

## Sexual Assault Victimization Survey in Thailand

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### Abstract

Approximately 35 percent of women around the world have experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence by their partner or non-partner in their lifetime. To eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, the United Nations request each country to report the number of victims on violence against women. This research data is collected throughout Thailand. Around 4,400 households were collected. Approximately 14,510 survey respondents reported that there are no women and girls in Thailand who faced physical, sexual and psychological violence by their partner or non-partner in the past 12 months. However, there are only two cases who reported on threats of sexual assault. These two cases also did not report to police as they still did not get hurt or raped. Moreover, it cannot deny that gender norms which women have been taught that they should not talk about sex, still exists in Thailand. Therefore, survey respondents may not feel confident and comfortable to answer questions very frankly about violence against women.

**Keywords:** *sexual violence, violence against women, sexual assault victims, gender norm in Thailand, sustainable development goals*

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### 1. Introduction

Sexual violence always occurs in every country. Even though many countries try to conduct research to find the best way to solve this problem, but it does not have even a single country that is able to solve the sexual violence problem. According the World Health Organization (WHO, 2017) estimates that there are about one third or around 35 percent of women throughout the world who have faced physical or sexual violence by their partner or non-partner in their lifetime. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women or UN Women (2018) further identified that more than 50 percent of girls under the age of 16 are victimized in sexual assaults throughout the world. The UN Women also informed that approximately 30 percent of women were forced to have the first sexual activity.

Moreover, WHO further claims that approximately 30 percent of women worldwide who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced either physical or sexual violence or both of them from their partner in their lifetime. The reason that men often force their partner to have sexual act is that men would like to have more power over their partner. At the same time, men also believe that they are able to coerce their partner to have sex with them because those women are their wife (Krug, Dahlberg, Mercy, Zwi, & Lozano, 2002). Additionally, WHO also indicates that there are about 38 percent of women who are murder victims by their partner worldwide.

Furthermore, the available statistical data suggests that in some countries, nearly one in four women have experienced sexual violence by their partner and one-third of adolescent girls have had their first sexual experience by being forced (Krug et al., 2002). Most assaulters often choose to attack someone they know such as family members, friends, classmate, neighbor and coworker. Adult victims reported that 73 percent knew their attacker. Approximately, 38 percent were friends of the attacker and 28 percent were partner of the attackers. Only 7 percent of victims reported that they were relatives of the attacker (National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 2010). The available data also suggested that around 40 percent of sexual violence happens in the victim's house rather than the house of a friend or relative (NSVRC, 2010).

Sexual violence is a major cause of health problems in both physical and mental health and also violating women's human rights. For physical health, their body will be injured and sometimes may have a problem on sexual and reproductive health problems. On the other hand, the impact on mental health may have similar severe or more physical impact and take a longer time to recover. In the worst case, some of the victims may be murdered during sexual violence or decide to commit suicide because of the stigmatization

from their family and society or an honor killing<sup>1</sup> in response to serious sexual violence such as rape (Krug et al., 2002).

In September 2000, the United Nations and world leaders declared to adopt the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in order to reduce extreme poverty and set out eight targets to be achieved by 2015 (United Nations Development Programme, 2018). One of the targets that has been mentioned here is the target number three of promoting gender equality and empowering women. To achieve gender equality in MDG, the United Nations only aimed to increase the chance for girls and women to go to school and university, to have the same chance to get a job and to have more women as political representations (MDG Monitor, 2018). This means that during these 15 years, the United Nations only paid attention to education, employment and politics. The United Nations then did not address several issues that are necessary to achieve gender equality such as violence against women and girls, limited control over property and law on gender discrimination. Therefore, the MDGs seemed to fail for the target number of three as it could not cover the most important issues to achieve gender equality (Gibbs, 2015; MDG Monitor, 2018).

As the MDGs ended in 2015, the United Nations and world leaders then adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. On January 1, 2016, the SDGs came into force. The SDGs comprises 17 goals and over 169 targets. It aims to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, tackle climate change and ensuring that no one is left behind (United Nations, 2018b). In the SDGs, the goal number five is gender equality and empowering all women and girls. There are nine targets in goal number five. One of the nine targets is “eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation” (United Nations, 2018a). This means that the United Nations would like to end all forms of violence against women and girls at this time because many women and girls worldwide still have experienced sexual violence.

