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# Ten years of Eastern Highlands Family Voice

## Case analysis 2008-2010

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## 1. Aims and objectives of the analysis

Eastern Highlands Family Voice (EHFV) has been working with those affected by family violence in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea for the last ten years. Today, its network of volunteers provides counselling and legal advice, undertakes crisis intervention work and runs a broader violence prevention role in local communities.

In order to mark its ten year anniversary, EHFV commissioned an analysis of its case histories over the last three years. The aim of the analysis was as follows:

- to present data on the numbers of clients of the service over the time period in question;
- to obtain a profile of clients in terms of their gender, age and background;
- to understand what types of problems cause people to visit EHFV, in order to better orient counselling services and identify demand for specific information required by clients;
- to improve understanding of the causes of violence reported;
- to build a profile of the actions taken by the organisation across the sample of case histories.

## 2. Methods

In order to analyze the case histories, which existed on paper forms only, a database was created in MS Access. Four people were recruited for data input, one of whom was subsequently responsible for cleaning the data. Due to time constraints, only two years and three months of data could be inputted, constituting 27 months of data running between January 2008 and March 2010.

Much of the data required, such as the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim and information on the nature and causes of violence, was not specifically recorded on the form. This information needed to be extracted from the narrative section of the forms and entered into the database as a code.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Data collected and issues with reporting

Over the time period sampled, 1190 cases were recorded, constituting about 44 cases per month. Currently, EHFV counsellors only fill in case forms for victims of violence or their direct dependants (if children). However, during the study period, some counselling sessions were conducted with persons reporting cases of abuse for others, rather than with the actual person affected. In such cases, the information recorded on the 'victim' profile (address, gender, education and other background information) actually concerns the reporter and not the person affected. These cases are indicated in Table 1. For 14 per cent of the 1190 cases, the case information actually concerns the reporter and not the 'victim'. This is the case for 31 per cent of cases concerning male clients and seven per cent of female clients.

**Table 1. Proportion of clients reporting a case for somebody else**

Gender of client	Client reporting for themselves		Client reporting for another		All cases	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Female	786	93%	58	7%	844	100%
Male	238	69%	108	31%	346	100%
<b>Total</b>	1024	86%	166	14%	1190	100%

The recording forms implicitly assumed that each case involved a victim and a perpetrator. However, many people came for advice about a particular issue which did not involve deliberate abuse by another party. In four per cent of total cases, the client presenting was actually a perpetrator of violence; this figure was highest for males, forming about 12 per cent of total recorded cases (see Table 2). In some cases the client could be classified as both a victim and perpetrator. For example, a number of men visited EHFV as they felt neglected by their wives; they sometimes admitted resorting to physical violence to vent their frustrations. In such cases, the men were classified as perpetrators.

**Table 2. Proportion of clients as perpetrators**

Gender of client	Reporter is the perpetrator		Reporter is not the perpetrator		All cases	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Female	8	1%	836	99%	844	100%
Male	41	12%	305	88%	346	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>100%</b>

In addition, in about 30 per cent of cases there was more than one victim. Each case was assigned only one principle 'victim' (with associated gender and age). It was a matter of judgement on the part of the data input staff to decide who was actually the principle person affected in each case. Almost all secondary victims were the children of the principle (reporting) victim. In other cases the victims were a group (often siblings) and in such cases gender was specified as unknown.

A further issue affecting data interpretation was that of multiple cases involving the same client. Most repeat visits of clients were appended to the same case and recorded as 'subsequent visits' under the same case number. However, a number of cases with different codes actually appeared to have the same client (as identified by the same or similar name and profile). The number of such cases was small, affecting a maximum of 17 cases.

### **3.2 Gender and age profile of clients**

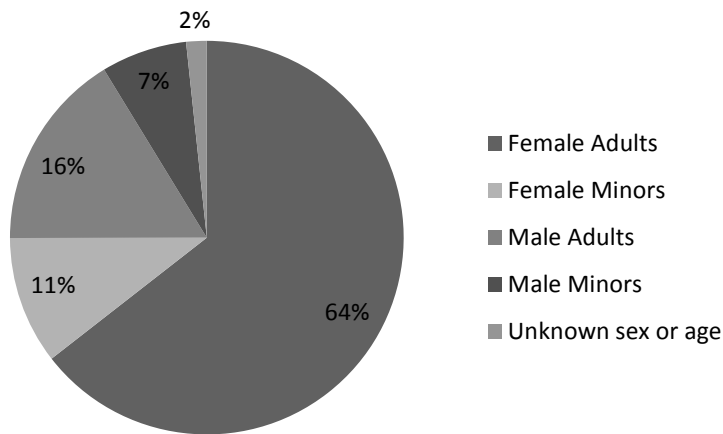
Gender and age profiles of the actual clients (those affected by the abuse, rather than those reporting it) could be extracted from the narratives in most cases. Thus it was possible to generate these data for the entire set of case histories. The information is given in Table 3 below and shown in graphical form in Figure 1.

The data presented in the table show that in about 75 per cent of all cases the principle victim was female. In 24 per cent of cases, the principle victim was a male and in one per cent of cases the gender of the victim was either not given in the narrative or concerned a group. Of female cases, 14 per cent involved principle victims who were minors (under 18) whilst of the male cases, 31 per cent involved minors. Of the total sample, about 20 per cent of cases concern minors as principle victims.

**Table 3. Gender and age of affected persons**

Gender of person affected	Gender group as percentage of all cases		Breakdown of gender groups by age					
			Adults		Minors		Age unknown	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Female</b>	896	75%	767	86%	125	14%	4	0%
<b>Male</b>	281	24%	194	69%	84	30%	3	1%
<b>Gender Unknown</b>	13	1%	0	0%	12	92%	1	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1%</b>

**Figure 1. Age and gender profile of affected persons as percentages of all case histories**



Of the 221 cases in which minors were recorded as the principle victims, information on their exact ages was available in 110 cases (in other cases the age given was that of reporter, not victim). Of those 110 cases, 26 per cent concerned victims aged ten years or less.

### 3.3 Provenance of clients

Table 4 presents information on the location of residence of clients<sup>1</sup>. Most clients (70 per cent) live in Goroka itself. Another 25 per cent come from other parts of EHP, in particular from Unggai Bena district. Two per cent of the sample resided outside of the province. Of those clients originating in Goroka, the majority come from Faniufa, Kama, Banana block, Genoka, Seigu, Lopi, Asaroiufa, Piswara and Okiufa.

**Table 4. District of provenance of clients**

Province	District	Cases	% of total cases
EHP	Goroka	838	70%
EHP	Unggai Bena	130	11%
EHP	Daulo	61	5%
EHP	Lufa	41	3%
EHP	Henganofi	39	3%
EHP	Okapa	27	2%
EHP	Kainantu	17	1%
WHP	Hagen	6	1%
Simbu	Chuave	4	0%
Morobe	Lae	4	0%
Simbu	Other (Kundiawa, Gembogl)	3	0%
Madang	Madang	2	0%
EHP	Obura Wonenara	2	0%
NCD	Port Moresby	2	0%
Various	Other	14	1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1190</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> It should be remembered that residential information was collected for the reporter only. As shown in Table 1, in 15 per cent of cases the reporter is not the actual victim of the abuse.

### 3.4 Reason for coming to see family voice (type of violence or abuse reported)

The following tables (Table 5-7) give the principle reasons for the visit of clients to EHFV<sup>2</sup>. These reasons were classified into 'case types'. These categories included the type of abuse or violence perpetrated against the client or, where relevant, other types of problem which the client wanted to discuss with counsellors. Cases often included multiple types of mistreatment plus requests for legal advice and therefore, the database allowed for many case types to be assigned to each case. Thus, the total of all the categories listed in the tables below comes to much more than our case number total of 1190. However, as mentioned, each case has only one principle 'victim' (with associated gender and age). For example, the principle victim may be an adult women but 'child abuse' may also be listed as a type of violence implicated in the case history. In some cases, therefore, there may be a mismatch between the identity of the principle victim and some of the types of violence listed.

