



# **Mistreatment of older persons in Europe and in Italy**

## **Results from the ABUEL study**

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**CAREGIVER DAY 2015**  
**Prevenire l'Abuso verso gli Anziani**  
Carpi (MO) - 26 Maggio 2015

# MISTREATMENT OF OLDER PERSONS

**Complex phenomenon**



From 3% to 27% of  
older persons  
(according to the  
survey methodology)

**Consequences**



- ✚ **Physical and mental health problems**
- ✚ **Lower life quality**
- ✚ **Pain, suffering, wounds**

# MISTREATMENT OF OLDER PERSONS

## ✚ **CATEGORIES:**

- **psychological**
- **physical**
- **sexual**
- **financial**
- neglect
- human rights violation



## ✚ **SETTING:**

- Home       $\longrightarrow$       more difficult to investigate
- Residential care       $\longrightarrow$       NAS inspections
- public

## ✚ **FREQUENCY: occasional or repeated act**



# THE EUROPEAN PROJECT ABUEL



**2008-2010**



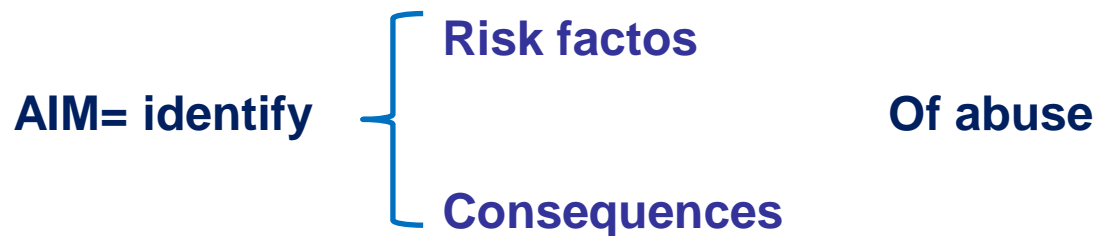
# THE EUROPEAN PROJECT ABUEL



+60-84 years old

+NO cognitive impairment

+Living at home



# THE EUROPEAN PROJECT ABUEL

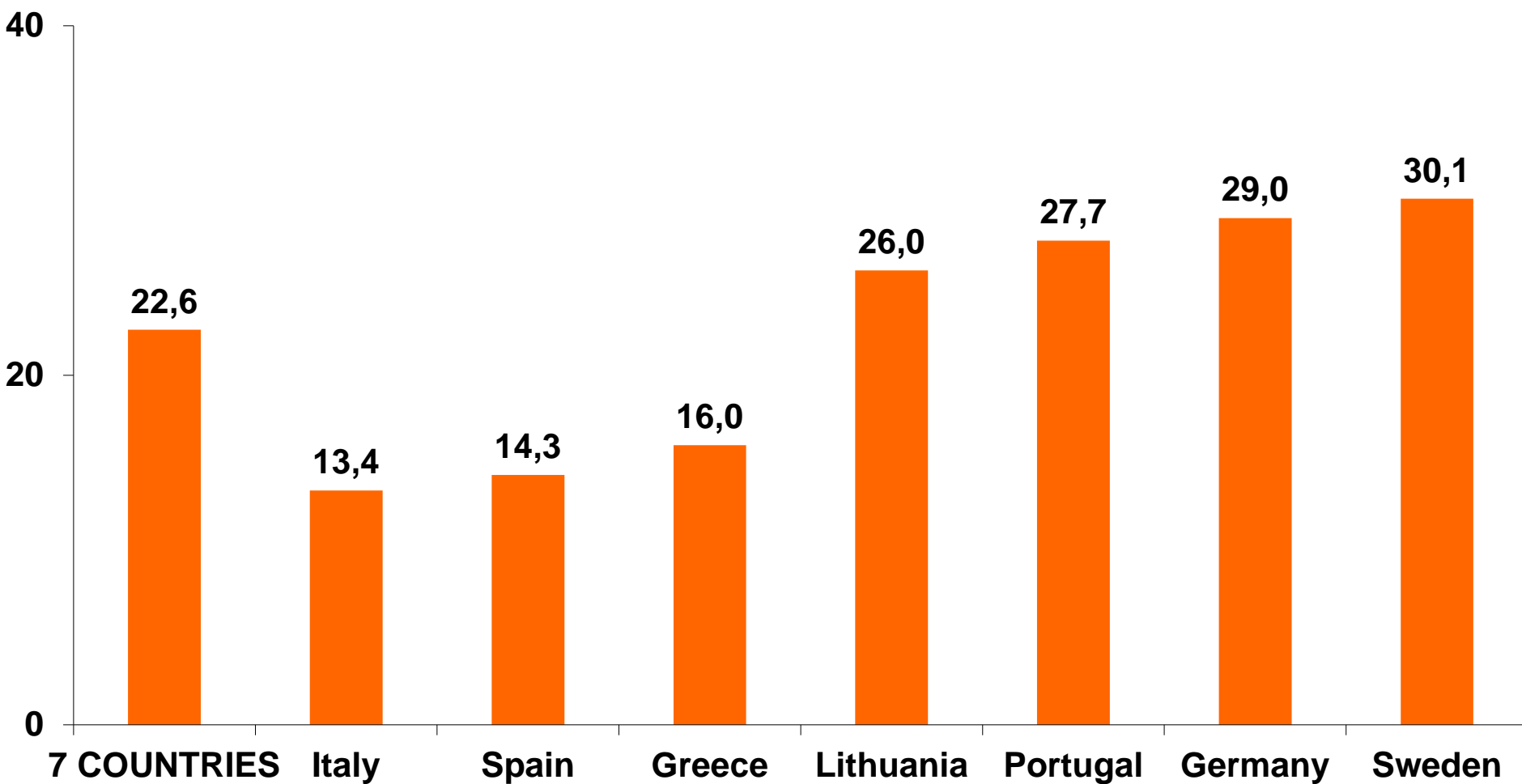


**4500 participants**

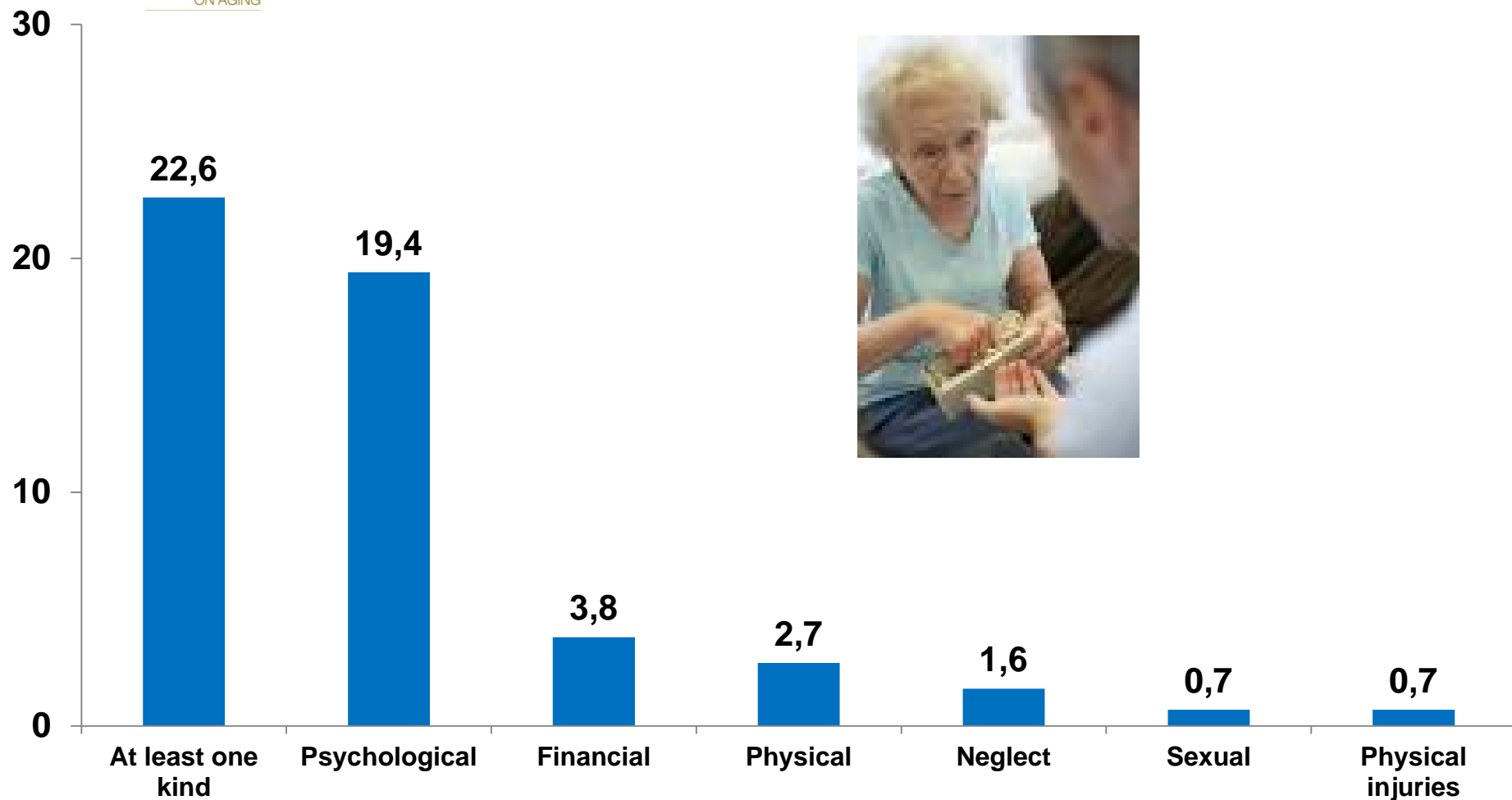


**628 participants, 270 men and 358 women**

# PREVALENCE OF EPISODES OF ABUSE



# PREVALENCE OF ABUSE CATEGORIES IN EUROPE

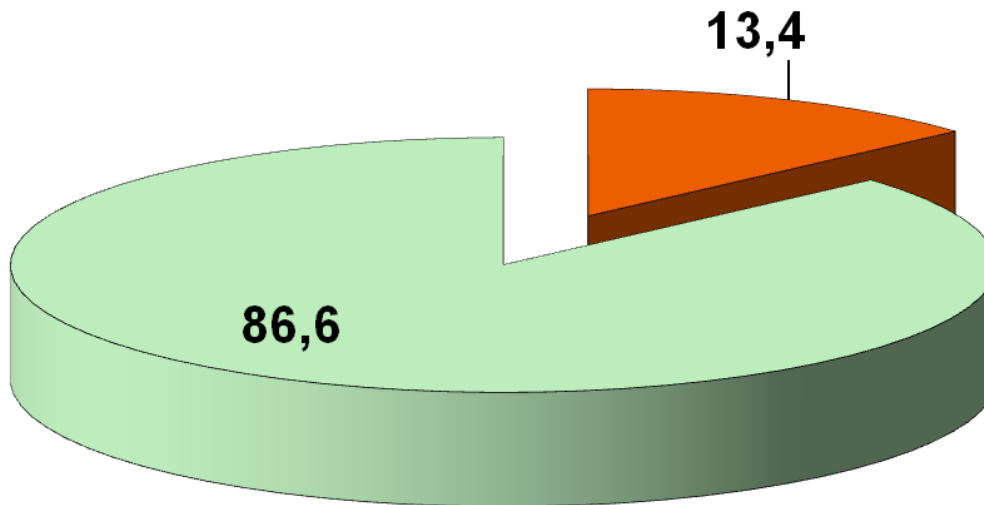




# RESULTS IN MARCHE REGION: THE CONTEXT OF ANCONA

# SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS

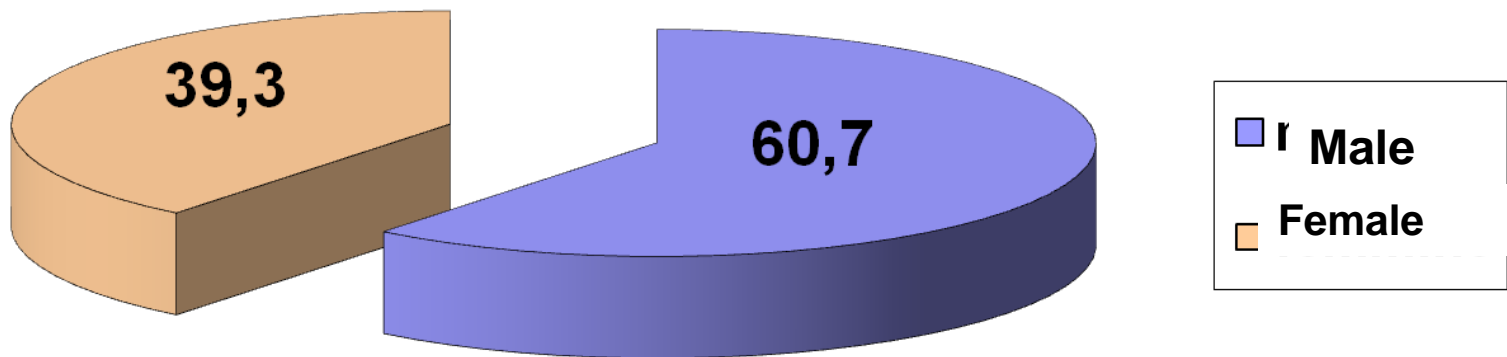
## % abuse victims (n=628)