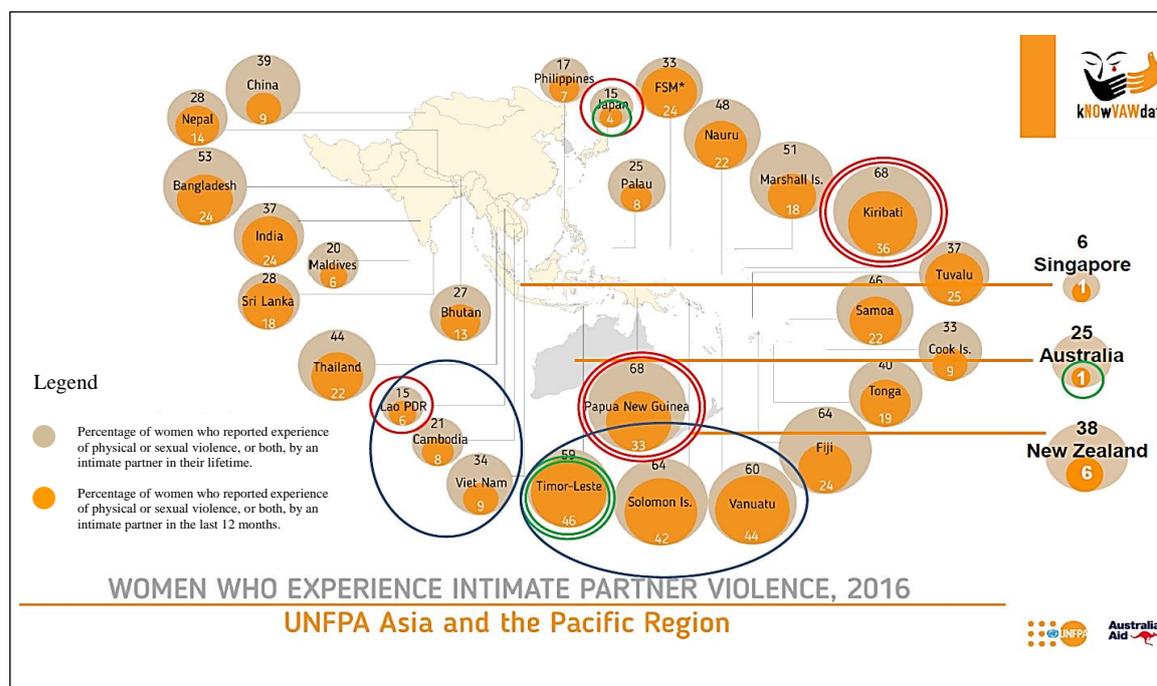
As the SDGs are not legally binding, the government of each country is responsible to establish a national framework to achieve all 17 goals and review the progress of implementation which is including quality and accessible data collection for each target (United Nations, 2018b). To eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, the data collection on victims of sexual violence is therefore very important.

For a target on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, there are two indicators that have to collect data and report to the United Nations. The first indicator is “proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months by form of violence and by age”. The second indicator is that “proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence” (United Nations, 2018c). Therefore, the Thai government has to collect these data on sexual violence.

In the Asia and the Pacific area, there are 37 countries. There are 28 countries who have done a survey on violence against women and only 6 countries that did more than one survey. In order to achieve gender equality, only 20 countries have collected data to answer the first indicator while only 8 countries have data for the second indicator of elimination all forms of violence against women and girls (Jansen, 2017). This means that most countries in Asia and the Pacific areas have started to collect data on violence against women by their partner and former partner. However, most Asian and the Pacific countries still did not collect data on violence against women by persons other than an intimate partner. Figure 1 shows the Asian and Pacific countries that have collected data on violence against women by a partner and former partners in the last 12 months and in their lifetime. This picture also shows statistical data on violence against women in Pacific Island countries too.

