

Men's perpetration of Sexual violence against women  
in Bangladesh:  
Magnitude, correlates, motivations and men's reactions

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## Background

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- In Bangladesh, 37- 50% of ever-married 15–49-year-old women reported ever experiencing sexual violence by a husband (WHO, 2005)
- 20–24% reported such violence during the last 12 months (WHO, 2005)
- Sexually violated women are more likely to experience multiple physical and mental health outcomes and negative child outcomes

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Study objectives were to explore:

- Magnitude of partner and non-partner sexual violence against women as reported by men;
- Correlates of sexual violence;
- Motivations for sexual violence perpetration; and
- Concerns and reactions of men after perpetrating the violence

# The data and methods

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- Population-based survey (Jan-Jun 2011)
- Study sites: Urban & Rural
- Study population: Men aged 18-49
- Total sample size: 2359
- Multi-stage sampling scheme
- One eligible man/household (randomly selected)
- All the ever-partnered men (1871) from this study were included in the current analysis



- Face-to-face interviews using PDAs
- The most sensitive section self-administered using audio facility and PDAs
- Multiple opportunities given for revealing sexual violence
- Interviews conducted in private & in a non-judgmental manner
- Questionnaire stemmed from IMAGES & WHO but adapted for focusing on GBV & the Bangladesh context

# Operational definition of sexual violence against women

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Use of force, coercion or psychological intimidation

by one or more persons

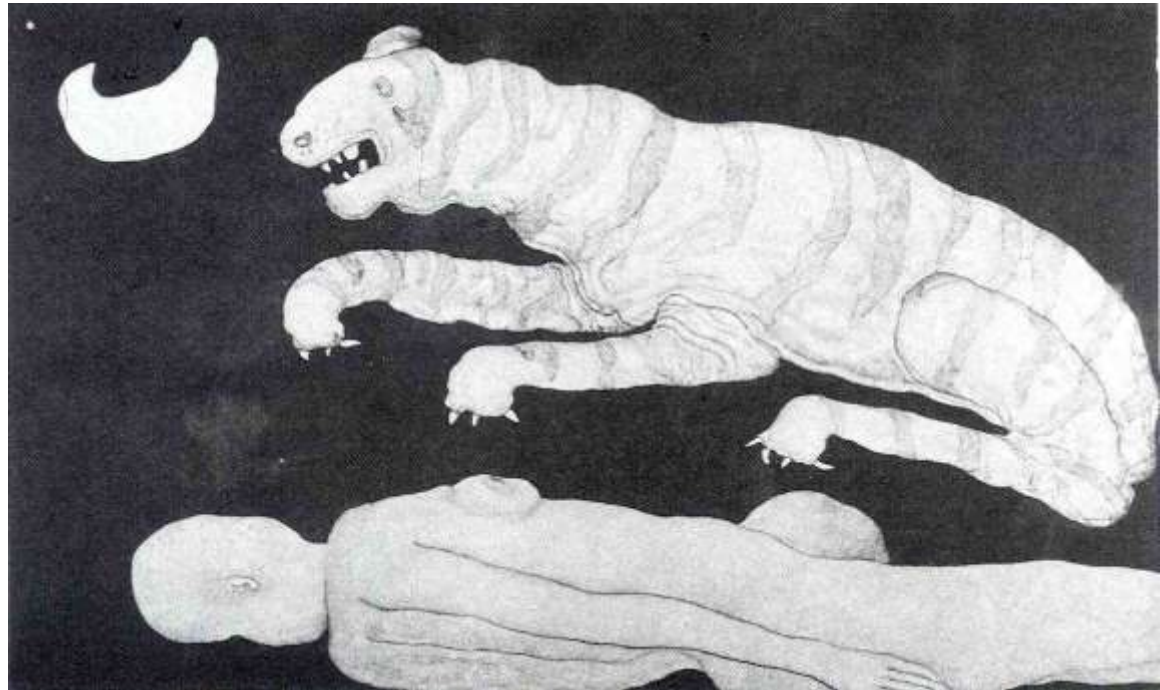
to make another person

engage in sex or

any sexual act

against her will,

whether or not the act is completed.



