



Meta-analysis on interpersonal violence data among intimate partners: the PHASE project

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The PHASE project

The Public Health Action for A Safer Europe (PHASE) project (Public Health Programme 2006), dedicated a Workpackage on Interpersonal Violence, to address the theme of interpersonal violence among four focus areas:

- **child-youth- intimate partner-elderly**

by focusing only on any form of physical abuse.

The PHASE project

Main aims of the workpackage:

- collect data on interpersonal violence among the 27 EU member states;**
- collect information about legislation**
- identify implemented prevention programmes and their effectiveness in reducing violence**

The country profiles

- **For each focus area and for all the 27 EU member states a country profile was created reporting information on:**
 - **the magnitude of the violence problem;**
 - **the markers of prevalence ;**
 - **the characteristics of violent behaviours;**
 - **the Prevention Programmes and Legislative acts in order to give evidence on which and how proactive measures are implemented by the 27 EU countries to contrast Intimate Partner Violence.**

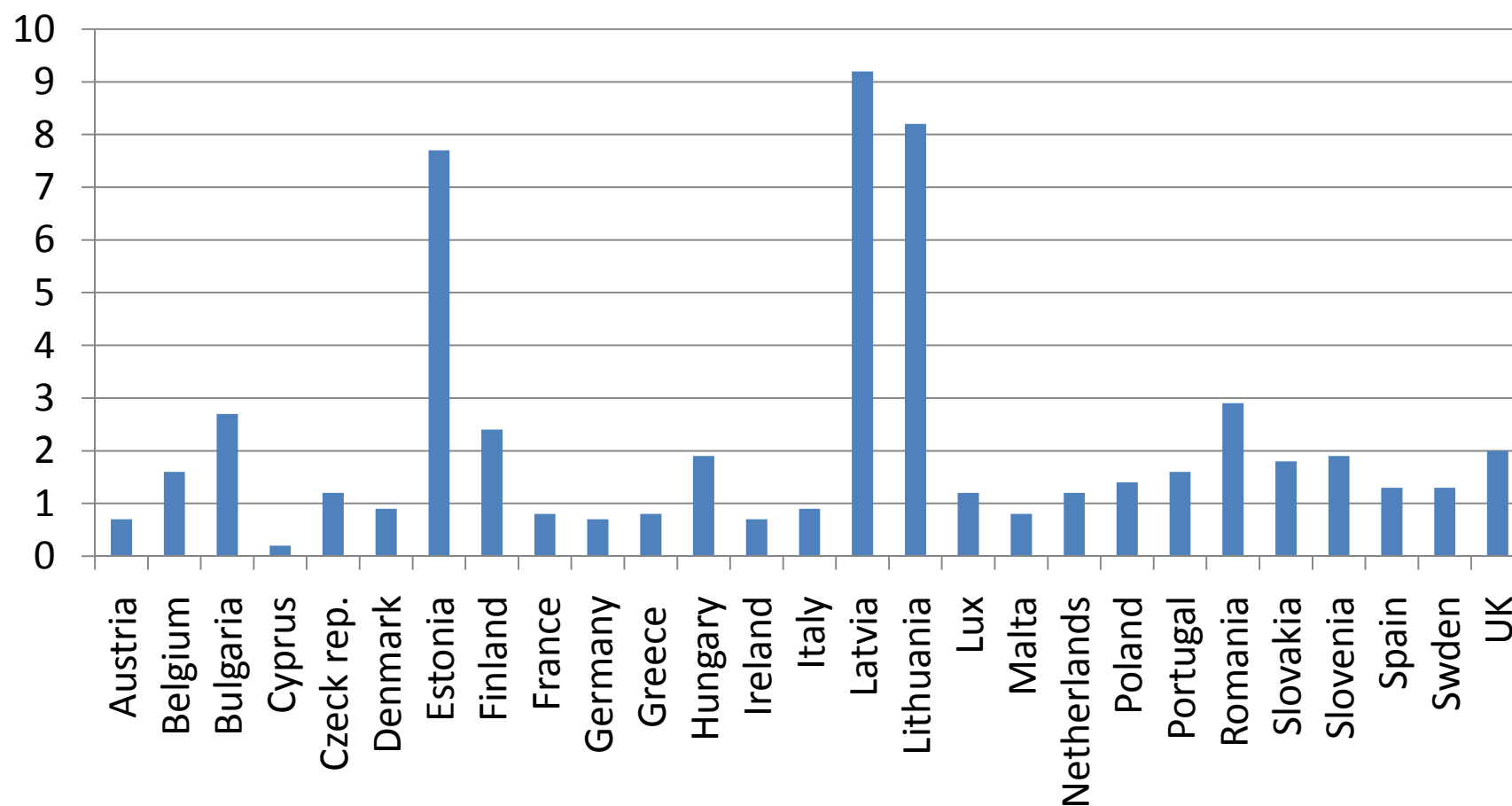
Magnitude of the violence problem

- **It was addressed by looking at the official statistics.**
- **The definition of violence: the assault category (X85-Y09, Y871) of the ICD-10 code.**

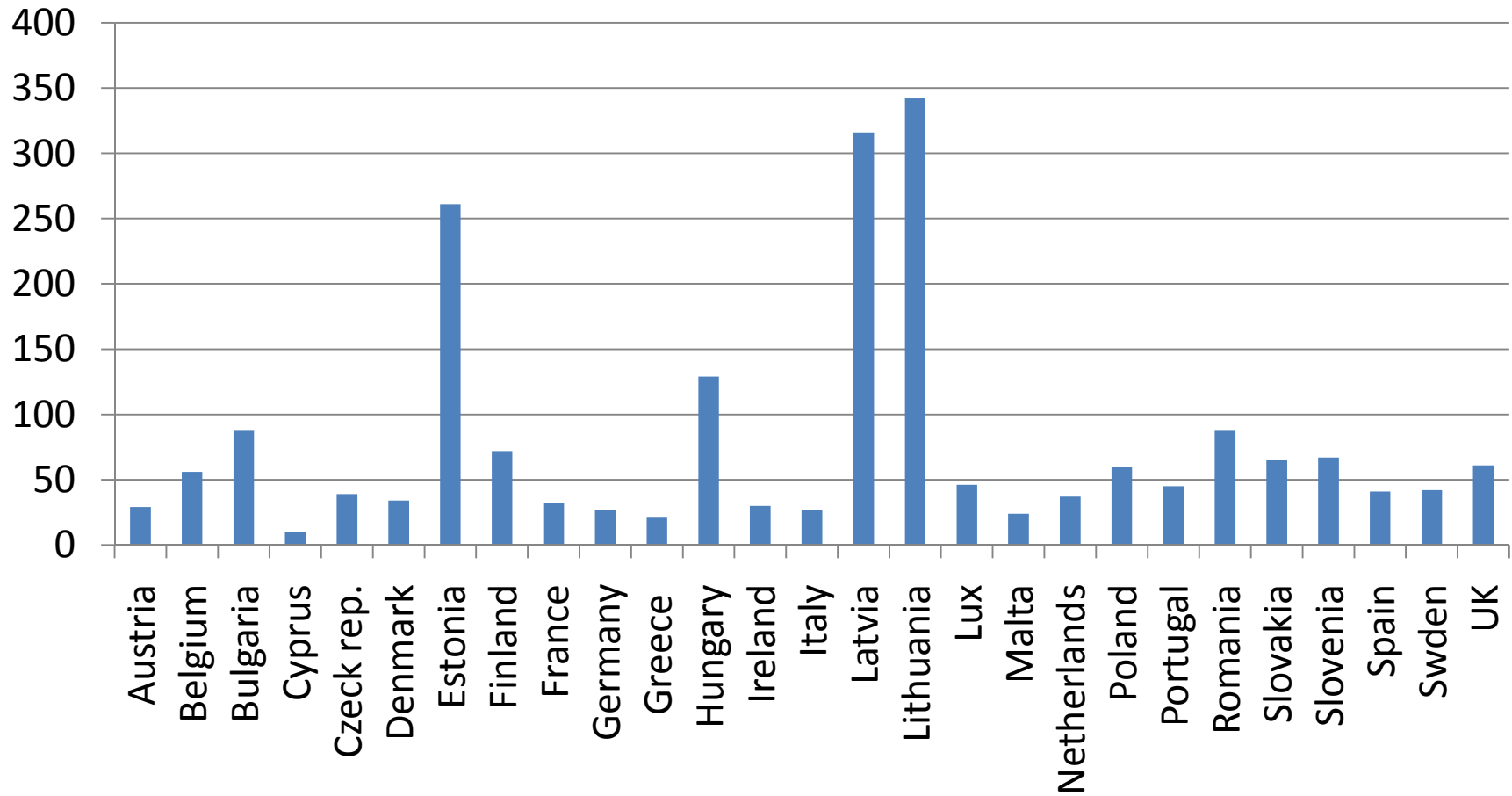
(Source: WHO, Global Burden of Disease, 2004).