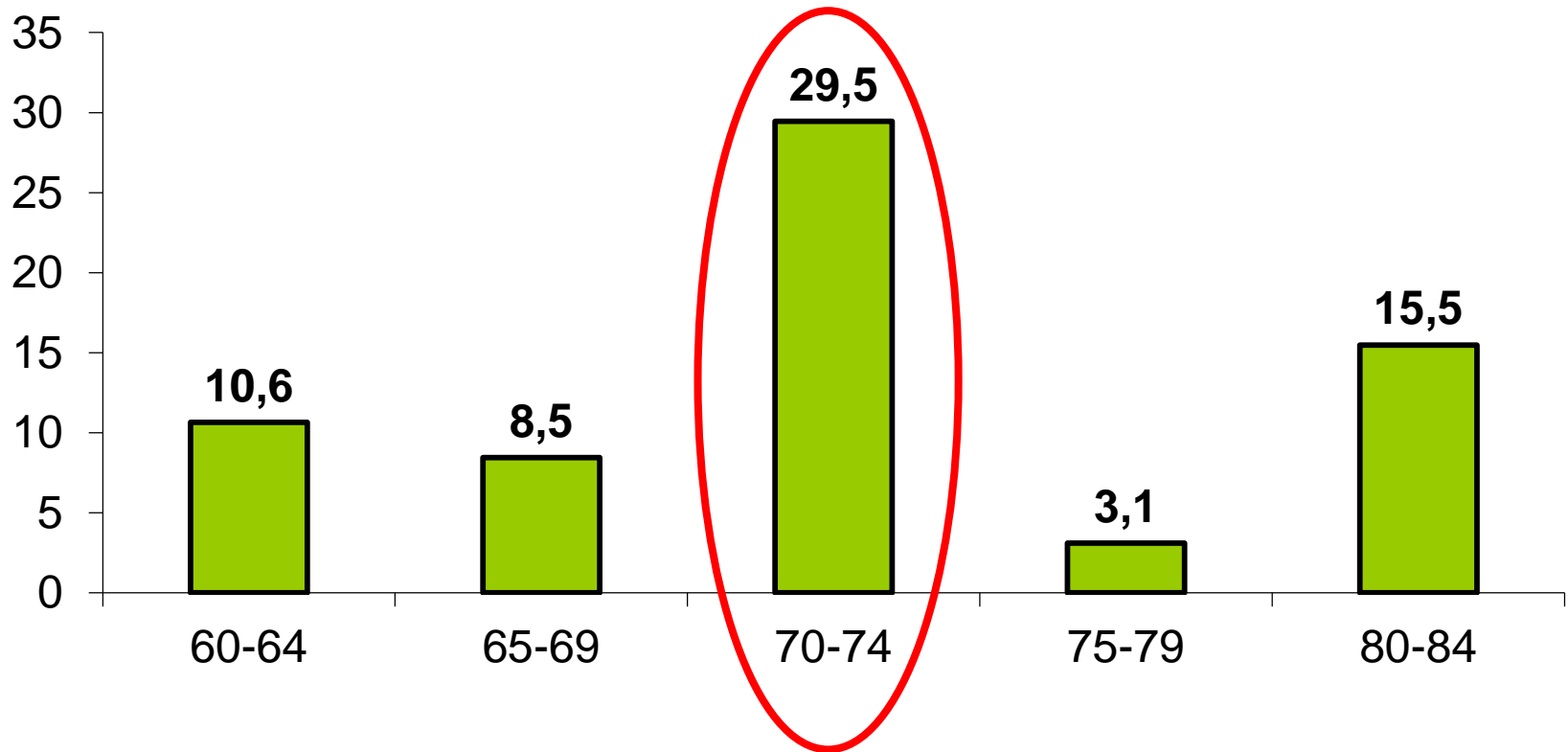
 **Victims**

 **Not-victims**

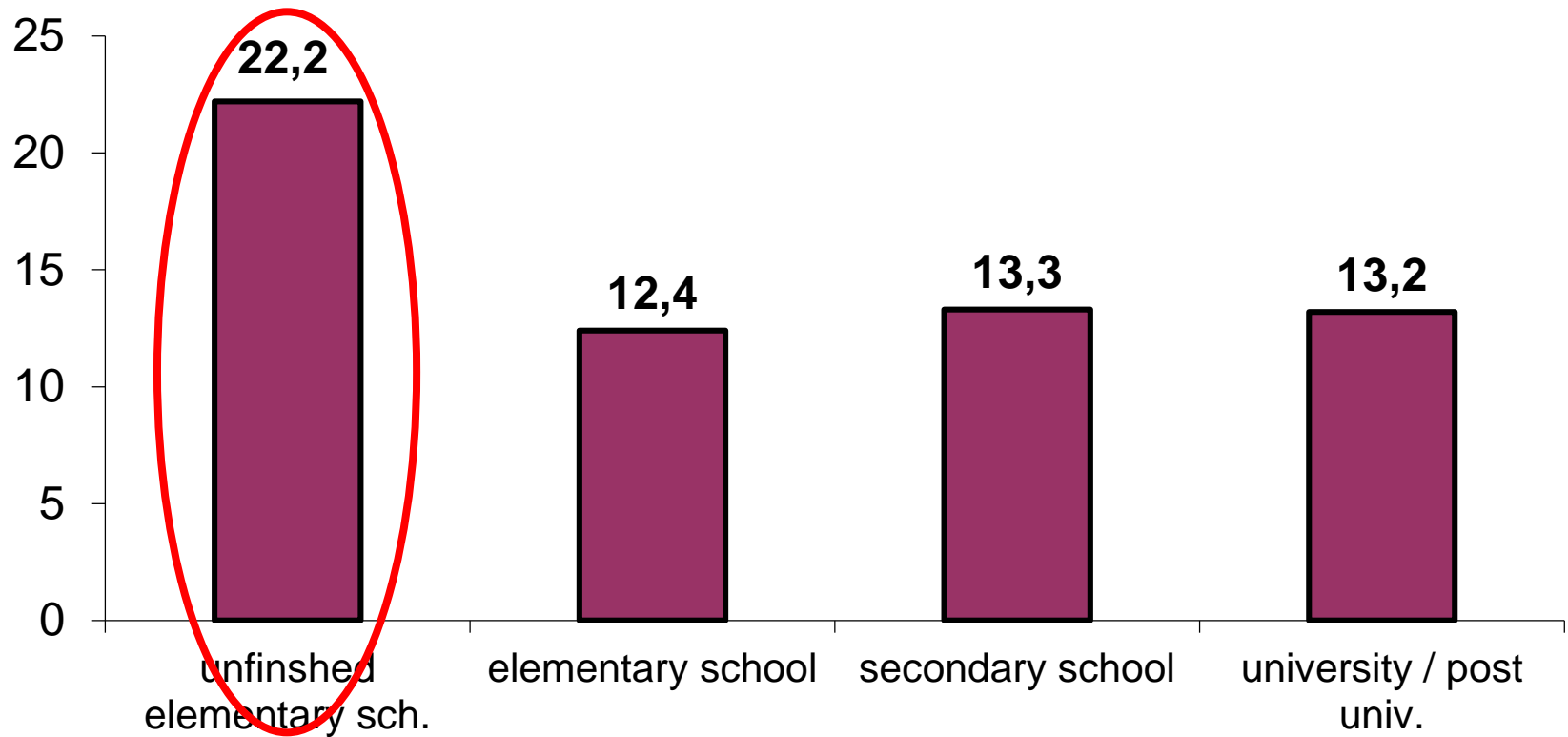
**% abuse victims according to gender (n=84)**



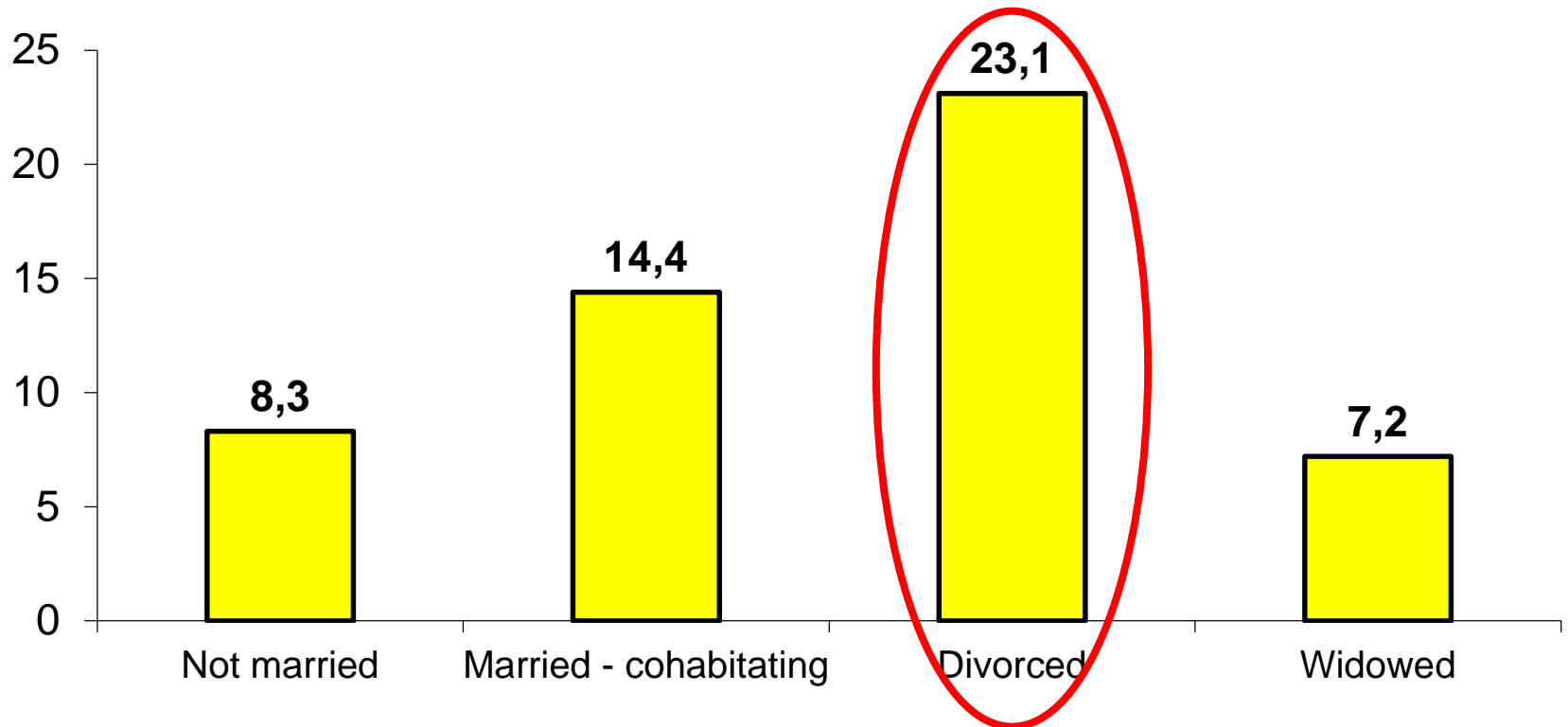
## % abuse victims according to age classes (n= total for category)



