

Baseline Findings

RCT of Bandebereho Couples' Group Education in Rwanda

PIs:

Kate Doyle, Ruti Levtoy, Gary Barker (Promundo)

Shamsi Kazimbaya (RWAMREC)

In collaboration with Rwandan Ministry of Health

Background

MenCare+: 4-country integrated approach to engage men as caring, non-violent, equitable partners & fathers in SRHR & MNCH

- Coordinated by Rutgers and Promundo
- Funded by the Dutch SRHR Fund
- Rwanda: Implemented by the Rwanda Men's Resource Center in partnership with Ministry of Health
- Study funded by Dutch SRHR Fund & MacArthur Foundation

Intervention description

Couple group education as part of a larger set of integrated interventions

Fatherhood as an entry point to:

- Transform inequitable attitudes
- Promote couples' communication about & use of contraceptives
- Increase men's involvement in maternal, newborn & child health
- Prevent intimate partner violence



Group education

Gender transformative curriculum with 15 weekly sessions adapted from *Program P*

Targeting new parents and expectant couples ages 21-35

15 weekly sessions for men (8 with their partners) led by trained community facilitators

Relevant Topics:

- Family communication & decision-making
- Understanding Violence
- Conflict Resolution
- Gender equality



Motivation for the Study

- Opportunity to rigorously evaluate a male engagement strategy for increasing men's involvement in MNCH and SRHR
- Support the scale-up and advocacy for inclusion of the father group methodology within national and district MNCH initiatives
- Opportunity to present evidence that this type of intervention could address multiple outcomes, including violence and SRH

Research Questions

What is the impact of the intervention on:

- Men's participation in reproductive health, family planning and maternal, newborn and child health
- Gender attitudes and household dynamics
- Violence perpetration, risk behaviors, specifically:
 - intimate partner violence, violence and harsh discipline against children, attitudes about violence, couple communication & decision-making, substance use

Study Design

- 2 arm randomized controlled trial
- Sites: 4 districts of Rwanda (16 sectors)
- Eligible men identified community health workers & local authorities, then recruited by group facilitators
- Sample size: n=1200 men, 600 in each arm
- Study protocol approved by: RNEC, NHRC, NISR

Sample Description

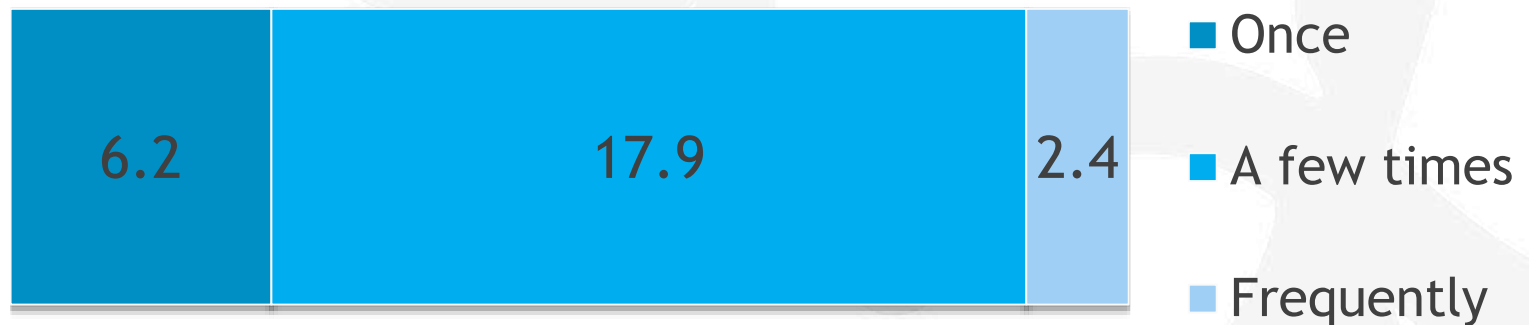
- Men's Age: 19-47, mean= 28.7
 - Partner: 18-44, mean = 26.6
- Education: 63% had not completed primary education
- Children: 65% currently expecting a child
 - One-quarter did not yet have a child, remainder had 1 or more children already
- SES: 39% can never or only sometimes afford basic household needs (food & shelter)

