

13 ATTITUDES TOWARD GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE GCR

The GCRO 2011 Quality of Life survey explored attitudes towards spousal/partner abuse through questions about circumstances that may provoke gender-based violence (GBV) in the Gauteng City-Region (GCR).

While it is heartening that a high proportion of respondents said 'No' to our questions, this Vignette is motivated by the small but disturbing proportion of respondents who answered 'Yes'.

The survey asked if a man is justified in hitting or beating his partner if she:

	% answered YES	
	Man	Woman
goes out without telling him?	3.8	2.6
doesn't look after children?	4.3	3.5
argues with him?	3.6	2.6
refuses to have sex with him?	2.4	1.4
burns the food?	1.3	1.2
is unfaithful?	6.5	4.6

The average proportion of 'Yes' responses across the range of GBV questions, extrapolated to the adult population in Gauteng, represents

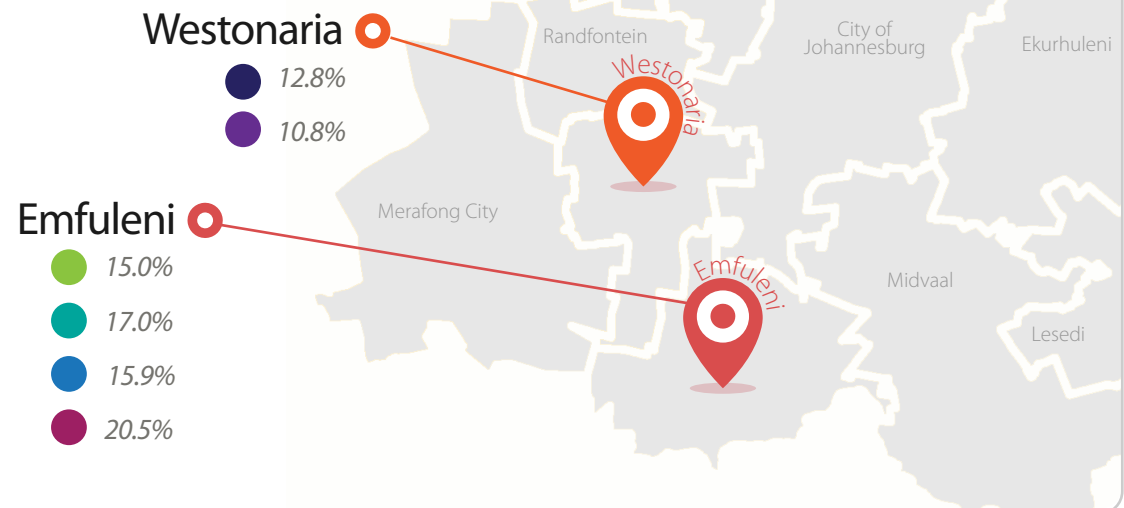
nearly 300 000 people who believe that women should be beaten in a number of circumstances

'Yes'

ATTITUDES TO GBV AT A LOCAL LEVEL

HIGHEST SCORES FOR GBV QUESTIONS ACROSS MUNICIPALITIES

Percentages vary appreciably across municipalities. They spike alarmingly in Westonaria and Emfuleni. By contrast Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg and Tshwane perform much better on all the GBV questions.



Of concern is the proportion of women who responded positively to the question of women being beaten. Even though this percentage is small, it suggests that there is still an urgent need to educate women as to their rights, and to help promote safe, respectful and equitable relationships between men and women.



Gender-based violence tends to be seen as a largely private matter. While a large-scale survey may give some clues about attitudes, the issue remains a largely 'hidden' or invisible one in our society. There is still much work to do in the GCR to change belief systems and practices which support gender-based violence and abuse.

Refer to www.gcro.ac.za to explore the findings of the GCRO 2011 Quality of Life Survey

