

Do women around the Pacific experience similar types of violence?

Findings from the Pacific Family Health and Safety Studies

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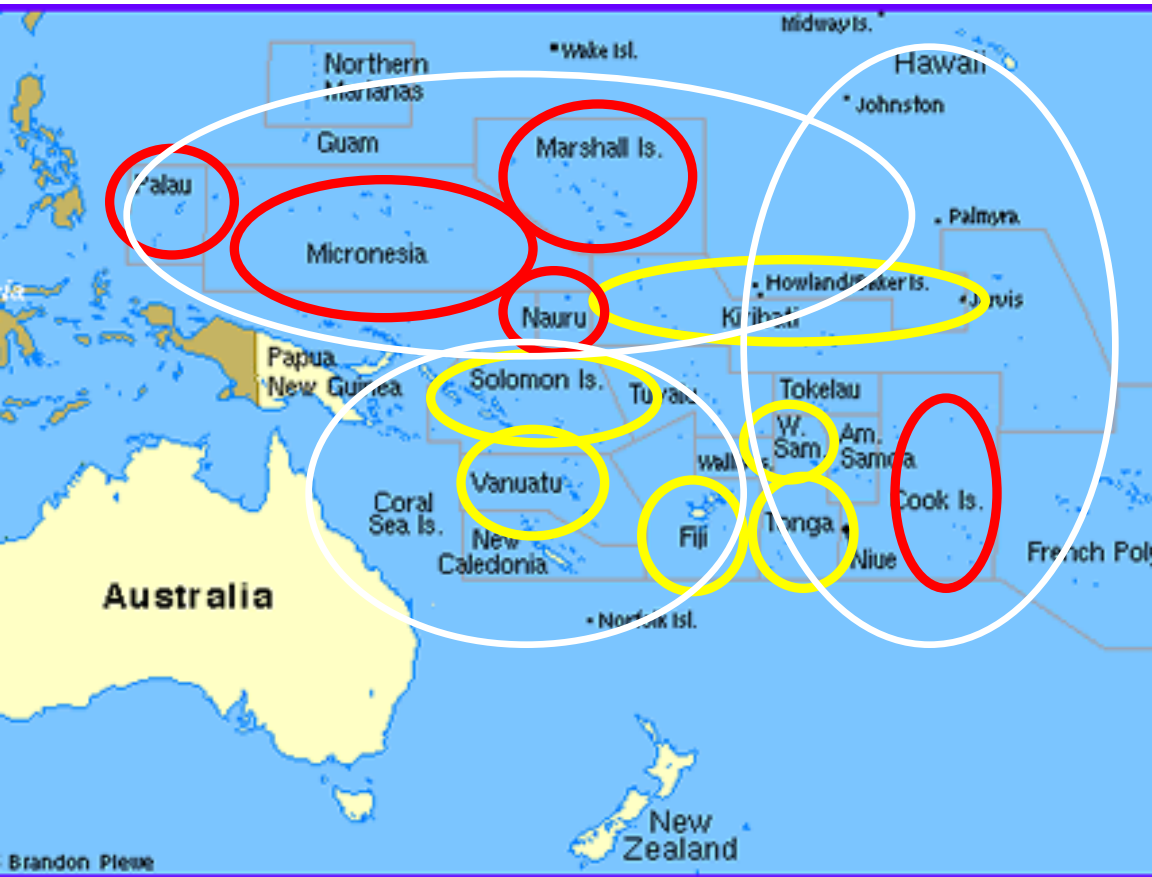


**Two out of every three women are affected
by violence across the Pacific...**

[Amnesty International, 2012]



VAW studies in the Pacific region



- 2000: Samoa (Govt, SPC, UNFPA, with WHO)
- 2007: Solomon Islands and Kiribati (Gov, SPC, AusAID, UNFPA)
- 2008: Vanuatu (VWC, AusAID, NZAID)
- 2009: Tonga (MFF, AusAID)
- 2010: Fiji (FWCC, AusAID)

