

**Title:**

Domestic Violence And How It Can Be Prevented

**Category:**

11-14 years

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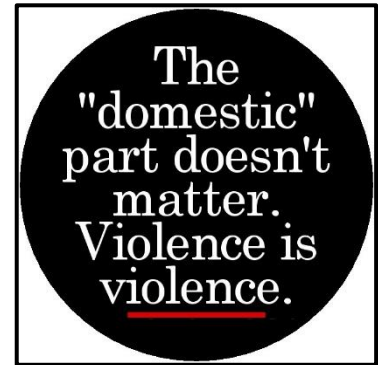
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# **Domestic Violence and How It Can Be Prevented**

**By: Attard Raphaela, Azzopardi Brooke, Briffa Cristabelle, Mitchell Jade, and Monseigneur Francesca.**

Did you know that every 20 seconds someone becomes a victim of domestic violence? Domestic violence is a serious problem worldwide and one of the main causes of death, especially of women in the developing world. Therefore, we decided to focus our investigation on domestic violence, to determine whether Maltese people are aware of this problem and whether it is an issue in Malta.



We carried out this research by giving out questionnaires to people in Valletta. We chose questionnaires as they are very useful to get an overview of the opinion of several people quickly and cheaply. Questionnaires were ideal since they consist of a series of questions and therefore we could gather the necessary information from random people in an anonymous way. Questionnaires are less time consuming than other research methods and helped us reach a larger sample of respondents. Although we could carry them out over the phone, by post, or online, we preferred to complete them face to face to have the opportunity to socialize and to see the reactions of the participants. Although they have lots of disadvantages too, questionnaires still are the most commonly used research tool worldwide. We gave out questionnaires to 100 males and females of different ages. There were 13 single males and 14 single females. There were 29 married males and 28 married females. There were 2 separated males and 3 separated females. There were 4 widowed males and 3 widowed females. There were 2 divorced males and 2 divorced females. Therefore, their status was also balanced.

Our analysis reveals that, within our sample of respondents, 94% of males and 96% of females are aware what domestic violence is. However, out of these only 58% of males and 64% of females think that domestic violence is a problem in Malta, whereas 14% of males and 16% of females don't think that domestic violence is a problem in Malta and 28% of males and 20% of females don't know what to think. This percentage is relatively low when one considers that a total of 4102 cases of domestic violence were reported between 2009 and 2013 (*Malta*

*Independent*, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014) and shows a lack of awareness, particularly since the real total is much larger as, unfortunately, many cases are not reported. In fact,

‘A 2010 study on the prevalence of domestic violence in Malta showed that a quarter of women have been physically, emotionally or sexually abused by their husband or partner.’

(Claudia Calleja, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013, on behalf of the *Times of Malta*)

Luckily, statistics indicate that more people are not hesitating to report cases of domestic violence. This is supported by our research, which reveals that 72% of males and 72% of females would tell someone about experiencing domestic violence.

