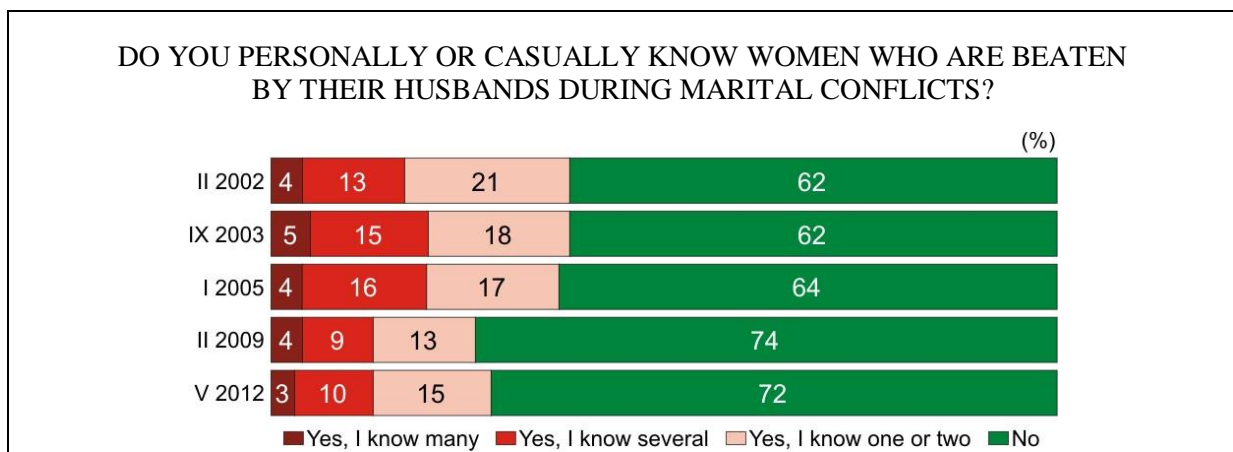


DOMESTIC CONFLICTS AND VIOLENCE

Estimating the scale of domestic violence is very difficult. Such behaviour is socially unacceptable, so perpetrators are likely to conceal it. Victims may also hide such cases out of shame. Therefore, estimates are often made with questions about the prevalence of domestic violence in respondent's immediate surroundings, rather than about personal experience.

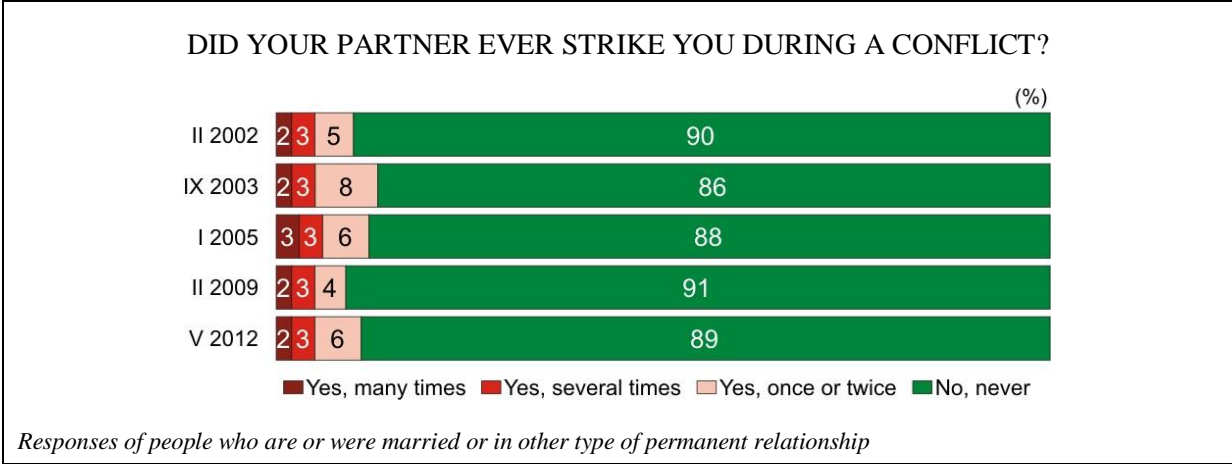
More than a quarter of Poles (28%) declare knowing personally or casually a woman beaten by her partner. The results have remained almost unchanged since 2009. In that year, we noted a decrease in the number of reported contacts with domestic violence.

Particular attention should be given to women's responses, as they are likely to be more sensitive to this problem and better able to correctly assess the scale of this phenomenon. Every third woman (32%) knows another woman beaten by a husband.