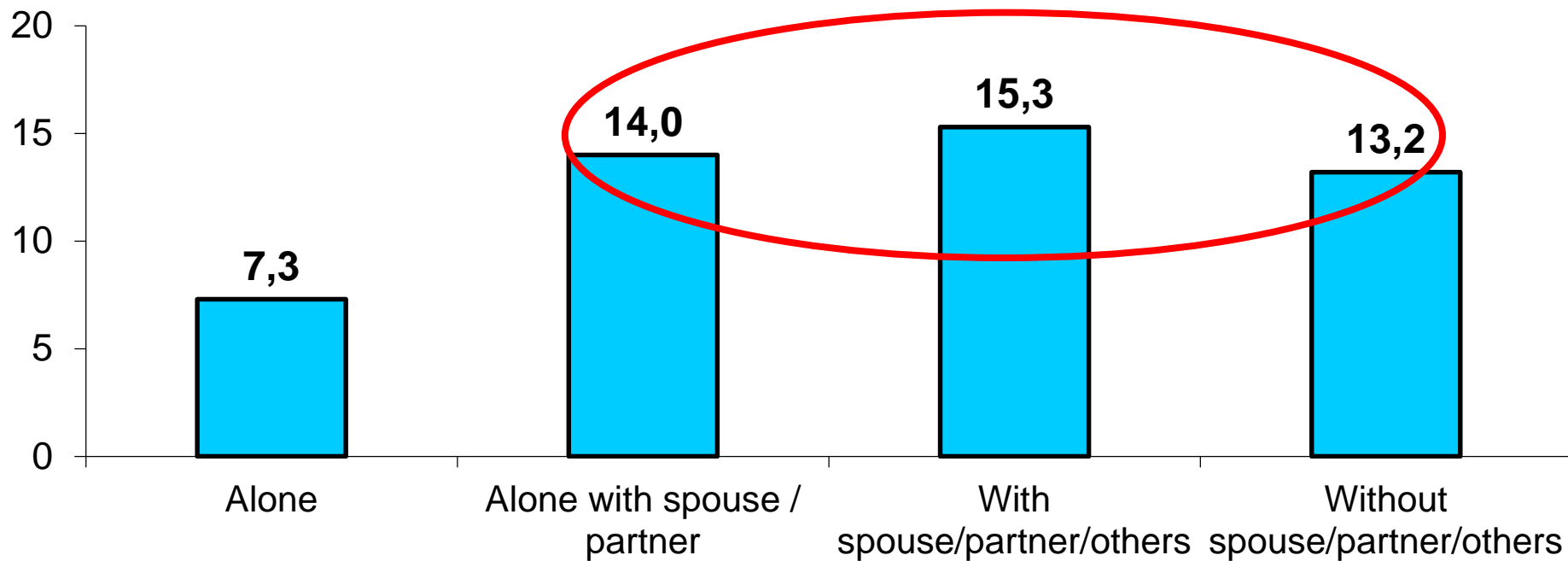
## % victims of abuse according to educational levels (n = total for category)



