

WOMEN'S CHARACTERISTICS AND STATUS

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The purpose of this chapter is to provide a description of the situation of women in Turkey. This information is useful for understanding the context of reproduction and health and as indicators of the status of women and women's empowerment. Distributions of interviewed women by various demographic and socioeconomic characteristics are shown in the tables that follow. The main background characteristics that will be used in subsequent chapters, such as age at the time of interview, region, urban-rural residence and education are examined. In addition, information is provided on women's employment and work status.

3.1 Background Characteristics

A description of the basic characteristics of women interviewed in the TDHS-2003 is provided in Table 3.1. The table includes distributions of ever-married women interviewed in the survey, by age, marital status, urban-rural residence, region of residence, and education.

Women were asked two questions in the individual interview to assess their age: "In what month and year were you born?" and "How old are you?" Interviewers were trained to probe in situations in which respondents knew neither their age nor date of birth; as a last resort, interviewers were instructed to record their best estimate of the respondent's age. The data on age indicate that a third of women interviewed are less than 30 years of age. The lower proportions in the first two age groups, 15-19 and 20-24 are a result of the ever-married sample; significant proportions of women have not married by these ages. The decline at the upper end of the age categories, on the other hand, is a result of high fertility in the past; the figures imply that successively larger cohorts of women entered the reproductive age groups during the recent decades.

Ninety-five percent of women were married at the time of interview, while the rest were either divorced/separated (3 percent) or widowed (2 percent). These figures indicate the rarity of marital dissolution in Turkey.

Seventy-one percent of ever-married women live in urban areas. In regard to regional distribution, 4 in every 10 women live in the West, while only 7 percent of ever-married women in the country reside in the North region. With regard to NUTS 1 regions, almost a fifth of ever-married women are in İstanbul, followed by 14 percent in the Aegean and 13 percent in the Mediterranean region.

Table 3.1 Background characteristics of respondents
Percent distribution of women by background characteristics, Turkey 2003

Background characteristic	Weighted percent	Number of women	
		Weighted	Unweighted
Age			
15-19	2.9	238	240
20-24	12.9	1,045	1,080
25-29	18.3	1,480	1,516
30-34	18.4	1,489	1,506
35-39	17.6	1,420	1,410
40-44	16.5	1,330	1,297
45-49	13.3	1,073	1,026
Marital status			
Married	95.0	7,672	7,686
Divorced/separated	2.9	237	208
Widowed	2.1	166	181
Residence			
Urban	71.2	5,752	5,976
Rural	28.8	2,323	2,099
Region			
West	40.7	3,286	2,331
South	12.7	1,028	1,113
Central	23.1	1,867	1,484
North	7.3	590	901
East	16.2	1,305	2,246
NUTS 1 Region			
Istanbul	18.2	1,470	1,163
West Marmara	4.3	348	384
Aegean	14.3	1,157	549
East Marmara	8.8	710	556
West Anatolia	9.7	784	466
Mediterranean	12.7	1,028	1,113
Central Anatolia	5.8	471	502
West Black Sea	6.3	513	615
East Black Sea	3.6	291	481
Northeast Anatolia	3.0	245	535
Central East Anatolia	4.8	389	566
Southeast Anatolia	8.3	671	1,145
Education			
No education/Prim. incom.	21.8	1,761	2,032
First level primary	53.7	4,339	4,120
Second level primary	7.4	601	585
High school and higher	17.0	1,374	1,338
Total	100.0	8,075	8,075

The distribution of women by levels of education is striking, and provides clues as to the recent significant changes in reproductive and health behavior in Turkey. While one in every five women has no education or has not completed first level primary school, a significant proportion (17 percent) has completed at least high school. Comparing these figures with the TDHS-1993 results, one finds that women in reproductive age groups today are far more educated than 10 years ago. The proportion of women who have completed at least second level primary school increased from 15 percent in 1993 to 24 percent in 2003, a

relative increase of about 60 percent. On the other hand, the proportion of women who have not completed first level primary school declined from 34 percent to 22 percent in the same period.

3.2 Respondents' Level of Education by Background Characteristics

Table 3.2 shows the distribution of women by the highest level of education attended or completed, according to selected characteristics. The table is shown to clarify the relationship between education and other explanatory or background variables used in later tabulations. Differences in the educational composition of respondents from different age groups, regions, and urban-rural backgrounds are of particular interest.