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Watch (2001) defines the term ‘honor killing’ or ‘honor crimes’ as “acts of violence, usually murder, committed by male family members against female family members who are perceived to have brought dishonor upon the family. A woman can be targeted by her family for a variety of reasons including, refusing to enter into an arranged marriage, being the victim of a sexual assault, seeking a divorce – even from an abusive husband – or (allegedly) committing adultery”. Honor killing has happened worldwide and is not limited to any religion. The United Nations reported that there were about 5,000 honor killings around the world, mainly in the Middle East and Asia in the year of 2000. In September 2016, Department of Justice, the United States of America reported that there are around 23 to 27 victims of honor killings in the USA each year (Worldnetdaily, 2017).



**Figure 1** Percentage of women who are victims of violence against women by their partner and former partner in the Asia and Pacific countries

**Source:** Prevalence of violence against women in Asia and the Pacific Region (Jansen, 2017)

The available statistical data on violence against women is a crucial issue that needs to be resolved especially statistical data on violence against women by persons other than an intimate partner. The reliable statistical data on various forms of violence against women either by their partners and former partner or by persons other than an intimate partner is important and has to be collected in every country.

This paper therefore aims to identify the status of sexual violence in Thailand and report the number of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence either by their partner or persons other than partner in 2016-2017. This paper is divided into five sections. The first section defines the term sexual violence and then describes the situation on limited statistical data on violence against women in the second section. Methodology that has been used in this research will be described in the third section. The fourth describes and analyzes data that had been collected in Thailand and summarizes all results in the fifth section.

## 2. Definition of sexual violence

As everyone can have the chance to experience sexual violence such as children, teens, adults and elders, defining the term sexual violence is then very important. In the past, there was a lack of a clear definition of the term sexual violence. Therefore, it is very hard for everyone to know what sexual violence is and what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior. These notions have been influenced from culture and social norms that are different in each society (Krug et al., 2002). In 2002, WHO defines the term sexual violence as:

any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.

(Krug et al., 2002, p. 149)

This definition of sexual violence also includes rape and any actions that has an intention to destroy, humiliate victims and diminish any human dignity.

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (2010, p. 1) also defines the term sexual violence as “someone forces or manipulates someone else into unwanted sexual activity without their consent”. This means that anyone who did not agree to have sexual activity is faced with sexual violence. Any reason such as fear, age, illness, influence of alcohol or drugs and disabilities are reasonable to consider as refusing to have sexual activity. If someone does not listen and still forces another person to have sexual activity, this action is called sexual violence.

This article therefore defines the term sexual violence as unwanted sexual activity, any attempt to have sexual activity or have sexual activity without consent in any place. Any unwanted action such as touching is also included in this definition. This means that any unwanted or attempted action when someone does not want is called sexual violence in this paper.

There are many forms of sexual violence. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (2010, p. 1) identifies nine forms of sexual violence. The following are the nine forms of sexual violence:

- Rape or sexual assault
- Child sexual assault and incest
- Intimate partner sexual assault
- Unwanted sexual contact or/and touching
- Sexual harassment; sexual exploitation
- Showing one’s genitals or naked body to other(s) without consent
- Masturbating in public
- Watching someone in a private act without their knowledge or permission

Additionally, WHO (2002, pp. 149-150) indicates that there are many forms of sexual violence that can happen in different circumstances and settings. For instance, WHO indicated that these 10 circumstances are examples of sexual violence. The following are 10 circumstances:

- Rape within marriage or dating relationships
- Rape by strangers
- Rape during armed conflict
- Unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment, including demanding sex in return for favors
- Sexual abuse of mentally or physically disabled people
- Sexual abuse of children
- Forced marriage, including the marriage of children
- Denial of the right to use contraception or to adopt other measures to protect against sexually transmitted diseases
- Forced abortion
- Forced prostitution and trafficking of people for the purpose of sexual exploitation

All of these actions are called sexual violence as victims are forced to do any action that is related to sexual activity. The following section will describe the situation of sexual violence worldwide.

