

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND CORRELATES: Evidences from the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey

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Introduction

- The DHS Woman's Questionnaire collects data on the general background characteristics of female respondents (e.g., age, education, wealth quintile, and employment status).
- Moreover, the Woman's Questionnaire also contains data on receipt of cash earnings, the magnitude of a woman's earnings relative to those of her husband, control over the use of her own earnings and those of her husband.
- These data are all known correlates of women empowerment and gender-role attitudes (Hindin, 2003).
- In particular, age, education, media exposure, and employment for cash are all potential sources of empowerment, whereas marital and household characteristics, such as age at first marriage, spousal age difference, nuclear family and urban residence, and wealth, are aspects of the setting for empowerment because they reflect the opportunities available to women (Kishor, 2000).

Introduction

- There are several cogent and pressing reasons for evaluating, promoting and monitoring the level of women empowerment in a country, not the least of which is that household health and nutrition are generally in the hands of women. Hence, women empowerment is necessary for ensuring their own welfare, as well as the well-being of their households.
- Empowerment of women is also critical for the development of a country because it enhances both the quality and quantity of human resources available for development. (Kishor and Subaiya, 2008)
- Henceforth, it is imperative to determine how “empowerment” is defined. For this study, empowerment is defined as the process by which the powerless gain greater control over the circumstances of their lives. It includes both controls over resources and over ideology... [and includes, in addition to extrinsic control] a growing intrinsic capability—greater self-confidence, and an inner transformation of one’s consciousness that enables one to overcome external barriers..” (Sen and Batliwala, 2000).