Table 3.2 Educational attainment by background characteristics							
Percent distribution of women by highest level of schooling attended or completed, and median number of years of schooling, according to background characteristics, Turkey 2003							
Background characteristic	No education/ Primary incomplete	First level primary	Second level primary	High school and higher	Total	Number of women	Median years of schooling
Age							
15-19	26.6	49.8	15.9	7.6	100.0	238	4.5
20-24	14.1	56.7	12.3	16.9	100.0	1,045	4.7
25-29	13.8	53.6	8.0	24.5	100.0	1,480	4.7
30-34	18.4	56.5	7.3	17.8	100.0	1,489	4.6
35-39	23.0	55.5	6.0	15.5	100.0	1,420	4.5
40-44	29.6	50.2	5.4	14.8	100.0	1,330	4.4
45-49	32.8	50.0	4.7	12.5	100.0	1,073	4.4
Residence							
Urban	18.3	50.9	9.0	21.8	100.0	5,752	4.7
Rural	30.5	60.8	3.6	5.0	100.0	2,323	4.3
Region							
West	14.6	56.0	8.7	20.7	100.0	3,286	4.7
South	23.6	53.1	7.9	15.4	100.0	1,028	4.5
Central	13.2	62.8	7.2	16.9	100.0	1,867	4.6
North	19.6	57.0	6.5	16.9	100.0	590	4.6
East	51.8	33.9	4.9	9.4	100.0	1,305	0.0
NUTS 1 Region							
Istanbul	14.2	55.3	9.1	21.4	100.0	1,470	4.7
West Marmara	10.3	64.1	9.1	16.5	100.0	348	4.6
Aegean	16.1	58.3	6.8	18.7	100.0	1,157	4.6
East Marmara	13.6	56.9	9.8	19.7	100.0	710	4.7
West Anatolia	12.0	56.8	8.3	22.9	100.0	784	4.7
Mediterranean	23.6	53.1	7.9	15.4	100.0	1,028	4.5
Central Anatolia	18.0	63.6	6.1	12.3	100.0	471	4.5
West Black Sea	12.4	67.6	5.5	14.6	100.0	513	4.6
East Black Sea	25.5	49.4	7.3	17.9	100.0	291	4.5
Northeast Anatolia	42.1	39.3	5.1	13.4	100.0	245	4.2
Central East Anatolia	50.2	34.1	5.2	10.5	100.0	389	0.0
Southeast Anatolia	56.3	31.9	4.6	7.2	100.0	671	0.0
Total	21.8	53.7	7.4	17.0	100.0	8,075	4.6

Owing to increases and spread of education in recent decades in Turkey, older women are less educated than younger women. A third of women in the final age group have had no educational level completed, but this proportion declines to 14 percent in the 20-24 and 25-29 age groups. A striking 25 percent of women in the latter age group have completed at least high school.

Urban women in Turkey are much more likely to have higher education than their rural counterparts. Thirty one percent of rural women have no educational level completed, compared to only 18 percent of urban women. Conversely, while 22 percent of urban women have completed at least high school, this figure is a mere 5 percent in rural areas. The least educated women are in the East region, particularly in Central East Anatolian and Southeast Anatolian NUTS 1 regions, where the median years of schooling is 0.0, compared with the national average of 4.6 years. On the other hand, women in half of the NUTS 1 regions have more than 4.5 median years of schooling. In İstanbul and West Anatolia, more than a fifth of women have completed at least high school.

3.3 Employment and Occupation

The TDHS-2003 collected information on the current employment of women. Employment, like education, can be a source of empowerment of women, particularly if it is accompanied with control over income. However, because women may not perceive some of their activities—such as unpaid family work—as employment, it can be difficult to collect information on the subject. In the TDHS-2003, a number of questions were asked about employment to ensure that informal or potentially ill-defined activities were captured.

Table 3.3 indicates that 42 percent of women report being employed during the 12-month period before the interview. The majority of these women (27 percent) were working at the time of the survey. The proportion of women not employed during the 12 months preceding the survey is inversely correlated with women's age—younger women tend to be employed less than their older counterparts. A strong association exists between employment and marital status—employment among women not currently married is substantially higher than among currently married women, possibly as a result of women assuming the role of breadwinner in the absence of a husband.