Baseline Results: Prevalence of Violence in past 6 months

Emotional or economic: 57.2%

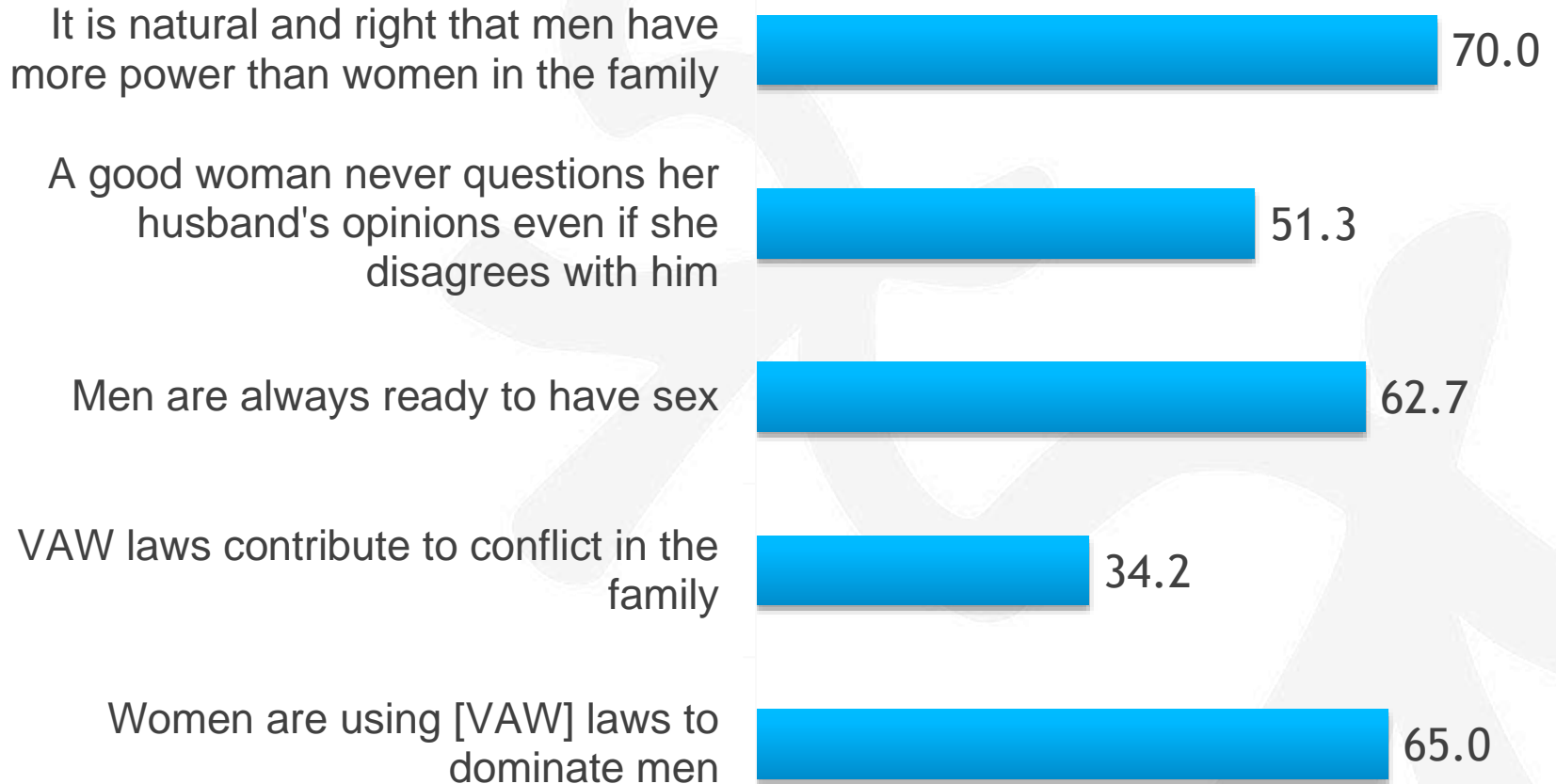
Physical: 32.6%

Sexual: 26.6%

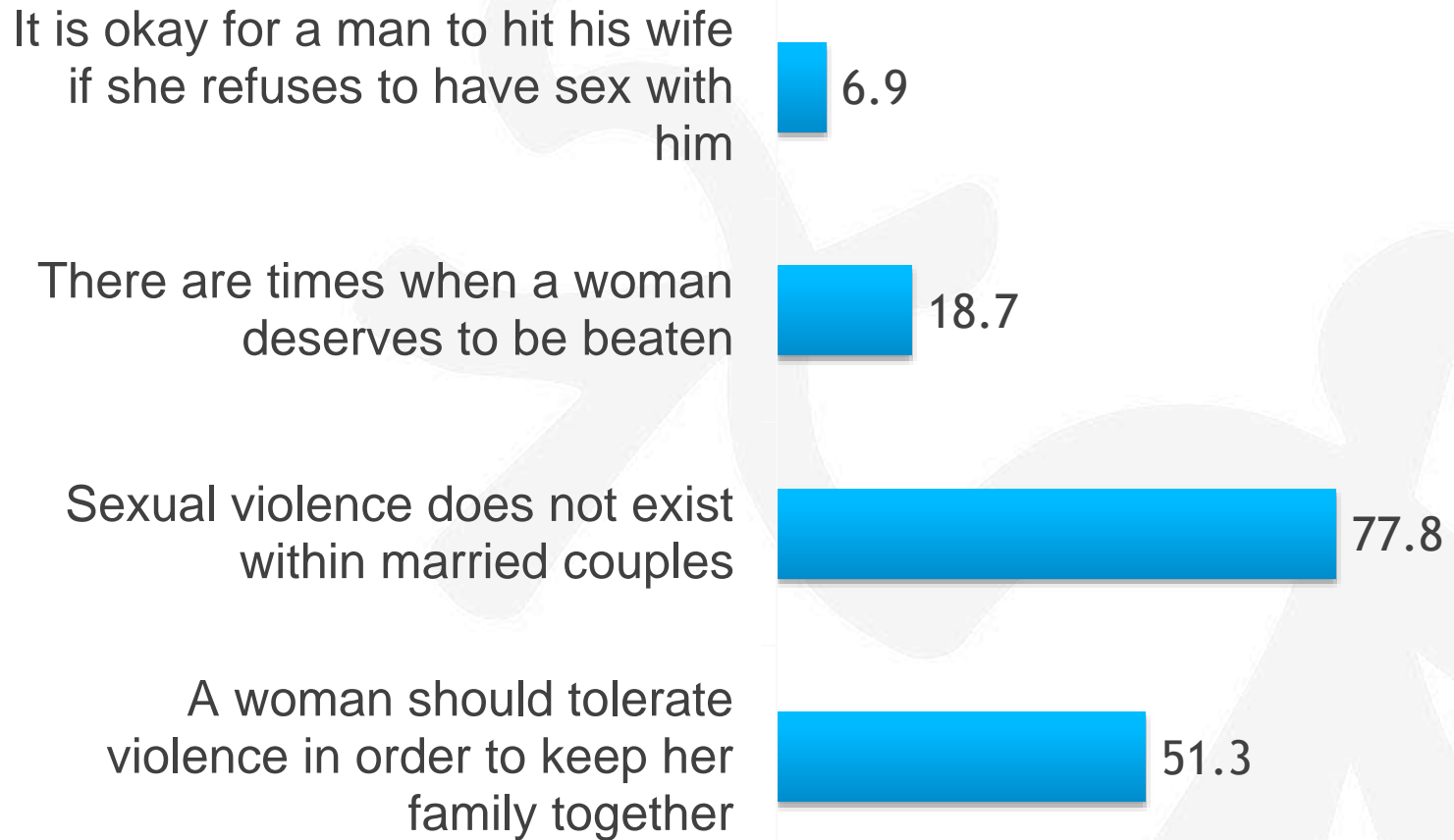


One-third reported perpetrating both physical and sexual violence in the past 6 months

Attitudes related to Violence



Attitudes related to Violence



Associations at Baseline

	Sexual Violence
More equitable attitudes about gender and violence	↓
More joint decision-making	↓
More frequent quarreling/disagreement	↑
More participation in household tasks	↓

THANK YOU!

Promundo

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Washington, DC, USA

Coimbra, Portugal

Kigali, Rwanda

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