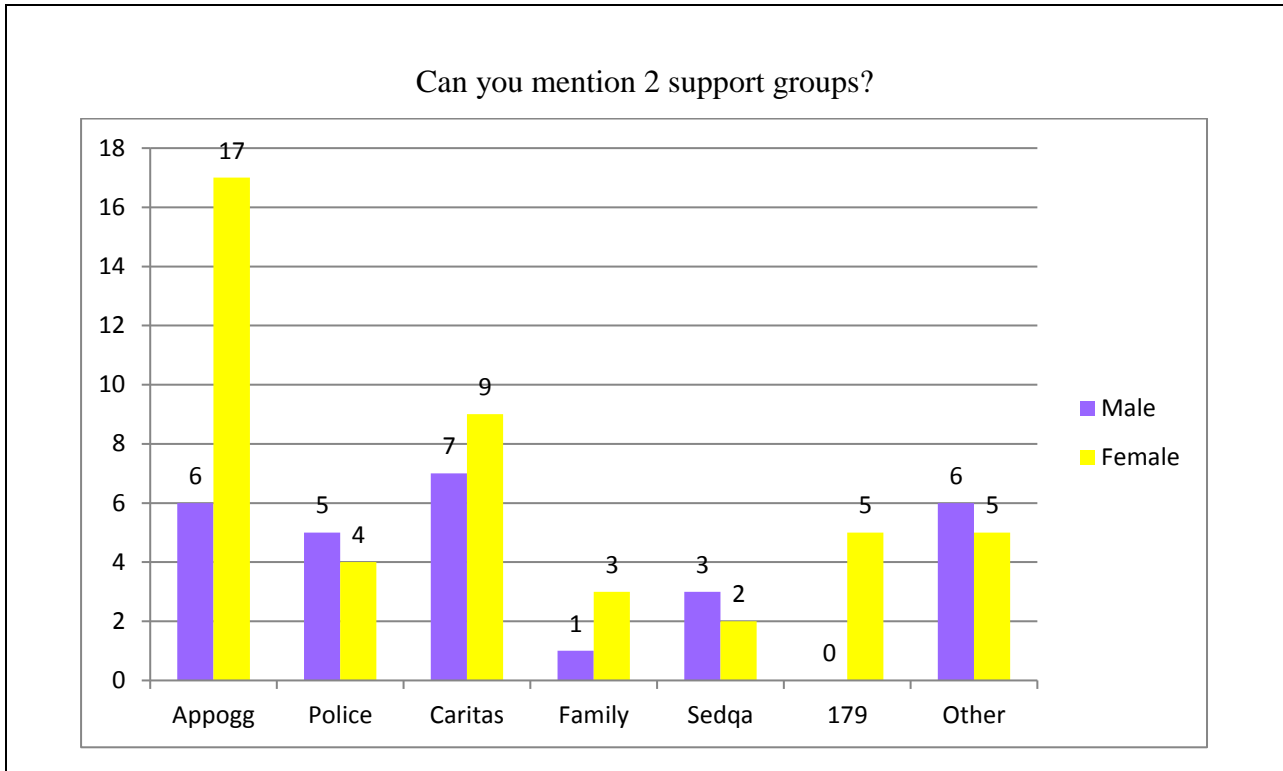
Unfortunately, our research suggests that there isn't enough awareness about this



problem is Malta. In fact, only 34% of males think that there is enough awareness whilst 40% of males think that there is not enough awareness. Moreover, only 20% of females think there is enough awareness, which is quite a small number when compared to those 54% of females who do not think there is enough awareness. This suggests that females think that they are more vulnerable and, therefore, might be more prone to suffer domestic violence. This lack of awareness is unfortunately

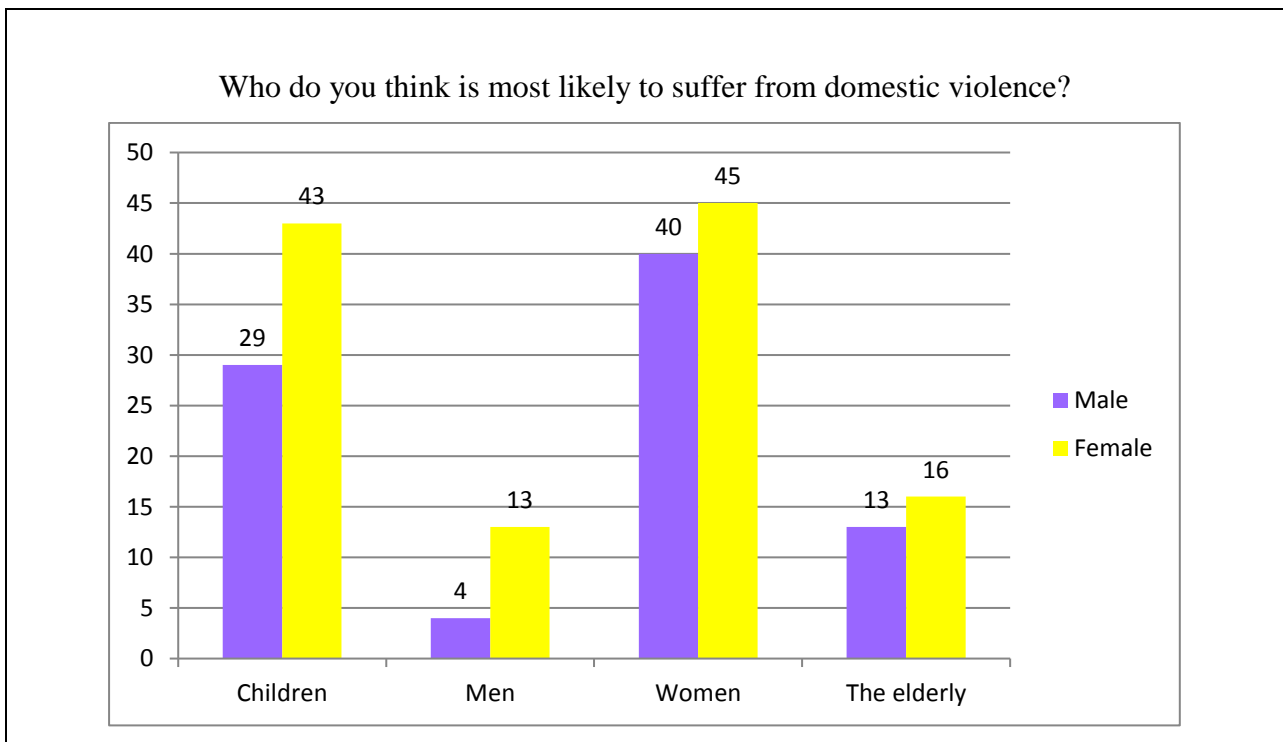
further borne out by the fact that very few of our respondents know where to seek help in the case of domestic violence. In fact, only 36% of males and 60% of females know who to approach or where to go in the case of domestic violence.

