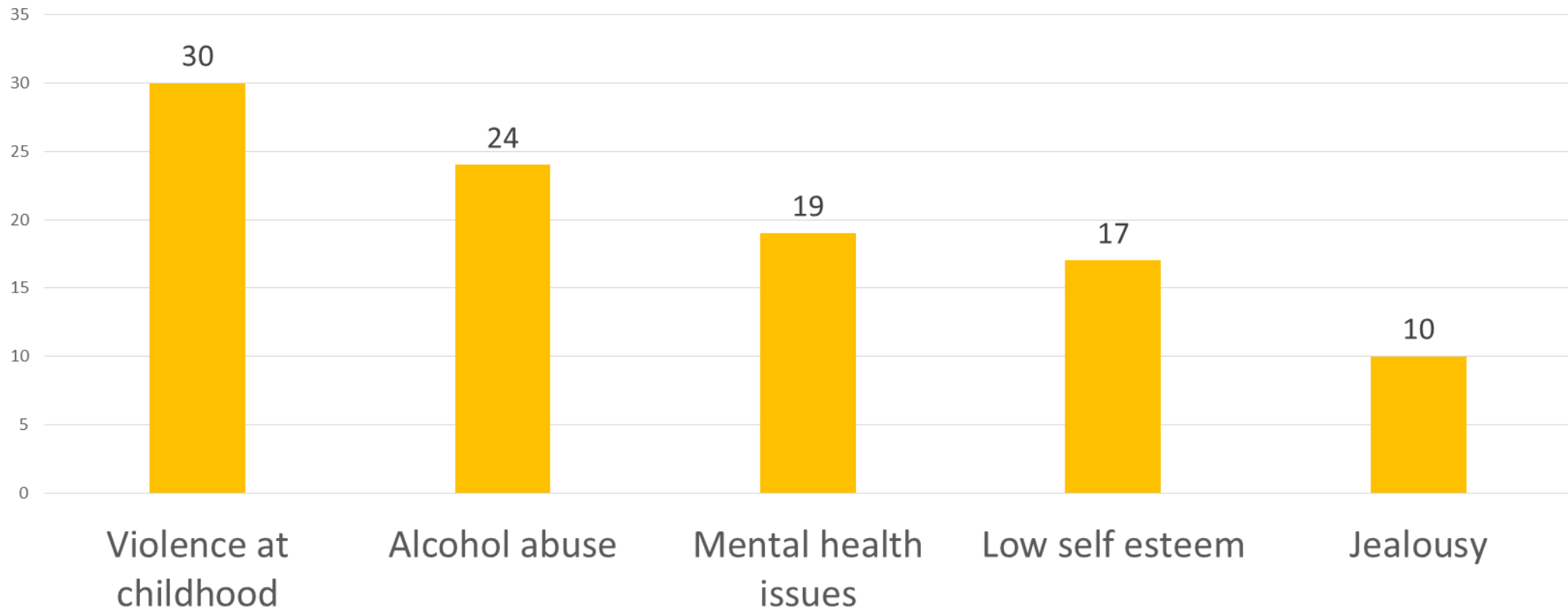
If you **didn't seek** help what were the main reasons for it? Frequencies, N=82.



Top 3 reasons for not seeking help

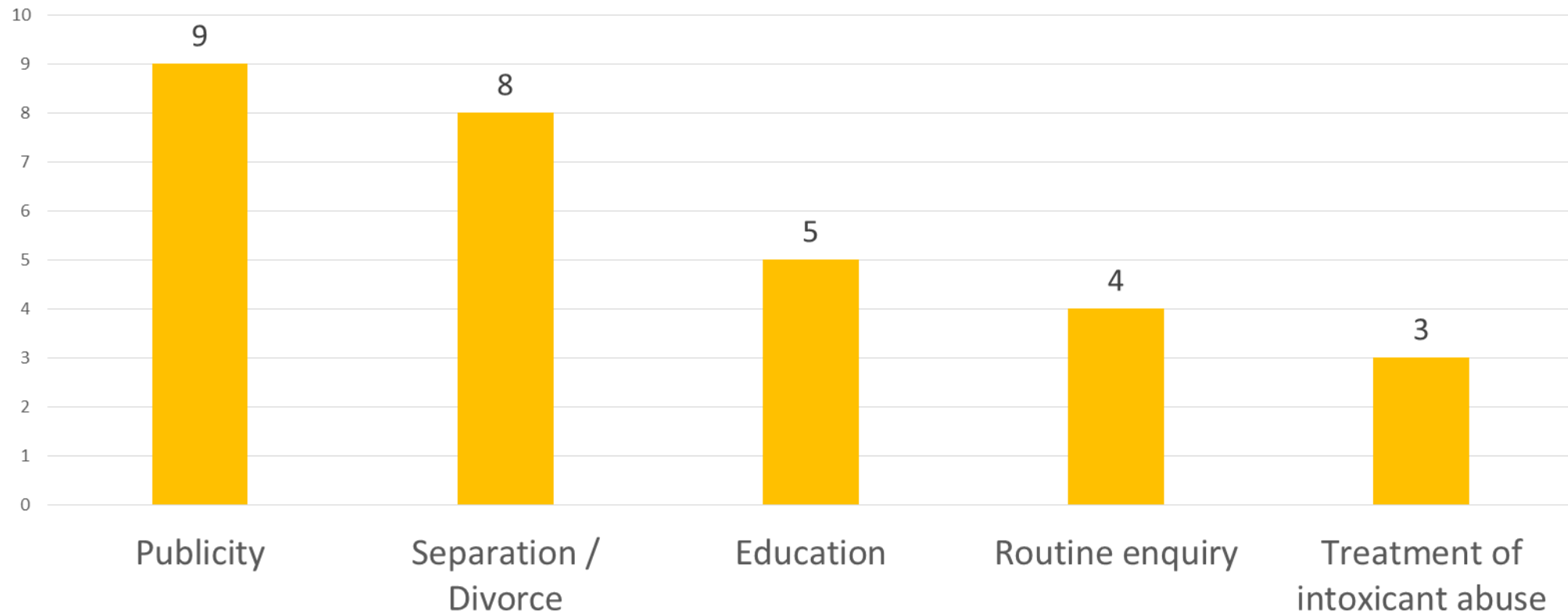
1. Case felt too minor
2. I was ashamed
3. I was afraid of revenge

Main reason for partner's abusive behavior according to women, %. N=67



“Talking helped. It shifted the responsibility and shame from me to the offender.”

Best way to reduce violence in a relationship?
Formerly in an abusive relationship.
Frequencies. N=47.



Summary

- Shame and depression – very long lasting effects
- Friends, relatives, neighbours, doctors are usually helpful – help is near
- Publicity, education, routine enquiry

“Violence didn’t stop until it became public.”