## Questions on sexual violence addressed

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- Both intimate and non-partner sexual violence
- Lifetime and current sexual violence
- Gang rape
- Motivations for sexual violence
- Immediate concerns and reactions of men after perpetrating sexual violence

## Examples of specific questions re sexual violence Used in the survey

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- Have you ever had sex with a woman or girl when she didn't consent or when you forced her?
- Have you and other men ever had sex with a woman at the same time when she didn't consent to sex or you forced her?



# Background information of men surveyed

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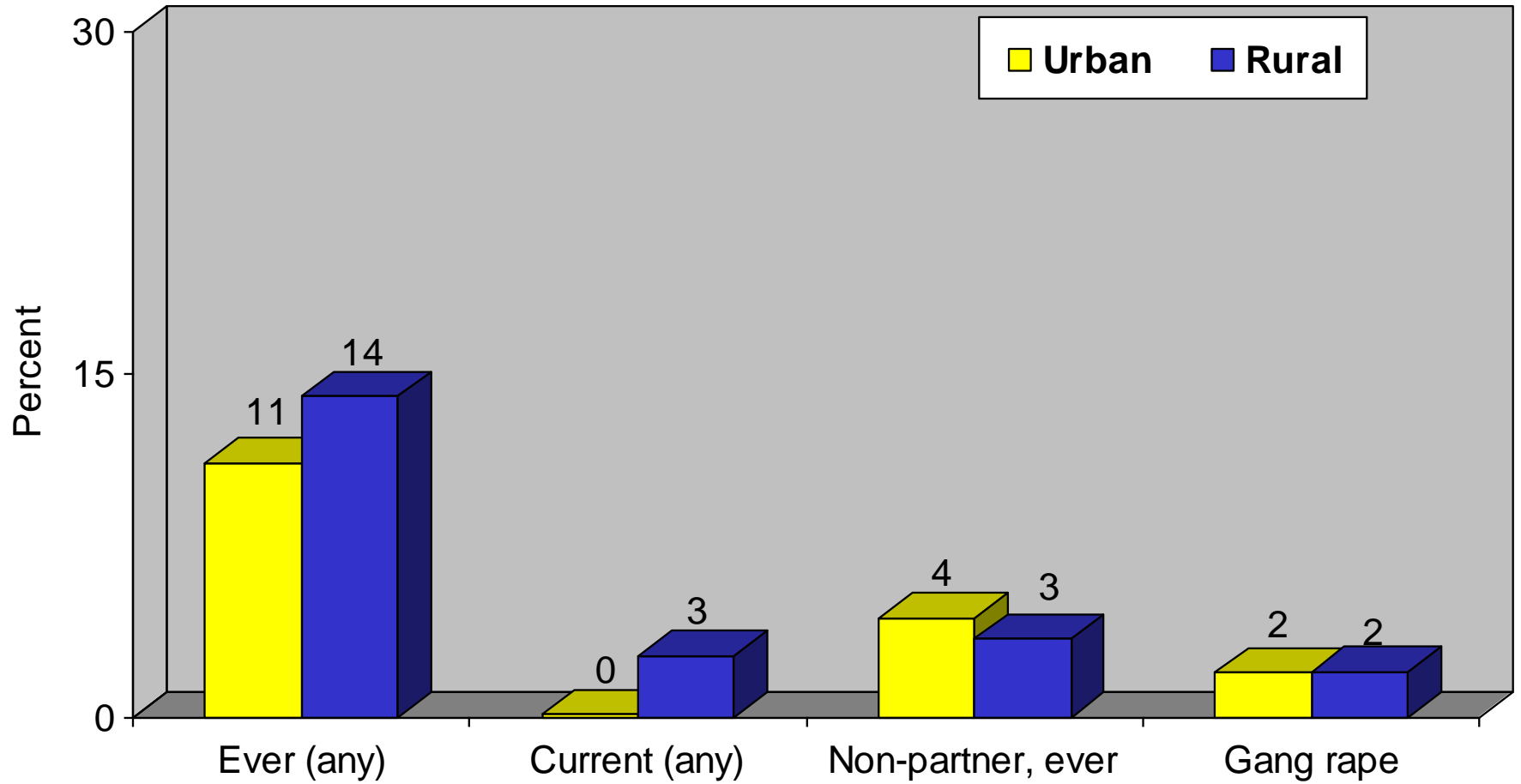
Characteristics	Urban	Rural
Age, %		
18-24	31	24
25-34	37	29
35-49	32	47
Years of schooling, %		
None	10	21
Primary	19	33
Secondary incomplete	21	23
Secondary complete	9	8
Tertiary	42	15
Employed in the last year, %	86	87