## % victims of abuse according to civil status

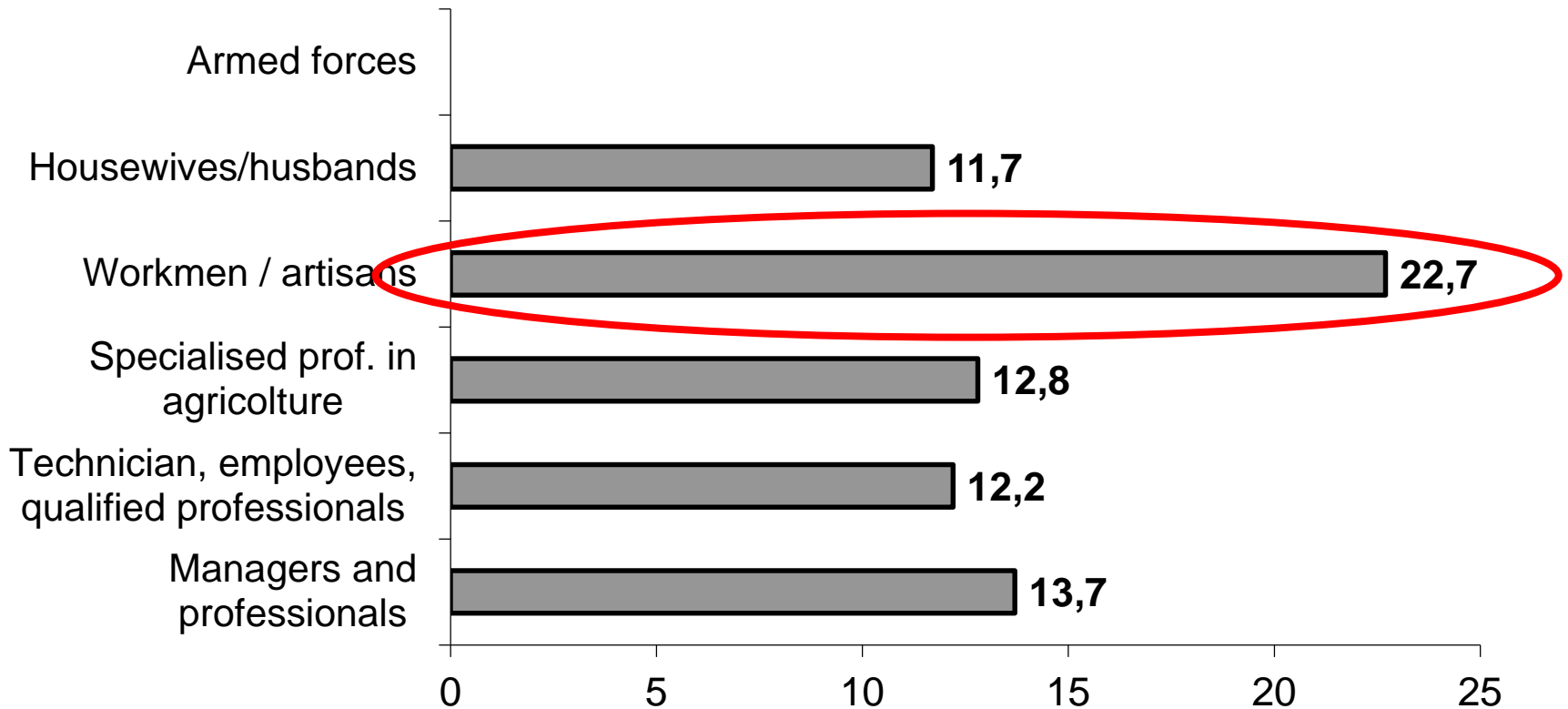


## % victims of abuse according to co-habitation

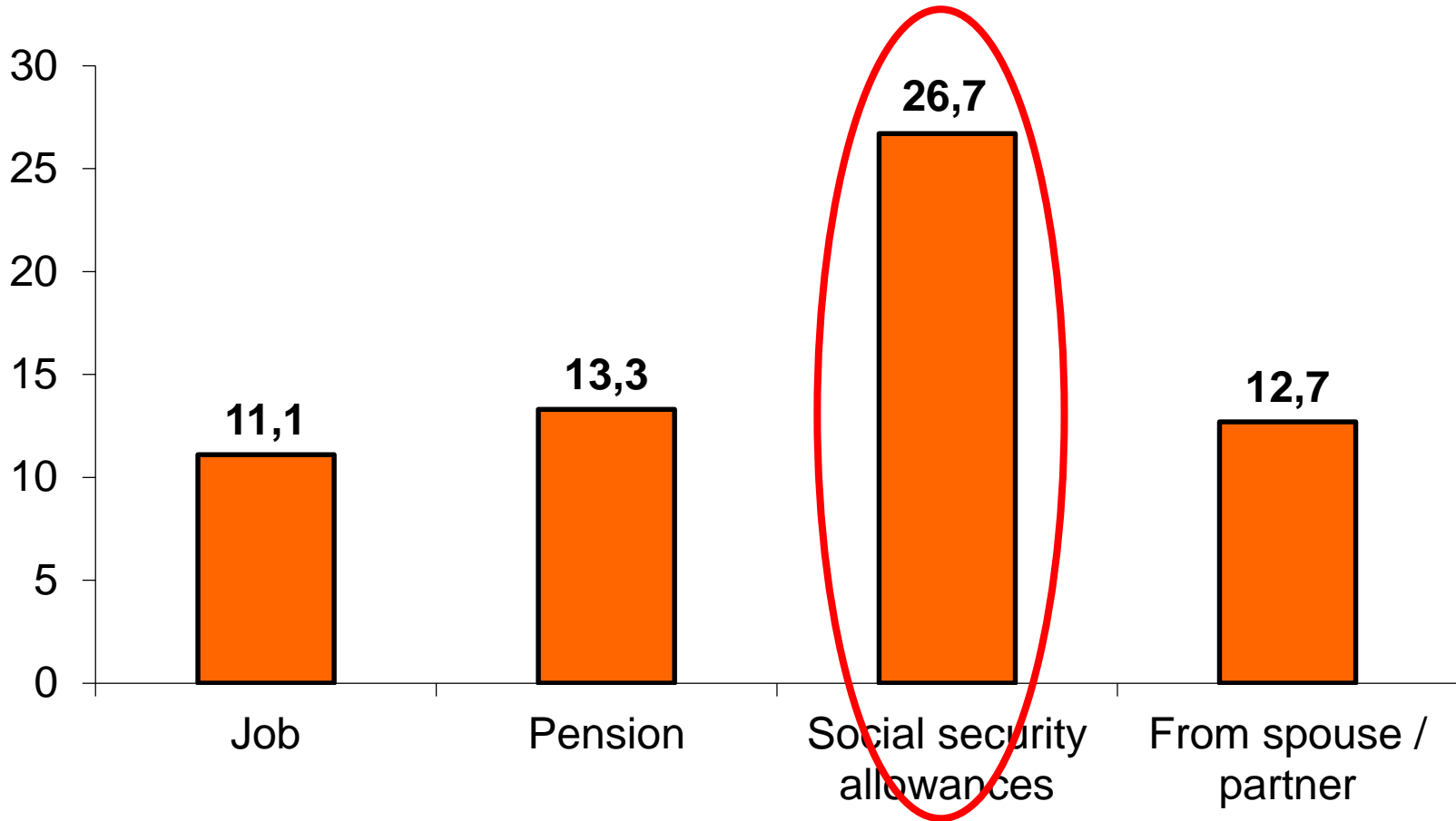




## Victims of abuse according to professional category

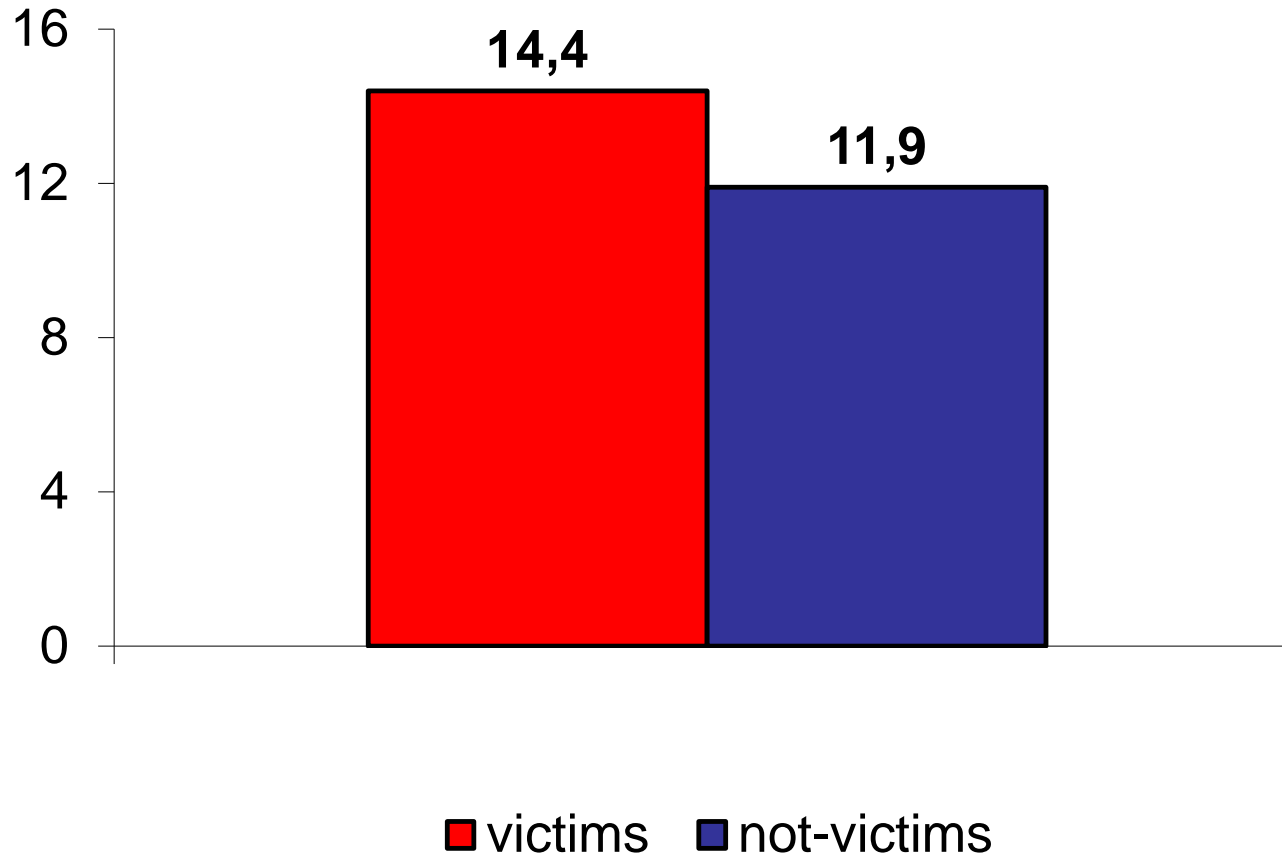