As expected, childbearing has an impact on employment, where nulliparous women are more likely to be employed than women who have children. Also shown in the table is the finding that women in the North are economically more active than their counterparts in other regions. The lowest level of employment is among women in the Central and East regions. The distribution by NUTS 1 regions reveals that more than half of women in the West Marmara, Aegean, West Black Sea, and Northeast Anatolia, and two-thirds of women in the East Black Sea region are employed at any time during the last 12 months. The table also shows that current employment is more common among better educated women (38 percent).

Table 3.3 Employment status

Percent distribution of women by employment status, according to background characteristics, Turkey 2003

Background characteristic	Employed in the 12 months preceding the survey		Not employed in 12 months preceding the survey	Don't know/missing	Total	Number of women
	Currently employed	Not currently employed				
Age						
15-19	18.7	18.2	63.1	0.0	100.0	238
20-24	18.4	15.7	65.9	0.1	100.0	1,045
25-29	24.1	14.5	61.4	0.0	100.0	1,480
30-34	27.7	16.0	56.3	0.0	100.0	1,489
35-39	35.5	12.4	52.2	0.0	100.0	1,420
40-44	30.4	14.2	55.3	0.0	100.0	1,330
45-49	25.0	14.8	60.2	0.0	100.0	1,073
Marital status						
Married or living together	26.1	14.6	59.2	0.0	100.0	7,672
Divorced/separated/widowed	43.9	15.2	40.9	0.0	100.0	403
Number of living children						
0	30.1	22.9	46.9	0.1	100.0	736
1-2	27.6	12.7	59.7	0.0	100.0	4,234
3-4	24.7	15.6	59.7	0.0	100.0	2,312
5+	28.0	14.7	57.4	0.0	100.0	794
Residence						
Urban	21.7	11.1	67.2	0.0	100.0	5,752
Rural	40.1	23.6	36.3	0.0	100.0	2,323
Region						
West	27.8	14.7	57.5	0.0	100.0	3,286
South	25.3	15.6	59.1	0.0	100.0	1,028
Central	24.9	13.8	61.2	0.0	100.0	1,867
North	32.3	27.2	40.4	0.1	100.0	590
East	26.8	9.4	63.7	0.0	100.0	1,305
NUTS 1 Region						
İstanbul	24.3	9.3	66.4	0.0	100.0	1,470
West Marmara	29.8	21.7	48.5	0.0	100.0	348
Aegean	37.1	19.8	43.1	0.0	100.0	1,157
East Marmara	25.2	11.5	63.3	0.0	100.0	710
West Anatolia	21.9	11.3	66.8	0.0	100.0	784
Mediterranean	25.3	15.6	59.1	0.0	100.0	1,028
Central Anatolia	20.4	13.5	66.1	0.0	100.0	471
West Black Sea	25.0	27.9	47.0	0.1	100.0	513
East Black Sea	36.2	28.8	34.9	0.0	100.0	291
Northeast Anatolia	42.1	9.5	48.4	0.0	100.0	245
Central East Anatolia	29.4	5.9	64.6	0.2	100.0	389
Southeast Anatolia	19.8	11.4	68.8	0.0	100.0	671
Education						
No education/Prim. incomp.	26.3	14.5	59.2	0.0	100.0	1,761
First level primary	24.6	16.8	58.7	0.0	100.0	4,339
Second level primary	21.1	9.9	69.0	0.0	100.0	601
High school and higher	38.2	10.4	51.3	0.1	100.0	1,374
Total	27.0	14.7	58.3	0.0	100.0	8,075

3.4 Decision on Use of Earnings

The status of women correlates strongly with their independence in making decisions on the use of their earnings. Table 3.4 shows that around 38 percent of women make their own decisions about the use of their earnings, half of women decide jointly with their husband or others, and 10 percent are not involved in the decisions. Independent decision making with regard to the use of earnings is higher among older women, while 26 percent of women in age group 15-19 have no say in how their earnings are to be used.

