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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ELDERLY

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Introduction

Key Concepts:

- Definition of violence
- Violence against women
- Violence against elderly



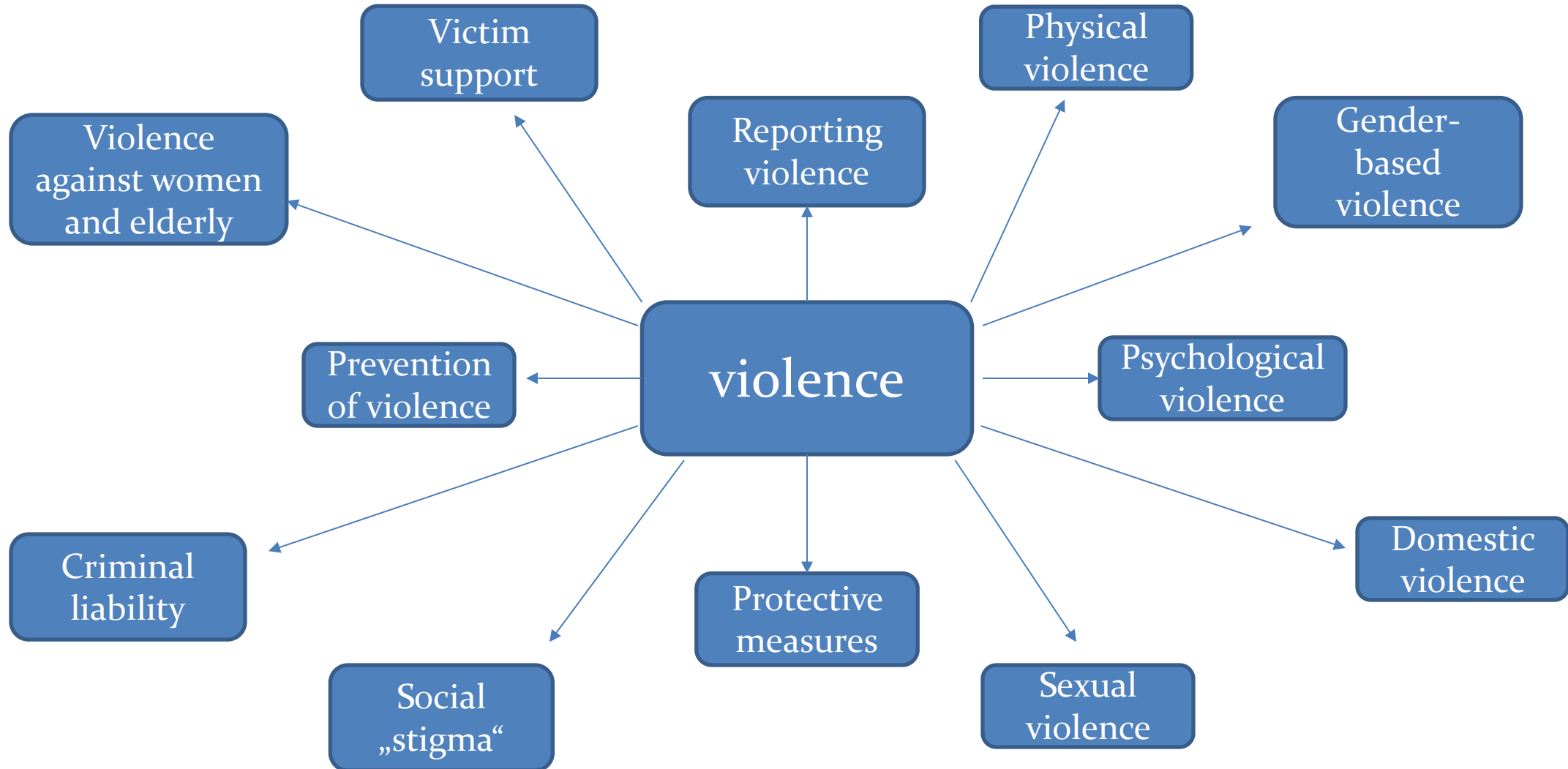
- Judicial practice
- Comparative legislation



- National legal framework
- International legal framework



Perception of violence



Violence against women in Montenegro

- Position of women in Montenegro throughout history
- Common causes of violence
- Identifying victims and perpetrators
- Consequences and institutional responses
- Prevention strategies
- Statistical data



Femicide



- Current legal framework

Montenegrin legislation does not recognize femicide as a distinct criminal offense. Cases involving the killing of women are often treated as general criminal acts or domestic violence resulting in death, leading to inconsistent judicial practices and lenient punishments for perpetrators. Sentences for the murder of women range from 12 to 40 years of imprisonment. Femicide is a serious social issue, with alarming statistics showing that 16 to 19 women have been killed in the past five years, many of whom were victims of gender-based violence. This trend highlights systemic societal problems, including discrimination, gender inequality, and institutional neglect.