## % victims of abuse according to > income source

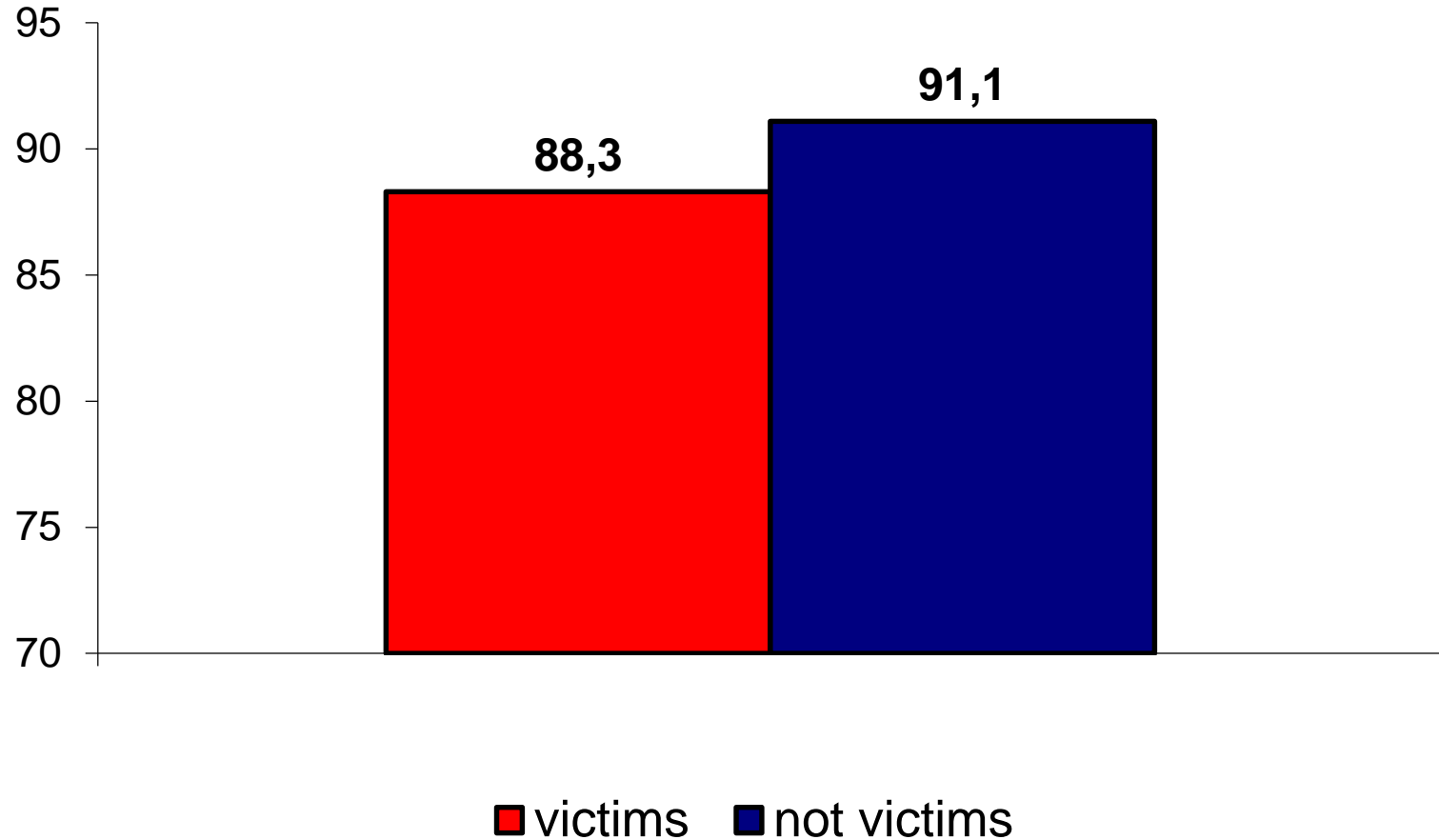


# HEALTH AND LIFE STYLES

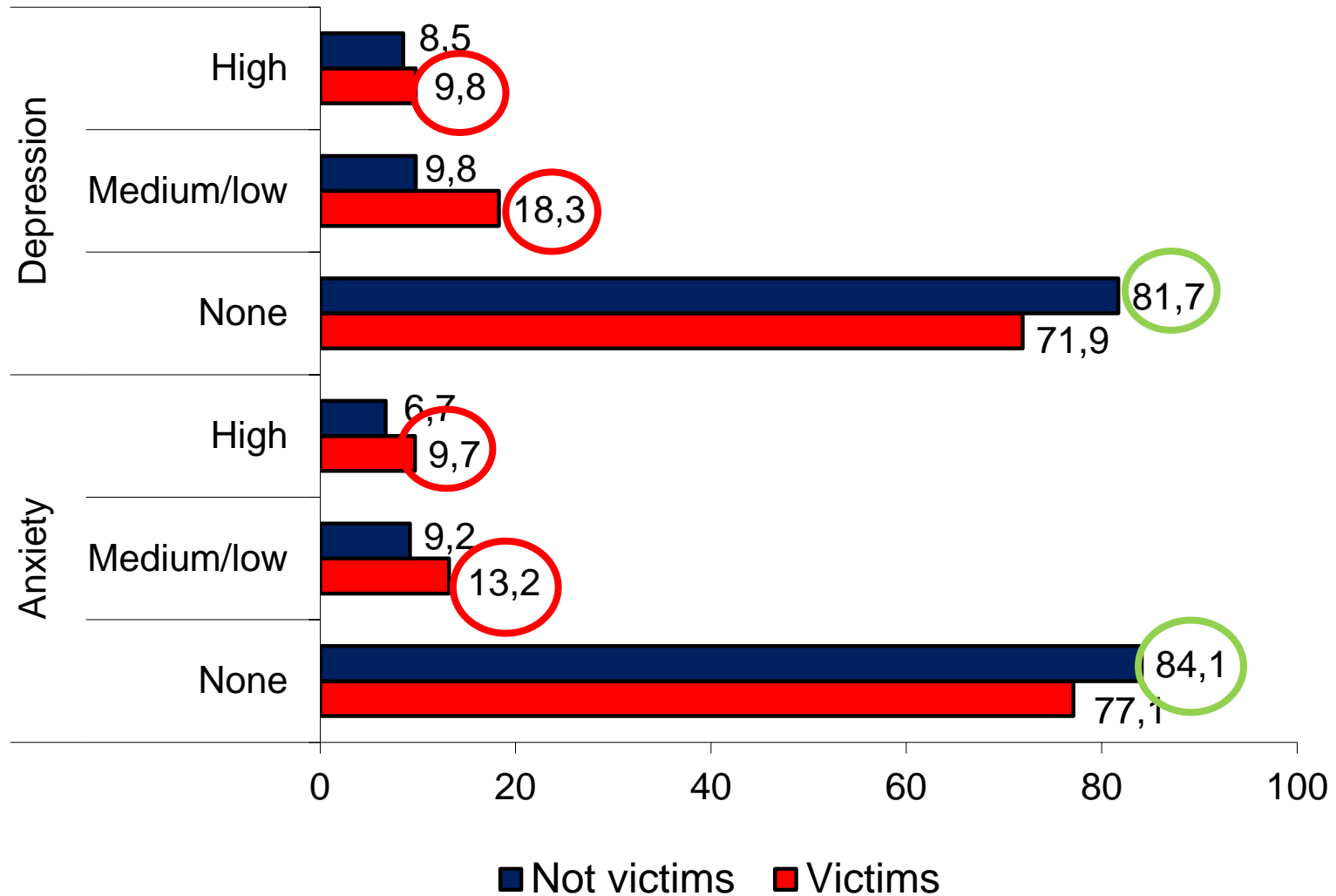
## Victims/ not victims according to diseases (average)



## Victims / not victims of abuse according to life quality (average)



## Probability