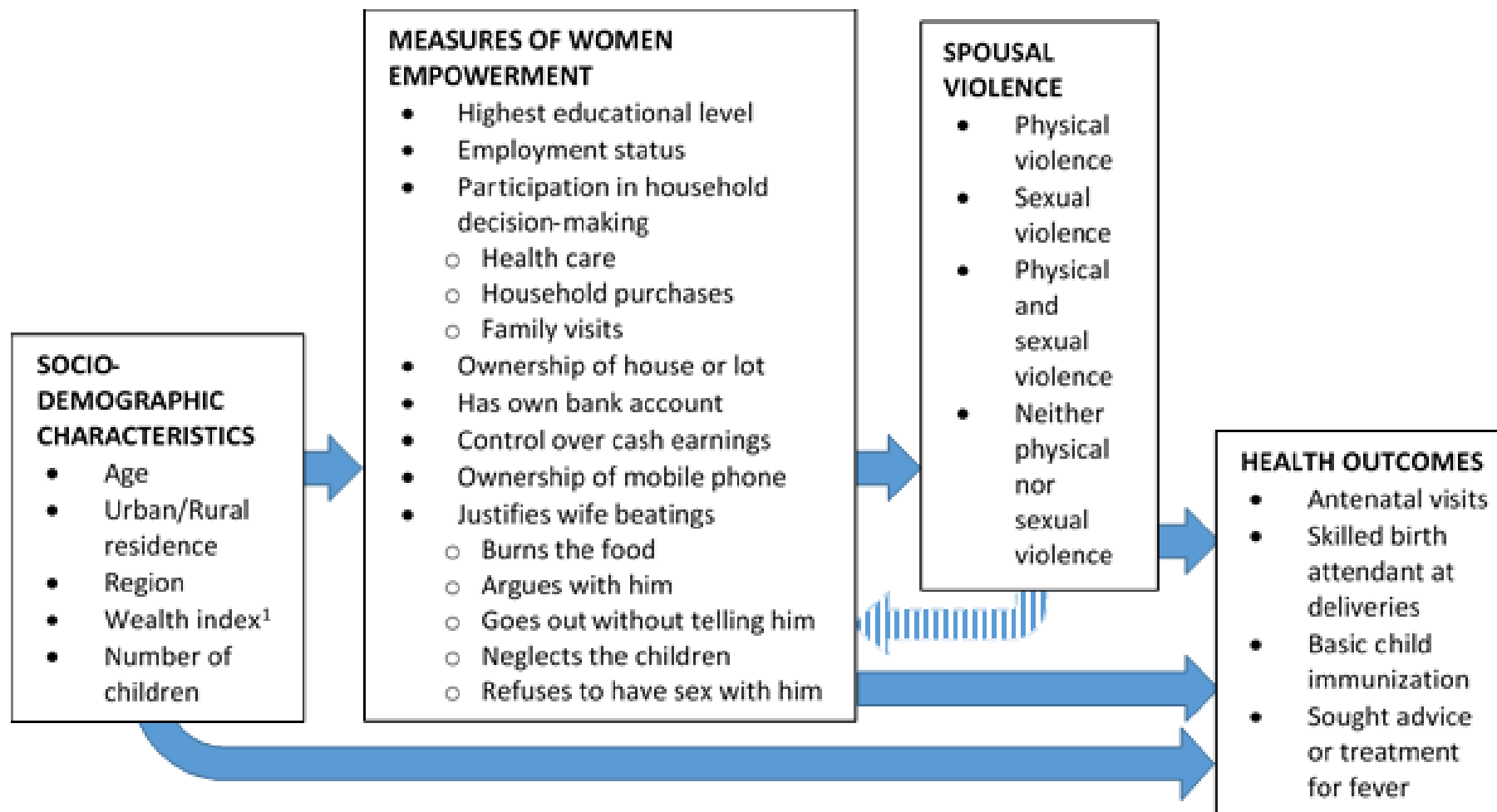
Introduction

- Since 2008, the Philippine National Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS) have been collecting information on three sets of women empowerment variables that qualify as evidence of empowerment in Kishor's framework (2000): one that measures women's participation in decision-making and two others that measure women's acceptance of gender-role norms that endorse the control of women by men

Methodology

- The focus of this study was information from the domestic violence module of the 2017 NDHS, in which a total of 12,520 currently married women age 15-49.
- The sample was restricted, however, because some indicators used to calculate the women empowerment index are only available for currently married women, and only those who were successfully administered the domestic violence module.
- The study results include descriptive statistics, and the estimation of the odds ratio (OR) and the 95% confidence interval (CI) calculated with multivariable logistic regression analyses and a confounder's adjustment for the sampling design.