The difference between the answers of male and female respondents is both staggering and shocking, with males being a lot more ignorant of how to seek help than females. This is not good because males can also suffer domestic violence. In fact, in 2012, only 77% of domestic violence victims reported were females, showing that men also need help. (Claudia Calleja, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013). When asked if they could identify two support groups, our respondents answered as follows:



Thus it can be seen that support groups are not really reaching the general public.

The following chart indicates that our respondents are aware that people of all ages and sexes can be victims of domestic violence.



However, the most vulnerable people in society are seen to be women and children, with elderly and men lagging far behind. However, though they are aware of who is abused, our respondents are not aware whether the law deals effectively with abusers (46% males;40% females), whereas 60% stated 'yes' and 54% stated 'no'. This suggests that most respondents are not aware of what the law states about domestic violence. In fact, a staggering 80% of respondents state that there needs to be more awareness about domestic violence.

Reducing domestic violence is a very important aspect of sustainable development which is very necessary if we are to have a healthy and equal society in Malta. Our respondents identify raising awareness about this issue as a very important tool for change, namely through media campaigns (63%), education in girls' schools (55%) and in boys' schools (53%), and government campaigns (35%). This is already being done, as can be seen from the Commission on Domestic Violence Annual Report 2014-2015 (pgs 19-22) which describes the Commission's work in the media, and the activities it put up in schools (especially post-secondary institutions) and in conjunction with local councils (Zabbar, January 2015). However, we think there needs to be a lot more awareness about domestic violence in Malta to help Maltese people grow up to be the strong, healthy citizens our country needs. Therefore, we would like to end this report by asking schools to take up this cause and help reduce domestic violence.

## **References and Acknowledgements:**

### **References:**

Claudia Calleja, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013, *Domestic violence means more than physical harm*, The Times of Malta.

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20130308/local/-Domestic-violence-means-more-than-physical-harm-.460686>

The Malta Independent, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014, *Domestic violence reports almost double in four years*

<http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2014-06-12/news/domestic-violence-reports-almost-double-in-four-years-5441388548/>

Commission on Domestic Violence, Annual Report 2014-2015.

<https://socialdialogue.gov.mt/en/Commission%20on%20Domestic%20Violence/Documents/Publications/report%202014%20dv%20final.pdf>

Picture 1:

[https://www.google.com.mt/search?q=abuse%20quotes&espv=2&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj04pW6otvSAhUDvBoKHb-SB4sQ\\_AUIBigB&biw=1366&bih=662\\_tbm=isch&q=the+domestic+part+dos+not+matter+&\\*&imgrc=Eqs-thI\\_a21UTM](https://www.google.com.mt/search?q=abuse%20quotes&espv=2&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj04pW6otvSAhUDvBoKHb-SB4sQ_AUIBigB&biw=1366&bih=662_tbm=isch&q=the+domestic+part+dos+not+matter+&*&imgrc=Eqs-thI_a21UTM)

Picture 2:

[https://www.google.com.mt/search?q=abuse+quotes&espv=2&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj04pW6otvSAhUDvBoKHb-SB4sQ\\_AUIBigB&biw=1366&bih=662#tbn=isch&q=abuse+couts&\\*&imgrc=hjiq1mKjOF93EM:](https://www.google.com.mt/search?q=abuse+quotes&espv=2&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj04pW6otvSAhUDvBoKHb-SB4sQ_AUIBigB&biw=1366&bih=662#tbn=isch&q=abuse+couts&*&imgrc=hjiq1mKjOF93EM:)

### **Acknowledgements:**

We would like to thank all the people who filled in all the questionnaires for us.

We would also like to thank our family members for their time and patience. We are very grateful for all your help and support.

