



# GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE MONTHLY PRESS RELEASE



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## **One in seven women aged 15-49 have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives**

*Focus on the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation: A Call to End Violence Against Women*

**One in seven women (14%) aged 15-49 have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives** according to the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) Report. **Six percent of women aged 15-49 experienced sexual violence within the 12 months preceding the survey.** This finding is an indication of prevalence of human right abuse in the country which requires stringent measures to address.

The statistics further reveal that sexual violence can be experienced by every woman aged 15-49 years irrespective of one's marital status, the proportions however, vary across the different categories. For instance, **the proportion of the Divorced, separated, or widowed who have ever experienced sexual violence is higher (21%) than that of the never married (13%) and those who are currently married or living with a man (15%).**

The 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) also highlights the prevalence of sexual violence by intimate partners, with **54% of women who have experienced sexual violence identifying their current husband or intimate partner as the perpetrator.** Additionally, **six percent of women aged 15-49 have experienced sexual violence by a non-intimate partner.** These findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive efforts to address intimate partner violence and support survivors.

The statistics emphasize the importance of early intervention and prevention efforts, **with 3% of women reporting their first experience of sexual violence by age 15, and 10% by age 22.** The Survey also reveals **that a little over half (51%) of women who experienced physical or sexual violence never sought for help or told anyone.**

These findings emphasise the need for targeted interventions to prevent sexual violence and support survivors from young age.

As we observe the World Day of the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation, it is essential for governments, civil society organizations, and communities to come together to address this pressing issue. We must work towards comprehensive strategies that prioritize prevention, support for survivors, and the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to ending sexual violence in all its forms and creating a world where every woman and girl can live free from fear and exploitation.

As part of this commitment, Ghana, as a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), has pledged to take measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all areas of life, including addressing issues related to sexual exploitation and violence. By upholding the principles of CEDAW and implementing its provisions, Ghana demonstrates its dedication to promoting gender equality, protecting women's rights, and combating sexual exploitation and violence.

The World Day of the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation is celebrated on March 4th every year. It was first observed in 2009 to raise awareness on the effects of sexual exploitation, which primarily affects children and women. The day's main goal is to unite the world to take a stand against all forms of sexual exploitation. Sexual abuse is often not noticed, as it often does with topics that flourish in the shadows of society and hover on the edge of criminality.

The 2022 GDHS Report can be downloaded from [www.statsghana.gov.gh](http://www.statsghana.gov.gh)

### **About the Ghana Statistical Service**

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) provides comprehensive, reliable, quality, relevant, accurate and timely statistical information to guide national development as stipulated in Section 3 of the Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003). The organisation's vision is to be a trusted provider of official statistics for good governance and its mission being the efficient collection, production, management, and dissemination of quality official statistics based on international standards, using competent and motivated staff for evidence-based decision-making, in support of national development.

The Statistical Service produces monthly and quarterly data on important economic indicators such as inflation, Consumer Price Index, Producer Price Index, and Gross Domestic Product. GSS also regularly generates periodic population, housing, demographic and economic data at the locality, district, and national levels from routine surveys and censuses. The statistics generated by GSS can be utilised by a wide cross-section of users including public sector, businesses, academia, civil society organisations and development partners.

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