### **3. Limited statistical data on violence against women**

In 1993, there was a world conference on human rights. This conference declared that violence against women is a human rights violation. The United Nations later announced the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in December 1993 (United Nations Women, 2018). This declaration wants government in every country to start to be concerned about violence against women and change their norms that violence against women was a private and domestic affair and it did not require government or public officials to pay attention (United Nations, 1994).

Currently, there is very limited statistical data on violence against women. The lack of statistical data made it very hard for national and international organizations to know the estimated number of victims from violence against women which have been seen as a serious issue (United Nations, 2015). The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women also asked most countries to conduct research and collect data on several forms of violence against women. After the announcing of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and called for research, many countries have started to collect data

on violence against women. Table 1 shows the number of countries that conducted a survey on violence against women. It shows clearly that there are not too many countries that conducted at least one survey. This means that governments in many countries still do not see violence against women as an important issue that has to be resolved.

**Table 1** The number of countries that conducted survey on violence against women from 1995 to 2014

| Type of Survey                                      | 1995-2014           |                     | 1995-2004           | 2005-2014           |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|   | At least one survey | At least two survey | At least one survey | At least one survey |
| Dedicated survey to measure violence against women  | 51                  | 7                   | 17                  | 35                  |
| Module of questions on violence against women       | 64                  | 31                  | 25                  | 60                  |
| Dedicated survey on violence against women          | 102                 | 43                  | 44                  | 89                  |
| Survey with questions on attitudes towards violence | 100                 | 62                  | 37                  | 97                  |
| Survey with questions on female genital mutilation  | 29                  | 25                  | 20                  | 27                  |

**Source:** The world's women 2015: Trends and statistics (United Nations, 2015)

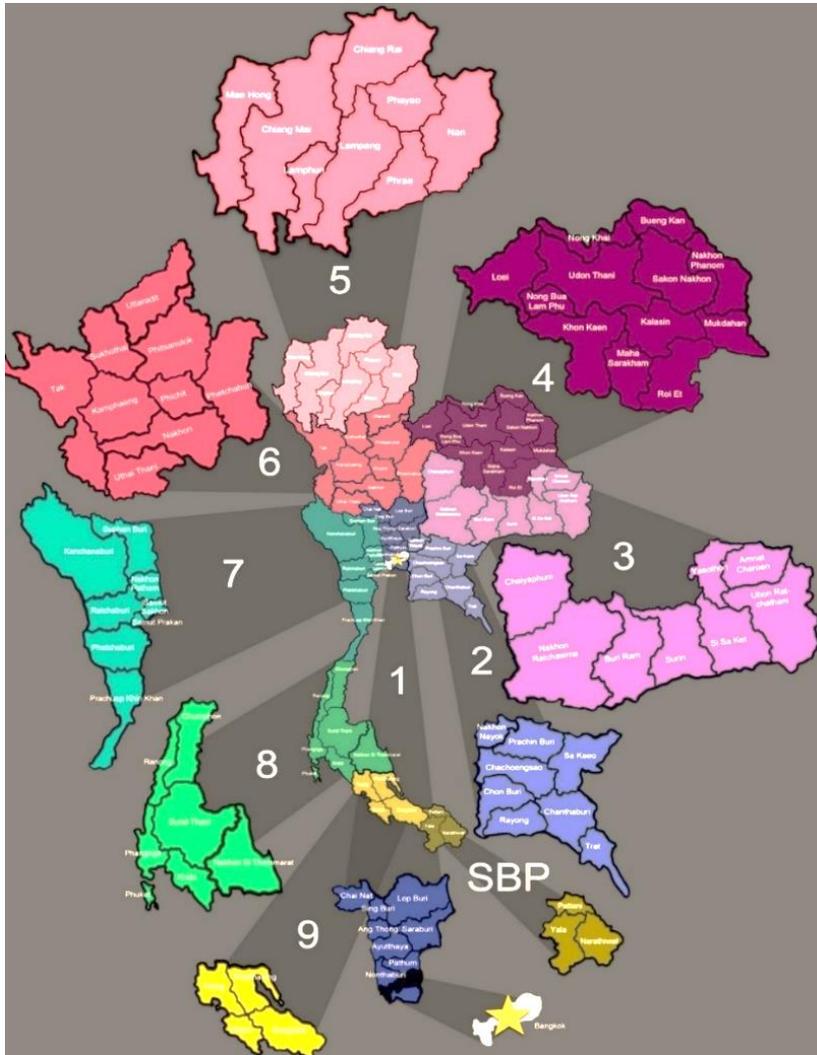
As there is very limited statistical data on violence against women, most statistical data on sexual violence is collected from police recordings and nongovernmental organizations. However, there are only a small number of people who went to police stations to report about sexual violence because they are shy or fear of being blamed. The available data also shows that only few victims go to a hospital for treatment after facing sexual violence (Krug et al., 2002). These are reasons why the United Nations would like governments in every country collecting statistical data on violence against women.