of anxiety and depression for victims and not-victims



# CARACTERISTICS OF OLDER PERSON AT RISK

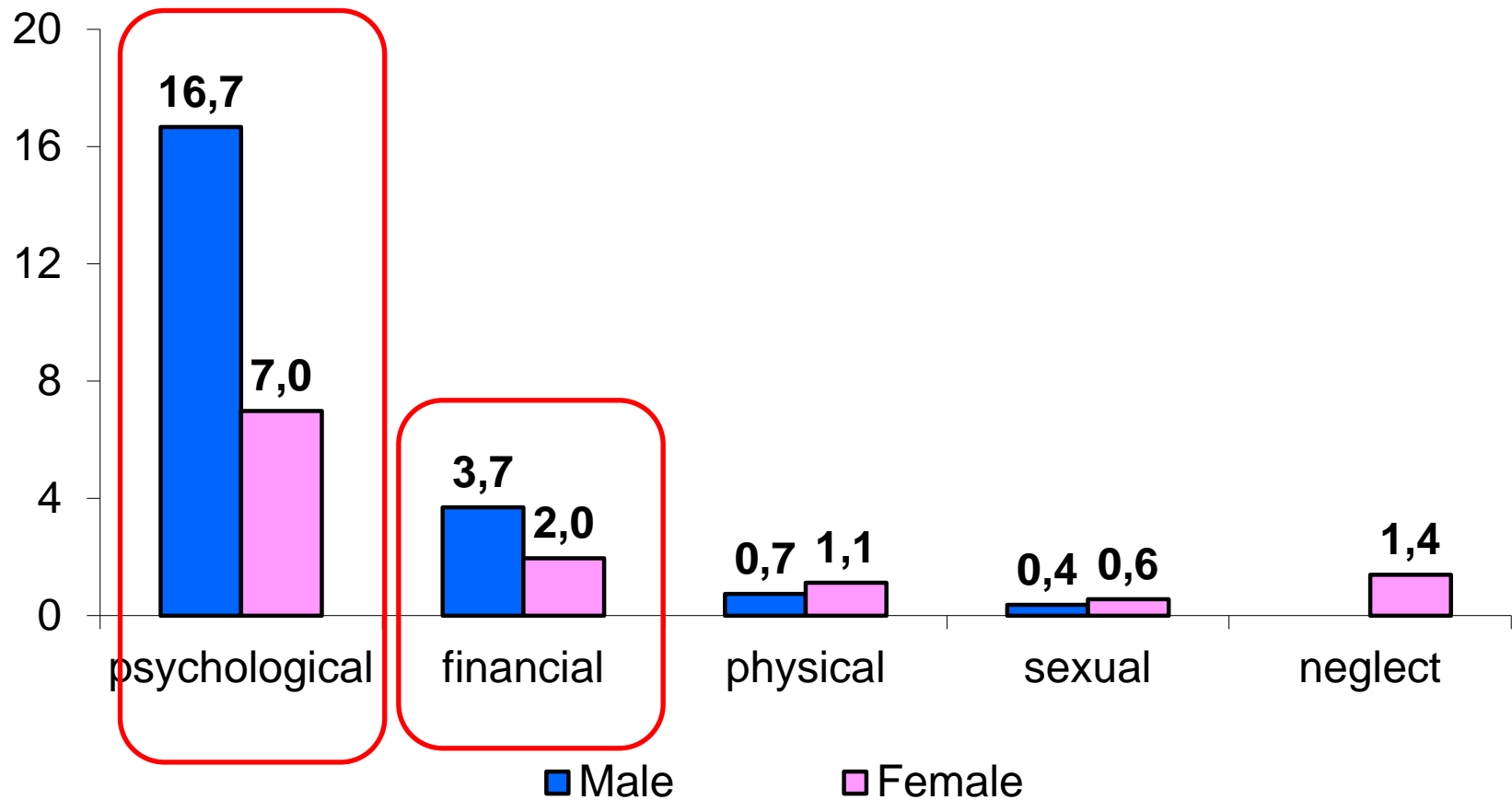
Individuals exposed to abuse are those belonging to more disadvantaged groups, with health problems and potentially victims of **social exclusion**



