

Women's **Policy Group NI**

WPG Primary Research:

'After Violence: Attitudes and Reporting VAWG'

September 2023

Key Findings Report

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Introduction

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This briefing compiles the quantitative findings from recent WPG research on 'After Violence: Attitudes and Reporting Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).' Please note that it does not include qualitative findings. A full report including all findings will be prepared and published in due course.

Information about the Survey

This survey aimed to capture women's experiences and attitudes towards reporting VAWG in Northern Ireland. The survey was open for 2.5 weeks between 17th August and 3rd September 2023. During this time, 92 responses were received.

Demographics

Of these 92 responses, demographic data showed that:

- 5.5% were aged between 16-24 years
- 19% were aged between 25-34 years
- 21% were aged between 35-44 years
- 30% were aged between 45-54 years
- 22% were aged between 55-64 years
- 3% were above the age of 65
- 18% of respondents were disabled, 14% were living rurally, and 6% were from an ethnic minority group, 5% were from a religious minority group, 3% were from a migrant community, 1% were transgender and 1% were non-binary
- 67% were heterosexual, 3% were gay, 5% were lesbian and 15% were bisexual

Key Quantitative Findings

Experiences of violence

- 87% of women have experienced VAWG
- 80% of women disclosed their experience of VAWG to someone
- 60% of disclosures of VAWG were made to a friend or family member

Police Reporting

- Only 27% of disclosures of VAWG were to the police
- 46% of women know how to report an incident of VAWG to the police
- Only 22% of women feel comfortable reporting VAWG to the police
- 85% of women think there should be a specific mechanism for reporting VAWG to the police

Court system

- Only 9% of women think that courts in NI take VAWG seriously
- 31.5% of women who have experienced VAWG engaged with the court system
- 54.5% of women who engaged with the courts were not satisfied with the outcome

Alternative forms of justice

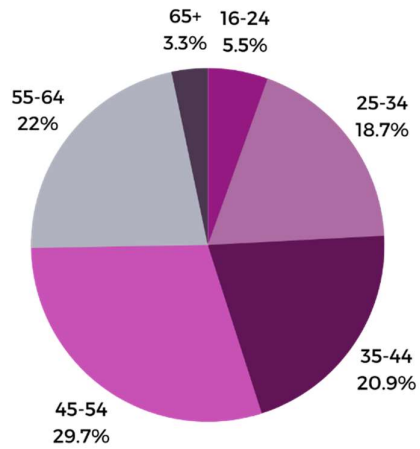
- 77% of women think convicted offenders of VAWG should take part in a rehabilitation program
- 61% of women were unsure if mediation and other forms of alternative justice are working

Domestic Abuse

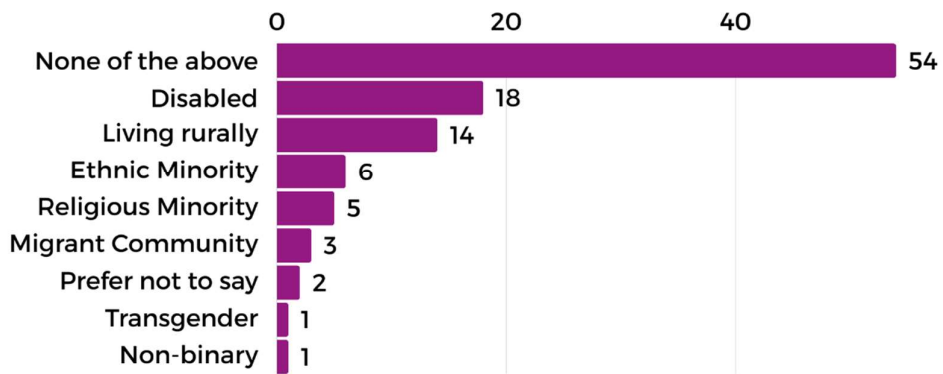
- 65% of respondents have experienced domestic abuse
- 67% of women who have experienced domestic abuse did not report it to the police or take legal action
- 63% of domestic abuse victims who reported it to the police or took legal action said that this was a negative experience

All quantitative findings have been visualised in the form of graphs on the following pages.