Conceptual Framework

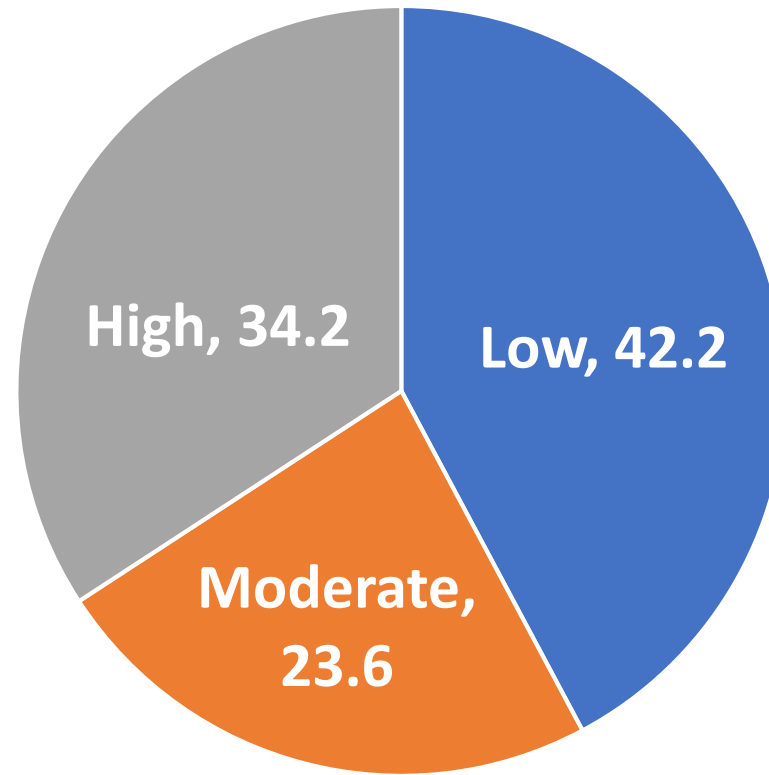


Development of the Women Empowerment Index

- Education (seduc)
- Employment for cash (V741)
- Control over one's own cash earnings (V739)
- Control over men's earnings (V743f)
- Ownership of a house or land (V745a and V745b)
- Has and uses a bank account (V170)
- Mobile phone ownership (V169a)
- Women's participation in household decision-making (V743a, V743b, and V743d)
- Attitudes toward wife-beating (V744a-V744e)

Philippine Women Empowerment Index

Percentage distribution of sample women by their levels of empowerment, Philippines 2017