Independent decision making is also higher among women not currently married, and correlated positively with increasing numbers of children. While urban women are more in control of their earnings, women in the East constitute the group of women in the country with the least say in the use of their earnings. This is particularly highlighted in Southeast Anatolia.

A very small proportion of women with high school or more education declared that they do not have a say in the decision on use of earnings (1 percent). Close to two-thirds of these women take such decisions with their husbands or others (63 percent), while independent decision making is the least common among women with less education: women who have no education or have not completed the first level primary school cite others to a larger extent as prime decision-makers in the use of their earnings.

Table 3.4 also shows the proportion of household expenditures met by women's earnings, as perceived by women. In general, women's earnings meet almost none or less than half of the expenditures of households for 57 percent of cases. Women whose earnings meet half or more of household expenditures account for 42 percent. Women's earnings are particularly important contributions to household expenditures in cases when the woman is not currently married.

Women whose earnings meet all expenditures are mostly women at comparatively older ages, women who are divorced, separated or widowed; nulliparous women; and women with higher education. Although regional variation is not very pronounced, more than 40 percent of women living in the West and North regions meet all or more than half of the expenditures with their earnings.

Table 3.5 shows the relationship between the decision on how earnings of women are used and the proportion of household expenditures met by women's earnings. The table is confined to currently married women since the numbers of women who were not married at the time of interview was too low to allow meaningful analyses. The table shows an interesting relationship between the two variables. In cases when the woman's earnings do not contribute significantly to meeting the household expenditures, independent decision making among women is more common (56 percent) than the national average (32 percent). Conversely, it is interesting to note that in cases when the woman's earnings meet all of the household's needs, significant proportions of women still decide on how their earnings will be used jointly with their husband (55 percent) or have no say in how they will be used—for 9 percent of women, husbands make the decision, for 6 percent, others.

Table 3.4 Decision on use of earnings and contribution of earnings to household expenditures

Percent distribution of women employed in the 12 months preceding the survey receiving cash earnings by person who decides how earnings are to be used and by proportion of household expenditures met by earnings, according to background characteristics, Turkey 2003