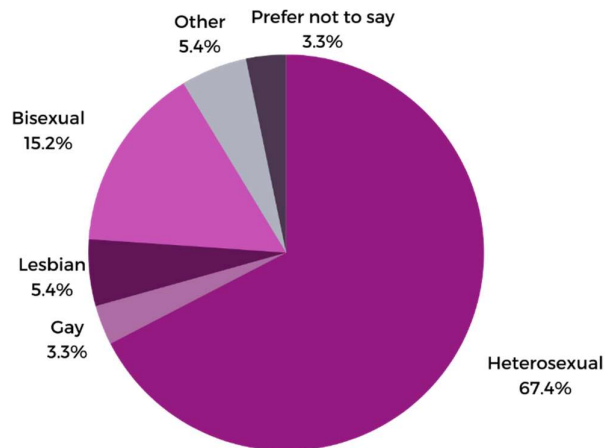
Q1(a) What is your age?



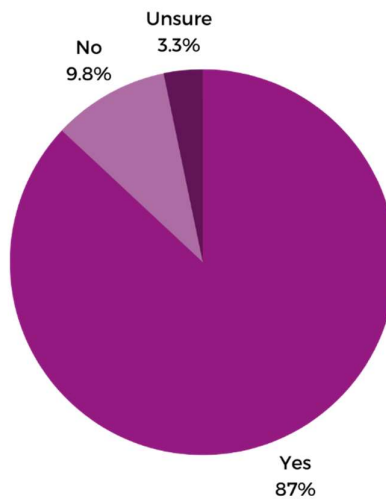
Q1(b) Do you identify as any of the following?



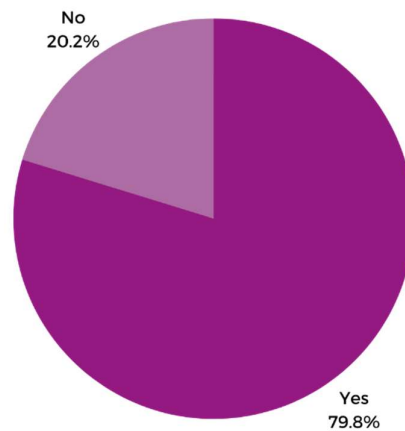
Q1(c) What is your sexuality?



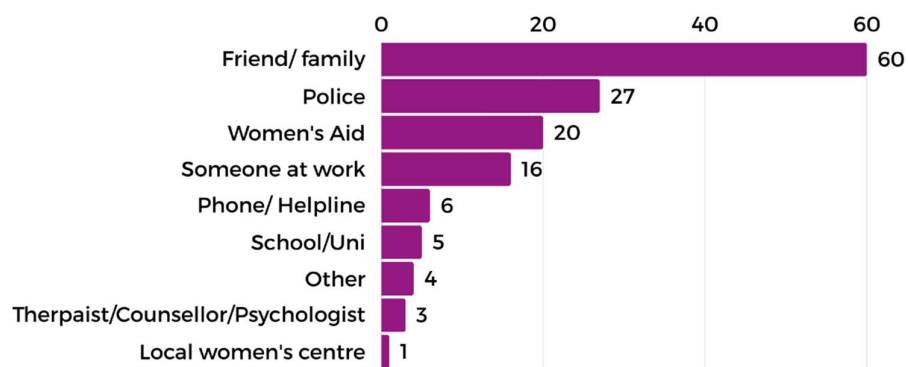
Q2(a) Have you experienced a form of VAWG?



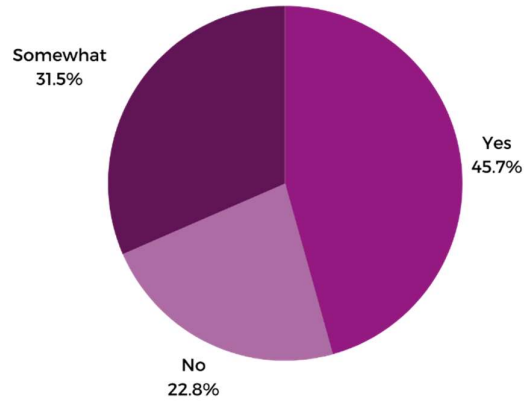
Q2(b) Did you disclose this to anyone?