#### 3.4.1 Cases of non-sexual abuse against adults

Table 5 shows the major types of non-sexual violence committed against *adult* clients visiting EHFV. By far the most common case types reported are domestic violence and desertion or neglect, each of which were reported in over 20 per cent of case histories. Overall, 29 per cent of all cases involved some kind of physical violence between spouses or other relatives; this increases to 31 per cent when violence between non-relatives is included.

**Table 5. Major types of non-sexual abuse committed against adults**

(Each case history may have multiple case types assigned)

Case Type	Number of cases assigned to each case type		Breakdown by gender of person affected:					
			Male		Female		Unknown	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Desertion or neglect	336	28%	68	20%	267	79%	1	0%
Domestic violence (between spouses or co-wives)	291	24%	25	9%	266	91%	0	0%
Adultery or infidelity	165	14%	34	21%	131	79%	0	0%
Verbal abuse	68	6%	13	19%	55	81%	0	0%
Family violence (between non-married relatives)	61	5%	17	28%	42	69%	2	3%
Violence between non-relatives	23	2%	6	26%	17	74%	0	0%
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1%</b>

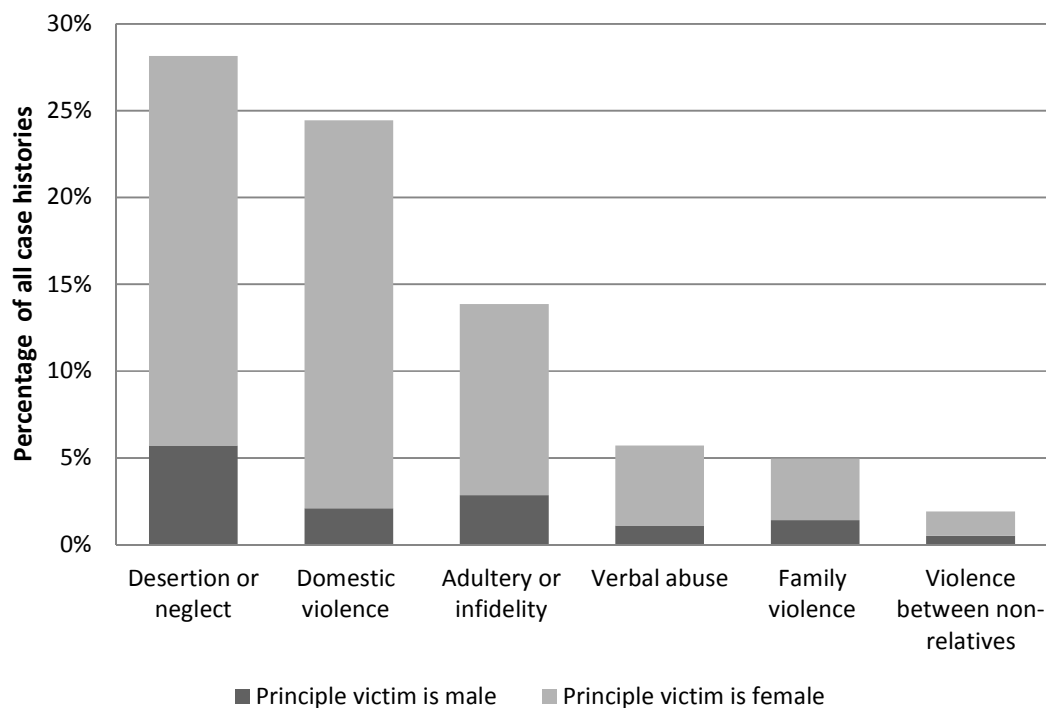
<sup>2</sup> In this section we are presenting the data by actual gender of the person affected. The gender of the victim is taken from the narrative section on the form rather than the gender of the reporter.



All case types occur with a higher frequency amongst female clients than male clients; the types of grievance most often mentioned by male clients were family violence and violence between non-relatives. In 20 per cent of the cases concerning desertion, men were the aggrieved party. Indeed, concerning the *absolute* number of cases (68), desertion was the most common problem affecting adult males in the sample. The second most common problem mentioned by male clients was adultery or infidelity of a spouse. Amongst women, the two most common types of grievance mentioned were desertion/neglect and domestic violence. This can be seen graphically in Figure 2 which contrasts the data for men and women as percentages of the *entire* sample (n=1190).

Other types of abuse mentioned by adults included abduction (nine cases), intimidation or blackmail (30 cases), police brutality (two cases), forced marriage (three cases) and restriction of freedom (five cases). Another common occurrence affecting women was being cast out of their homes by their in-laws. In some cases this is categorised as family violence, in other cases, as ‘other’, depending on whether physical harm appeared to be involved.

**Figure 2. Types of non-sexual abuse against adults reported as percentage of 1190 case histories**



### 3.4.2 Cases of sexual violence against adults

Cases of sexual violence against adults figured in relatively few of the case histories analysed. Such incidences were mentioned only 33 times throughout the entire sample. Rape was mentioned nine times (one per cent of the sample), and marital rape was mentioned in 12 cases (see Table 6 for details).

**Table 6. Major types of sexual abuse committed against adults**

Case Type	Number of cases assigned to each case type		Breakdown by gender of person affected:					
			Male		Female		Unknown	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Gang rape	2	0%	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%
Marital rape	12	1%	0	0%	12	100%	0	0%
Rape	9	1%	0	0%	9	100%	0	0%
Sexual abuse (non penetrative)	5	0%	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%
Sexual harassment (verbal comments and blackmail)	5	0%	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1%</b>

### 3.4.3 Cases of child abuse

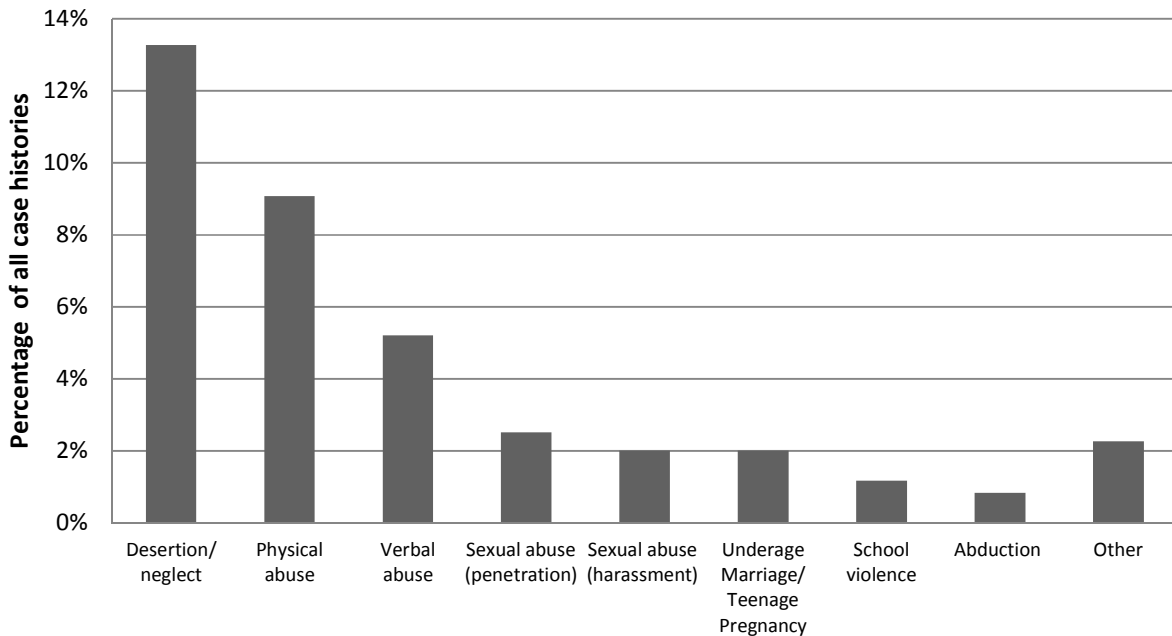
Table 7 presents cases of abuse against children<sup>3</sup>; the case types given here were mentioned 457 times across the 1190 histories. The two most common types reported were desertion and neglect and physical abuse. Sexual abuse and harassment were mentioned in about 50 cases. Many cases concern multiple victims – for example, in many cases of desertion and neglect and physical abuse both the mother and child were victims, but the sex of the primary victim is that of the mother; thus the sex of the abused child is not always apparent from the data presented here. However, it does appear that physical abuse is likely to occur to children of both sexes whilst sexual abuse of boys is rarely reported. The fact that all nine cases of child abduction affect females probably reflects that fact that the reporting mother has been listed as primary victim in these cases. Due to the ambiguity surrounding the gender of the child victims, Figure 3 shows the data in graphical form without giving the sex of the victim. The category ‘other’ specifies types of abuse such as denial of the right to education, overwork, starvation and other forms of cruelty which do not come under physical abuse.

