

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING THE PERIOD FROM 2015 TO 2020 AND EFFECT OF COVID 19 ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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ABSTRACT

Background: Domestic violence could be a pattern of injurious behaviour in any relationship that's utilized by one partner to pick up or keep up control over another intimate partner.

Aim: The present study aimed to determine factors that affect domestic violence injuries in Fayoum Governorate, Egypt, especially during Covid 19. **Methods:** This study consists of 2 parts. 1-A retrospective study was conducted on data obtained from domestic violence harmed patients who were recorded to Forensic Medical Authority in Fayoum Governorate, between January 2015 and December 2020. 2-A cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out at Fayoum governorate (Fayoum city, Itsa, and Ebshoy). The survey was conducted over six months from March 2020 to September 2020 (the period of closure of schools, shops, airports, and others) to analyze the incidence of domestic violence in the Fayoum governorate during Covid 19.

Result: The retrospective study showed a significant increase in domestic violence, especially in 2020 during Covid 19 pandemic. Domestic violence cases were more common in females (100.0% of cases) than in males (0%). The study also revealed that domestic violence cases were more common in females between (20-40) years. There was a statistically significant difference between fatal and nonfatal injuries among cases of domestic violence. Most of the injuries of domestic violence in this study were fatal. The cross-sectional descriptive study showed that domestic violence cases were more common in less than 20 years of age. Most domestic violence cases were female. Rural areas were the main place for domestic violence. Most cases were more common in non-educated and low education people. The recorded types of domestic violence were physical (Hitting, pushing, slapping), verbal, and both verbal and physical. **Conclusion:** There was a significant increase in domestic violence, especially in 2020 during Covid 19 pandemic. The study showed the importance of community education towards domestic violence prevention.

Keywords: Domestic violence, Fayoum, Egypt, Covid 19 pandemic.

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence can be defined as "attempting to cause injury or placing a family or household member by the threat of force in fear of imminent physical harm "(Idris et al.,2018). Many types of intimate partner violence occur by men against women and by women against their male partners. Violence by a person against his intimate partner is often done as a way of controlling his partner, even if this kind of violence is not allowed

Domestic and family violence against women and their children is predominantly perpetrated by men (Garcia-Moreno, Guedes, & Knerr, 2012). According to Australian and worldwide research of men and women who

were engaged in domestic violence. Men's violence against women is more severe because men have more strength and hostility. As a result, the impact on women is usually greater and might involve broken bones, consciousness loss, sexual organ injuries, head injuries, or death (Australia's National Research Organisation For Women's Safety, 2016).

According to the World Health Organization, the percentage of women who had ever been subjected to physical or sexual assault or both by an intimate partner ranged from 15% to 71 %, with the majority falling between 29 and 62 % (WHO, 2007) (Sapkota et al, 2019). In Egypt, a third of the ladies are

physically abused by their husbands, consistent with the 2005 Egypt Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). Most people keep silent and are trying to find help to keep away from or stop the violence (**Bakrr, 2005**).

Domestic violence can be physical if the abuser hit, bite, slap, batter, shove, punch, pull hair, burn, cut, pinch the victim and also includes denying someone medical treatment or sexual occurs when the abuser has or attempts to contact the victim sexually or sexual behaviour without the victim's consent. Constant criticizing, name-calling, and harming the victim's relationship with his or her children are all common examples of emotional abuse., Economic abuse occurs when the abuser creates or attempts to make the victim financially self-sufficient. Psychological abuse occurs when the abuser instils fear in the victim of intimidation, such as threatening to physically harm himself or herself (**Watts and Zimmerman, 2002 and Bonomi et al, 2009**). Some forms of violence against children have sparked international outrage in recent years. Physical abuse, physical injury, shaken infant syndrome, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and exploitation, emotional injury, and institutional abuse are all examples of child abuse. Child neglect, on the other hand, can take various forms, including failing to meet a child's fundamental human requirement of food, shelter, clothes, supervision, and the opportunity to grow up healthy, as well as emotional, educational, medical, psychological, and social neglect, and failure to thrive. All of these forms hurt their current and future health and well-being (**Nancy Mohamed Zaghloul, et al., 2020**).