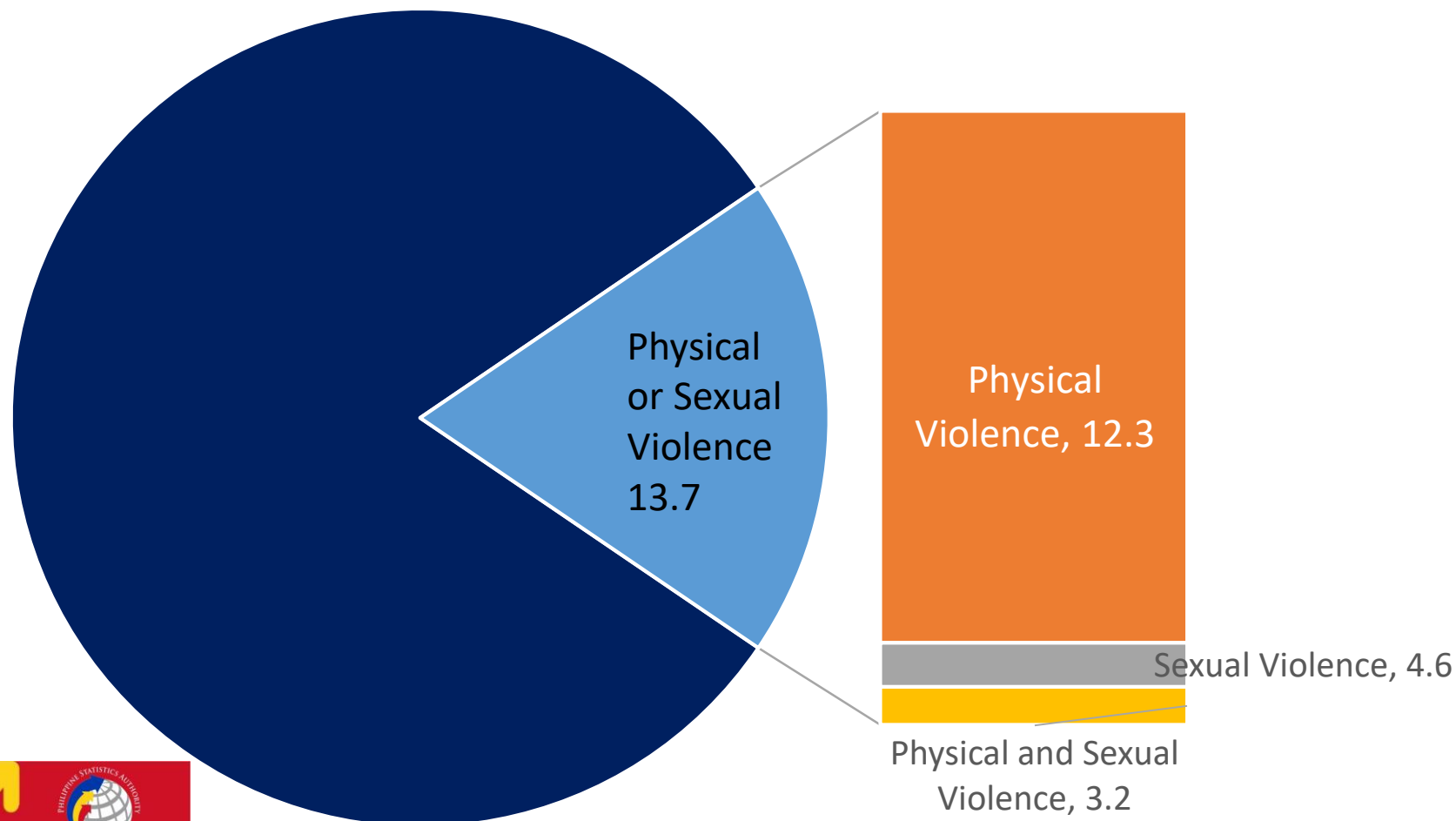


Statistical Methods, Analysis and Limitations of the Study

- We utilize percentages, percent distributions, and cross-tabulations for the descriptive analysis, and exploratory regression analyses to show relationships between the indicators and the covariates of empowerment.
- For the multivariate analysis, a binary logistic regression model is used when the dependent variable is dichotomous, such as women's participation in decision-making. Using STATA, data analysis was carried out in multiple phases. We include the following set of covariates in each regression: age, urban-rural residence, region, wealth quintile, and the number of living children.
- Aside from that the only data source used is the 2017 NDHS, the study is based on a cross-sectional survey conducted at only one point in time.

Results

Type of spousal violence experienced by sampled women in their lifetime, Philippines 2017



Results

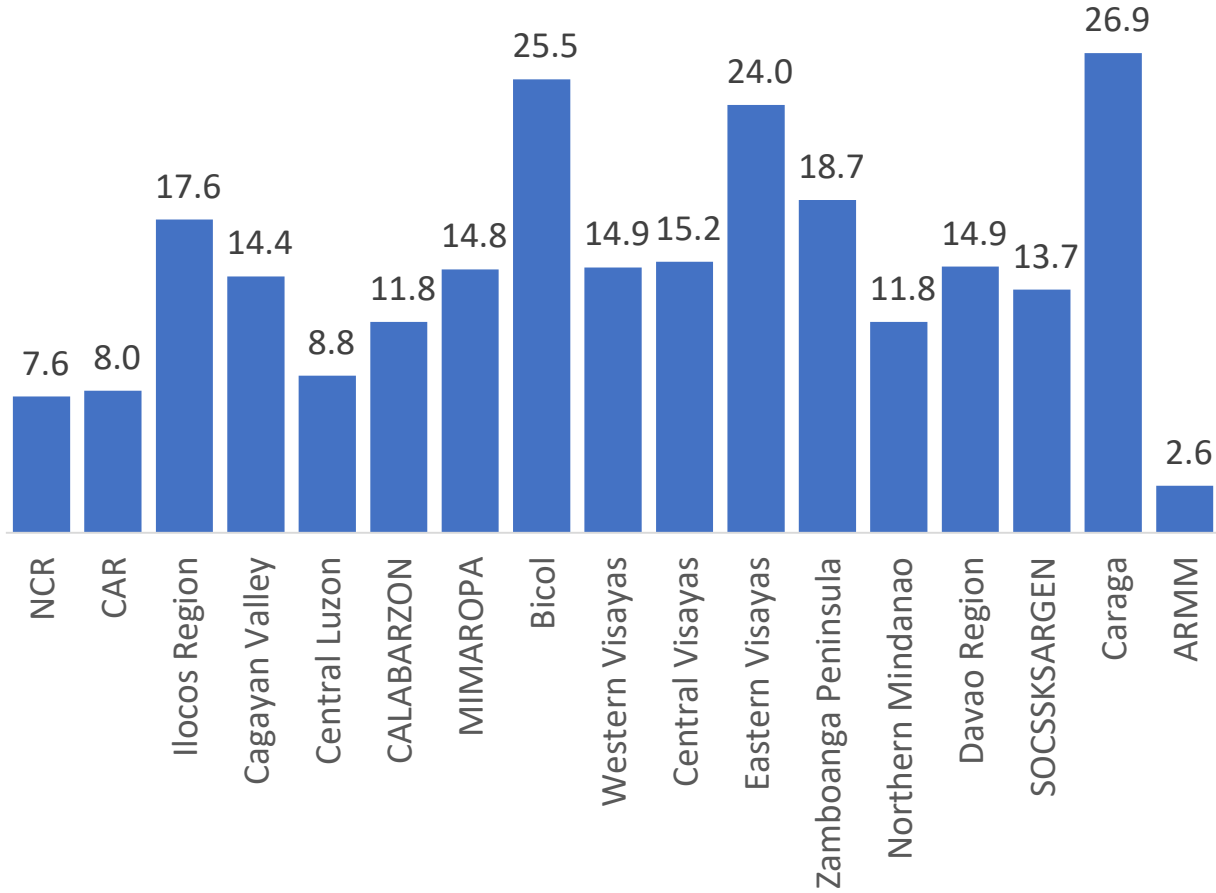
Prevalence of Spousal Violence by Women Empowerment Index