<sup>3</sup> It should be noted here that we used EHFV standard case types, with some additions. These standard case types differentiate between abuse against children and abuse against adults. The definition of a child in this case is left to the discretion of the counsellor. Thus many of the cases in which the victim is actually under 18, and thus technically a minor, may actually be assigned case types pertaining to adults rather than those coming under ‘child abuse’.

**Table 7. Cases of child abuse**

Case Type	Number of cases assigned to each case type		Breakdown by gender of person affected:					
			Male		Female		Unknown	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Desertion/neglect	158	13%	41	26%	109	69%	8	5%
Physical abuse	108	9%	56	52%	50	46%	2	2%
Sexual abuse (harassment)	24	2%	1	4%	22	92%	1	4%
Sexual abuse (penetration)	30	3%	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%
Verbal abuse	62	5%	30	48%	30	48%	2	3%
Other	27	2%	9	33%	17	63%	1	4%
School violence	14	1%	8	57%	6	43%	0	0%
Abduction of a child	10	1%	0	0%	9	90%	1	10%
Underage Marriage/ Teenage Pregnancy	24	2%	0	0%	24	100%	0	0%
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1%</b>

**Figure 3. Types of violence against children reported as percentages of 1190 case histories**



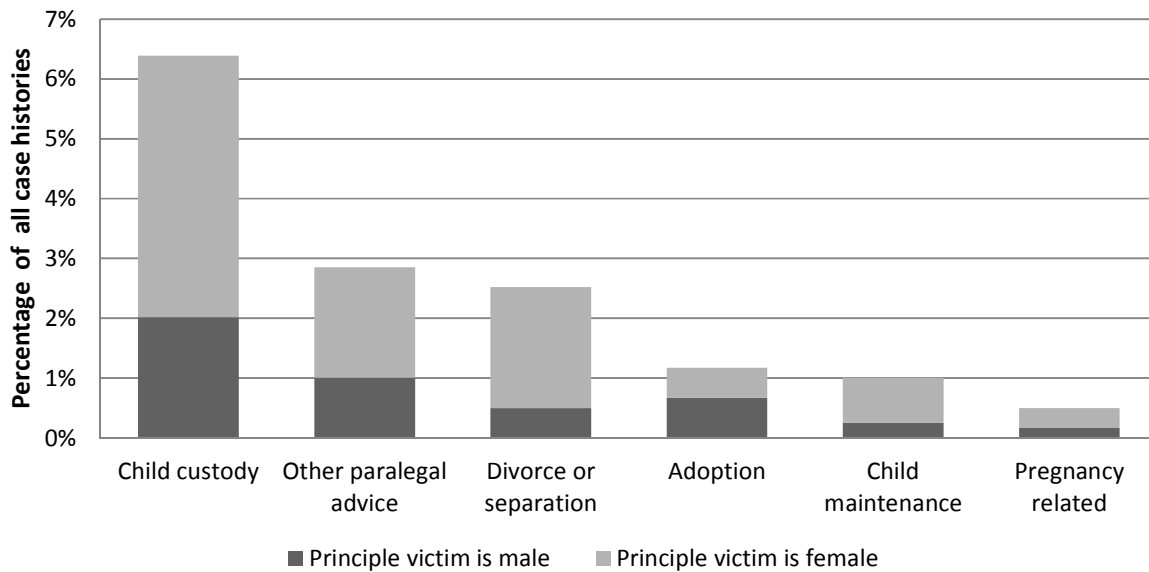
### 3.4.4 Paralegal advice

The analysis found that some clients of EHFV were not actually victims of violence or reporting instances of abuse as such. Some were caught in a difficult situation in which there is not necessarily a victim or perpetrator and were seeking advice or legal information. Table 8 illustrates some of these cases. It can be seen that by far the most common issues are child custody and divorce or separation. Child custody issues were often mentioned by clients whose children had been confiscated by the family of his/her spouse. Other paralegal advice sought is often over financial disputes concerning inheritance, land or pensions. Many of those wanting to discuss divorce also mentioned adultery and domestic violence in their case histories. Figure 4 presents the data for male and female clients in graphical form.

**Table 8. Clients seeking information or advice on a specific topic**

Reason for enquiry	Number of cases assigned to each case type		Breakdown by gender of person affected					
			Male		Female		Unknown	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Adoption	14	1%	8	57%	6	43%	0	0%
Child custody	78	7%	24	31%	52	67%	2	3%
Child maintenance	12	1%	3	25%	9	75%	0	0%
Divorce or separation	30	3%	6	20%	24	80%	0	0%
Other paralegal advice	36	3%	12	33%	22	61%	2	6%
Pregnancy related	7	1%	2	29%	4	57%	1	14%
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1%</b>