## **Proof of dissemination:**

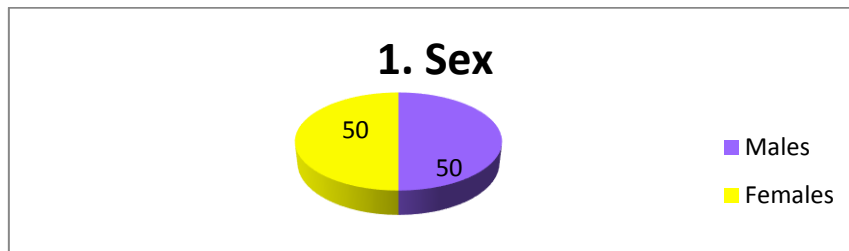
As required, our project is exhibited on the school premises and it is also accessible on the school website ([www.saintfrancissecondary.com](http://www.saintfrancissecondary.com)). We have also sent our report to *The Sunday Times* and *The Malta Independent on Sunday*, though we have no guarantee that it will be published.



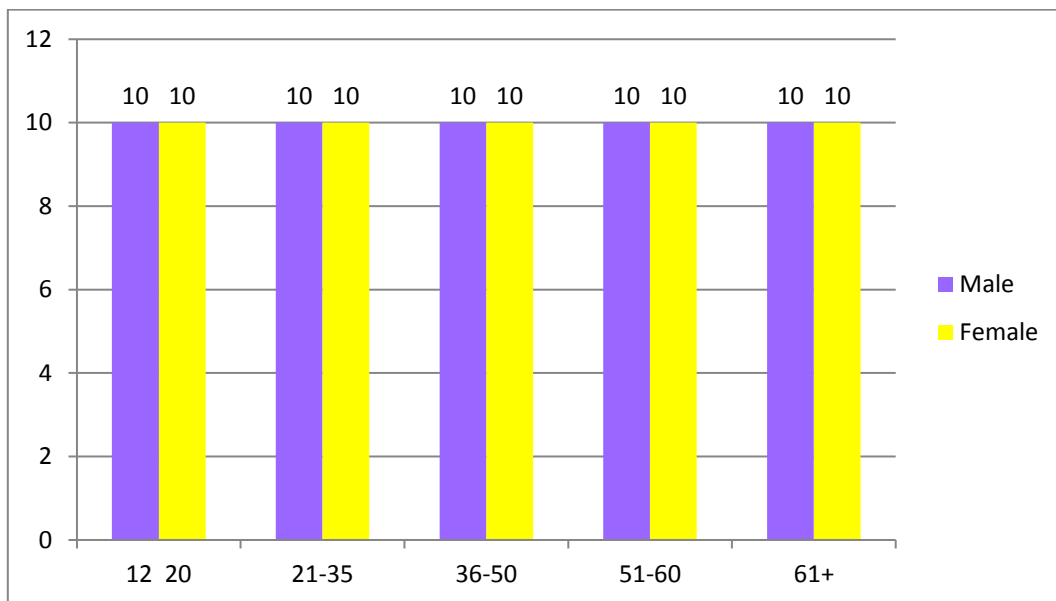
**Appendix 1: Sample of respondents:**

100 respondents									
50 males					50 females				
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
16-25	26-35	36-45	46-60	60+	16-25	26-35	36-45	46-60	60+
yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs

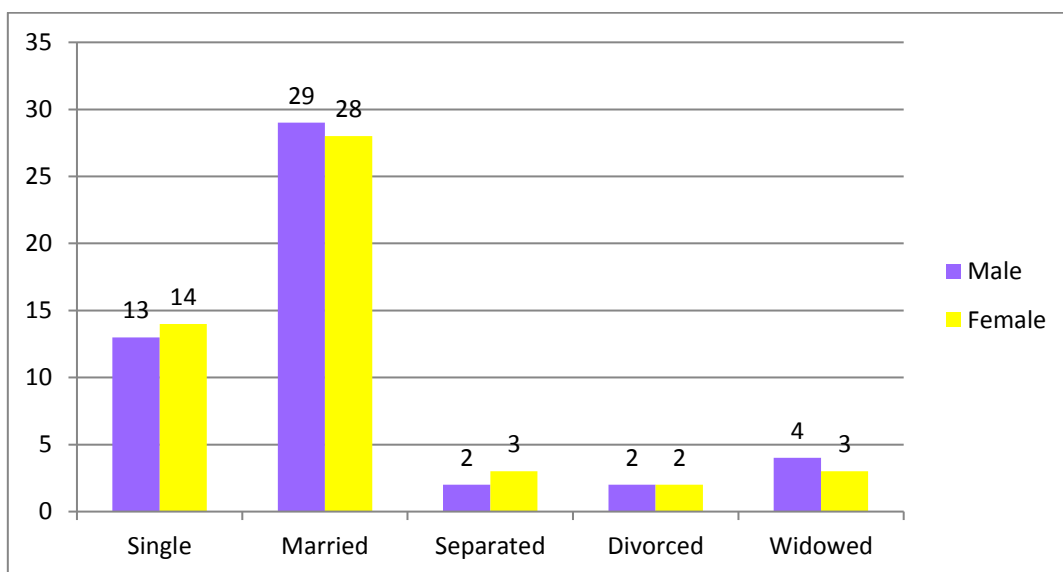
## Appendix 2: Data gathered from our research:



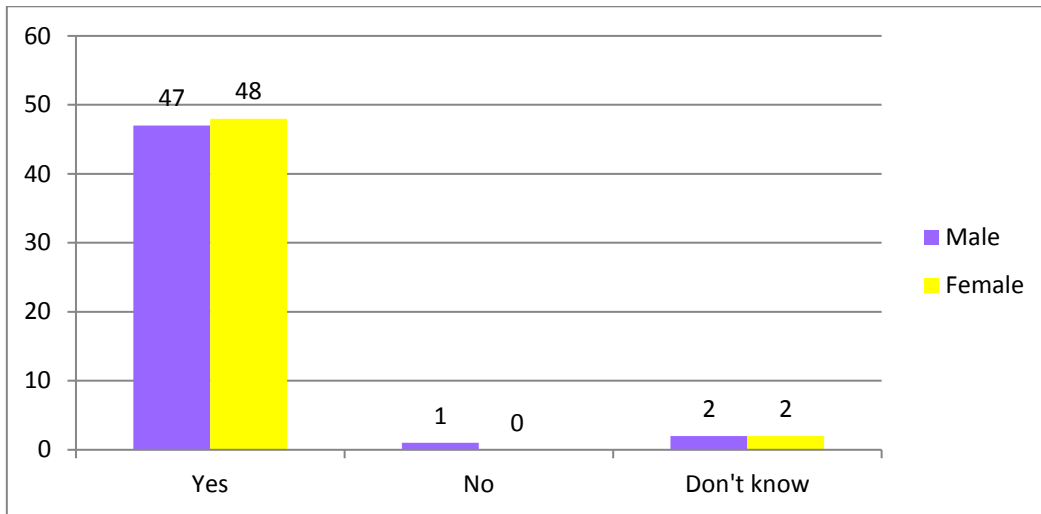
### 2. Age Group



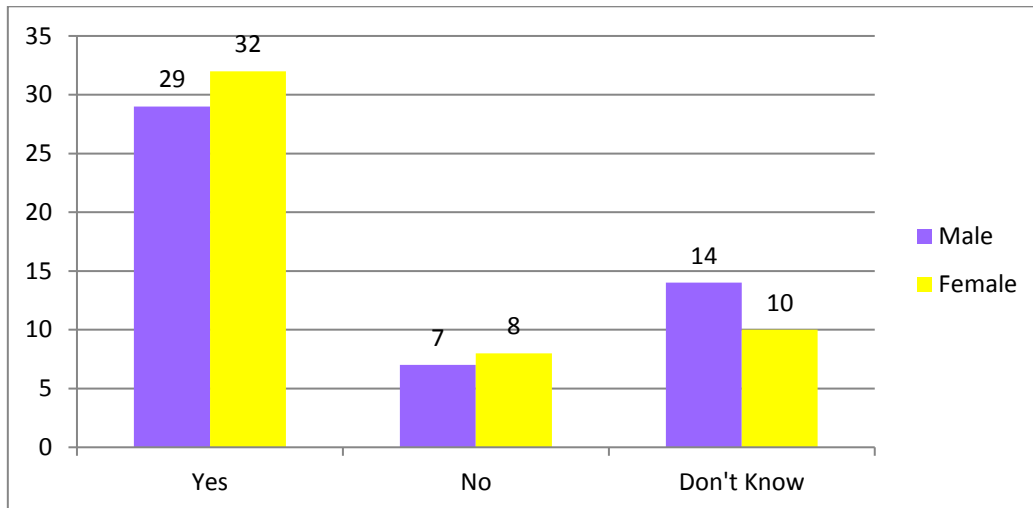
### 3. Status



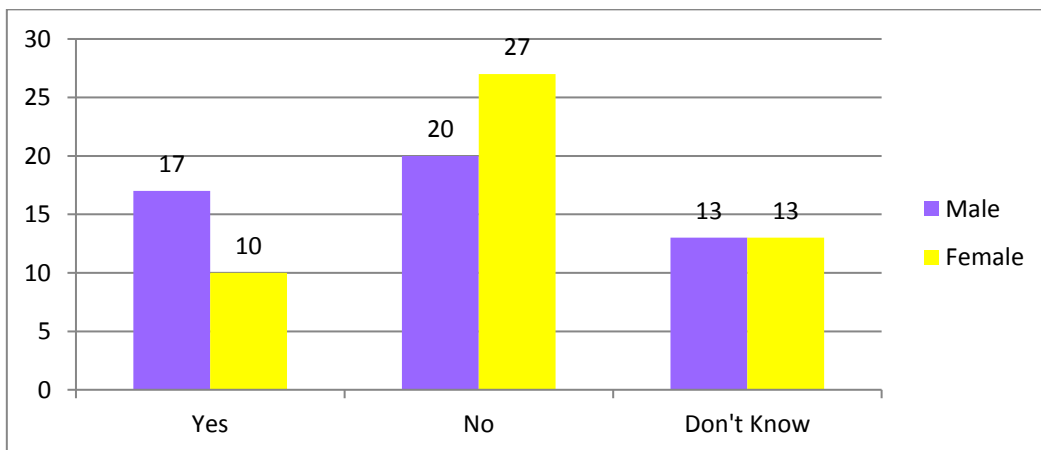