Domestic violence has many reasons, but one of the most constant indicators linked to a man's greater chance of perpetrating violence against his partner(s) is his young age. Poor level of education, witnessing or meeting savagery as a youngster, harmful use of alcohol and drugs, identity disarrays, acceptance of savagery (e.g. feeling it is okay), Poverty, low social and economic standing, and a lack of women's civil rights, particularly limited or inequitable divorce and marriage laws, are among the other factors. (**Heise et al, 2002 and Philpart et al, 2009**).

Victims may tolerate the violence for the sake of their children. Economic dependency, religious pressure, familial pressure, fear of

being alone, cultural restraints, are other reasons (**Heise et al,2010**).

In 2019, the Covid-19 pandemic struggled many countries across the world. Enacting measures were taken to slow the spread of the virus. Multiple reports, however, suggest that such measures are increasing the prevalence of domestic violence, not just in terms of number but also in terms of severity. There are numerous reasons for this, including layoffs, income loss, and prolonged homestays. Stay-at-home rules, as well as exposure to habits, are increasing the frequency of domestic violence (**To KK, et al., December 2021**).

Furthermore, the nature and severity of the violence increase the load placed on the government, in addition to losses in the productivity of workforces. The increase in domestic violence is causing monetary and social crises. (**Amalesh Sharma and Sourav Bikash Borah, 2020**).

The present study aimed to determine factors that affect domestic violence injuries in Fayoum Governorate, Egypt, especially during Covid 19.

METHODS

This study was composed of 2 parts: 1- A retrospective study was conducted on the data of 66 victims of domestic violence that were registered with the Forensic Medical Authority in Fayoum Governorate of domestic violence, between January 2015 and December 2020. All death records involving domestic violence were thoroughly examined for the following information: Age, sex, residence, and the date of the accident were among the victim's demographic data. 2 - A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out at Fayoum Governorate (Fayoum city, Itsa and Ebs hoy). The survey was conducted during the six months from March 2020 to September 2020 (when schools, stores, airports, etc. are closed). A total sample of 100 participants was included in the study. This descriptive cross-sectional study was based on a closed, structured, and self-managed questionnaire developed to establish goals. The questionnaire was designed based on an exhaustive search of the literature. The questionnaire consists of two parts: The first part is to obtain information on certain demographic characteristics. The second part aims to assess the types of domestic violence.

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Statistical Analysis

Data was collected and coded to help with information preparation; they were then double entered into Microsoft Access and handled utilizing SPSS program adaptation 18 under Windows 7. A straightforward and clear examination within the shape of numbers and rates for subjective information and number juggling implies that as central propensity estimation, standard deviations were utilized as a degree of scattering for quantitative parametric information and inferential measurement tests. Inferential measurement tests were chosen at that time.-dependent student t-test was used to compare measurements between two independent groups of quantitative data for quantitative parametric data. The link between quantitative and parametric variables was tested using the bivariate Pearson correlation test. The significant cut-off was set at a p-value of less than 0.05.

RESULTS

This research shows that there is a significant increase in domestic violence. In the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, 12 cases (18%), 8 cases (12%), 12 cases (18%), 12 cases (18%), 12 cases (18%), 12 cases (18%), 7 cases (10.1%), and 15 cases (22%) of domestic violence cases were recorded, respectively, as shown in table (1)

Table (1): Distribution of the victims according to years of the study.

	N	%	P-value
2015	12	18%	4360.
2016	8	12%	
2017	12	18%	
2018	12	18%	
2019	7	10.6%	
2020	15	22.7%	
Total	66	100%	

In fig. (1) and table (2). In 2015 and 2016, 100.0% of domestic violence cases were females, while in 2017, the number of male and female cases was equal. In 2018, 75% of cases were males compared to 25% of female cases. In 2019, 100% of cases were females, and in 2020, 66,7% of cases were females and 33,3% were males.

Table (2): Relation between sex and year of domestic violence.

	female		Male		P-value
	N	%	N	%	
2015	12	100%	0	0%	0.003
2016	8	100%	0	0%	
2017	6	50%	6	50%	
2018	9	75%	3	25%	
2019	7	100%	0	0%	
2020	10	66.7%	5	33.3%	
Total	52		14		

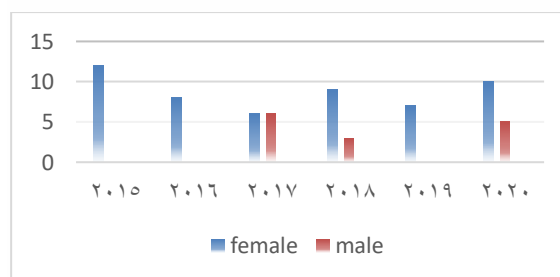


Figure (1): Relation between sex and year of domestic violence

This research showed that domestic violence cases were more common in females between 20 and 40 years old. There were 36 females and 6 male cases less than 20 years of age as shown in table (3).