Background characteristic	Person deciding how earnings are used					Proportion of expenditures met by earnings						Number of women
	Self only	Jointly	Someone else only	Missing	Total	Almost none/none	Less than half	Half or more	All	Missing	Total	
Age												
15-19	(28.4)	(45.4)	(26.2)	(0.0)	100.0	(25.9)	(51.6)	(22.5)	(0.0)	(0.0)	100.0	45
20-24	33.0	54.1	12.8	0.0	100.0	16.4	41.9	34.3	5.4	2.0	100.0	195
25-29	32.7	59.8	7.5	0.0	100.0	13.5	41.0	35.0	9.2	1.2	100.0	376
30-34	35.9	56.6	7.2	0.3	100.0	13.6	48.7	28.0	8.6	1.1	100.0	398
35-39	41.7	46.6	11.4	0.3	100.0	11.0	46.9	29.7	11.0	1.4	100.0	407
40-44	41.3	48.5	10.2	0.0	100.0	9.3	43.6	35.9	9.7	1.6	100.0	365
45-49	41.1	48.9	10.0	0.0	100.0	10.1	41.0	36.1	11.0	1.7	100.0	207
Marital status												
Married or living together	32.0	57.1	10.7	0.1	100.0	12.7	46.1	33.4	6.4	1.3	100.0	1,782
Divorced/separated/widowed	84.6	12.3	3.1	0.0	100.0	10.0	31.2	24.3	32.4	2.0	100.0	210
Number of living children												
0	37.0	55.9	7.1	0.0	100.0	12.8	30.7	41.7	13.7	1.1	100.0	267
1-2	36.5	55.9	7.6	0.1	100.0	11.3	44.7	33.8	9.1	1.1	100.0	1,177
3-4	39.8	44.2	15.7	0.2	100.0	13.7	50.8	26.9	6.9	1.7	100.0	445
5+	42.2	38.8	19.1	0.0	100.0	18.7	51.5	17.0	8.1	4.7	100.0	103
Residence												
Urban	40.3	53.8	5.9	0.1	100.0	10.7	42.8	36.2	9.2	1.1	100.0	1,551
Rural	27.9	47.5	24.3	0.2	100.0	18.6	50.7	19.3	9.0	2.4	100.0	442
Region												
West	36.8	54.7	8.5	0.0	100.0	10.9	43.5	34.9	9.6	1.0	100.0	1,048
South	37.0	50.4	11.8	0.8	100.0	15.0	46.8	28.5	8.1	1.7	100.0	254
Central	38.7	51.8	9.5	0.0	100.0	12.7	47.3	31.0	8.5	0.5	100.0	405
North	47.8	46.1	6.1	0.0	100.0	14.4	44.2	31.8	9.5	0.0	100.0	121
East	32.9	46.9	20.3	0.0	100.0	15.9	41.6	27.0	8.9	6.6	100.0	165
NUTS 1 Region												
İstanbul	44.3	49.4	6.4	0.0	100.0	10.0	40.8	39.9	8.3	1.0	100.0	455
West Marmara	22.2	67.3	10.6	0.0	100.0	18.2	34.6	37.7	8.4	1.1	100.0	102
Aegean	30.3	54.5	15.2	0.0	100.0	10.4	51.2	27.9	9.3	1.2	100.0	428
East Marmara	40.3	56.2	3.5	0.0	100.0	9.9	48.3	30.0	11.9	0.0	100.0	173
West Anatolia	37.1	59.7	3.2	0.0	100.0	8.0	43.7	37.8	9.9	0.6	100.0	176
Mediterranean	37.0	50.4	11.8	0.8	100.0	15.0	46.8	28.5	8.1	1.7	100.0	254
Central Anatolia	45.6	46.6	7.8	0.0	100.0	21.6	41.6	27.3	8.5	1.0	100.0	82
West Black Sea	46.4	44.4	9.2	0.0	100.0	20.4	40.0	29.0	10.6	0.0	100.0	96
East Black Sea	48.6	46.8	4.6	0.0	100.0	10.4	44.5	35.8	9.3	0.0	100.0	60
Northeast Anatolia	38.4	54.5	7.1	0.0	100.0	27.0	41.3	26.0	3.1	2.5	100.0	32
Central East Anatolia	45.7	42.5	11.8	0.0	100.0	19.1	45.9	25.8	6.0	3.3	100.0	44
Southeast Anatolia	24.5	46.3	29.2	0.0	100.0	10.5	39.5	27.9	12.4	9.8	100.0	89
Education												
No educ./Prim.incom.	34.7	43.2	21.7	0.3	100.0	12.2	47.5	27.9	8.2	4.2	100.0	314
First level primary	39.1	48.8	12.0	0.0	100.0	16.0	52.7	23.3	6.9	1.1	100.0	932
Second level primary	40.4	52.8	6.8	0.0	100.0	16.7	42.7	30.4	10.2	0.0	100.0	149
High school and higher	36.0	62.6	1.3	0.2	100.0	6.0	30.8	49.6	12.9	0.8	100.0	598
Total	37.6	52.4	9.9	0.1	100.0	12.4	44.6	32.4	9.2	1.4	100.0	1,992

Note: Parentheses indicate that a figure is based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

Table 3.5 Women's control over earnings

Percent distribution of currently married women who received cash earnings for work in the past 12 months by person who decides how earnings are used, according to the proportion of household expenditures met by earnings, Turkey 2003

Contribution to household expenditures	Self only	Jointly with husband	Jointly with someone else	Husband only	Someone else only	Missing	Total	Number of women
Almost none/none	55.7	31.6	0.0	11.1	1.2	0.5	100.0	227
Less than half	33.5	54.1	0.4	10.1	1.9	0.0	100.0	822
Half or more	22.1	71.9	0.2	5.3	0.5	0.0	100.0	595
All	30.3	55.2	0.0	9.0	5.5	0.0	100.0	114
Missing	(11.5)	(26.8)	(0.0)	(42.9)	(14.2)	(4.6)	100.0	24
Total	32.0	56.9	0.2	9.0	1.8	0.1	100.0	1,782

Note: Parentheses indicate that a figure is based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

3.5 Domestic Violence: Women's Attitudes towards Being Subject to Physical Violence

Recent years have witnessed an increasing interest in violence against women, in particular domestic violence. Domestic violence against women is acknowledged worldwide as a violation of the basic human rights of women. Tolerance and experience of domestic violence form significant barriers to the empowerment of women and women's autonomy in all spheres of social life and have adverse consequences for women's health, health-seeking behavior, and the health of their children. In the TDHS-2003, women were asked a number of questions on their attitudes regarding especially physical violence, which is one of the special types of domestic violence, with regard to whether they viewed physical violence as justified under given circumstances.