4. Do you know what domestic violence is?



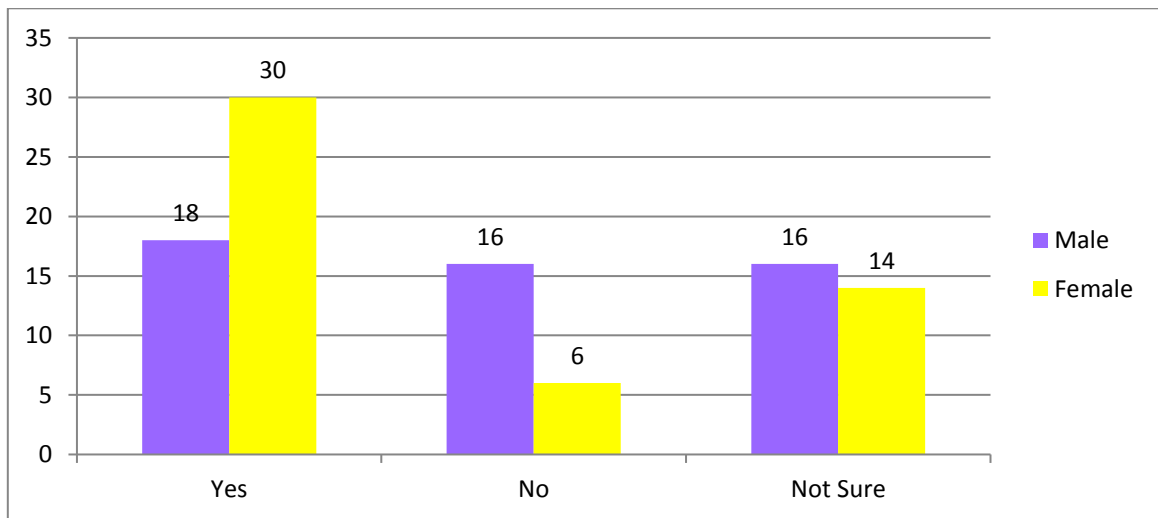
5. Do you think that domestic violence is a problem in Malta?