**Figure 4. Clients seeking information or advice on a specific topic shown as a percentage of all case histories**

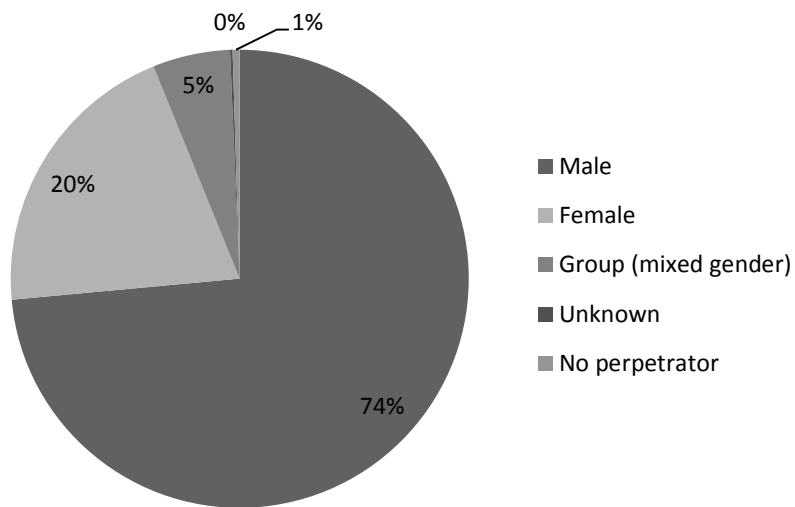


### 3.5 Characteristics of perpetrators

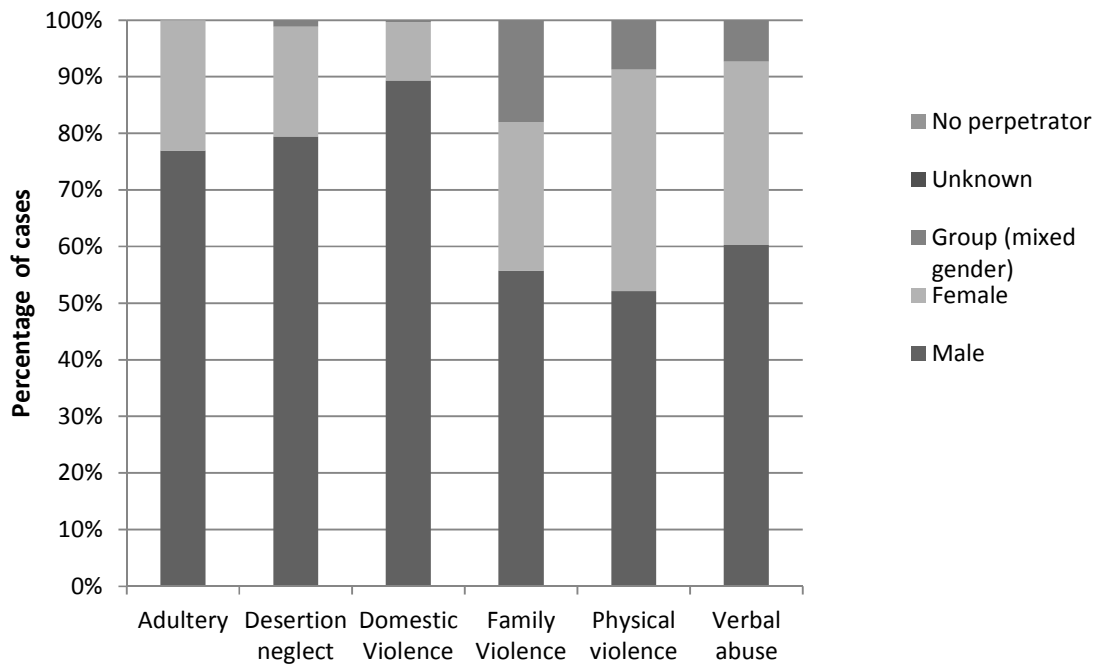
#### 3.5.1 Gender of perpetrator

Figure 5 presents data on the gender of the perpetrator for the 1190 case histories. In 74 per cent of cases the perpetrator was male, whilst in 20 per cent it was female. In five per cent of cases it was a group, often in-laws accused of confiscation of the client's children or of chasing her from her home. Figure 6 shows the gender of the perpetrator for some of the main types of abuse affecting adult clients.

**Figure 5. The gender of perpetrators of abuse reported by EHFV clients**



**Figure 6. Gender of perpetrators for major types of abuse affecting adult clients**

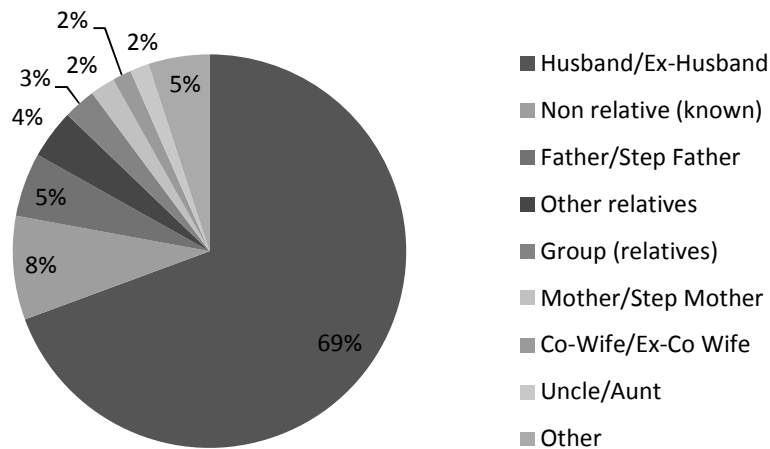


### 3.5.2 Relationship between perpetrator and client

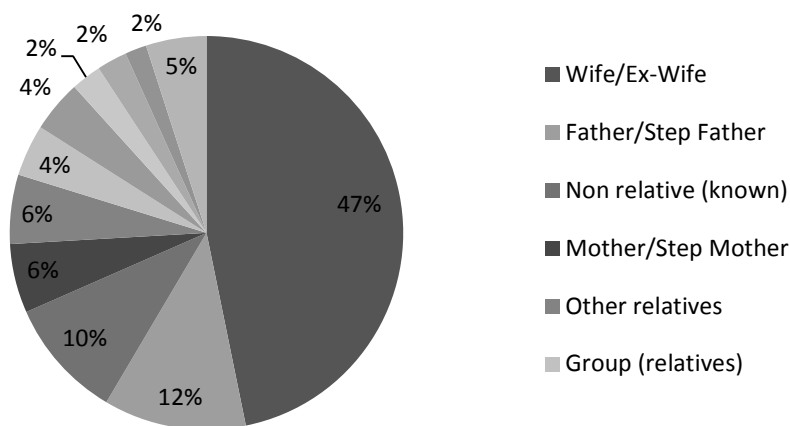
Figure 7a shows the relationship of the perpetrator to the client for female victims, whilst figure 7b shows the same information for male victims. In both cases, a large proportion of clients had some kind of complaint against their spouse; amongst female clients this was the case in almost 70 per cent of cases, and for male clients in just under 50 per cent of cases.

**Figure 7. Relationship of perpetrators to clients**

**(a) Female victims (n=896)**



**(b) Male victims (n=281)**



Male clients often brought complaints concerning their parents or step-parents (20 per cent of cases). Non-relatives were also frequently mentioned (in ten per cent of cases concerning male clients and eight per cent of cases concerning female clients). Non-relatives were particularly associated with the abuse of minors: for minors alone (n=221), in 32 per cent of all cases the abuser was a non-relative (or group of non relatives)<sup>4</sup>; in 32 per cent of cases it was parent or step parent and in ten per cent an aunt or uncle.

### **3.6 Causes of violence**

The causes of violence were given for 1021 cases, of which 78 cases had more than two causes assigned. The remaining 169 cases did not have a specific cause or the cause was unknown. In many of these cases no specific acts of violence or abuse had been committed, and thus data on the cause was not relevant. Table 9 shows the frequency of each cause given as a percentage of the total number of cases in each gender group<sup>5</sup>. Figure 7 shows the data in graphical form.

Infidelity/adultery, polygamy and other marital problems made up 50 per cent of all causes of violence given across both gender groups. Polygamy affects women severely; 91 per cent of all cases for which polygamy was cited as the cause affected women victims.