Percentage distribution of currently married women age 15-49 who ever experienced spousal violence, according to their level of empowerment: Philippines 2017

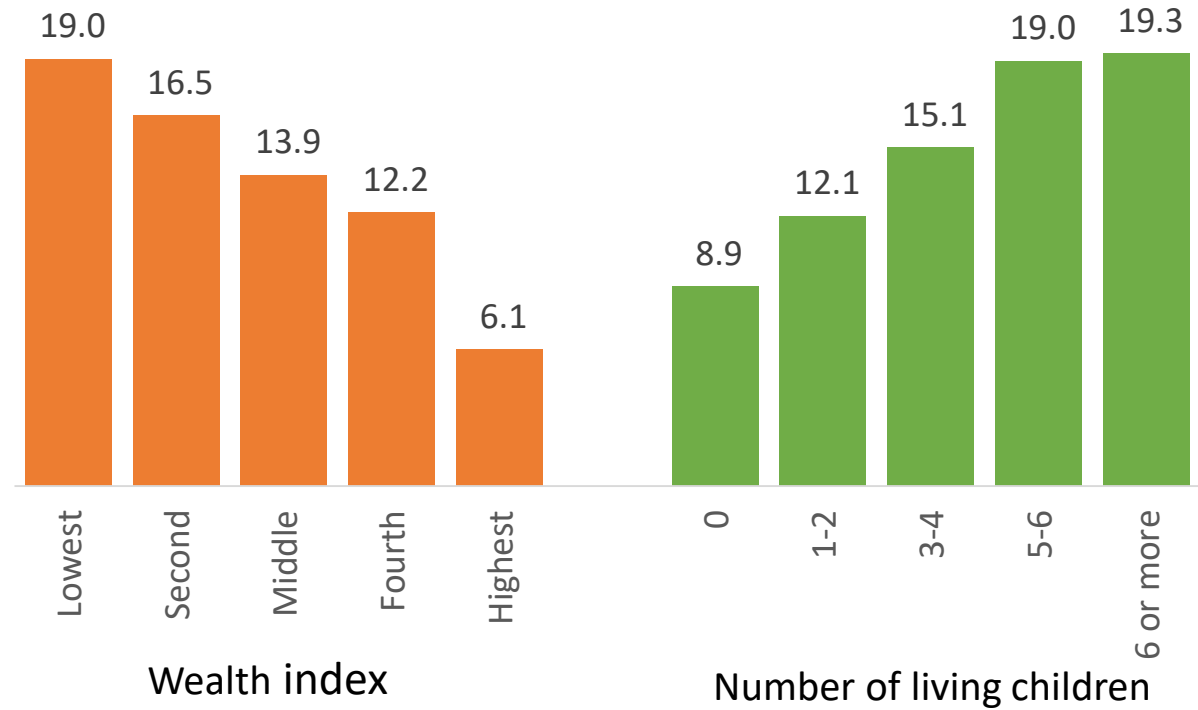
Levels of empowerment	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical and sexual violence	Physical or sexual violence	Number of women
Low	15.7	5.5	3.9	17.3	4,598
Moderate	11.5	4.5	3.2	12.8	2,533
High	8.6	3.5	2.3	9.8	3,648
Total	12.3 **	4.6 **	3.2 **	13.7 **	10,778
Note: ** p<0.01					