Women were asked whether a husband would be justified in beating his wife for each of the following reasons separately: if she burns the food, if she argues with him, if she spends too much money, if she neglects the children, and if she refuses to have sex with him. Table 3.6 gives the percentages of ever-married women who agree with the specified reasons for wife beating by background characteristics.

Thirty-nine percent of women accept at least one reason as a justification for wife beating. Women are most likely to think that wife beating would be justified in cases when the woman argues with the husband (29 percent), spends too much money (27 percent) and neglects the children (23 percent). Only 6 percent of women agree that wife beating would be justified if the woman burns the food. Younger women, currently married women, and women with high fertility are more likely than their counterparts to think that wife beating is justified for at least one of the reasons.

Table 3.6 Women's attitude toward wife beating

Percentage of women who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by background characteristics, Turkey 2003

Background characteristic	Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:					Agrees with at least one specified reason	Number of women
	Burns the food	Argues with him	Spends too much money	Neglects the children	Refuses to have sex with him		
Age							
15-19	8.3	52.4	38.7	33.1	21.5	63.0	238
20-24	4.9	31.2	28.5	23.4	12.6	40.2	1,045
25-29	3.4	25.0	21.9	19.9	12.2	35.3	1,480
30-34	4.8	26.9	24.1	22.7	12.8	37.0	1,489
35-39	7.3	30.0	29.3	23.6	19.1	40.3	1,420
40-44	7.2	28.1	29.1	23.8	19.6	39.2	1,330
45-49	7.0	30.2	28.5	24.8	21.5	39.8	1,073
Marital status							
Married or living together	5.7	29.5	27.3	23.2	16.3	39.6	7,672
Divorced/separated/widowed	7.1	21.7	21.8	23.4	15.2	31.5	403
Number of living children							
0	5.9	30.0	26.9	24.0	14.5	37.9	736
1-2	3.7	22.9	20.7	18.2	11.1	31.8	4,234
3-4	6.5	33.3	31.0	26.8	19.9	44.7	2,312
5+	14.8	48.6	49.4	38.8	35.2	63.6	794
Residence							
Urban	3.3	22.2	20.3	18.9	12.0	32.1	5,752
Rural	12.0	46.0	43.7	33.7	26.8	56.6	2,323
Region							
West	3.5	22.9	21.0	19.2	12.6	32.5	3,286
South	4.6	31.1	30.7	24.8	17.4	43.2	1,028
Central	7.0	34.0	30.0	24.6	16.5	42.9	1,867
North	4.6	24.5	25.0	23.5	15.0	35.5	590
East	11.3	37.9	36.0	29.7	25.1	49.2	1,305
NUTS 1 Region							
Istanbul	1.6	17.7	16.7	15.2	9.5	26.8	1,470
West Marmara	4.8	24.2	23.9	21.1	12.2	35.0	348
Aegean	8.5	37.2	32.6	28.6	20.2	46.7	1,157
East Marmara	2.8	21.9	19.4	18.4	13.1	31.3	710
West Anatolia	6.7	27.7	25.4	21.1	12.1	35.1	784
Mediterranean	4.6	31.1	30.7	24.8	17.4	43.2	1,028
Central Anatolia	4.8	36.1	30.7	25.9	17.8	47.8	471
West Black Sea	5.3	28.7	28.5	24.2	15.3	39.6	513
East Black Sea	3.8	23.6	22.7	20.9	14.5	33.7	291
Northeast Anatolia	12.8	38.5	37.7	30.9	25.2	50.4	245
Central East Anatolia	10.0	34.2	33.2	28.6	21.9	45.9	389
Southeast Anatolia	11.6	39.8	37.1	30.0	26.9	50.6	671
Education							
No education/Prim. incomp.	14.9	49.2	47.5	38.5	33.2	62.1	1,761
First level primary	4.6	30.6	28.0	24.4	15.7	42.1	4,339
Second level primary	0.7	13.2	10.4	11.2	4.4	20.8	601
High school and higher	0.2	5.3	5.2	5.0	1.7	8.8	1,374
Employment							
Not employed	5.1	28.1	25.6	22.4	15.4	38.2	5,892
Employed for cash	3.0	21.5	22.1	18.4	11.2	30.3	1,339
Employed not for cash	15.3	47.8	45.2	36.7	30.6	60.7	842
Total	5.8	29.1	27.0	23.2	16.3	39.2	8,075