Age-standardized death rates

In 2004 about 7000 people were killed because of a violent act
(age-standardized death rate per 100,000=1.4);
19 people every day.



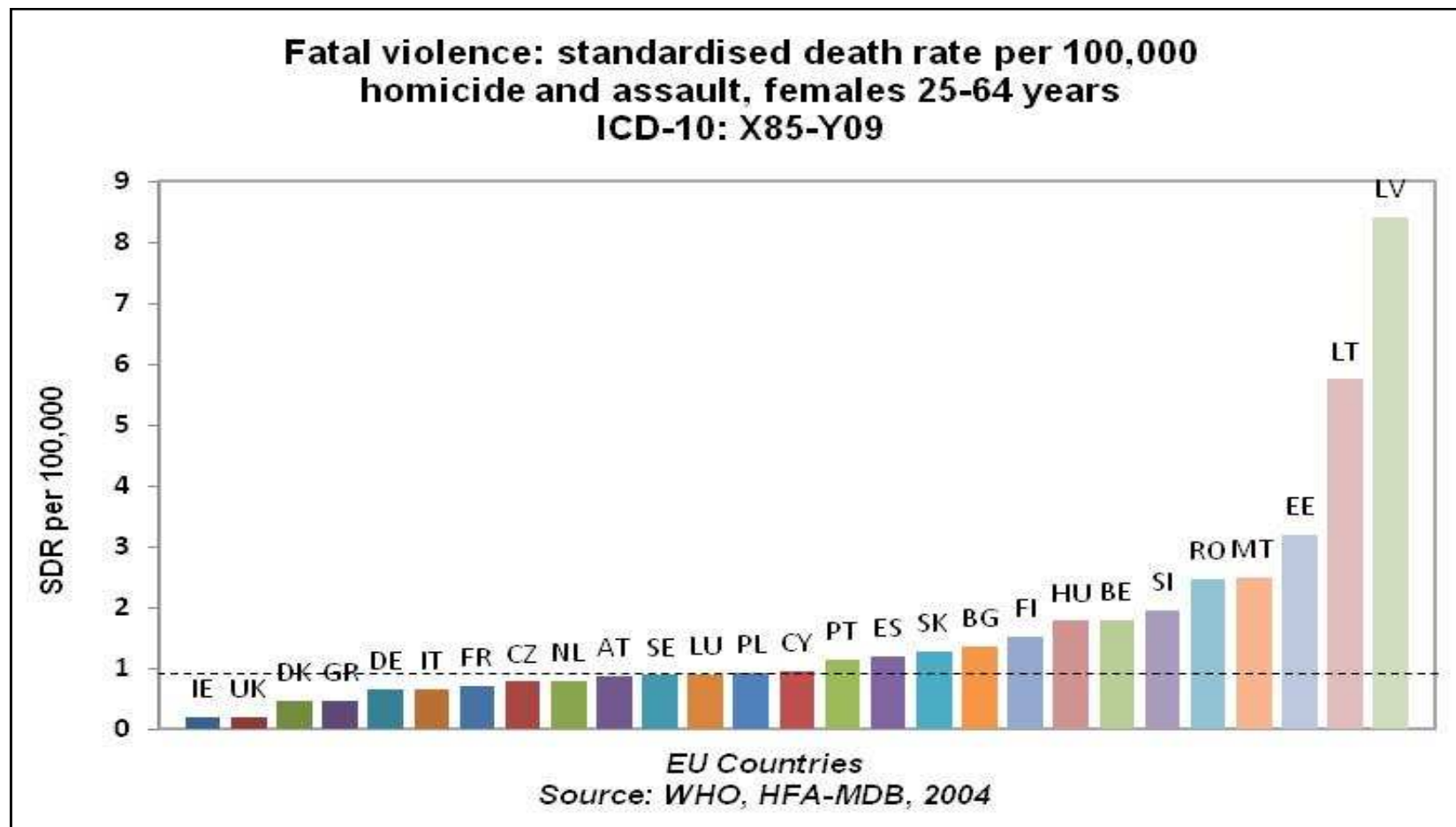
Age-standardized DALYs (per 100,000)