Furthermore, the statistical data on various forms of violence against women is very important to collect. There are two major reasons why the reliable statistical data on violence against women are important. The first reason is that the United Nations, governments and policy makers have to understand the nature and the phenomenon on violence against women in order to compare the data and design the effectiveness policies. The second reason is that policy makers and professionals have to know which form of violence against women is more serious in each country in order to design and implement effective policies and provide support for victims (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2018; United Nations entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2005). These two reasons highlight why reliable statistical data on violence against women is very important. The next section describes research methodology that will be used in this research.

#### 4. Methodology

Quantitative methods were used to conduct this research. The questionnaire was used to collect all data in Thailand. This research divided Thailand into 11 areas same as the responsibility of areas of the Royal Thai Police (RTP), which are the Metropolitan Police Bureau, Provincial Police Region 1-9 and Southern Border Provinces Police Operation Center. Figure 2 shows the area that Provincial Police Region 1-9 and Southern Border Police Operation Center are responsible for<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> This research was conducted and collected data before the Royal Thai Government Gazette announced that the RTP decided to change the area of police responsibility. The RTP dissolved the Southern Border Police Operation Center and merged it into the Provincial Police Region 9. This order had been announced and was effective on September 1, 2017 (Chinnawornkomon, 2017; Thai PBS News, 2017).



**Figure 2** The responsible areas of provincial police region 1-9 and southern border police operation center  
**Source:** Women policing: A contemporary study of women’s experiences in the Royal Thai Police (Siriwato, 2014)

In each area, two provinces were randomly selected to answer questionnaires, except the Metropolitan Police Bureau where two territorials were selected. Furthermore, in a selected province, two districts were chosen and finally in a district, two local government were selected to answer the questionnaires. Table 2 shows the selected provinces and districts in this research.