There are differences in terms of justification of violence between women who live in urban versus rural areas, and between women living in different regions. While 57 percent of women in rural areas think that wife beating would be justified in at least one of the circumstances specified, the proportion drops to 32 percent for urban women. For both urban and rural women, arguing with the husband is the most often agreed reason for wife beating. Almost half of women in the East agree with at least one of the circumstances specified (49 percent). In two NUTS 1 regions in the western areas of the country, Northeast Anatolia and Southeast Anatolia, the proportion is above 50 percent. The proportion drops to 33 percent in the West and 36 percent in the North. The proportion is at its lowest in İstanbul.

The table clearly shows the importance of women's education in the elimination of wife beating, although it is still interesting that even among women who have completed at least high school (have completed at least 11 grades), 9 percent agree to wife beating for some reason. Among women with little or no education, two-thirds of women (62 percent) agree with at least one specified reason for wife beating. The most common reason cited by these women is arguing with the husband (49 percent) and spending too much money (48 percent). As expected, women who are not employed in the formal sector but who are possibly employed in the family business justify wife beating more than their counterparts (61 percent).

3.6 Child Care While Working

Table 3.7 focuses on the welfare of children under six years of age whose mothers are employed. Of women who worked in the 12 months prior to the survey, 63 percent had no children under 6 years of age. For the 37 percent of women who have one or more children, childcare is an important issue in participating in the labor force. Overall, in Turkey the main source of child care is either the mother or the relatives. The proportion of institutional care is very small with less than 5 percent. Relatives constitute a substantial proportion in taking care of children. In 37 percent of the cases, the mother takes care of children indicating that she is either taking the child with her to work or she is working at home. In one fifth of the cases it is the husband's mother (21 percent) who takes care of the children under 6 years of age while their mother is at work. It is seen that besides the mother and mother-in-law, an older female child sometimes takes the responsibility (10 percent) for her brother(s)/sister(s).

If it is the mother who takes care of the children less than six years of age, then these women are more likely to be rural women, women who do not have education above second level primary school, women living in the South and East regions and those who work on an occasional basis. It is worth noting that having an agricultural or non agricultural occupation does not cause much difference in terms of child care for children less than six while mother is at work (36 and 38 percent respectively).

On one hand, the results reflect the presence of intra-family solidarity in childrearing; on the other, they also underline the patriarchal structure of the society. When persons other than the mother are considered, it is the husband's mother rather than the woman's mother who is taking care of children.

3.7 Child care while working

Percentage of employed women with and without a child under six years of age and percent distribution of employed mothers of a child under six years of age by person who cares for child while mother is at work, according to background characteristics, Turkey 2003