2012-2013 (UNFPA,, AusAID):

- Cook Islands
- Federated States Micronesia
- Marshall Islands
- Nauru
- Palau

Family health and safety studies

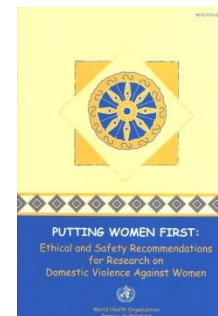
Objectives of the Pacific “FHSS”

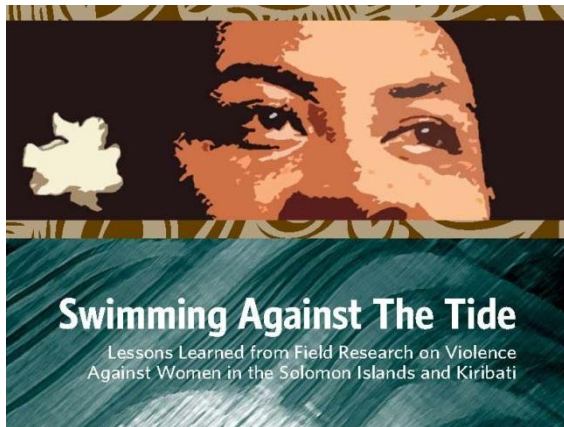
- To obtain reliable estimates of the prevalence and frequency of different types of violence against women
- To document the associations between intimate partner violence and health outcomes
- To identify and compare risk and protective factors for intimate partner violence
- To explore and compare coping strategies used by women experiencing intimate partner violence



Methodology (WHO)

- Quantitative household survey of women; one randomly selected woman per household
- Qualitative component
- Standardized 3 week training of field staff
- Standardized questionnaire
- Respondent is asked direct questions about experience of different acts of violence
- Strict ethical and safety measures





http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/pacific/drive/Swimming_Against_the_tide.pdf

“We met with an angry man who did not want us to interview his wife. We made a plan with the respondent to hide. We met at the sport complex. We finished the interview because the husband did not find us. This is a difficult way to do the work, but we always managed to finish every interview.”

Interviewer in Kiribati



Types of violence measured

Violence by current or former intimate partners/husbands:

- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Emotional abuse and controlling behaviours
- Economic abuse