**Table 2** The name of selected provinces and districts in this research

| Bureau                                  | Provinces            | District                              | Local Government   |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Metropolitan Police Bureau              | Bangkok              | Metropolitan Police Division 2        | Don Muang Police Station, Paholyothin Police Station       |
|   |                      | Metropolitan Police Division 4        | Chok-Chai Police Station, Hua Mak Police Station           |
|   |                      | Metropolitan Police Division 6        | Phra Rat Cha Wang Police Station, Pathumwan Police Station |
|   |                      | Metropolitan Police Division 8        | Rat Bu Ra Na Police Station, Bang Mod Police Station       |
| Provincial Police Region 1              | Pathumthanee         | Muang Pathumthanee, Lumlukka          | Pathumthanee, Ban Chang, Ku-Kot, Bueng Thong Lang          |
|   | Saraburi             | Muang Saraburi, Phra Put Tha Bat      | Saraburi, Daw Rueng, Phra Put Tha Bat, Khao Wong           |
| Provincial Police Region 2              | Chonburi             | Muang Chonburi, Bang La Mung          | Chonburi, Nongree, Bang La Mung, Khao Mai Kaew             |
|   | Sa Kaeo              | Muang Sa Kaeo, Aranyaprathet          | Sa Kaeo, Ban Kaeo, Aranyaprathet, Muengphai                |
| Provincial Police Region 3              | Nakorn Rat Cha Si Ma | Muang Nakorn Rat Cha Si Ma, Pak Chong | Nakorn Rat Cha Si Ma, Jor-Hor, Pak Chong, Chan Tuk         |
|   | Sri Sa Ket           | Muang Sri Sa Ket, Kantaraluck         | Sri Sa Ket, Ku-Sod, Kantaraluck, Bueng Maru                |
| Provincial Police Region 4              | Khon Kaen            | Muang Khon Kaen, Phon                 | Khon Kaen, Kok Sri, Phon, Jode Nong Kae                    |
|   | Nongkai              | Muang Nongkai, Ta-Bo                  | Nong Kai, Hin Ngom, Ta-Bo, Koke Korn                       |
| Provincial Police Region 5              | Chiang Mai           | Muang Chiang Mai, Mae Tang            | Chiang Mai, Chang Phuek, Mae Tang, Sob Peng                |
|   | Pa Yao               | Muang Pa Yao, Dok Kam Tai             | Pa Yao, Mae Na Rea, Dok Kam Tai, Ban Pin                   |
| Provincial Police Region 6              | Pi Jit               | Muang Pi Jit, Bang Mul Nak            | Pi Jit, Pai Kwang, Bang Mul Nak, Wang Sumrong              |
|   | Sukhotai             | Muang Sukhotai, Srisatchanarai        | Sukhotai, Pak Kwai, Srisatchanarai, Pa ngew                |
| Provincial Police Region 7              | Kanchanaburi         | Muang Kanchanaburi, Tamaka            | Kanchanaburi, Wang Dong, Tamaka, Pong Duk                  |
|   | Phetburi             | Muang Phetburi, Cha Am                | Phetburi, Bang Jan, Cha Am, Nong Sala                      |
| Provincial Police Region 8              | Phang Nga            | Muang Phang Nga, Ta Kua Pa            | Phang Nga, Nob Pring, Ta Kua Pa, Bang Trai                 |
|   | Nakorn Si Thammarat  | Muang Nakorn Si Thammarat, Tung Song  | Nakorn Si Thammarat, Na Trai, Tung Song, Nong Hong         |
| Provincial Police Region 9              | Trang                | Muang Trang, Kun Trang                | Trang, Na Phra, Kun Trang, Kuan Thani                      |
|   | Songkla              | Muang Songkla, Had Yai                | Songkla, Tung Wang, Had Yai, U-Tapao                       |
| Southern Border Police Operation Center | Yala                 | Muang Yala, Be Tong                   | Yala, Lidon, Be Tong, Ya Rom                               |
|   | Narathiwat           | Muang Narathiwat, Sungai Kolok        | Narathiwat, Lum Poo, Sungai Kolok, Munou                   |

The survey sample size is calculated by Cochran’s sample size formula. The Cochran’s sample size formula (Cochran, 1977, p. 75) is shown below.

$$n = \frac{P(1 - P)Z^2}{d^2}$$

n = the sample size

P = the estimated proportion of an attribute that is present in the population

Z = the selected critical value of desired confidence level

d = the desired level of precision

$$\text{So } 392 = \frac{(.50)(1 - .50)(1.96)^2}{(.07)^2}$$

In order to reduce sampling errors, the researcher increased the sample size from 392 to 400. Therefore, approximately 400 households for each bureau are the total number of survey for this research.

Participants were requested to answer a questionnaire two times. The first time, participants were asked questionnaires for about 15 minutes by the research team in order to confirm that participants deeply understood questions same as the researcher. The survey started with general information about participants and then more questions about experiences on crime and sexual assault victimization in the year of 2016-2017. Participants may answer questions that are related to their experiences or their family members’ experiences. The second time, the research team gave a call to participants, who allowed us to contact them, in the next five months to ask the same questions as the last time as some participants may recall their experiences and during these five months, they may experience any crime or sexual assault victimization.

**5. Research findings**

The total survey respondents was 4,400 households, approximately 14,510 respondents. These respondents were about 6,916 males (47.66 percent) and 7,594 females (about 52.34 percent). Approximately, 132 survey respondents or about 3 percent are crime victimizations in Thailand in the year of 2016-2017. Table 3 shows percentages of victimizations report and not reported to police by type of crime in Thailand. Table 4 also shows percentage of victimizations report and not reported to police by type of crime divided by gender. It clearly shows in Table 3 that only 1.50 percent is sexual assault victims. Only threatening to sexual assault types were reported by participants. Table 4 also shows that the highest number of victims were women in nearly all type of crimes, except on body and violence crime, approximately 75 percent of male victims and about 25 percent of female victims. This means that from 132 victims, there are about 79 female victims or approximately 59.9 percent.