Background characteristic	No children under 6 years	One or more children	Child's caretaker while mother is at work										No work since birth	Other	Missing	Total	Number of women
			Respondent	Husband/partner	Older female child	Woman's mother	Husband's mother	Older male child	Other relative	Servant, hired help	Institutional care						
Residence																	
Urban	67.4	32.6	34.0	2.7	7.4	13.4	16.5	0.5	5.4	7.6	8.9	2.9	0.4	0.3	100.0	1,887	
Rural	58.2	41.8	40.2	2.3	13.5	4.8	26.2	1.6	7.5	0.5	0.3	2.2	0.8	0.2	100.0	1,479	
Education																	
No educ./Prim.	60.2	39.8	39.8	0.7	28.3	3.2	15.7	3.4	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.3	0.4	100.0	718	
First level prm.	64.6	35.4	44.4	3.1	7.3	8.9	24.4	0.3	7.2	0.7	0.3	2.7	0.6	0.1	100.0	1,793	
Second level prm.	63.1	36.9	43.7	7.7	1.5	9.1	21.2	1.6	7.2	0.0	4.0	3.3	0.0	0.6	100.0	187	
High school and higher	63.4	36.6	13.3	1.6	0.2	16.2	20.2	0.0	4.4	18.5	21.3	4.0	0.0	0.4	100.0	668	
Region																	
West	72.3	27.7	30.1	2.3	6.4	15.6	20.8	1.0	5.6	6.2	7.4	4.2	0.2	0.2	100.0	1,398	
South	59.4	40.6	47.2	2.8	7.5	9.4	17.6	1.3	5.3	3.4	2.4	1.9	0.3	0.9	100.0	421	
Central	63.0	37.0	35.7	3.3	7.2	9.3	24.1	0.8	7.3	4.1	5.6	1.8	0.7	0.0	100.0	724	
North	63.9	36.1	34.9	4.8	11.8	2.3	31.1	0.9	7.4	1.8	3.4	1.2	0.0	0.3	100.0	351	
East	40.5	59.5	43.1	0.6	20.2	2.7	17.4	1.3	7.2	2.3	1.6	2.0	1.5	0.1	100.0	473	
NUTS 1 Region																	
Istanbul	73.1	26.9	34.7	2.5	8.5	11.9	11.7	2.1	4.8	6.6	12.1	5.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	494	
West Marmara	71.7	28.3	26.1	1.6	10.0	14.1	28.6	2.3	3.2	7.9	0.0	3.2	1.6	1.6	100.0	179	
Aegean	72.1	27.9	30.8	3.2	3.2	15.6	30.0	0.0	3.6	4.4	5.9	3.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	659	
East Marmara	71.7	28.3	18.0	2.3	4.7	16.1	27.5	1.4	14.5	8.6	4.2	2.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	261	
West Anatolia	58.3	41.7	35.0	0.0	8.2	14.7	13.0	1.0	9.4	4.8	10.3	2.6	1.0	0.0	100.0	260	
Mediterranean	59.4	40.6	47.2	2.8	7.5	9.4	17.6	1.3	5.3	3.4	2.4	1.9	0.3	0.9	100.0	421	
Central Anatolia	57.7	42.3	33.9	5.4	14.2	7.2	25.5	0.0	3.5	2.4	3.7	3.0	1.2	0.0	100.0	159	
West Black Sea	69.3	30.7	40.9	4.2	4.3	1.7	33.2	0.0	8.3	2.3	3.3	1.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	271	
East Black Sea	56.7	43.3	39.9	6.2	13.9	3.0	24.5	1.4	7.2	1.5	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	100.0	189	
Northeast Anatolia	46.7	53.3	60.7	0.0	11.2	1.9	16.2	1.2	4.5	1.0	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.5	100.0	126	
Central East Anatolia	41.9	58.1	35.5	0.0	26.6	2.6	17.4	0.7	7.2	1.5	3.0	2.2	3.2	0.0	100.0	137	
Southeast Anatolia	35.7	64.3	38.7	1.3	20.9	3.1	17.9	1.7	8.5	3.5	0.9	2.2	1.3	0.0	100.0	209	
Occupation																	
Agricultural	61.1	38.9	35.7	1.6	14.9	6.5	28.8	1.3	7.8	0.2	0.0	2.1	0.5	0.4	100.0	1,323	
Non-agricultural	64.8	35.2	38.2	3.1	7.2	10.9	16.0	0.9	5.5	6.7	7.9	2.9	0.7	0.2	100.0	2,042	
Continuity of employment																	
All year	65.9	34.1	28.8	1.8	11.7	10.1	20.0	0.5	5.7	8.3	9.2	2.9	0.7	0.2	100.0	1,705	
Seasonal	61.8	38.2	39.0	2.1	11.4	5.7	27.4	1.2	8.3	0.1	0.7	2.8	0.8	0.4	100.0	1,203	
Occasional	58.0	42.0	58.3	5.4	4.3	12.9	11.0	2.3	4.7	0.3	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	454	
Missing	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	100.0	4	
Total	63.3	36.7	37.1	2.5	10.4	9.0	21.3	1.1	6.5	4.0	4.6	2.6	0.6	0.3	100.0	3,366	

Note: An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