It is difficult to reveal personal experience of domestic violence, and presumably some cases are concealed. Nevertheless, a large number of respondents do admit being struck by a partner during a row. One in nine people living with a partner (11%) declare having

experienced domestic violence; among them, 5% admit such incidents happened many times. In recent years, this proportion has remained unchanged. Men admit being beaten as often as women (10% and 11%, respectively), but more women admit being beaten frequently.



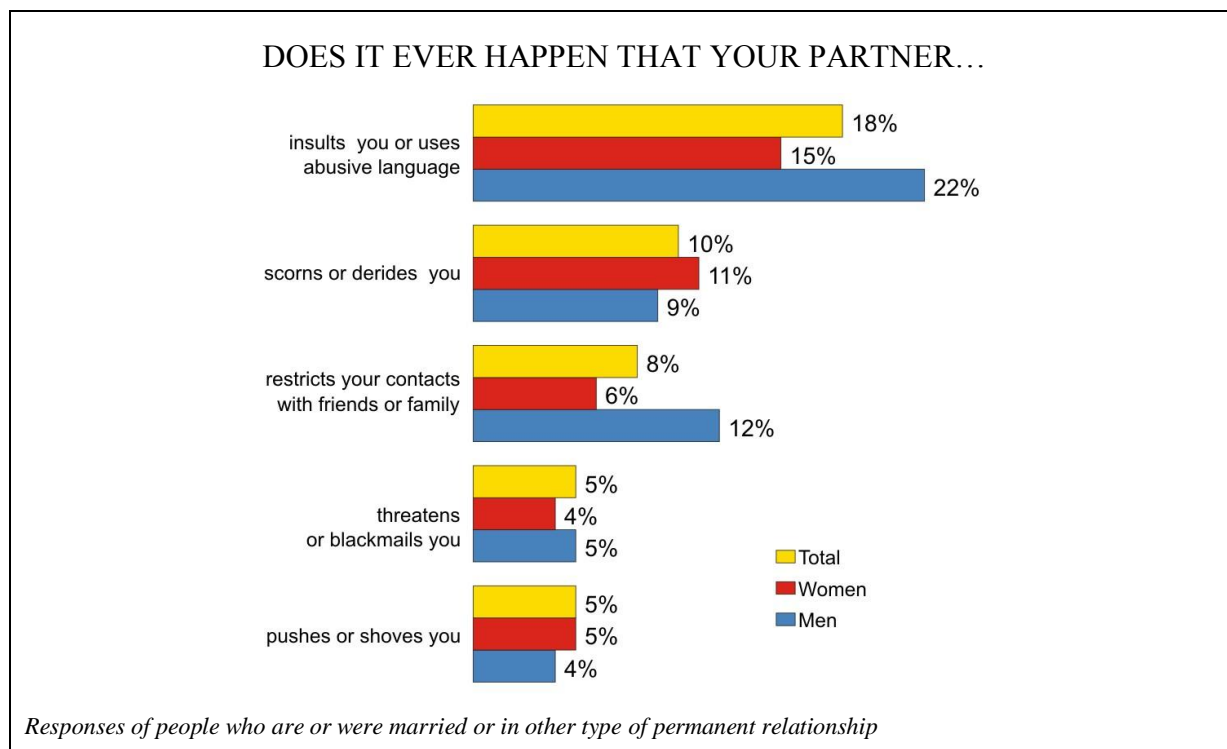
Similarly, 11% of adults admit being a perpetrator of domestic violence. A vast majority of these people say these were isolated incidents. The declared violence has not changed in the last 10 years. There is almost no difference in the sex of perpetrators. Women slightly more often than men admit striking their partner (12% and 10%, respectively).



The distinction between a victim and a perpetrator is not clear. Most victims of domestic violence (59%) admit using it themselves as well. On the other hand, only 5% of people who never experienced beating admit ever striking their partner themselves.

In addition to physical attacks, domestic violence can take the form of psychological tormenting. Almost one-fifth of people in a permanent relationship (18%) admit that their partner sometimes uses abusive or insulting language towards them, while one in ten (10%) experiences scorn and derision, and one in twelve (8%) has his or her contacts with friends or

family severely restricted. One in twenty (5%) admits that his or her partner sometimes threatens or blackmails them, and the same proportion are sometimes pushed or shoved. Men more often than women experience restrictions of contacts with friends or family. Women more often than men say partners demean and scorn them.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Domestic conflicts and violence"*, June 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2012, N=1017. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.