# Background information of men surveyed

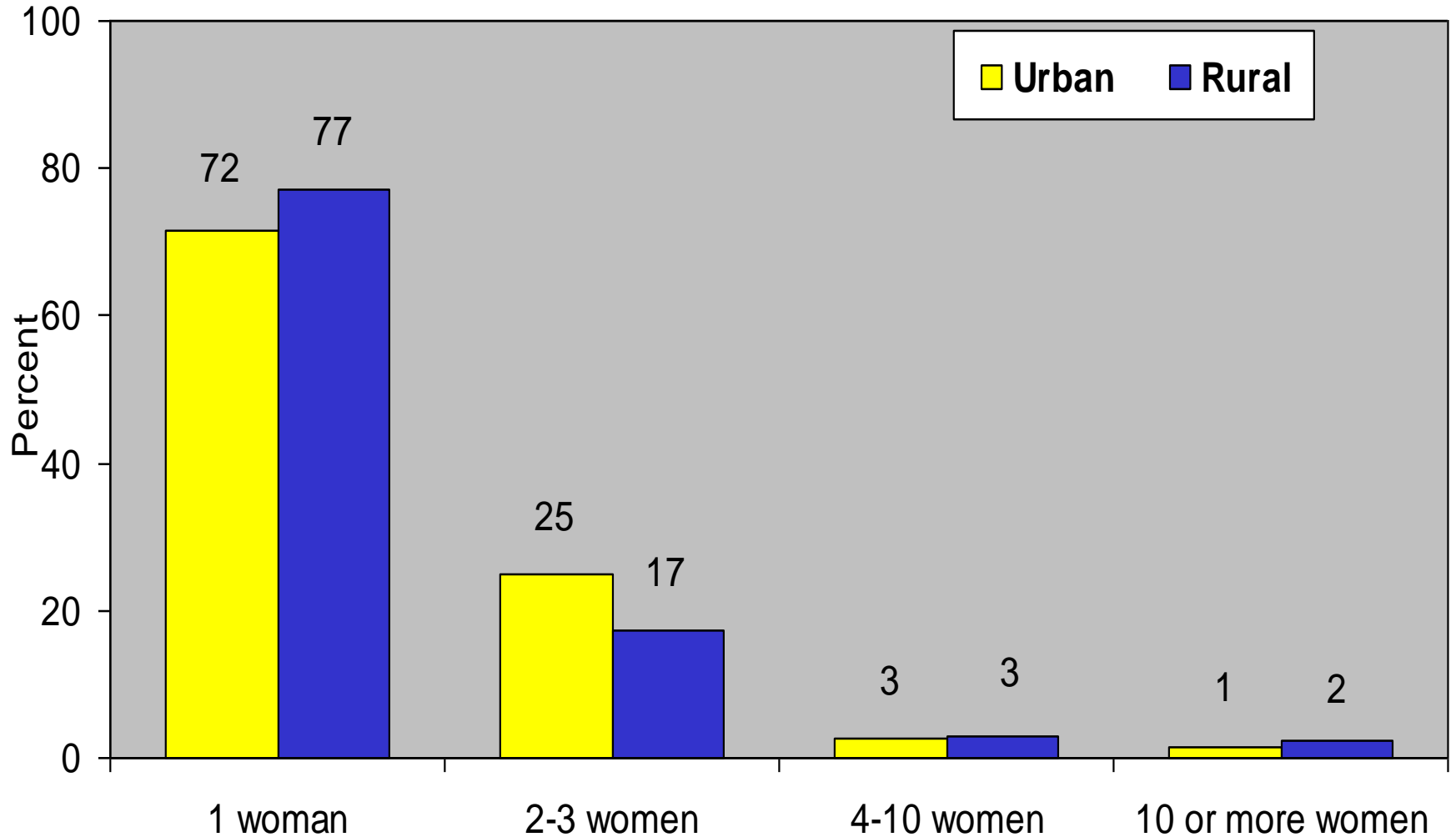
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Characteristics	Urban	Rural
Partnership status, %		
Never partnered	41	28
Currently partnered	56	69
Previously married	1	2
Non-marital partnership, current	1	1
Non-marital partnership, previous	1	1
Any children, %	49	61