Table (3): Relation between age and gender among victims of domestic violence in Fayoum Governorate during the period from 2015 to 2020.

	female		male	
	N	%	N	%
Less than 20	15	62%	6	38%
20-40	36	100%	0	0%
More than 40	5	57%	4	43%

Rural areas were the main place for domestic violence. In 2015, 9 cases (75%) were from rural areas while 3 cases (25%) were from urban. In 2016, 4 cases (50%) were from rural areas while 4 cases (50%) were from urban. In 2017, 12 cases (100%) were

from rural areas but 0 cases (0%) were from urban. In 2018, 6 cases (50%) came from rural areas and 6 cases (50%) were from urban. In 2019, 7 cases (100%) were from rural areas but 0 cases (100%) were from urban. In 2020, 10 cases (66.6%) were from rural areas but 5 cases (33.4%) were from urban as shown in table (4). female and male victims of domestic violence were mainly in rural places as shown in fig. (2).

Table (4): Relation between residence and year of domestic violence

	Rural		Urban		P-value
	N	%	N	%	
2015	9	75%	3	25%	0.001
2016	4	50%	4	50%	
2017	12	100%	0	0%	
2018	6	50%	6	50%	
2019	7	100%	0	0%	
2020	10	66.6%	5	33.4%	

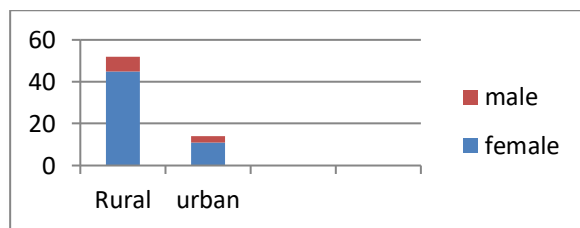


Figure (2): Relation between residence and sex in domestic violence

There was a statistically significant difference between the number of dead and living victims due to domestic violence. Most of the injuries caused by domestic violence in this study were fatal. Their numbers in the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 were 10,5,9,6,4 and 8 fatal cases respectively.

While non-fatal recorded cases were 2,3,3,6,3 and 7 cases, respectively, as shown in table (5).

Table (5) Distribution of mortality rate of domestic violence according to years

	fatal		Non-fatal		P-value
	N	%	N	%	
2015	10	83%	2	17%	0.003
2016	5	62%	3	38%	
2017	9	75%	3	25%	
2018	6	50%	6	50%	
2019	4	57%	3	43%	
2020	8	53%	7	47%	

The study revealed that stab wounds to the abdomen and chest were the most common types of injuries in domestic violence. In the year 2015, there were 3 cases (25%) of cutthroat, 6 cases (50%) of stab and cut wounds, and 3 cases (25%) of asphyxia. In 2016, there were four (50%) cases of fractured bones and four (50%) cases of stab and cut wounds in the abdomen and chest. In 2017, there were 3 (25%) cases of bruises, 6 (50%) cases of cutthroat, and 3 (25%) cases of asphyxia. In the year 2018, there were 6 cases (50%) of abortion, 3 cases (25%) of stab and cut wounds in the abdomen and chest, and 3 cases (25%) of asphyxia. In the year 2019, there were five cases of (71%) bruises, two (29%) stab wounds and cut wound in the abdomen and chest. In the year 2020, there were 6 cases (40%) of bruises, 3 cases (20%) of fracture, 1 case (7%) of abortion, 2 cases (13%) of stab and cut wounds in the abdomen, and chest, and 3 cases (20%) of asphyxia as shown in table (6).

Table (6) Relation between types of injuries and year of incidents of domestic violence

	bruises		fracture		abortion		Cut throat		Stab and Cut wound in abdomen and chest		asphyxia	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2015	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	25%	6	50%	3	25%
2016	0	0%	4	50%	0	0%	0	0%	4	50%	0	0%
2017	3	25%	0	0%	0	0%	6	50%	3	25%	0	0%
2018	0	0%	0	0%	6	50%	0	0%	3	25%	3	25%
2019	5	71%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	29%	0	0%
2020	6	40%	3	20%	1	7%	0	0%	2	13%	3	20%
Total	14		7		7		9		20		9	

In fig.(3),the study showed the most common perpetrator was the husband (20 cases (30,3%)), while the brother had 15 cases (22,7%), the father had 7 cases (10,6%), the

mother had 4 cases (6,1%), the daughter had 3 cases (4,6%), and the grandson had 2 cases (3%).