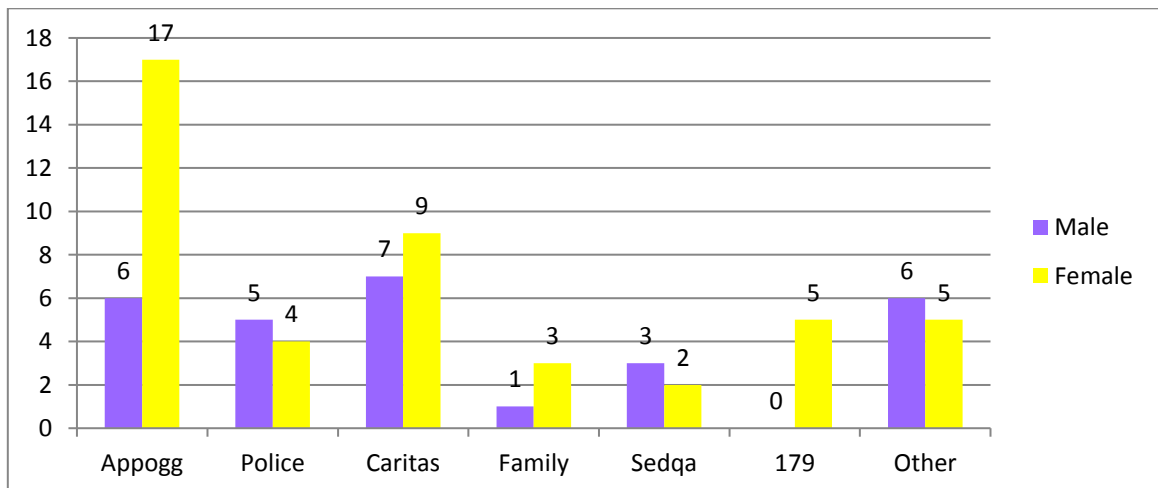
6. Do you think there is enough awareness about this problem in Malta?



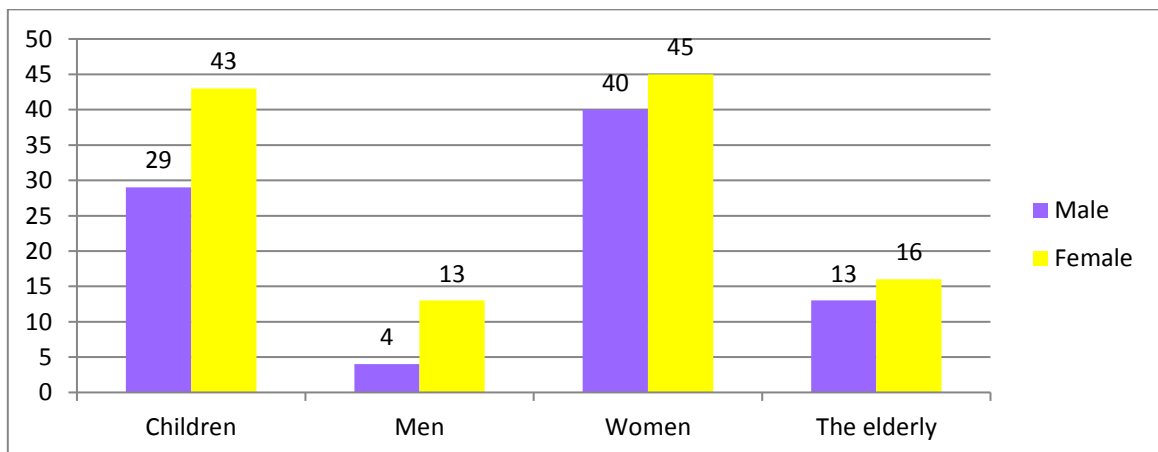
7a. Do you know where to go or whom to turn to in the case of domestic violence?



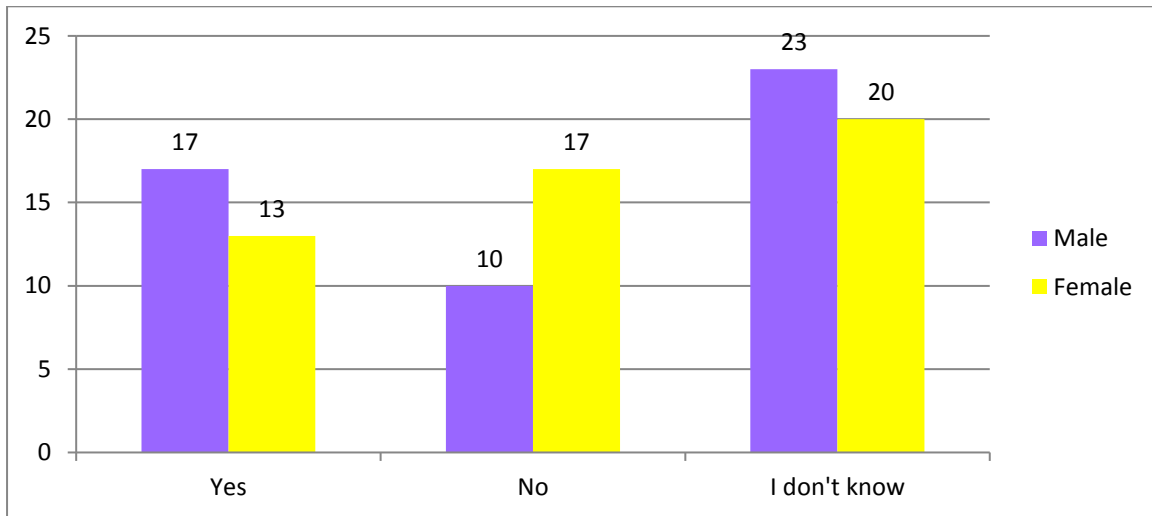
7b. If yes, can you mention 2 support groups?