**Table 3** Percentage of victimizations reported and not reported to police by type of crime in Thailand

| Type of crime                   | Percentage of victim |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Body and Violence Crime</b>  | <b>9.10</b>          |
| Attempting murder               | 8.33                 |
| Simply assault                  | 91.67                |
| Aggravated Assault              | 0.00                 |
| Capture                         | 0.00                 |
| Kidnapping                      | 0.00                 |
| <b>Property Crime</b>           | <b>68.20</b>         |
| Robber                          | 8.89                 |
| Theft                           | 7.77                 |
| Pick Pocket                     | 1.11                 |
| Motor vehicle theft             | 8.89                 |
| Agricultural tool theft         | 3.33                 |
| Burglary                        | 61.11                |
| Losing property                 | 6.67                 |
| Blackmail                       | 0.00                 |
| Extortion                       | 0.00                 |
| Mischief property               | 2.22                 |
| Trespass                        | 0.00                 |
| <b>Sex Crime</b>                | <b>1.50</b>          |
| Rape                            | 0.00                 |
| Sexual harassment               | 0.00                 |
| Threaten to sexual assault      | 100.00               |
| <b>Fraud</b>                    | <b>16.70</b>         |
| Identity theft                  | 18.18                |
| Ponzi schemes                   | 13.64                |
| Deceive working aboard          | 0.00                 |
| Transferring money to offenders | 13.64                |
| Faulty documents                | 22.72                |
| Losing property by other way    | 31.82                |
| <b>New Type of Crime</b>        | <b>4.50</b>          |
| Corruption                      | 0.00                 |
| Victims of Justice system       | 0.00                 |
| Victims of Computer crime       | 100.00               |
| Discrimination                  | 0.00                 |

**Table 4** Percentage of victimizations reported and not reported to police by type of crime divided by gender in Thailand

| Victimization |        | Type of Crime           |                       |                      |                       |                      | Total                  |
|---------------|--------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
|               |        | Body and Violence Crime | Property Crime        | Sex Crime            | Fraud                 | New Type of Crime    |                        |
| Gender        | Male   | 9<br>(75.0)             | 35<br>(38.9)          | 0<br>(0.0)           | 2<br>(9.1)            | 3<br>(50.0)          | 53<br>(40.1)           |
|               | Female | 3<br>(25.0)             | 55<br>(61.1)          | 2<br>(100.0)         | 20<br>(90.9)          | 3<br>(50.)           | 79<br>(59.9)           |
| <b>Total</b>  |        | <b>12<br/>(100.0)</b>   | <b>90<br/>(100.0)</b> | <b>2<br/>(100.0)</b> | <b>22<br/>(100.0)</b> | <b>6<br/>(100.0)</b> | <b>132<br/>(100.0)</b> |

Table 3 and 4 showed that from 14,510 respondents, only two survey respondents reported that they had been threatened in terms of sexual assault. Sex crimes often happen in the workplace and public areas. All victims of sex crimes are women. The first woman who is 19 years old and lives at Songkla province reported that she did not know the offender. On that day, she went to a shopping mall and a man followed her

and took photos of her. Finally, this man put her photo on the windscreen of her car. Definitely, she did not report to police as she did not know the purpose of this man. However, she believes that this situation is threatening to sexual assault.

The second woman who is 35 years old and lives at Yala province reported that she knew the offender as he lives in the same slum. However, she did not have a closed relationship with him. On that day, this guy came to her home in the morning, talked with her for a long time and tried to rape her. However, it had happened in the morning. So, there were many people walking around there and helped her. This woman also did not report it to the police. She gave the reason that she has not been raped yet. Therefore, she did not want to report it to police.