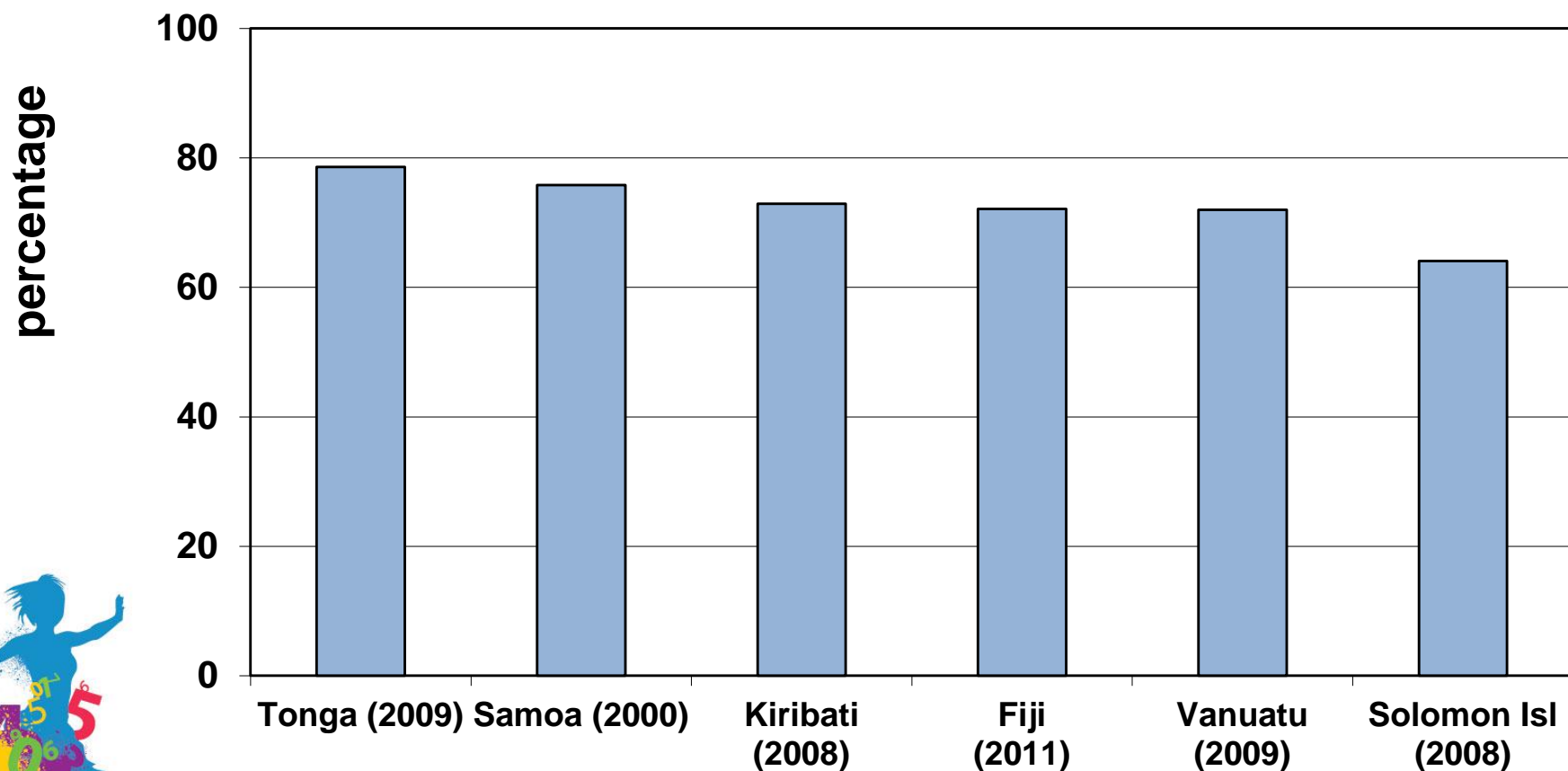
Violence by others (parents, neighbours, strangers, etc):

- Physical violence (after age 15 years)
- Sexual violence (after age 15 years)
- Childhood sexual abuse (prior to age 15 years)