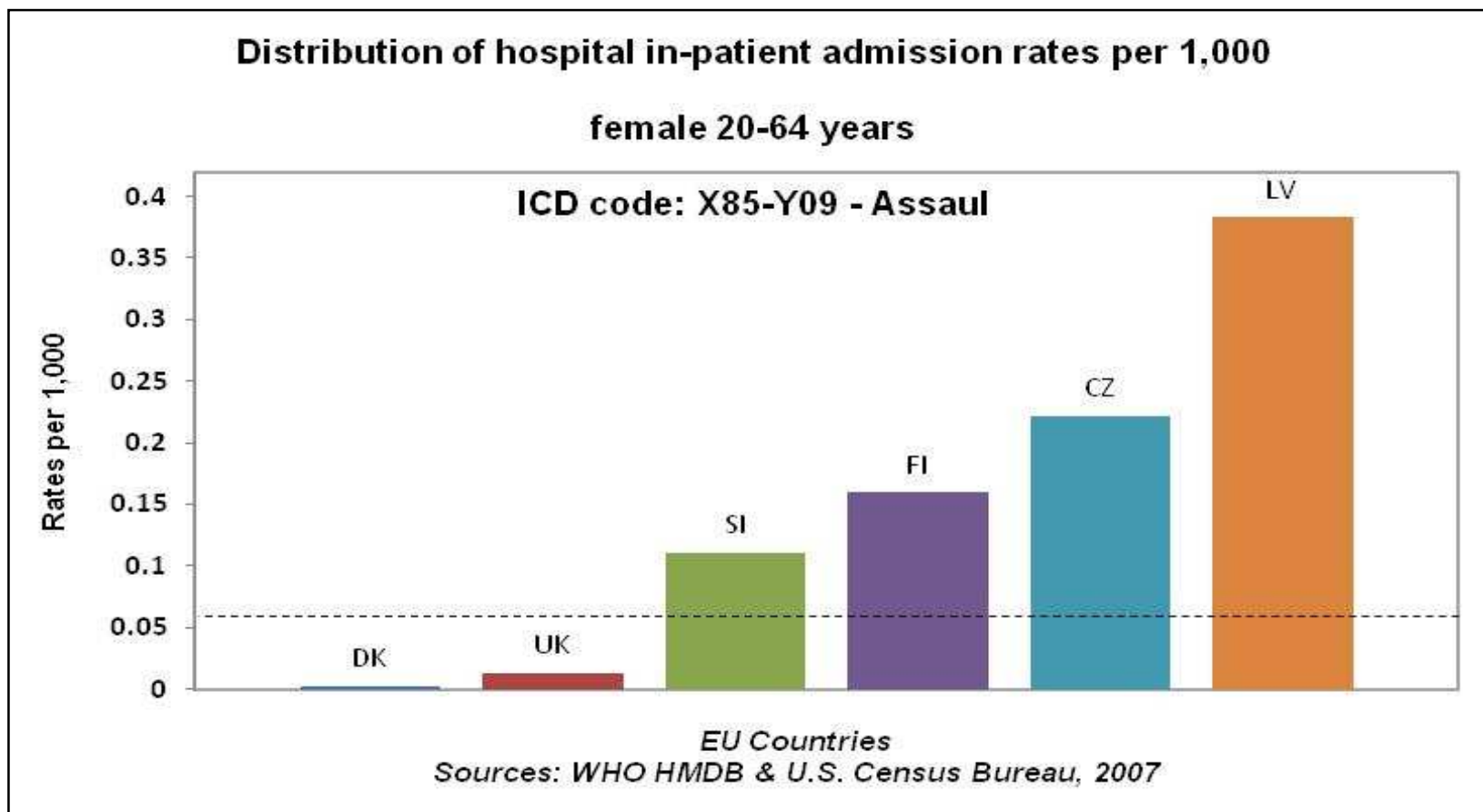
Magnitude of the violence problem among intimate partner