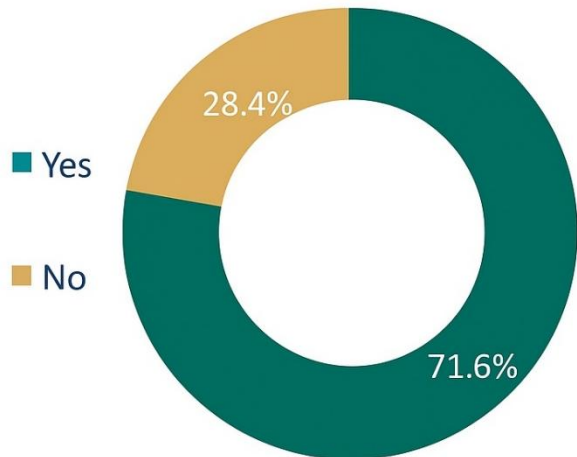
- Need for reform

Non-governmental organizations and experts advocate for urgent reforms, such as recognizing femicide as a distinct criminal offense within the Criminal Code. This would allow femicide to be addressed as a societal problem rather than an isolated crime and ensure stricter penalties for perpetrators.

Violence against elderly



Have you ever heard the term elder abuse?



Violence against the elderly is a global issue recognized as a form of abuse targeting vulnerable groups. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines elder abuse as "a repeated act or lack of appropriate action that causes harm to an older person." In Montenegro, this issue has only recently begun to be openly discussed.

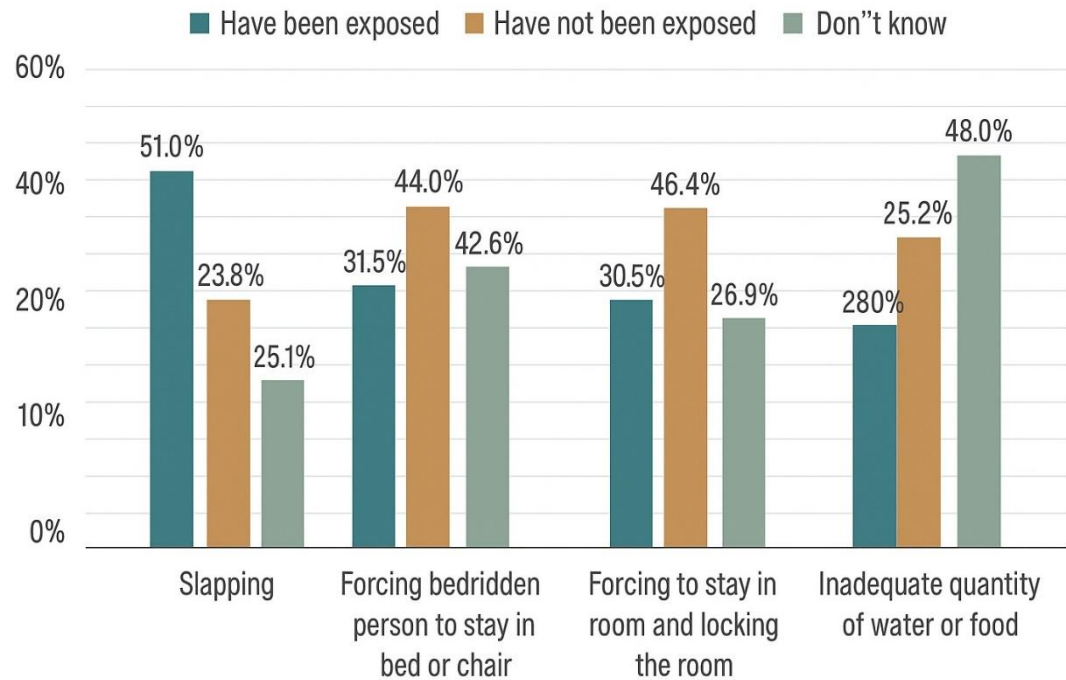


A lack of awareness about behaviors that constitute violence against older individuals can result in such actions being normalized or overlooked, increasing the likelihood that uninformed individuals may commit acts of violence against the elderly compared to those who understand its implications.