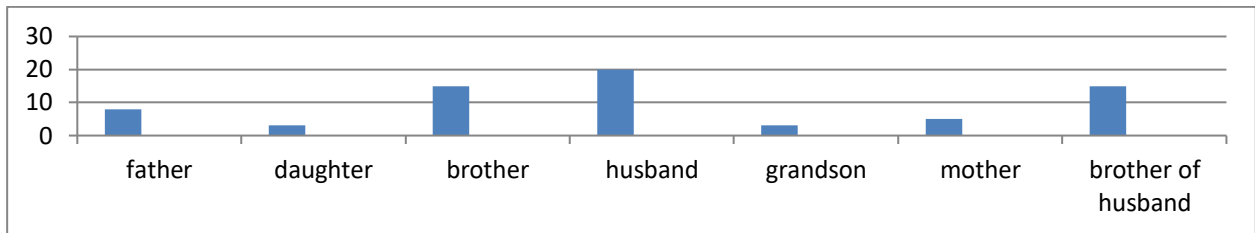


Figure (3): Relation between victim and perpetrator



a



b

Figure (4): a: stab wound caused by single bladed knife
b:homicidal cut throat

In the table (7), during the six months between March 2020 and September 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, 90 cases of domestic violence were recorded in the cross-sectional descriptive study. Domestic violence cases were more common in people under 20 years of age. There were 60 females (66.7%) and 30 males (33.3%). Domestic violence was most prevalent in rural areas. Of those, 55 cases (61%) were from rural areas, while 35 cases (39%) were from urban areas. Domestic violence was most prevalent in Non-educated

victims. 38 cases (42%) were educated, while 52 cases (58%) were Non-educated. The recorded types of domestic violence were physical (hitting, pushing, slapping) in 30 cases (30.3%), 20 cases (22.2%) verbal abuse and 40 cases (44.5%) of both verbal and physical abuse. Most of the cases were recorded in 2020 through a questionnaire during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 90 recorded cases, but only 15 of them were recorded by forensic medical authorities.

Table 7: Age, gender, place, education level and type of domestic violence according to Questionnaire

		N	%	P-value
Age	Less than 20	50	55%	0.003
	20-40	25	27%	
	More than 40	15	16%	
Gender	Male	30	33.3%	0.002
	Female	60	66.7%	
Place	Rural	55	61%	0.001
	Urban	35	39%	
Education level	Educated	38	42%	0.001
	Non educated	52	58%	
Type of Domestic violence	Physical (Hitting ,pushing, slapping)	30	30,3%	0.003
	Verbal Shooting	20	22,2%	
	Both verbal and physical	40	22,2%	

DISCUSSION

Domestic violence refers to acts of violence committed by someone with whom you have a close relationship. Abuse can take many forms, including physical, sexual, financial, emotional, and psychological as well as the use of threats and forced seclusion, are examples of violence (**Garcia LP et al, 2013**). It reflects the other's desire for dominance (**Black, M.C et al, 2011**). Because of the significant implications for women's lives, including physical or emotional stress, violence against women is a public health issue. (**Barros EN, et al, 2011**).

Our study sought to determine the rate of domestic violence over the previous six years, with a focus on the year 2020, when the COVID-19 pan-endemic attack began, as this could be a strong predictor of severe domestic violence.

Our results showed that there was a significant increase in domestic violence from the years 2015 to 2020, and this agrees with the economic cost of gender-based violence. According to a 2015 survey done by UNFPA, the National Council for Women (NCW), and the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), around 7.8 million women are victims of violence every year. (**Duvvury . N and Marco, M. ,2014**). According to **Ibrahim EL-Gendy et al.(2016)** the total number of reported cases of family violence (from 2010 to 2013) was 160, with a percentage of 1.61% of total cases reported in the Cairo governorate. In the Giza governorate, the total number of reported cases of family violence was 171 cases, with a percentage of 3.66% of total cases reported during the same period of time.

