

Nigeria

Rate: 21.4%

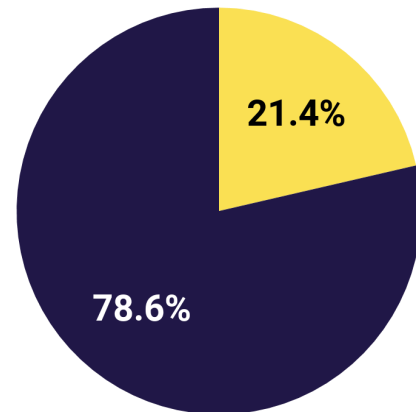
In 2018, 21.4% of ever-married women had experienced physical or sexual violence committed by their husband or partner.

National helpline: +234-1-8209387

This is the [Project Alert](#) hotline. [Others](#) include:

- [MediaCon](#): +234 (0) 809 952 2487, +234 (0) 805 820 7164, or +234 (0) 802 333 1036
- [Women Advocate and Research Documentation Centre](#): 08094440125 – 28
- [Lagos State Office of the Public Defender](#): 08085754226, 08102678443, 07098733734, or 01-7617508
- [Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation](#): 08085754224, 08102678443, or 07098733734

The [Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development](#) provides safe houses and temporary shelters for women survivors of violence.



Legal framework: Weak



[Violence against Persons \(Prohibition\) Act \(2015\)](#): This law broadly addresses physical, psychological, economic, and sexual violence against individuals. It prohibits spousal/partner battery, with a penalty of three years imprisonment or a fine of 200,000 naira. However, it only applies within the Federal Capital Territory.



[Penal Code of Northern Nigeria \(1960\)](#): Enforced in the northern area of the country, Section 55 of the Code states that an assault by a man on a woman is not an offense if customary law recognizes the “correction” as lawful and there is no grievous hurt.



[Criminal Code Act of Southern Nigeria \(1990\)](#): The Criminal Code applies to the northern area of the country. The penalty for assault against a woman is classified as a misdemeanor, while assault against a man is classified as a felony.



[Sharia Penal Code of Northern Nigeria](#): This code, which applies to Muslim communities, does not criminalize domestic violence. It also does not recognize marital rape, explicitly stating that “Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife is not rape.”