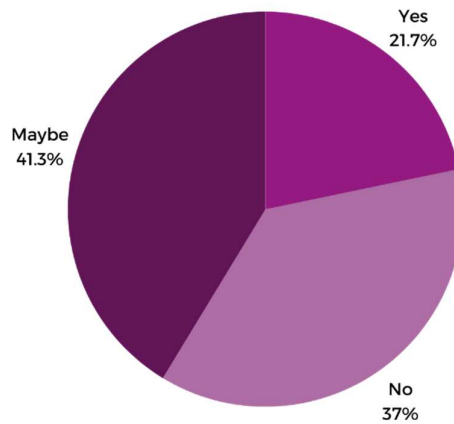
Q2(c) Who did you disclose these experiences to?



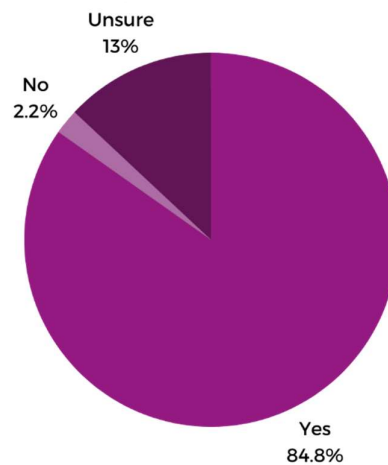
Q3(a) Are you aware of how to report an incident of VAWG to the police?



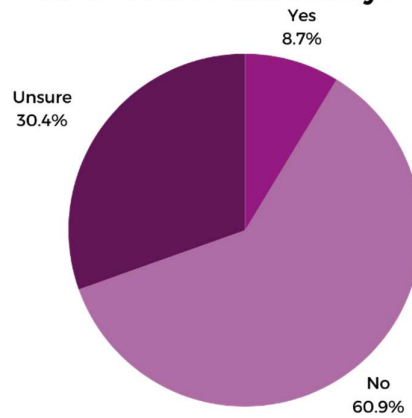
Q3(b) Would you feel comfortable reporting an incident of VAWG to the police?



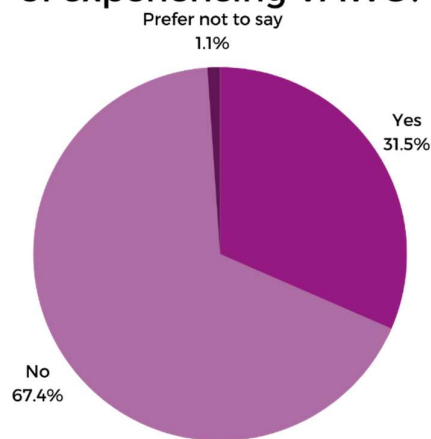
Q3(d) Do you think there should be a specific mechanism for reporting VAWG to the police?



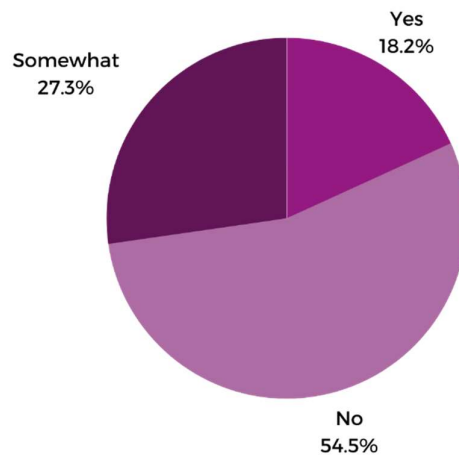
Q4(a) Do you think courts in Northern Ireland take VAWG seriously?