Results

Percent spousal abuse by region



Percent spousal abuse by wealth index and number of living children



Results

Association of Women Empowerment Index with Spousal Violence, Antenatal Care Visits and Child Vaccination

Odds ratio and 95% confidence interval of the association of women empowerment index with spousal physical or sexual violence, four or more antenatal care visits, and child vaccinations: Philippines 2017

Background characteristics	Association with Spousal Violence	Association with Antenatal Care Visits	Association with Child Vaccination
Women Empowerment Index			
Low	1.000	1.000	1.000
Moderate	0.763 **	1.351 *	1.479 *
High	0.716 **	2.032 **	1.719 *

Note: * p<0.05, ** p<0.01

Results

Association of Women Empowerment Index with Spousal Violence, Antenatal Care Visits and Child Vaccination

Odds ratio and 95% confidence interval of the association of women empowerment index with spousal physical or sexual violence, four or more antenatal care visits, and child vaccinations: Philippines 2017

Background characteristics	Association with Spousal Violence	Association with Antenatal Care Visits	Association with Child Vaccination
Age group			
15-19	1.000	1.000	1.000
20-24	1.325	1.173	1.042
25-29	0.933	1.987 **	0.946
30-34	0.941	1.960 *	1.060
35-39	0.909	1.902 *	1.148
40-44	0.931	1.622	0.794
45-49	0.823	2.226	0.608

Note: * p<0.05, ** p<0.01

Results

Association of Women Empowerment Index with Spousal Violence, Antenatal Care Visits and Child Vaccination

Odds ratio and 95% confidence interval of the association of women empowerment index with spousal physical or sexual violence, four or more antenatal care visits, and child vaccinations: Philippines 2017

Background characteristics	Association with Spousal Violence	Association with Antenatal Care Visits	Association with Child Vaccination
Wealth index			
Lowest	1.000	1.000	1.000
Second	0.887	1.924 **	1.341
Middle	0.749 *	1.982 **	1.529
Fourth	0.666 **	2.819 **	1.784
Highest	0.352 **	4.527 **	1.575
Note: * p<0.05, ** p<0.01			

Results

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Odds ratio and 95% confidence interval of the association of women empowerment index with spousal physical or sexual violence, four or more antenatal care visits, and child vaccinations: Philippines 2017

Background characteristics	Association with Spousal Violence	Association with Antenatal Care Visits	Association with Child Vaccination
Number of living children			
0	1.000	1.000	1.000
1-2	1.393	8.862 **	1.000
3-4	1.861 **	6.393 *	0.972
5-6	2.273 **	3.880	0.938
More than 6	2.099 **	3.069	1.170

Note: * p<0.05, ** p<0.01

Conclusion

- This study has succeeded in examining the relationship of women empowerment and spousal violence to selected health outcomes and service utilization.
- Positive health outcomes are associated with high levels of empowerment and the absence of spousal violence. Women empowerment is interrelated to maternal and child health outcomes. The age, household wealth and number of living children, as well as education, are all had an effect on the empowerment level and spousal violence.
- Despite the limitations, the study had successfully showed that both women empowerment and spousal violence have implications on mother and child health services. Hence, policies and programs that promotes women empowerment and interventions on reduction of spousal violence incorporated to education, economy and health will have a substantial effect to Filipino women and children.