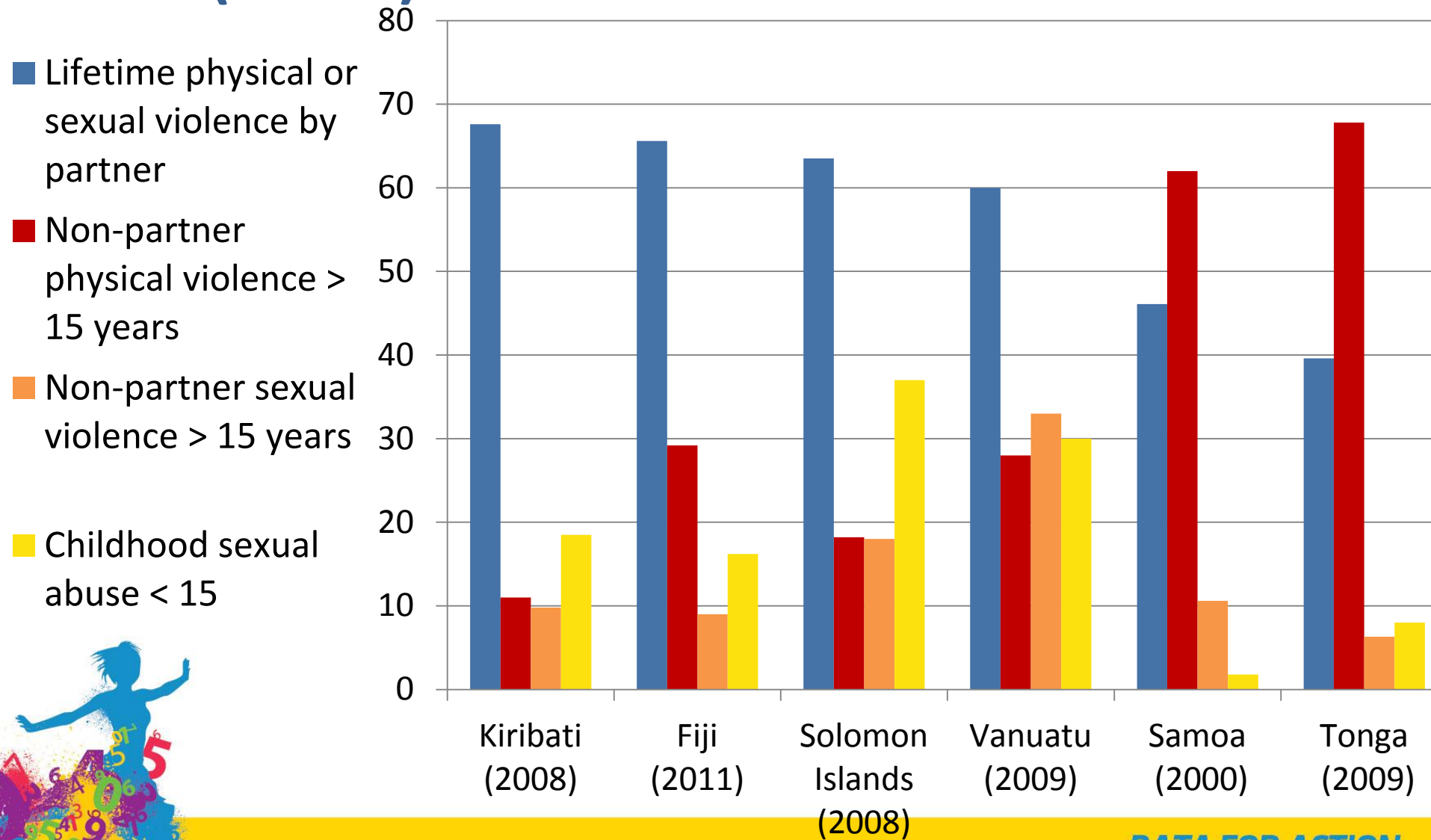
Do women around the Pacific have similar experiences of violence?

Prevalence of lifetime physical or sexual violence against women by anyone since age 15, among women 15-49 years old