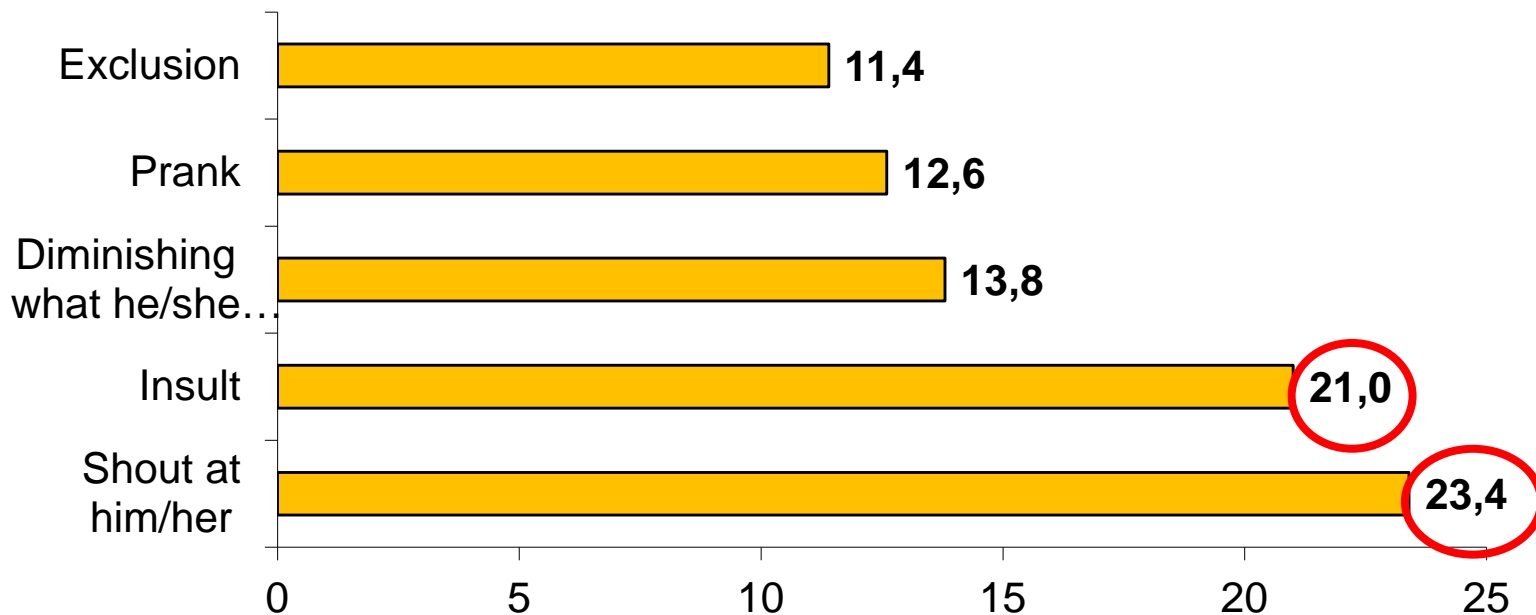
# CARACTERISTICS OF MISTREATMENT



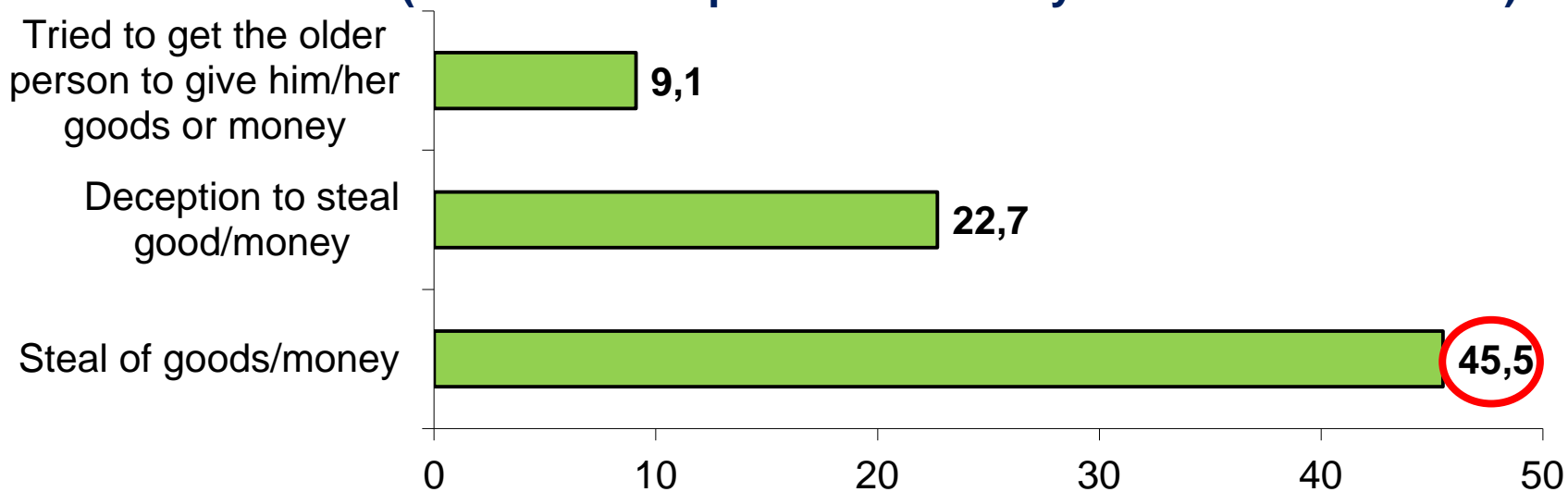
## Prevalence of types of abuse and neglect (% on all respondents: M=270; F=358; MF=628)



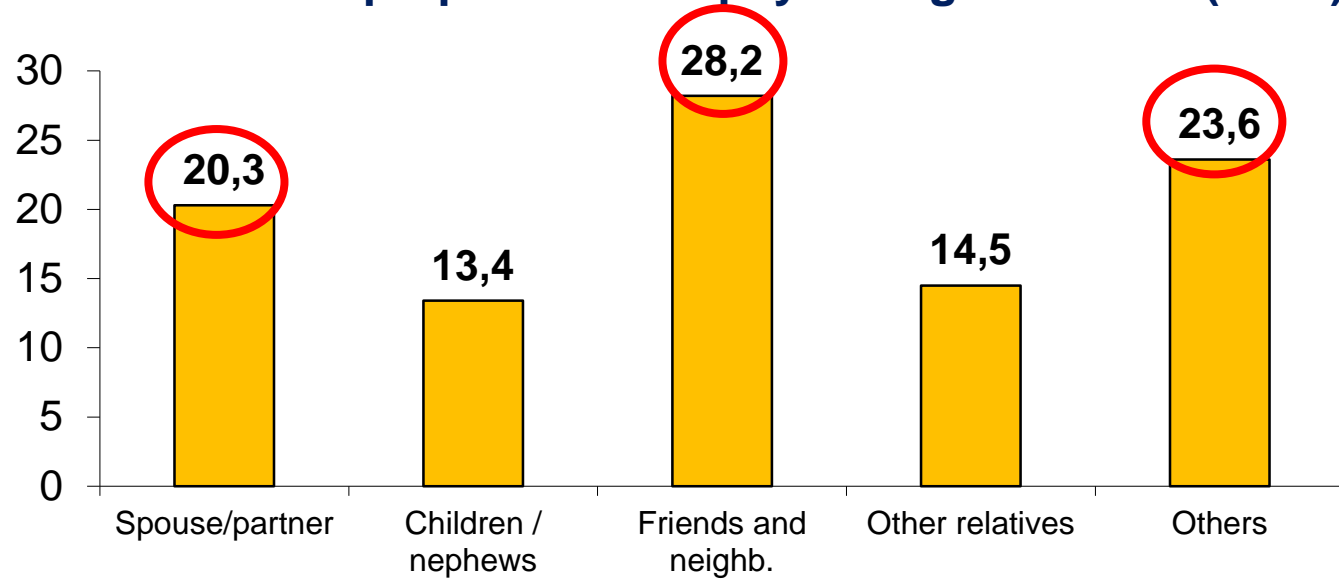
## % main episodes/events of psychological abuse (one or more episodes for every kind of abuse- n=167)



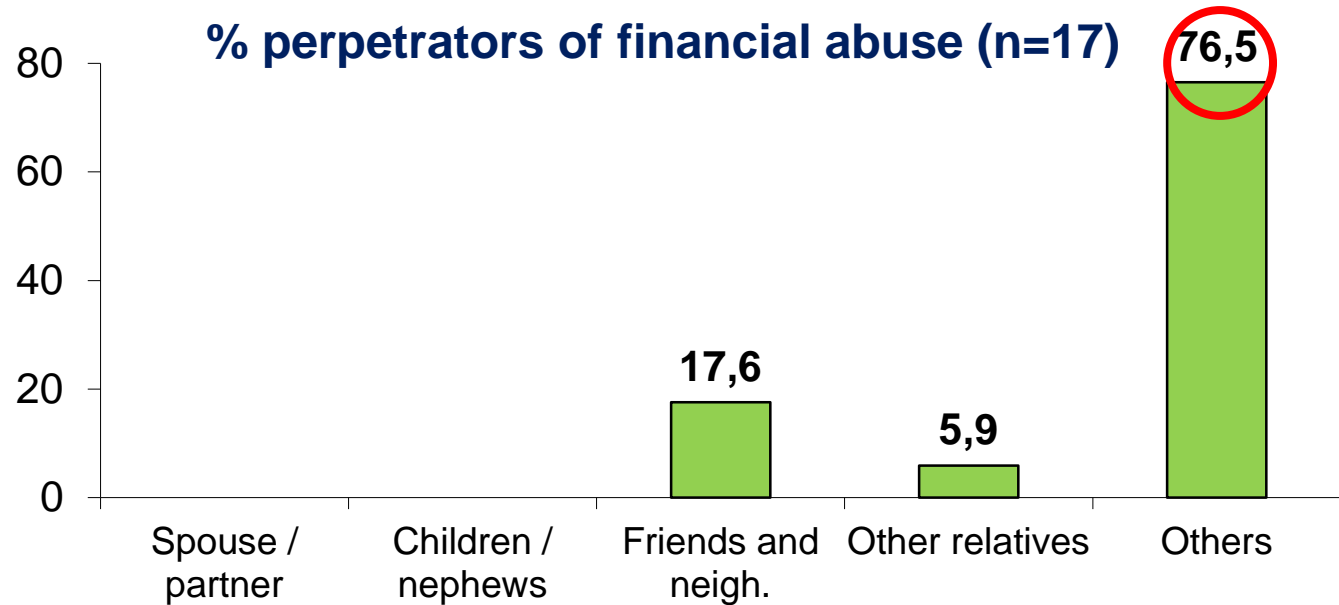
## % main episodes/events of financial abuse (one or more episodes for every kind of abuse- n=22)