- **Focus area: intimate partners**
- **Target: females aged 25-64 years with a (ex) relationship**

Age-standardized death rates females 25-64 years



Hospital in-patient admission rates females 20-64 years



For the remaining States, ICD-10 X85-Y09 codes are not available

Literature review

Information on deaths represents one aspect of the violence;

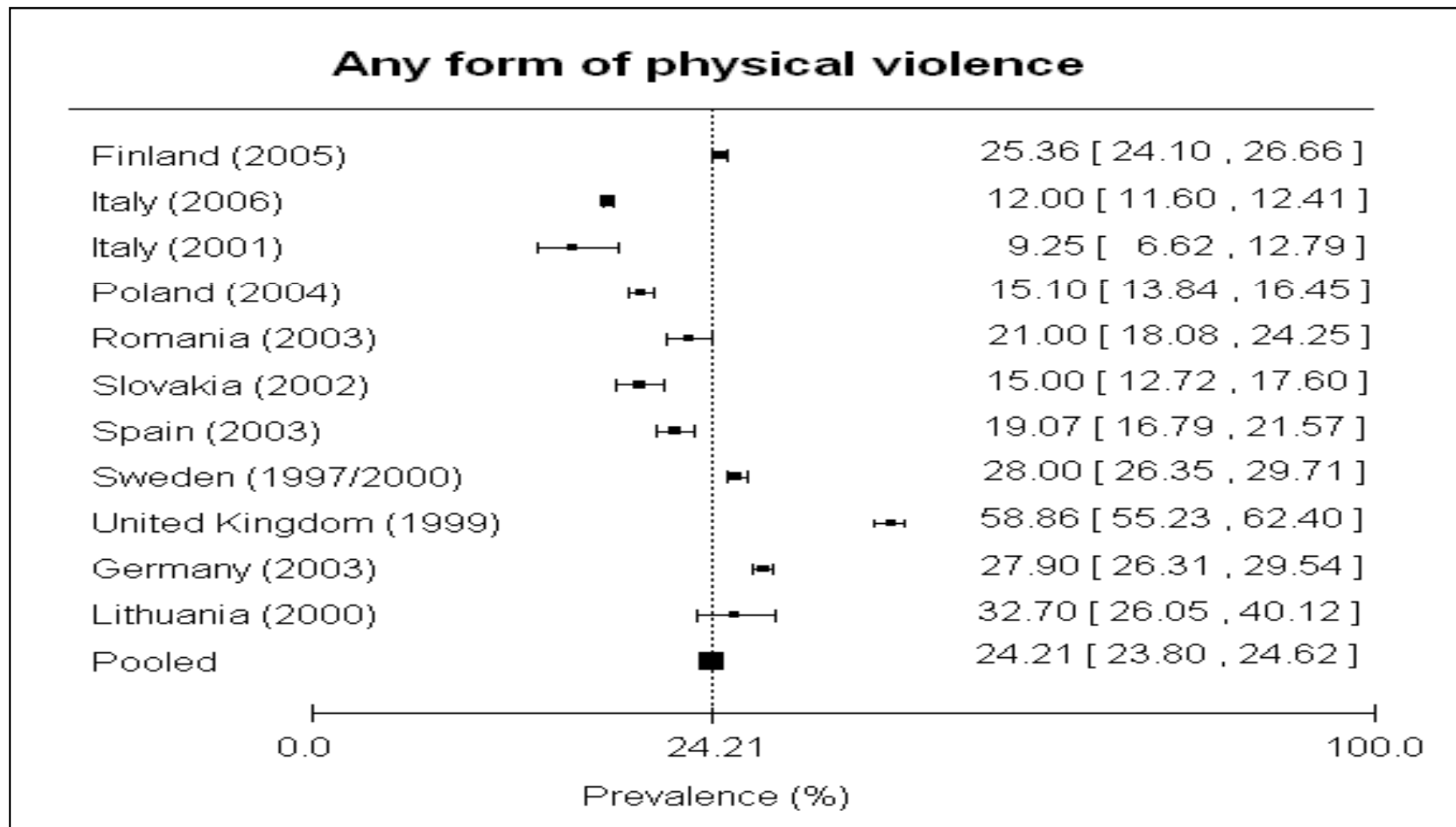
to capture all aspects of the interpersonal violence among intimate partners:

- ✓ **a literature review was performed to collect epidemiological data**
- ✓ **aimed to select primary studies for the meta-analysis.**

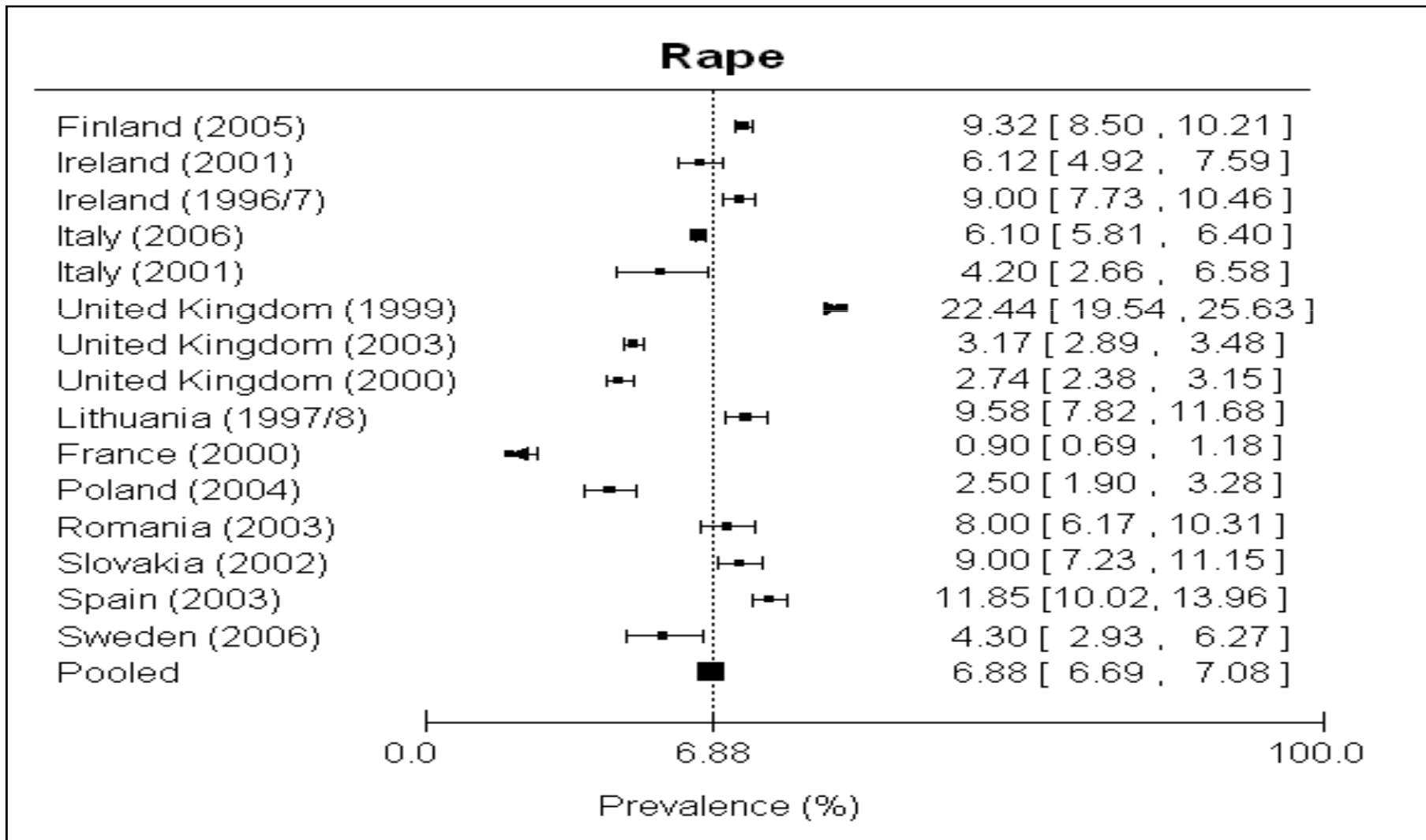
Meta-analysis

- **Published European articles from 1995 have been searched in Pub Med, WHO, Unicef, Safety Lit, and Wave Network.**
- **Key-words: intimate partner, domestic violence, rape, sexual violence, pregnancy, alcohol.**
- **In total, 39 studies have been identified carried out in 16 European countries.**
- **The pooled estimate was computed using the random-effects model if substantial heterogeneity was observed; otherwise the fixed-effect model was employed. Sensitivity analysis evaluated the impact of each primary study.**