Fiji data differ from published results due to difference in age group

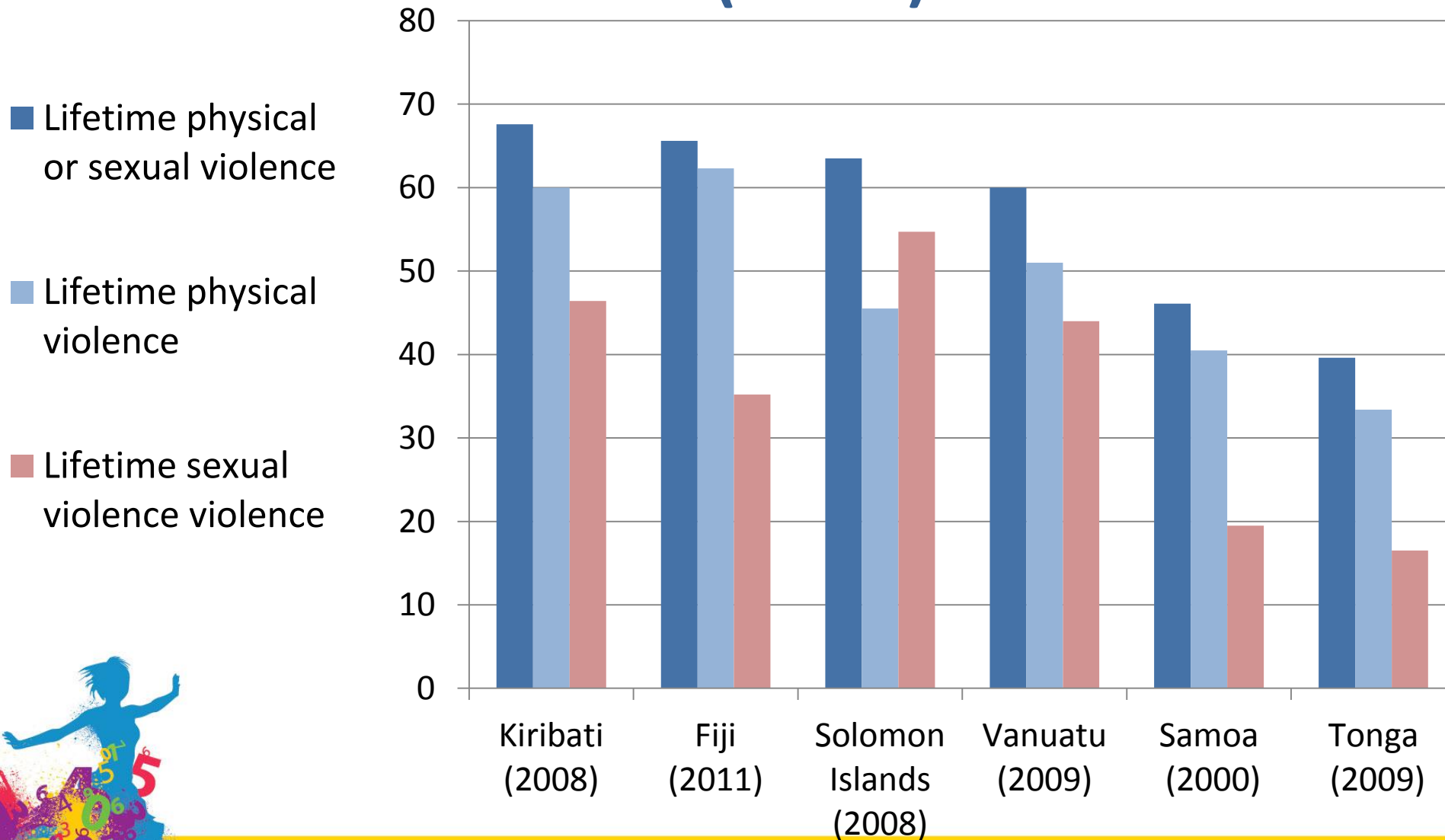
Patterns of violence against women (15-49) in Pacific Island countries



