

Hatchile Consult Ltd
Kampala, Uganda
16 March 2018

News release

Overwhelming majority of Ugandans say wife-beating is never justified, Afrobarometer survey shows

More than eight in 10 Ugandans (82%) say it is “never” justified for men to beat their wives, according to the most recent Afrobarometer survey.

Opposition to wife-beating is high among both men and women, in rural as well as urban areas, in all age groups and regions, and at all education levels, survey findings show.

One week after President Yoweri Museveni urged an end to domestic violence in his International Women’s Day remarks, saying men who beat women are “cowards,” a member of Parliament has sparked public outrage by suggesting that wife-beating is acceptable.

While the two surveys are not directly comparable, the 2017 Afrobarometer results suggest significantly less public acceptance of wife-beating than Uganda’s 2011 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), which also reported a decrease since the 2006 DHS.

Key findings

- More than eight in 10 Ugandans (82%) say men are “never” justified in beating their wives. Women are more likely than men to reject wife-beating (87%), but even among men, more than three-fourths (77%) say it can never be justified (Figure 1).
- Fewer than one in five Ugandans say wife-beating can “sometimes” (13%) or “always” (5%) be justified.
- Opposition to wife-beating is high in both rural (82%) and urban (84%) areas and across all age groups, regions, and education levels (Figure 2).

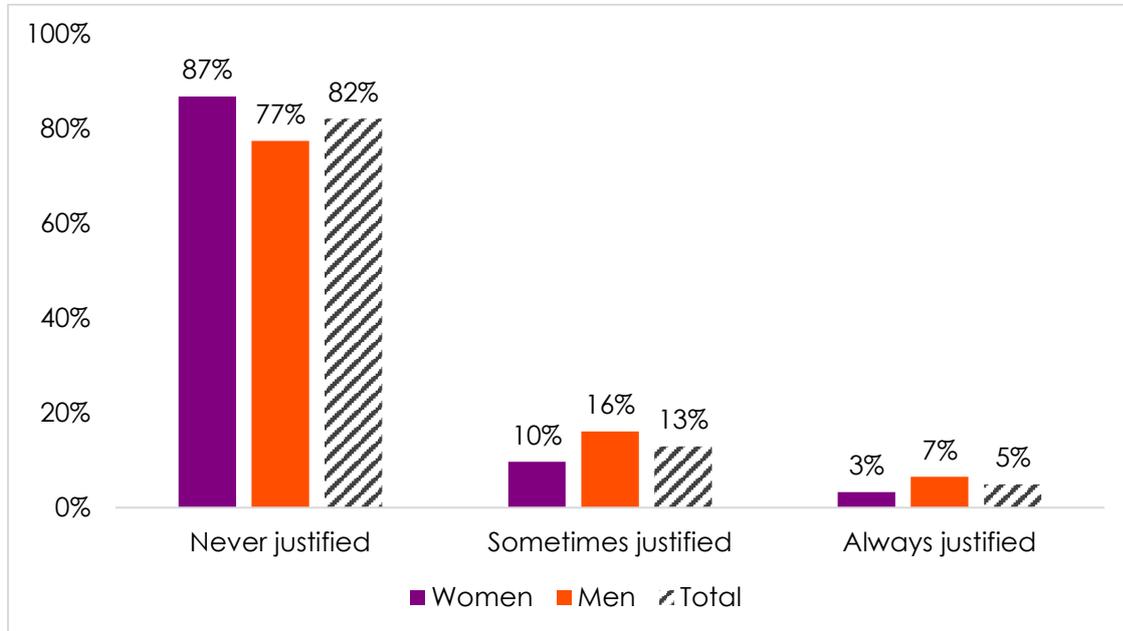
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in Africa. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 African countries between 1999 and 2016, and Round 7 surveys (2016/2018) are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult Ltd, interviewed 1,200 adult Ugandans in December 2016 and January 2017. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Uganda in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2015.

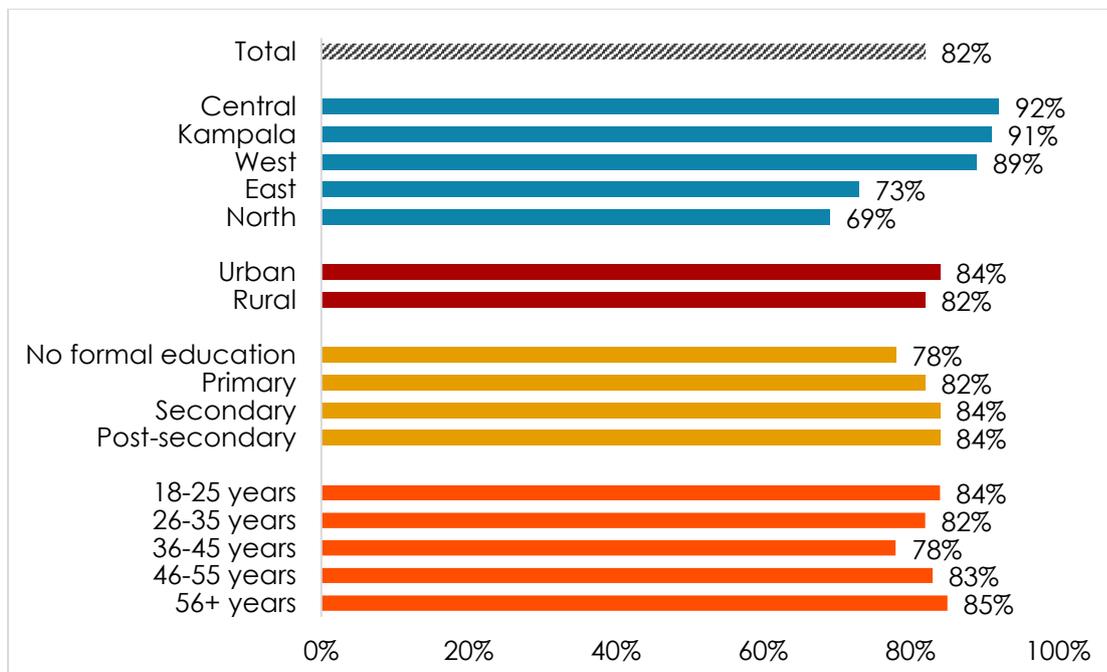
Charts

Figure 1: Can wife-beating be justified? | Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: Please tell me for each of the following actions whether you think it can always be justified, sometimes be justified, or never justified: For a man to beat his wife?

Figure 2: Wife-beating can never be justified | Uganda | 2017



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