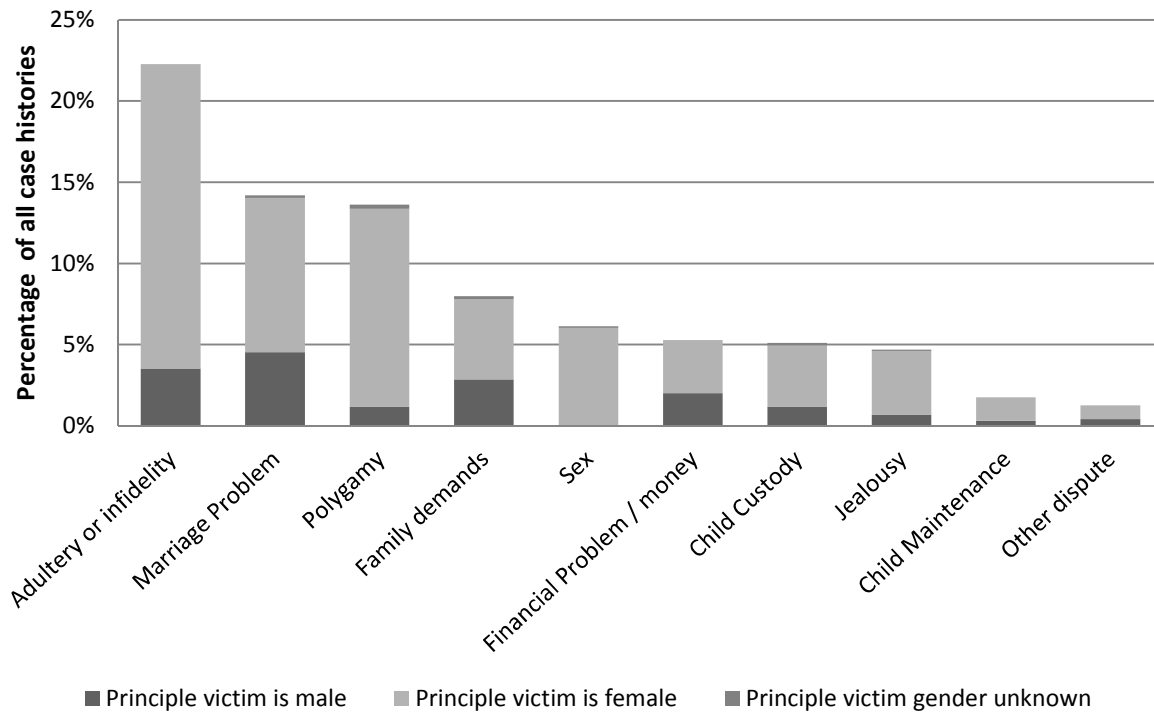
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<sup>4</sup> 28 per cent of cases involve non-relatives who are known to the victim, five per cent of cases involve unknown non-relatives.

<sup>5</sup> The gender of the victim here relates to the principle person affected.



**Figure 7. Top ten causes of violence broken down by gender**

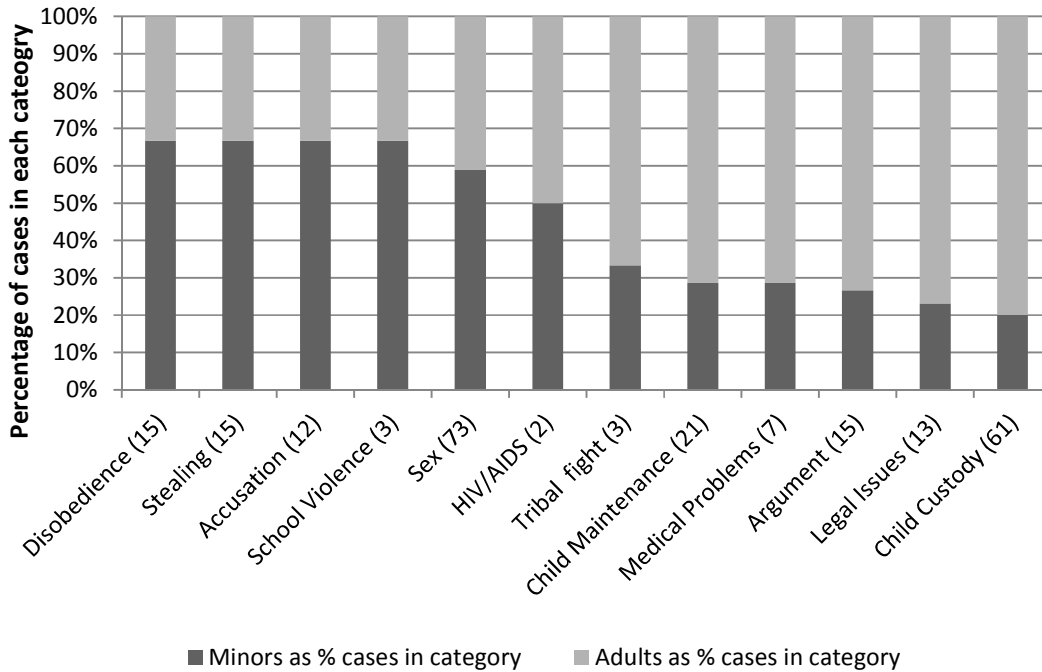


**Table 9. Causes of violence as a percentage of all cases in each gender category**

<b>Causes of violence</b>	<b>All cases</b>	<b>Causes of violence against male victims as % of all cases having male victims</b>	<b>Causes of violence against female victims as % of all cases having female victims</b>	<b>As % of cases with Gender Unknown</b>
Adultery or infidelity	22%	15%	25%	0%
Marriage Problem	14%	19%	13%	15%
Polygamy	14%	5%	16%	23%
Family demands	8%	12%	7%	15%
Sex	6%	0%	8%	8%
Child Custody	5%	5%	5%	15%
Financial Problem / money	5%	9%	4%	0%
Jealousy	5%	3%	5%	8%
Child Maintenance	2%	1%	2%	0%
Accusation (other)	1%	3%	0%	0%
Argument (unknown topic)	1%	2%	1%	0%
Bride Price	1%	3%	0%	0%
Compensation	1%	2%	1%	0%
Disobedience	1%	3%	1%	0%
Legal Issues	1%	2%	1%	0%
Medical Problems	1%	1%	1%	0%
Sorcery	1%	0%	1%	0%
Stealing	1%	2%	1%	0%
Gambling	0%	0%	0%	0%
HIV/AIDS	0%	0%	0%	0%
School Violence	0%	1%	0%	0%
Tribal fight	0%	1%	0%	0%
Other	2%	4%	2%	15%
Unknown	14%	12%	15%	0%
<b>Total records</b>	<b>1278</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>13</b>

**Figure 8. Principle causes of violence involving minors**

(Data shown in order of proportion of minors affected by each cause; total case numbers for each cause given on x axis)



Those causes of violence with the *largest proportions* of clients identified as minors are presented in Figure 8 and include disobedience and stealing. Those causes *most frequently* mentioned in cases involving minors included child custody and child maintenance: in these cases the minor was often abandoned by one or more parents, was prevented from seeing one parent by another or was lodged with uncaring relatives and was suffering from various forms of neglect as a result. Sex was also mentioned as a common cause of abuse of minors, but these cases are in fact mostly sexual abuse cases and refer to the act perpetrated rather than any underlying causes.

### 3.7 Use of Physical Violence

#### 3.7.1 Types of injury sustained

Overall, some kind of physical violence against the client was mentioned in 331 cases or 28 per cent of the sample<sup>6</sup>. This represents about 30 per cent cases in which the principle person affected is female,

<sup>6</sup> It was particularly difficult in many cases to ascertain whether physical violence or injury had actually been inflicted deliberately by one party upon another. For example, in some cases labeled as domestic or family violence, fighting of some sort between parties had occurred but both appeared to be equally implicated. In other cases, the complainant had been

and 22 per cent in the case of males (remembering that female victims make up around 75 per cent of the sample).

Although the original EHFV case form did not have a specific section on the types of injuries sustained by victims, the data input staff were asked to identify some aspects of the history of violence from the narratives. In these narratives, clients reported and described either injuries, the nature of the assault or both. 80 clients described multiple injuries. The injuries sustained are shown in Table 10. The category 'other injuries' includes burning, forcing to drink alcohol, dislocation of joints, urinary pain following sexual violence and unspecified pains or scratches following beating. The figures are shown *as percentages of all cases reporting violent incidents for each gender group*. The most common injuries sustained are cuts (27 per cent of cases reporting assaults/injuries). Some of these injuries were extremely severe, involving the amputation of members in two cases (hand and finger), and death of the victim in one case.