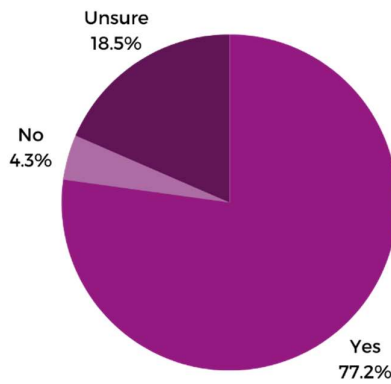
Q4(c) Have you engaged with the court system as a result of experiencing VAWG?



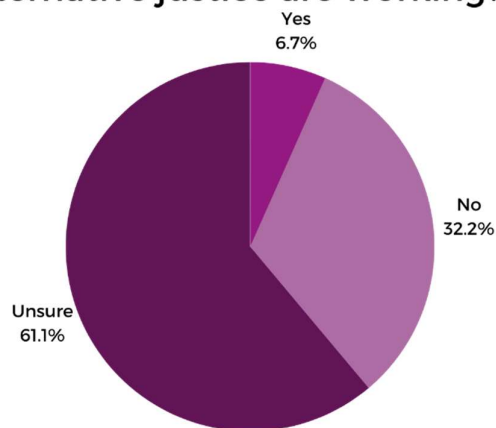
Q4(d) If you have engaged with the courts, were you satisfied with the outcome of this engagement?



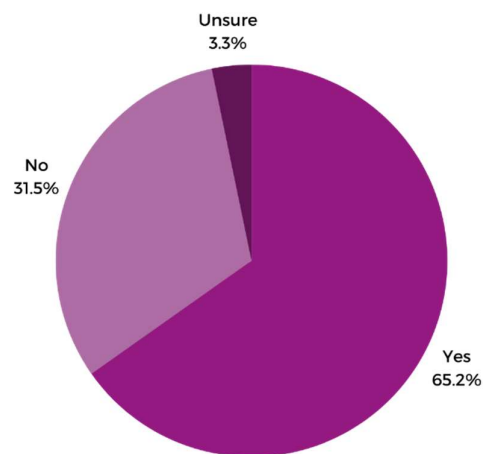
Q5(b) Do you think convicted offenders of VAWG should take part in a rehabilitation program?



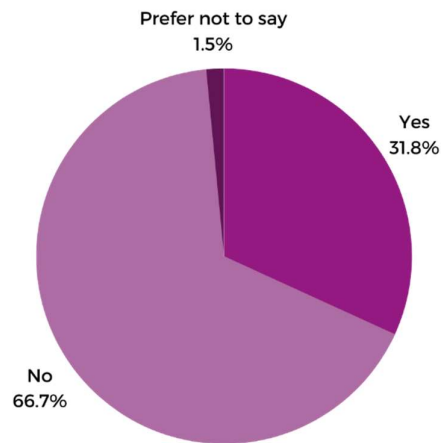
Q5(c) Do you think mediation or other forms of alternative justice are working?



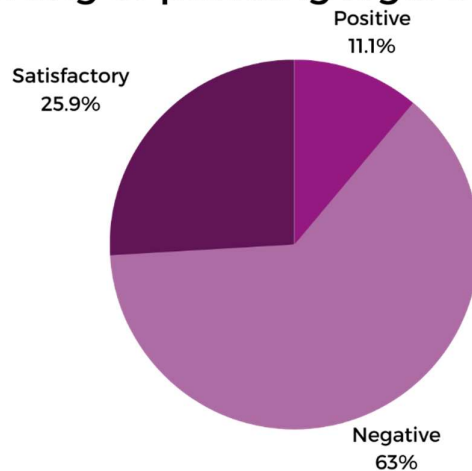
Q6(a) Have you experienced domestic abuse?



Q6(b) Did you report this to the police or take legal action?



Q6(c) How would you describe your experience of reporting or pursuing legal action?



For more information regarding this research, please contact Elaine Crory, Women's Sector Lobbyist, at elaine.croory@wrda.net or Aoife Mallon, Women's Sector Lobbyist Policy Assistant, at aoife.mallon@wrda.net