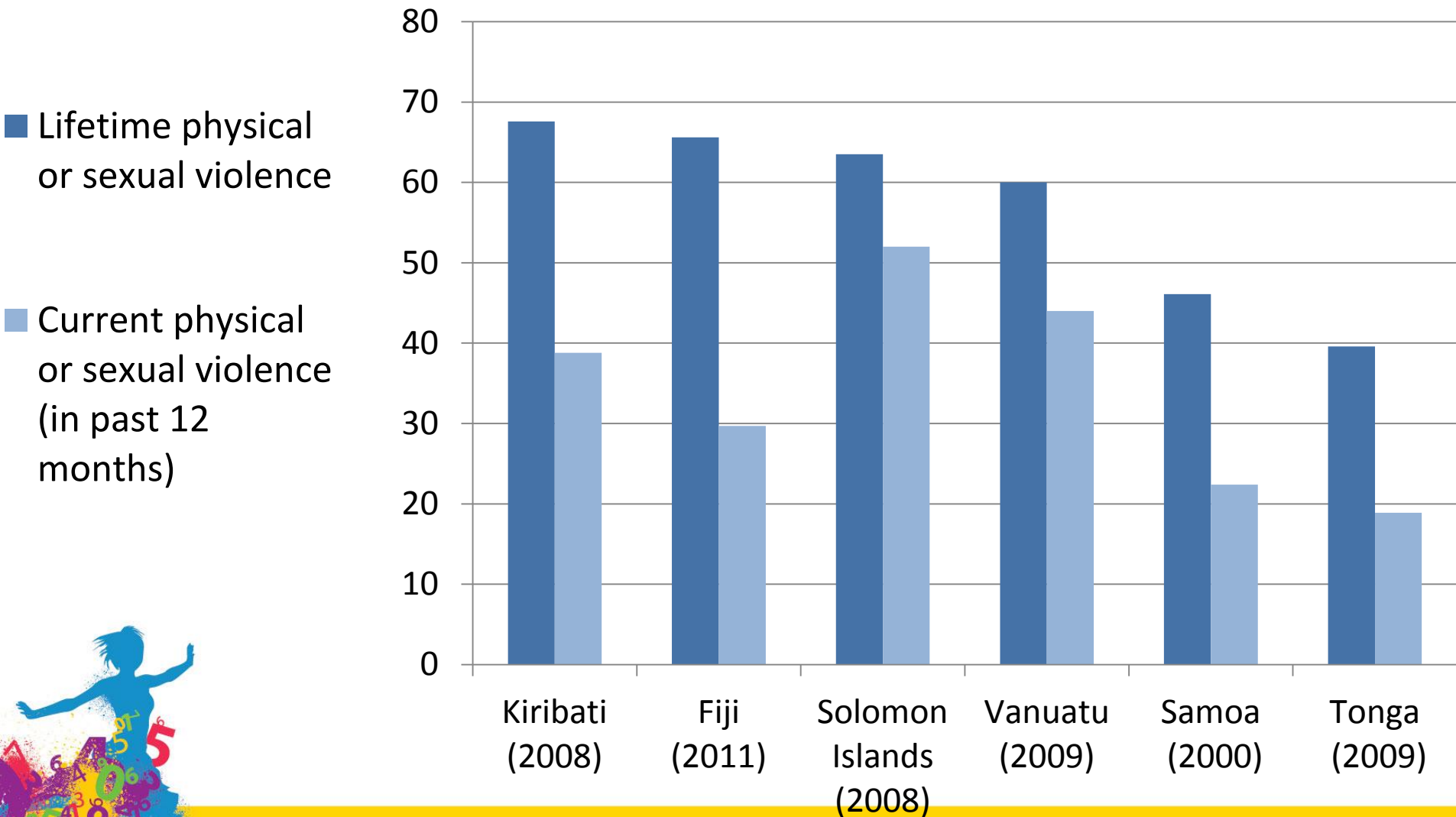
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Fiji data differ from published results due to difference in age group

Physical or sexual partner violence against women (15-49)



Lifetime and current physical or sexual partner violence against women (15-49)



Fiji data differ from published results due to difference in age group

Solomon Islands and Kiribati 12-month data differ from published data

Results that all countries have in common:

- Associations between partner violence and women's health
- Associations between partner violence and behavioural issues among the children
- Silence and stigma; majority of women have never contacted formal support services
- Associations with the woman and her partner's experience with violence in their own childhood, the partner's alcohol use, extramarital affairs and fighting with other men



Points to take home ...

- Violence against women affects many women and their families everywhere, but is still a hidden problem
- Importance of understanding types and patterns
- The variation in levels of violence across settings illustrate that violence is not inevitable – risk factor analysis show entry points for interventions
- Importance of using and translating results so that they can feed into interventions.



Violence is never acceptable,
never excusable, never tolerable !



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Photos: Henriette Jansen