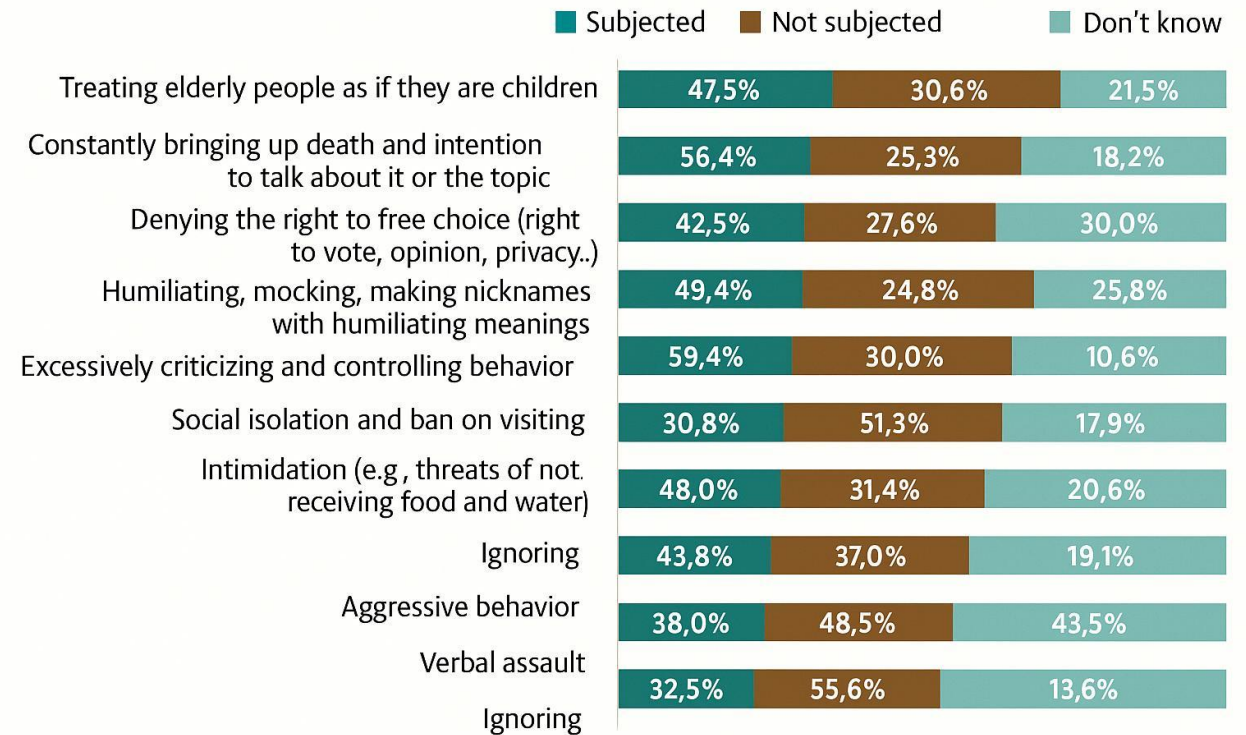


Forms of violence against the elderly

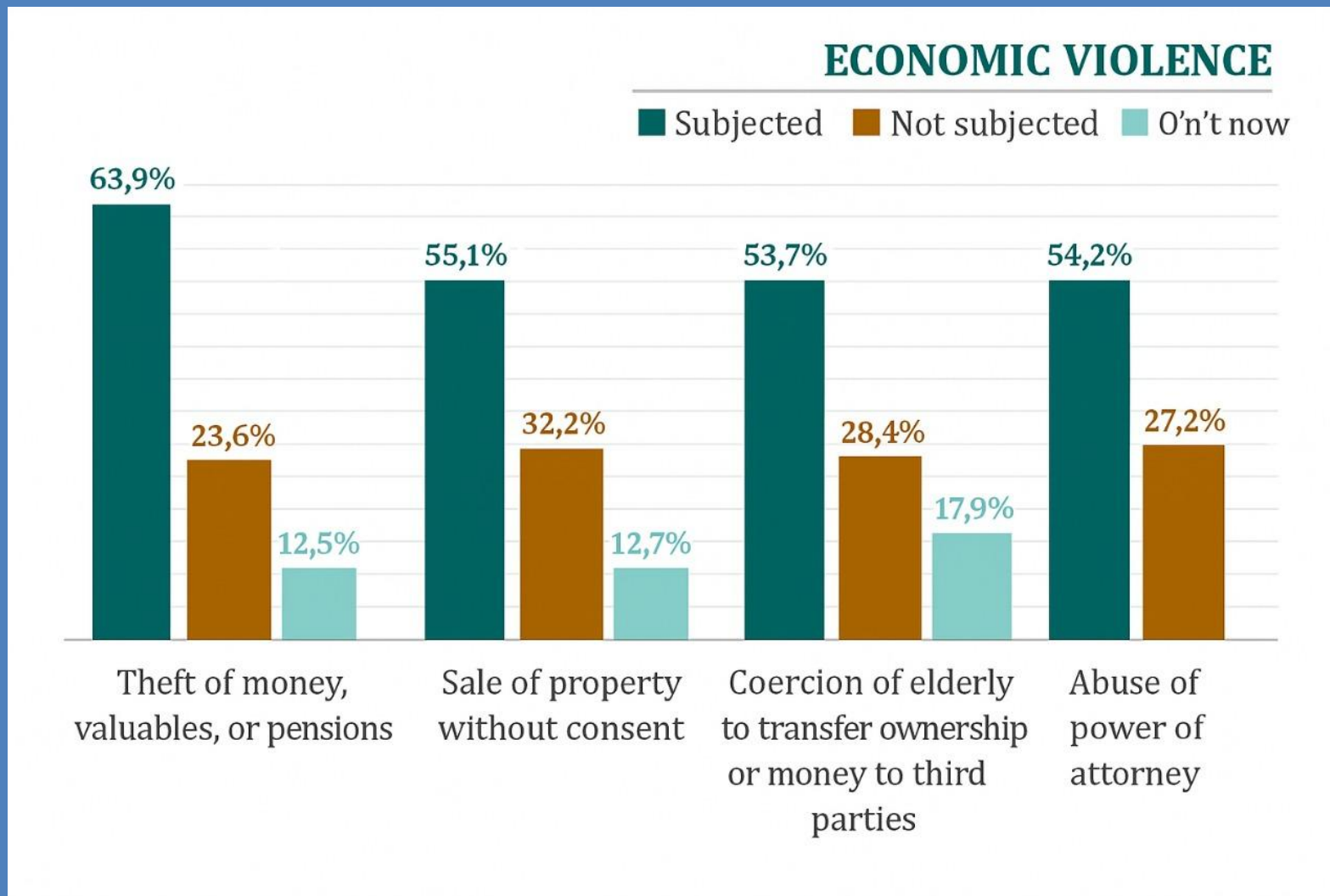
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE



PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE



Forms of violence against the elderly



Judicial practice in Montenegro

A single mother (N.M.) endured physical, emotional, and sexual abuse from her partner, who controlled her life and isolated her from her surroundings. Despite multiple police interventions, N.M. refrained from reporting the violence due to fear for herself and her child until an incident endangered her child's life. The perpetrator was arrested, and criminal proceedings were initiated while N.M. and her baby were placed in a shelter for seven months.



Although a family residence was provided until her child turned three years old, the perpetrator received only a conditional sentence, highlighting inadequate judicial responses to domestic violence cases.

Judicial practice in Montenegro

On September 30, 2021, in Tuzi, a tragic incident occurred in which I.Đ. took the life of his former common-law partner, Š.B. (19). On that occasion, I.Đ. fired multiple shots from a firearm in the direction of the victim, inflicting severe and life-threatening injuries which resulted in her death. Following judicial proceedings, the High Court in Podgorica, in April 2024, rendered a judgment by which I.Đ. was found guilty of the aggravated murder of Š.B., attempted murder in relation to Š.B., as well as unlawful possession of firearms and explosive materials. The court imposed a single sentence of long-term imprisonment in the duration of 40 years, taking into account the time spent in detention from October 4, 2021, onwards.

The Court of Appeals of Montenegro, on November 28, 2024, upheld this judgment, rejecting the appeal submitted by the defendant's counsel as unfounded. Finally, in March 2025, the Supreme Court of Montenegro dismissed the request for revision and confirmed the finality of the judgment, whereby the 40-year prison sentence imposed on I.Đ. became final.



Challenges indentified

- Weak institutional response measures
- Insufficient financial resources
- Cultural and social stereotypes
- Lack of education and awareness among citizens
- Inefficient law enforcement practices
- Lack of records and monitoring

Proposed measures

- Legislative reform
- Strengthening institutional responses
- Supporting victims
- Prevention through education and awareness campaigns
- Enhancing monitoring systems and statistical tracking
- Intersectoral collaboration

Literature references

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