To achieve the SDGs on gender equality, there are two main indicators. The first indicator is that “proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months by form of violence and by age” (United Nations, 2018c). This research found that there are no women and girls who are over 15 years of age and live with their partner, have been faced either sexual, physical or psychological violence by their partner or former intimate partner in the past 12 months. The second indicator is that the “proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence” (United Nations, 2018c). This research found that no women or girls who are the age of 15 and over have experienced sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the past 12 months. Only two cases of threatening to sexual assault have been reported. However, these two women did not report it to the police because offenders still did not hurt or rape them. Moreover, violence against women is seemed to be not a problem in Thailand. This research also found that there are no young people who are the age between 1 years of age and 17 years of age have been victimized from both physical and mental violence.

For the telephone survey, the research team only got 1,865 mobile numbers or 42.40 percent from 14,510 survey respondents. From all of those mobile numbers, only 958 mobile numbers were received calls from the research team. To answer two indicators of elimination on violence against women, the survey respondents did not face any physical, sexual or psychological violence by either current or former partners and by a person other than a partner in the first five months of the year 2017.

## 6. Discussion and conclusion

Most crime victimizations in Thailand are women (approximately 59.90 percent). This is quite interesting as in the United States, the National Institute of Justice (2017) reported that from studies of crime and victimization patterns, they found that the high number of crime victims are men rather than women. In Thailand, women may become an easy target as they often stay at home rather than go out for working in rural areas. It can see clearly from the number of survey respondents in this research that approximately 52.34 percent are women because they have stayed at home during the day time. Although women became crime victims more than men, but most respondents (93 percent) reported that they feel safe to walk at their home alone at night. This means that although most women are crime victims, but they still feel confident with their community in terms of safety and security.

Interestingly, there are only two cases that reported about threats of sexual assault. However, there are no girls or women who faced physical, sexual or psychological violence. Is it possible that violence against women is not a problem in Thailand? According to the World Health Organization (2017), there are about 35 women have faced physical or sexual violence by their partner or non-partner throughout the world. This means that Thai women are included and some of them have experienced violence against women.

The major reason that there are no women and girls reported on violence against women is because of the gender norm. In Thailand, a gender norm still exists. Esterik (2000) informed that women have been taught that they should not talk about sex. Thai women should also not engage in sexual activities before they get married. If they cannot follow this gender norm, they are labeled as ‘bad women’. In 2014, the research on Women Policing: A contemporary study of women’s experiences in the RTP informed that this gender norm still exists in Thailand and Thai people still fear to talk or tell their story about sex (Siriwato, 2014). This gender norm may therefore have some effect on the survey respondents to answer frankly and clearly. As gender norms still exist, it is quite difficult to ask questions about violence against women in Thailand

because the survey respondents may not feel comfortable and confident to answer the truth about violence against women as they may be afraid that their neighbors may gossip and talk about it for a long time. As a consequence, the survey respondents may decide to answer 'no' instead of telling the true story on violence against women.

However, it also cannot deny that 14,510 survey respondents may be too small a number to represent the whole Thai population. Therefore, it is possible that 14,510 survey respondents answered the survey frankly and clearly that they have never been victimized on violence against women. Therefore, this research did not find any women and girls who faced physical, sexual or psychological violence by their partner or non-partner in Thailand.

Furthermore, the telephone survey is not suitable for collecting data in Thailand. From 14,510 survey respondents, only 1,865 survey respondents feel confident to give their number to the research team. At the end, only 958 survey respondents did receive phone calls. Approximately, 958 mobile numbers are definitely not enough to analyze data for Thailand in the first five months of the year 2017. The reason that most people did not receive a phone call from the research team is because there are many insurance companies that always call to people in Thailand and this point makes many people avoid to receive a call or block a call from a strange number.

In conclusion, the issue of violence against women is a sensitive issue. The researcher suggests that to collect data on violence against women in Thailand, the person who asks questions on this issue should be a closed person of survey respondents such as the head of a village or subdistrict headman because they have a close relationship and know each other. Therefore, survey respondents may feel more confident to tell their story more frankly and clearly. Moreover, the telephone survey is not suitable to collect data in Thailand. Thai people still feel more comfortable and more confident to participate and answer questions face to face in interviews, especially for Thai people who live in rural areas.

## 7. References

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