# Men's perpetration of sexual violence against women in Bangladesh



# Number of women forced into sex by men in Bangladesh, %



# Correlates of lifetime sexual violence against women: Results from multivariate analysis

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## Adjusted Odds Ratios

Urban

Rural

Age: 18-24 (ref)

25-34

0.36 (CI: 0.16-0.82)

35-49

0.31 (CI: 0.14-0.68)

Socioeconomic status:

Very difficult to arrange \$1370 for treatment (ref)

Very easy to arrange \$1370 for treatment

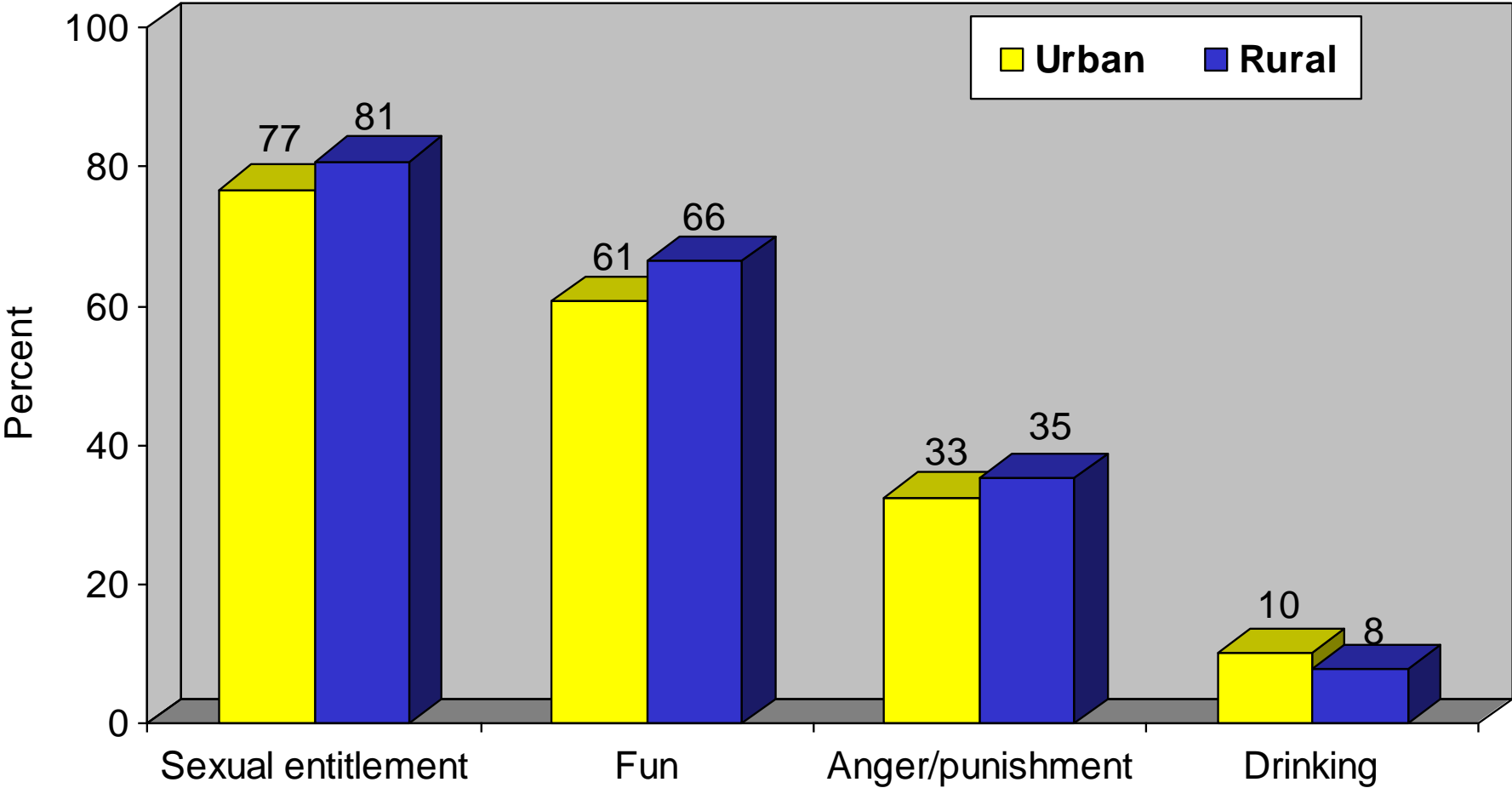
3.63 (CI: 1.27-10.36)