**Table 10. Type of injury as percentage of total cases for which assault/injury information was provided**

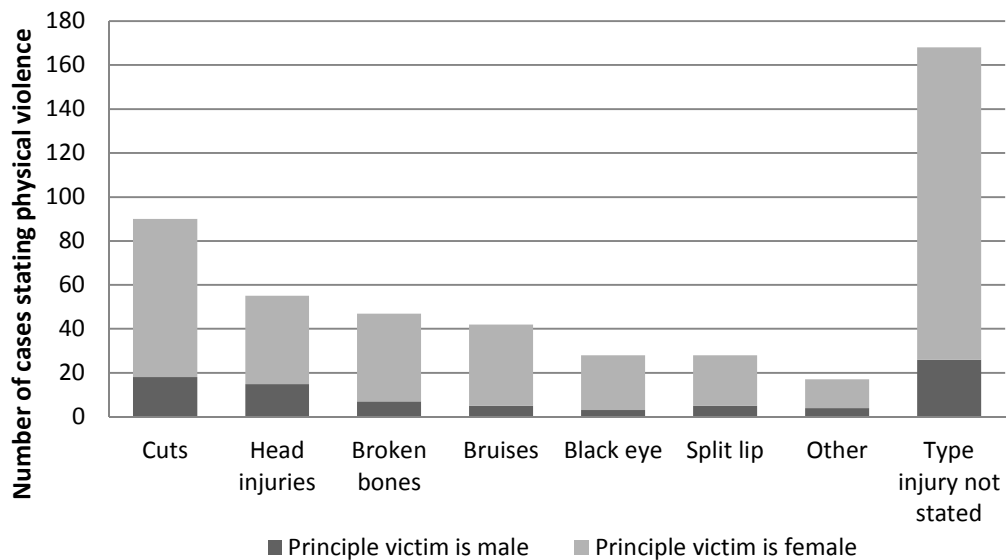
Type of injury	Total cases reporting	Principle victim is female	Principle victim is male	Gender unknown
Cuts	27%	27%	29%	50%
Head injuries	17%	15%	24%	0%
Broken bones	14%	15%	11%	0%
Bruises	13%	14%	8%	50%
Black eye	8%	9%	5%	0%
Split lip	8%	9%	8%	0%
Other	5%	5%	6%	0%
Physical violence involved but type injury not stated	51%	53%	42%	0%
<b>Total case numbers reporting assault/injury</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2</b>

Although the *proportion* of each type of injury reported is similar for men and for women, absolute number of injuries inflicted on the two groups are very different. Figure 9 shows the *absolute numbers* of cases of physical injury and violence experienced by male and female victims. Overall, 25 per cent of women and 20 per cent of men reporting physical violence sustained multiple injuries, thus some clients are represented several times in these figures.

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perhaps violently) evicted from her home. In these ambiguous cases, the label regarding the type of violence was retained but they were not listed as cases involving physical violence against the client, as the rationale behind this list was to establish the number of cases in which the client was subjected to abuse causing definite physical harm or a threat to health or life.

**Figure 9. Numbers of cases of each type of injury reported by men and women**  
 (Representing data for 331 cases for which some type of violent act is known to have occurred)



### 3.7.2 Weapon used

In some of the 331 cases of physical violence reported, the weapon used was not described at all. In other cases, the victim described having been punched, kicked, hit or slapped by the perpetrators; thus we can assume that in most of these cases the perpetrator was using his/her fists or feet as weapons. However in 117 cases, use of another weapon was described (see Table 11 for details). Sticks were mentioned in 50 per cent of these cases, whilst knives were mentioned in 37 per cent of those cases where weapon information was given. Of 'other objects' (mentioned in 36 per cent of cases giving weapon detail), the most common were iron bars; other implements included baseball bats, belts, bottles and scissors. In 34 of the 117 cases, multiple weapons were used.

**Table 11. Weapons used in cases of physical violence**

Type of weapon	Total cases reporting assault/injury	As % all cases reporting weapon information
Stick	58	50%
Bush Knife	27	23%
Knife	16	14%
Footwear	12	10%
Stone	8	7%
Axe	5	4%
Gun	2	2%
Other object	36	31%
<b>Total case numbers for which information given on weapons</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **3.8 Characteristics of clients**

In this section we discuss some of the characteristics of clients, such as their marital status and level of education. This is to identify any characteristics which may increase the likelihood of a person being subject to abuse. For example, there is a common perception that educated and financially independent women are less likely to suffer abuse. Thus, having a job, being in a non-polygamous marriage or completing secondary education, may decrease the probability of experiencing violence. However, it is difficult to draw conclusions from these results unless they can be compared to similar statistics for the Eastern Highlands as a whole, as the client profiles in our sample of 1190 cases may simply reflect that of the local population.

In this section, information is presented only for those 1024 clients who were also victims, this is because information on education, marital status, employment and religion pertains to reporters, and where these were not also victims (but reporting for someone else) the information is not considered to be relevant as it does not concern the person actually affected by the abuse.

#### **3.8.1 Marital status**

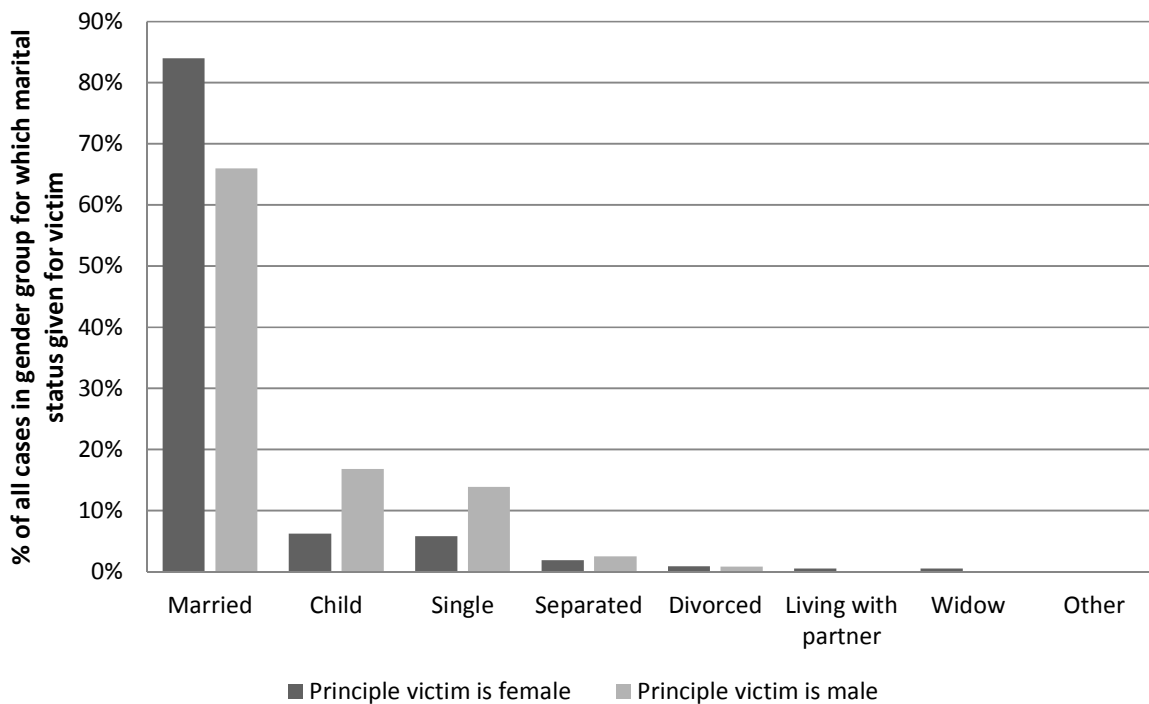
Table 12 presents data on the marital status of the clients. The EHFV form did not ask about whether a marriage was polygamous or monogamous, so where this is stated, the information came from the narrative. The data are also presented in graphical form in Figure 10.