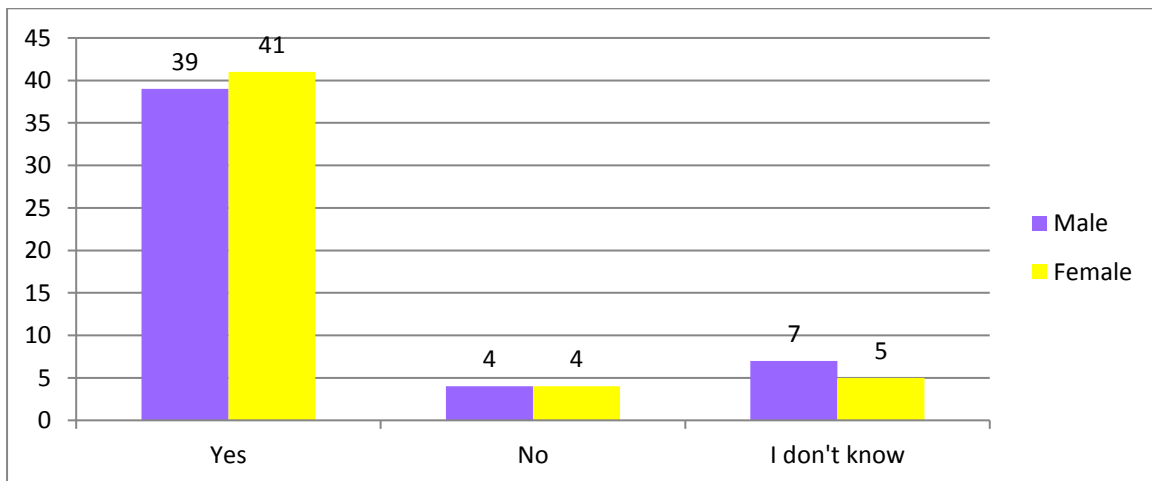
8. Who do you think is most likely to suffer from domestic violence?



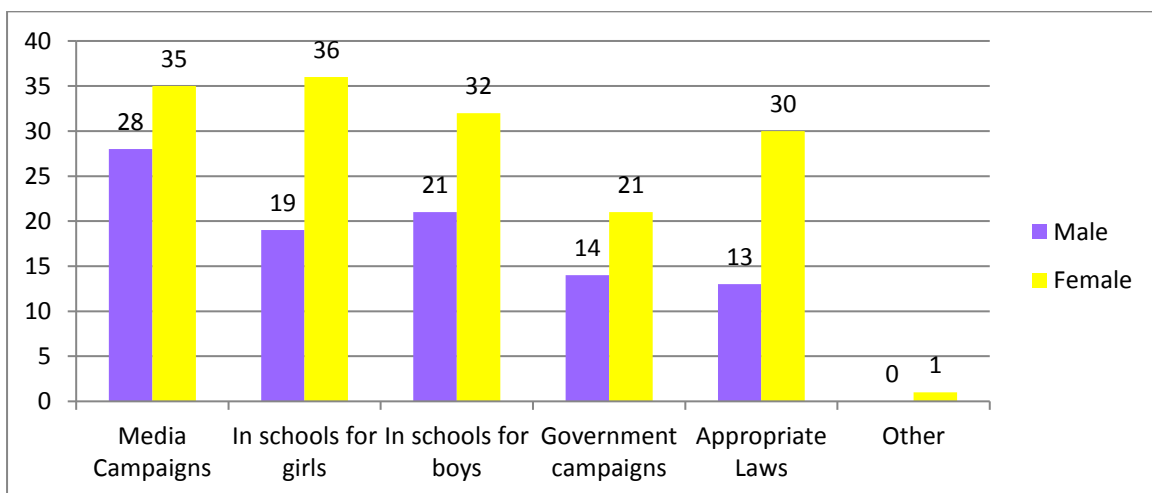
9. Do you think the law deals effectively with abusers?



10a. Do you think there needs to be more awareness about this issue?



10b. If yes, how?



11. Would you tell someone if you were experiencing domestic violence?