In most years in our study and in the questionnaires, females were more affected than males in most years. This is in line with a 2013 study by the National Council for Women, which found that 33% of women were victims of domestic abuse. (**World Health Organization, 2016**). According to **J. Phillips and P. Vandebroek (2015)**, women are more likely than men to be physically assaulted by a male in their home, according to the ABS Personal Safety Survey, with 62 % women against 8 % men having their most recent episode of physical assault, according to **J. Phillips and P Vandebroek (2015)**. This agrees with **Nancy Mohamed Zaghoul, et al. (2017)**, who reported that male sex was the

most important predictive risk factor for witnessing and perpetrating violence ($p \leq 0.001$) while victims were predominantly female.

Domestic violence cases were more common in the age group between 20 and 40 years old among females in our study, and this coincides with Demographic Health Surveys, which found that married women of reproductive age (15-49) are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence. (**Lamoglia CVA et al., 2009**). According to **Ibrahim EL-Gendy et al. (2016)**, the majority of victims in both governorates were between the ages of 18 and 29, with the least number of victims being over 50. According to **Reham El- Farounya and Nagwa Habib. (2019)** the most frequent age group involved in violent acts was the age group between 18 and 40 years. Another study reported that women between the ages of 18 and 24 are the most likely to be victims of intimate partner abuse. (**United Nations,2020**).

In this study, rural areas were the main areas for domestic violence, and this finding agrees **Ibrahim El-Gendy et al. (2016)** The higher number of family violence cases recorded in the Giza governorate, in comparison with the Cairo governorate, can be attributed to the rural residency of most cases recorded in the Giza governorate (71.3%). A study revealed that violence against women is more common in rural areas. This is in line with **Reham El- Farounya and Nagwa Habib. (2019)** who reported 65% of victims were from rural areas and 35% from urban areas. This can be explained by the persistence of power imbalances, in which women's inequality (physical, sexual, and biological distinctions) is exacerbated. Domestic violence cases were highest among those with primary school education, followed by illiterate and secondary school education, while the least was among those with higher education. This coincides with the fact that rural women experience more current marital violence than urban women. Women from Lower Egypt had a greater rate of recent spousal violence than women from urban governorates and Upper Egypt. (**El-Zanaty, F., A.Way,2015**)

Our study recorded a statistically significant difference between the number of fatalities and living cases of domestic abuse. Domestic violence was shown to be the leading cause of death in this study.

Domestic violence accounted for 38% of all female homicides and 6% of all male

homicides worldwide. Further more, the vast majority of the deceased women were victims of domestic violence (World Health Organization, 2016). The study revealed that stab wounds in the abdomen and chest were the most common types of injuries in domestic violence, and this agrees with **Lamoglia CVA, Minayo MCS. Violência conjugal. (2009)**. A weapon was used in 19% of intimate partner violence. According to **L. Tung et al. (2006)**, intimate partners were responsible for up to 38% of all female killings worldwide.

This study showed that the most common perpetrators were husbands, followed by brothers, brothers of husbands, fathers, mothers, and daughters, while grandsons were the least common perpetrators. This agrees with **Al-Badayneh, D. (2012)** who reported that current husbands were the most typically reported perpetrators (64 per cent).

The 2005 and 2014 Egypt Demographic and Health Surveys revealed that more than seven out of ten women named their current or past husband as the culprit. While the abused woman's father was the primary perpetrator of physical violence when they were 18 years old, (**EGYPT ECONOMIC COST OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SURVEY (ECGBVS), 2015**).

The most common types of domestic violence were physical and verbal, followed by physical alone, and the least common type of domestic violence was verbal. This agrees with the **Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013)**. Being pushed, shoved, or having hair pulled were the most prevalent forms of physical abuse perpetrated by husbands, **J Phillips and P Vandenbroek, (2015)**. Other forms of women's domestic violence include punching in the face with a fist or other potentially dangerous objects, kicking, pulling, or even beating up (**Campbell, J.C et al., 2003**). This contradicts a study that found emotional abuse to be the most common form of child abuse (54%), followed by physical abuse (24%), negligent abuse (15%), and sexual abuse (7%). This finding can be explained by the fact that psychological abuse is one of the most widespread forms of abuse across all cultures and ethnic groups (**Nancy Mohamed Zaghloul, et al., 2020**). Also, **Moran et al., (2002)**, pointed out that psychological abuse is the foundation or genesis of other forms of abuse. Psychological abuse is also regarded as a hidden pattern in all forms of child abuse, as

well as a destructive force in all forms of child abuse. Psychological abuse is more destructive to children than physical abuse, since physical violence occurs only occasionally, whereas psychological abuse occurs constantly.