**Table 12: Marital status of clients (those reporting for others are excluded)**

Marital Status	Women			Men		
	Count	%	Average age	Count	%	Average age
Child	49	6%	12	40	17%	12
Living with partner	4	1%	23	0	0%	-
Divorced	7	1%	34	2	1%	48
Married (monogamous)	20	3%	32	7	3%	38
Married (polygamous)	86	11%	32	42	18%	39
Married (type unknown)	554	70%	30	108	45%	34
Separated	15	2%	32	6	3%	35
Single	46	6%	19	33	14%	20
Widow	4	1%	42	0	0%	-
Other	1	0%	22	0	0%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>29</b>

**Figure 10. Marital status of male and female clients**

(Percentages are calculated separately for the group of male and female victims. Those reporting for others are excluded)



A greater proportion of female victims than male victims were married; male clients were more likely to be single than female clients. The proportion of children given here does not match the statistics

shown in Table 3; this is because for the purposes of this question, ‘child’ was not defined in the same way as minor, but was left to the discretion of the counsellor.

### 3.8.2 Education level of clients

Table 13 gives the education level of clients who were both reporters and victims and these data are presented in Figure 10 in graphical form. Only data for *adult* clients are presented here because the education status of minor victims is determined largely by their age, which confounds with socio-economic factors determining education levels.

**Table 13. Education level of clients** (adults only, those reporting for others are excluded)

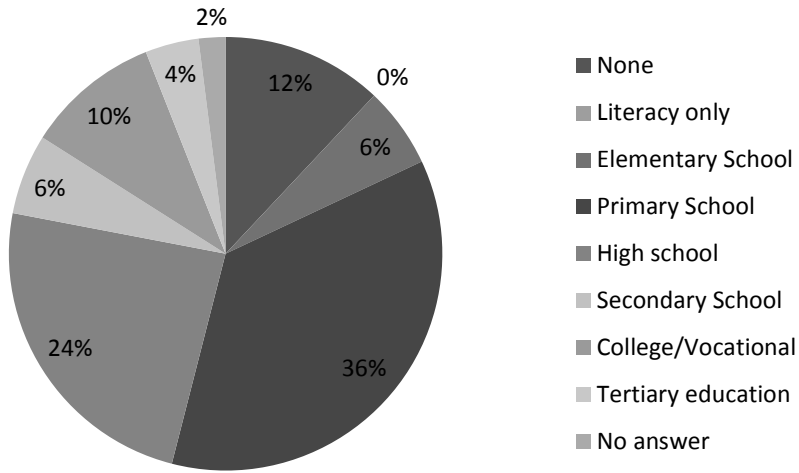
Education level	Female		Male	
	Count	%	Count	%
Elementary School	42	6%	8	4%
Primary School	260	36%	54	29%
Secondary School	43	6%	20	11%
High school	173	24%	50	27%
College/Vocational	71	10%	23	12%
Tertiary education	27	4%	15	8%
Literacy only	1	0%	1	1%
None	87	12%	11	6%
No answer	12	2%	5	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>100%</b>

The data suggest that the education level of male clients is slightly higher than that of female clients: 42 per cent of the female sample finished only elementary or primary education compared to 33 per cent of males. 14 per cent of females had some kind of further education in comparison with 20 per cent of males. However, this probably reflects the situation in Eastern Highlands in general. A comparison with Provincial statistics would be required in order to ascertain whether there is any significant difference between the educational profile of EHFV clients and the population as a whole. For the moment all we can say is that a significant proportion of female clients (20 per cent), are educated to grade 10 or above.

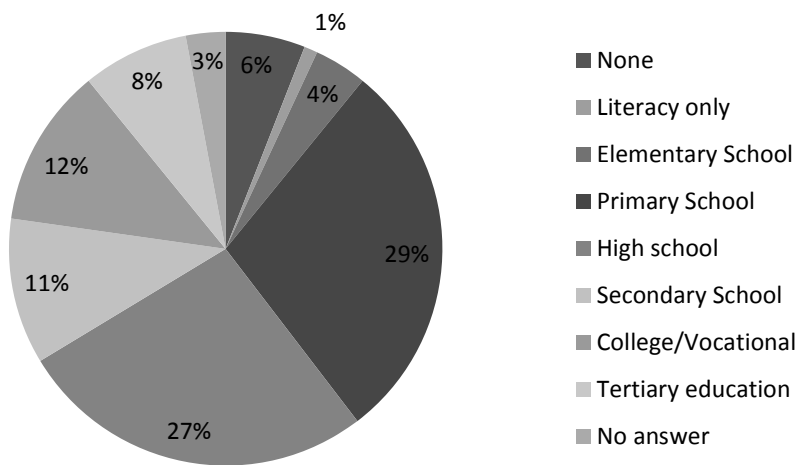


**Figure 11. Education level of clients (adult victims only)**

**(a) Female victims**



**(b) Male victims**



### 3.8.3 Religious denomination of clients

It is useful for EHFV to know the religious denomination of clients in case they want to partner with churches for awareness campaigns. The most commonly cited denomination given by clients in the sample analysed here was Seventh Day Adventist (SDA); 41 per cent of the sample were affiliated with this church. Interestingly 'Other Christian Denomination' came second with 15 per cent of clients; these are generally small local churches which, although numerous, have only locally-based congregations. The Four Square and Lutheran churches were the most commonly mentioned churches after SDA; ten per cent of clients were affiliated with each of these churches.

**Table 14: Religious denomination of clients (those reporting for others are excluded)**

Religious denomination	Female		Male		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
SDA	323	41%	99	42%	422	41%
Other Christian denomination	118	15%	32	13%	150	15%
Four Square	100	13%	18	8%	118	12%
Lutheran	76	10%	24	10%	100	10%
Catholic	50	6%	16	7%	66	6%
Baptist	28	4%	12	5%	40	4%
EBC	24	3%	13	5%	37	4%
PNGBC	22	3%	3	1%	25	2%
AOG	13	2%	7	3%	20	2%
Pentecost	11	1%	3	1%	14	1%
Jehovah's Witness	8	1%	1	0%	9	1%
United	6	1%	3	1%	9	1%
Nazarene	3	0%	3	1%	6	1%
No answer	2	0%	4	2%	6	1%
Non Christian religion	2	0%	0	0%	2	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 3.9 EHFV client and counsellor actions

#### 3.9.1 Source of referral

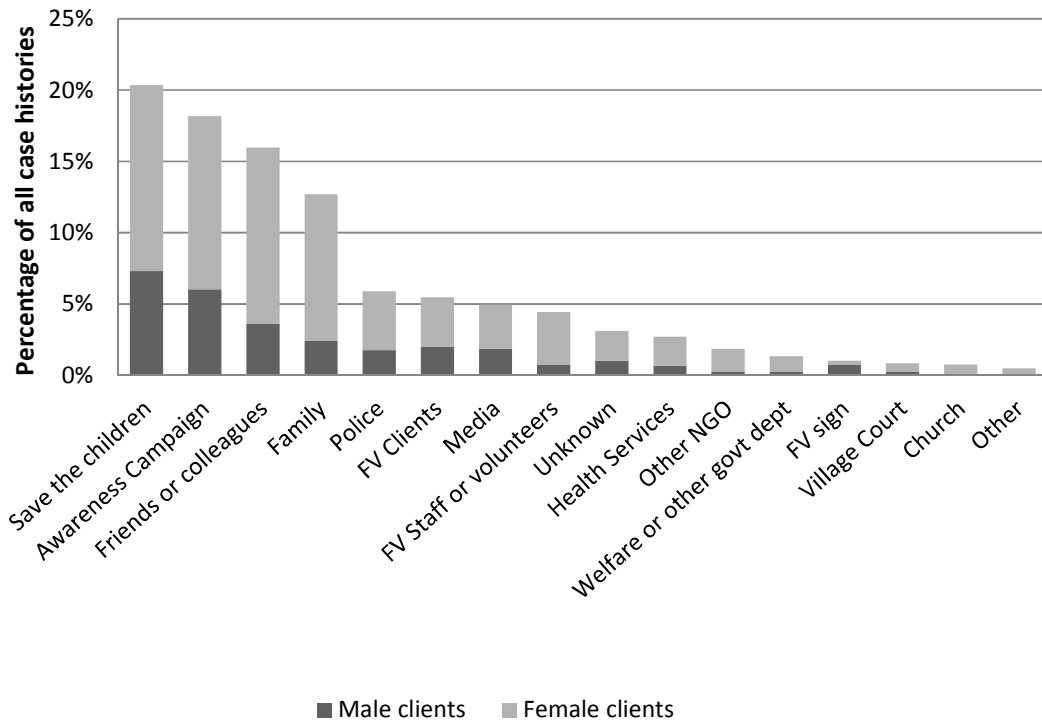
It is important for EHFV to understand how clients hear about the organisation and how they were able to identify it as a possible source of help and support. Table 15 presents the various different sources which clients stated had been their source of referral or information about EHFV. The figures seem to suggest that the single most important source of information for clients is friends and family, which together make up almost 30 per cent of referrals. The next most important source is Save the Children (20 per cent) and the Awareness Campaign (18 per cent); the media account for a further five per cent. Government services such as health, the police, village courts and welfare account for 12 per cent of referrals. Family Voice staff, volunteers and the sign shown on cars and the office, account for six per cent of referrals.