Prevalence of any form of physical violence by intimate (ex)- partner (10 studies-9 countries)



Prevalence of rape by intimate (ex)- partner (15 studies- 11 countries)

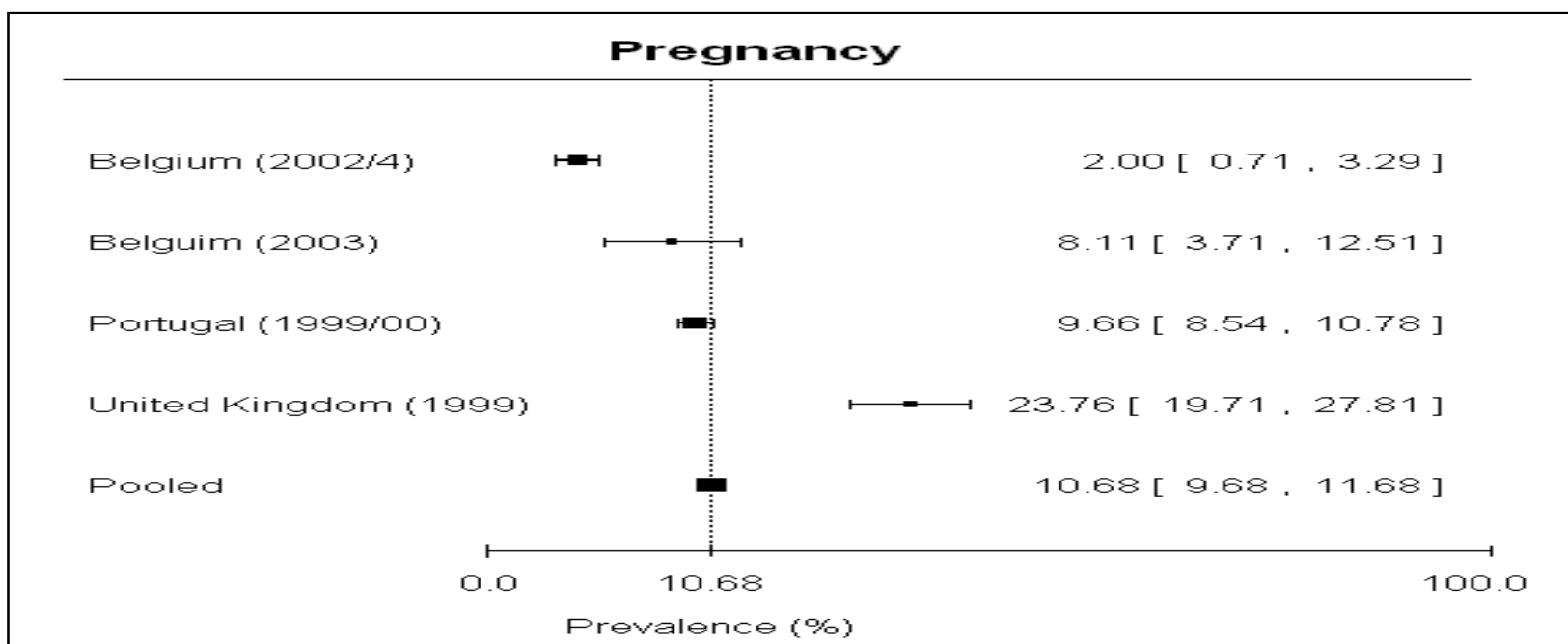


Characteristics of violent behaviour: pregnancy

- It puts pregnant woman and her fetus at risk for physical and mental problem (spontaneous abortion, placental abruption, preterm labour and delivery, severe injuries, neonatal death).**
- Throughout the world, assessments of prevalence of domestic violence in pregnancy report ratios varying from 5% to 28%;**