In addition, a sizable percentage of women said their spouses had ever belittled or humiliated them in front of others or purposefully terrified or intimidated them (**Al-Badayneh, D.,2012**). Severe physical abuse was also experienced by women, according to **Ammar, N.(2006)**. Demographic and Health Surveys in Egypt. Some women had been assaulted in the face with fists or other objects. Few others had been kicked, pulled, or beaten up. Few were threatened by their husbands or used knives, guns, or other weapons against them. In Egypt, less than half of married women have suffered marital abuse. The most common was suffering from emotional violence, followed by physical violence, while the least common was suffering from sexual assault (**El-Zanaty, F., A.Way,2006**).

Conclusion and Recommendation:

Domestic violence has increased significantly, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Teaching and educating the community through mass media about the importance of preventing domestic violence, growing programs that strengthen social networks, organizing community corporations to combat social norms that contribute to improving domestic violence reporting, and establishing digital monitoring are some of the possible strategies.

Ethical Clearance: Faculty of Medicine Fayoum University Research Ethical Committee Permission Number 2122.

Conflict of Interest: Nil

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المخلص العربي

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المقدمة: العنف الاسري هو نمط من السلوك التعسفي في أي علاقة يستخدمه أحد الشريكين لكسب أو الحفاظ على السيطرة على شريك حميم آخر. هدفت الدراسة الحالية إلى تحديد العوامل التي تؤثر على إصابات العنف الأسري في محافظة الفيوم بمصر خاصة خلال جائحة كورونا.

الطرق: تتكون هذه الدراسة من جزأين

١ - أجريت دراسة بأثر رجعي على البيانات التي تم الحصول عليها من مرضى مصابي العنف الأسري الذين تم تسجيلهم لدى مصلحة الطب الشرعي بمحافظة الفيوم بين يناير ٢٠١٥ وديسمبر ٢٠٢٠.

٢ - دراسة وصفية مقطعية أجريت في محافظة الفيوم (مدينة الفيوم وإطسا وإبشوي) يهدف إلى تحليل حالات العنف الأسري في محافظة الفيوم خلال جائحة كورونا في عام ٢٠٢٠.

النتيجة: تظهر هذه الدراسة بأثر رجعي أن هناك زيادة كبيرة في العنف الأسري ، خاصة في عام ٢٠٢٠ خلال جائحة كورونا. كانت حالات العنف الاسري أكثر شيوعاً بين الإناث. سجل هذا البحث أن حالات العنف الأسري كانت أكثر شيوعاً في الفئة العمرية بين (٢٠-٤٠) سنة خاصة لدى الإناث ، (أقل من ٢٠) سنة. سجلت هذه الدراسة فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية بين الوفيات وحالات العنف الأسري. كانت معظم حالات العنف الاسري في هذه الدراسة مميته حيث أن هناك زيادة كبيرة في حالات العنف الأسري خاصة في عام ٢٠٢٠ خلال جائحة كورونا. أجريت دراسة وصفية مقطعية في مدينة الفيوم وإتسا وإبشوي .. كانت حالات العنف الأسري أكثر شيوعاً في الفئة العمرية ما بين أقل من 20 سنة. كانت معظم حالات العنف المنزلي من الإناث. كانت المناطق الريفية هي المكان الرئيسي للعنف الاسري. كانت معظم الحالات شيوعاً هي الحالات غير المتعلمة. أنواع العنف الأسري المسجلة كانت جسدية (ضرب ، دفع ، صفع) ٣٠ حالة لفظي ٢٠ حالة و كلا اللفظي والجسدي ٤٠ حالة.

الخلاصة: هناك زيادة كبيرة في العنف الاسري ، خاصة في عام ٢٠٢٠ خلال جائحة كورونا ولتقليل حالة العنف الاسري يجب اتباع استراتيجيات تعليم المجتمع للوقاية من العنف الاسري ، وتنمية البرامج التي تقوي الشبكات الاجتماعية ، وتغيير الأعراف الاجتماعية التي تساهم في زيادة العنف ، وتحسين الإبلاغ عن العنف الاسري ، وإنشاء مراقبة رقمية. إن تنمية المجتمع يمكن أن تعزز على المدى الطويل جهود منع العنف الاسري .