**Table 15. Source of referral of clients visiting EHFV**

Source of referral	Cases	As % of total cases
Save the Children	242	20%
Awareness Campaign	216	18%
Friends	176	15%
Family	151	13%
Police	70	6%
FV Clients	65	5%
Media	59	5%
Unknown	37	3%
FV Staff	35	3%
Health Services	32	3%
Other NGO	22	2%
FV Volunteers	18	2%
Colleagues	14	1%
FV sign	12	1%
Village Court	10	1%
Church	9	1%
Other government department	8	1%
Welfare	8	1%
Other	6	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>100%</b>

The source of referral for male and female clients is given in graphical format in Figure 12. The figures suggest that awareness campaigns and media may attract a slightly larger proportion of male clients than females. Friends and family are more likely to be sources of referral for females than males. However, we must remember that in almost all cases there are a greater number of female clients than males, whatever the source of referral.

**Figure 12. Source of referral for clients visiting EHFV** (figures given as percentage of all 1190 cases)



### 3.9.2 Action of the counsellor

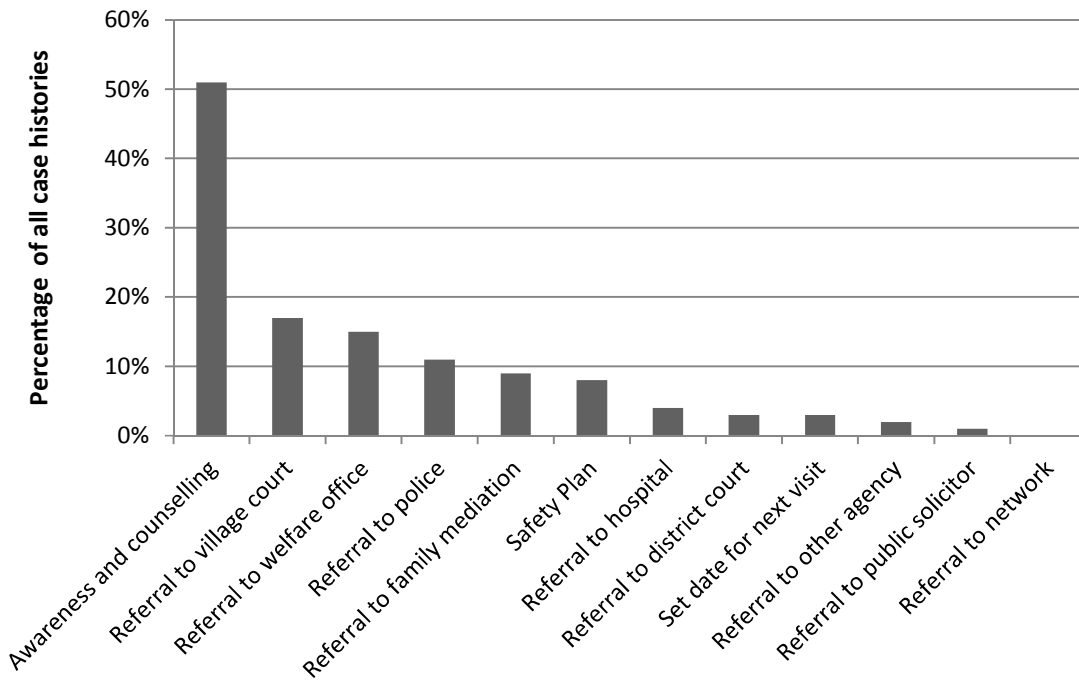
Table 16 outlines the actions of the EHFV counsellors taken as part of each case history (see also Figure 13). Often more than one action was taken. Awareness and counselling was the most common action taken, followed by referral to village courts. Referral to the welfare office and police were also common. The category ‘other’ often means that the counsellor had asked the client to return with other parties concerned with the case history or that they were awaiting the client’s next visit.

**Table 16. Follow up actions taken by EHFV counsellors**

Action taken	All cases	
	No. cases	% of all cases
Awareness and counselling	602	51%
Referral to village court	203	17%
Referral to welfare office	181	15%
Referral to police	132	11%
Referral to family mediation	105	9%
Safety Plan	92	8%
Referral to hospital	45	4%
Referral to district court	37	3%
Set date for next visit	36	3%
Referral to other agency	18	2%
Referral to public solicitor	14	1%
Referral to network	2	0%
Other	130	11%
<b>Total number of cases</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>-</b>

Subsequent visits were appended to each case history and were recorded in the database. Overall, subsequent visits were recorded for 150 clients, or about 13 per cent of the sample. Of these 104 came once more, 32 (three per cent) came twice and 14 (one per cent) came three to five times.

**Figure 13. Follow up actions taken by EHFV counsellors**



## 4. Conclusions

Some key results from the data analysis are summarised in Box 1. EHFV is often perceived as an organisation dealing with physical violence against women. However, family breakdown, including desertion of a family by one of the parents, infidelity or separation and neglect of children are the major issues prompting clients to visit EHFV, as well as being major causes of much of the associated violence reported by clients. Related issues of child custody and maintenance are common problems; in particular confiscation of children by one spouse and their family, or abuse by guardians. EHFV staff need to be well trained in the legal matters surrounding these issues, and to be well equipped to support these cases, as well as those involving actual physical abuse.

### **Box 1: A summary of conclusions**

- The majority of affected persons in the case histories were female (75 per cent).
- About 20 per cent of those affected were minors.
- Of those visiting EHFV, about 30 per cent had been affected by some type of physical violence; this proportion was slightly higher for female than male victims. Other clients were visiting for reasons not connected with physical abuse.
- Domestic violence was the single most frequent type of physical abuse recorded, mentioned in 24 per cent of all cases.
- Sexual violence against adults was rarely reported. The most common type of sexual abuse amongst over 18s was marital rape and was mentioned by one per cent of the sample.
- Amongst minors, sexual abuse seems to be more common. 50 cases of harassment or penetration (or both) were recorded, about four per cent of the total sample. Desertion, neglect and physical abuse of minors were also frequently mentioned.
- In 69 per cent of those cases involving female clients, the perpetrator was the spouse; the equivalent figure for male clients was 47 per cent.
- In the case of minors, abusers were close relatives in about 45 per cent of cases (usually step parents or uncle/aunts). In 32 per cent of cases they were said to be non-relatives, most of whom were known to the victim.
- The most frequent causes of abuse cited by female clients were marital problems, including infidelity and polygamy.

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Eastern Highlands Family Voice works with people affected by family violence in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. Its network of volunteers provides counselling and legal advice, and undertakes crisis intervention and violence prevention work with local communities.