**Negative childhood experience**

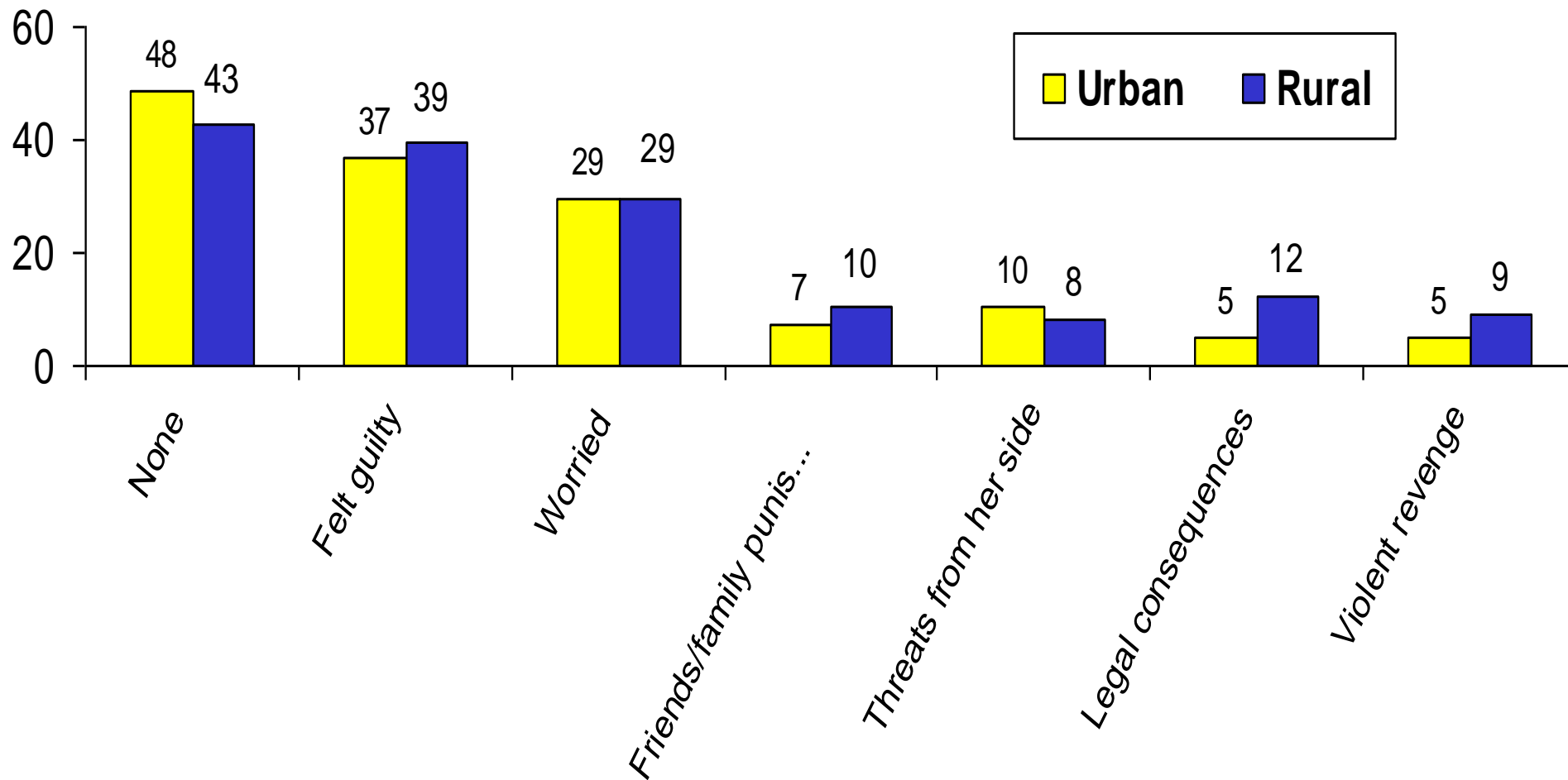
**1.48 (CI: 1.15-1.91)**

**1.53 (CI: 1.29-1.81)**

# Men's motivations for perpetrating sexual violence against women in Bangladesh (Multiple response), %



# Concerns & reactions of sexual violence perpetrators after rape in Bangladesh (Multiple response), %



# Take home messages

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- A much lower proportion of men reported perpetration of sexual violence against women compared to women
- Intimate partner violence (occurring mostly within marriage) was the predominant type of sexual violence in Bangladesh
- The single most important correlate of such violence across sites was negative childhood experience
- Economically advantaged men were more likely to perpetrate this violence in rural Bangladesh



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- Clearly, when it concerns sexual violence drinking is not a huge issue in Bangladesh
  - About four-fifth of the men perpetrated sexual violence as they considered sex as their entitlement
  - One-third of the men sexually abused women for taking out their anger or for punishing them
  - Most disturbing is the fact that about two-thirds of them did it just for fun. Changing these men and this culture might be extremely challenging.

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- Almost half of the perpetrators did not have any concerns or reactions after the rape, suggesting rape is a normative behavior
  - Only about one-tenth reported fear of repercussion, indicating the need for social and legal measures and systems for addressing this violence
  - A little less than one-third reported worries about being found out indicating stigma
  - About one-third of the perpetrators reported feeling guilty, suggesting space for intervention

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- The findings on motivations; and reactions suggest a need for different strategies of intervention for different groups of perpetrators
  - The legal framework for addressing sexual violence within marriage needs to be developed, laws must be passed & implemented.

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- As the study findings are similar across some developing countries it is important to learn from each other
  - There is paucity of evidence. So, interventions need to be jointly designed, adapted for specific contexts, tested out and results disseminated widely for enabling others to learn from achievements and failures of these initiatives

# Acknowledgements

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