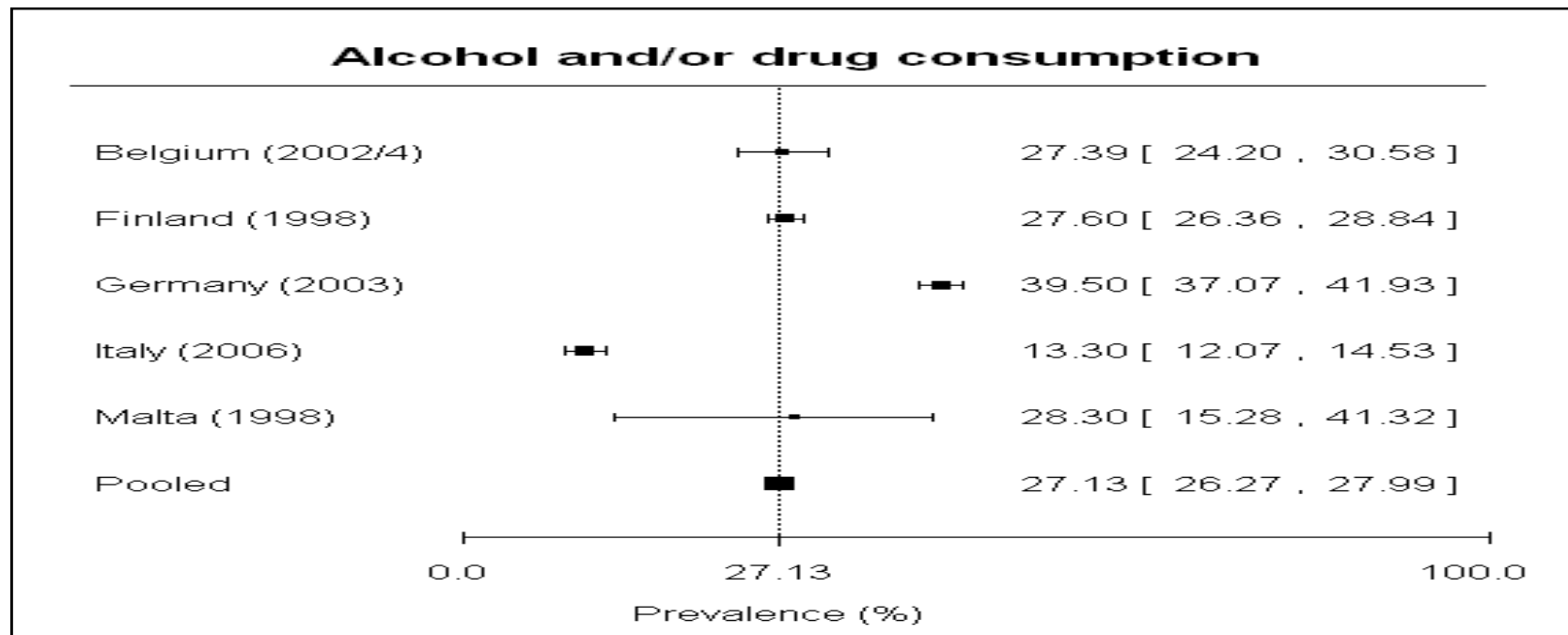
Prevalence of violence to pregnant women

In Europe, according to the few studies published in Belgium, Portugal and United Kingdom, violence during pregnancy plays an important part of the larger group of women affected by violence.



Prevalence of violence under influence of alcohol or drugs

Five European studies carried out in Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy and Malta reported prevalence of violence under the influence of alcohol or drug ranging between 13% for Italy to 39% for Germany.



Conclusions

- **The available official data do not support mortality and hospital discharge statistics in a sufficiently detailed way to allow guiding and evaluating violence prevention as demanded by the 2007 Council Recommendation.**
- **Epidemiological data show that in Europe:**
 - **every four women, one has been victim of any form of physical violence within her partnership.**
 - **about 7% of women have been victim of sexual violence within their partnership**
 - **Pregnancy and abuse of alcohol/drugs should deserve a careful evaluation as potential risk factors for the violent behaviour.**

Considerations

- **The most common perpetrators of sexual violence against women are among the intimate partners.**
- **Women tend not to report it because they do not consider themselves as victims or blame themselves for the problem.**