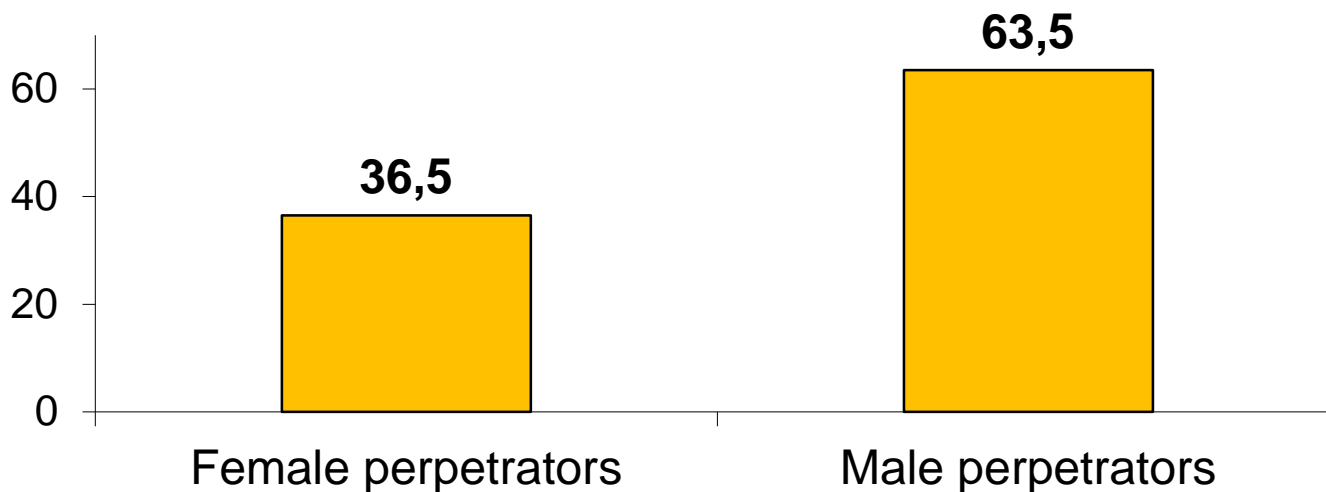
## % perpetrators of psychological abuse (n=89)



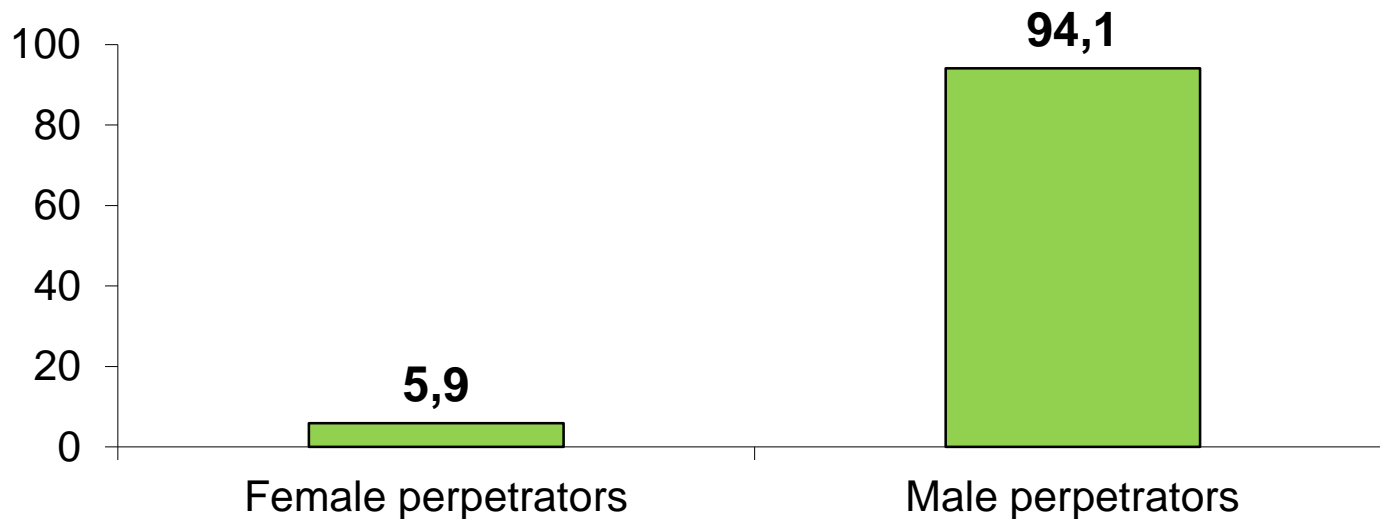
## % perpetrators of financial abuse (n=17)



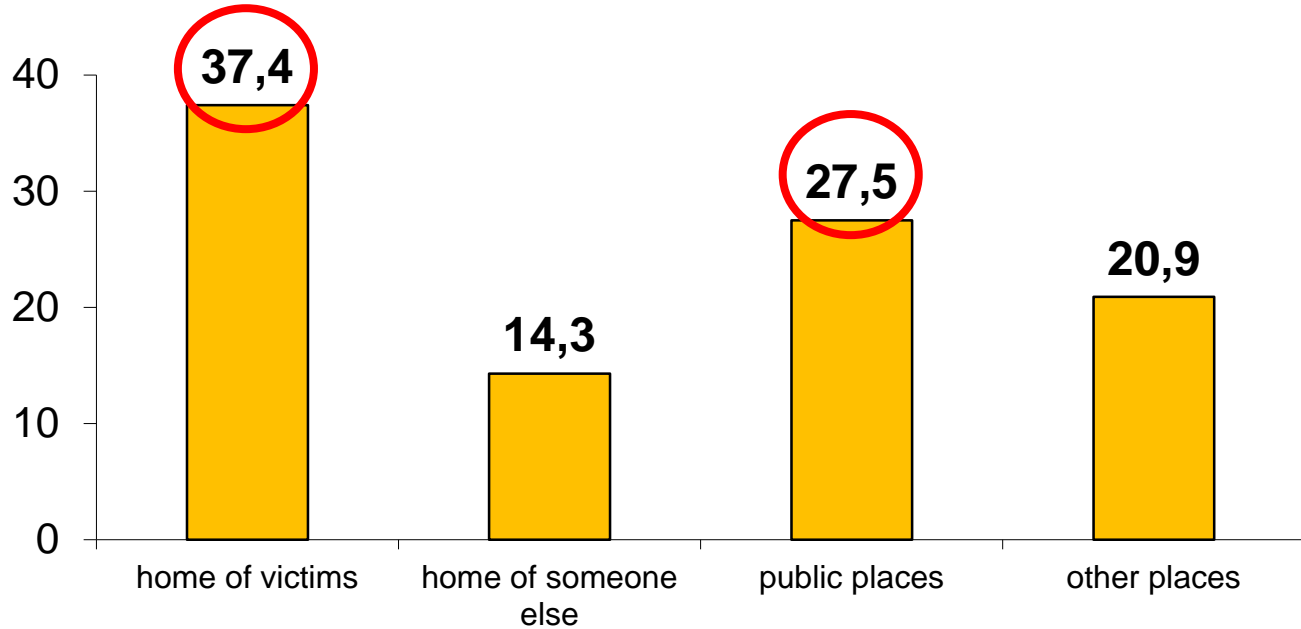
## % perpetrators of psychological abuse (n=85)



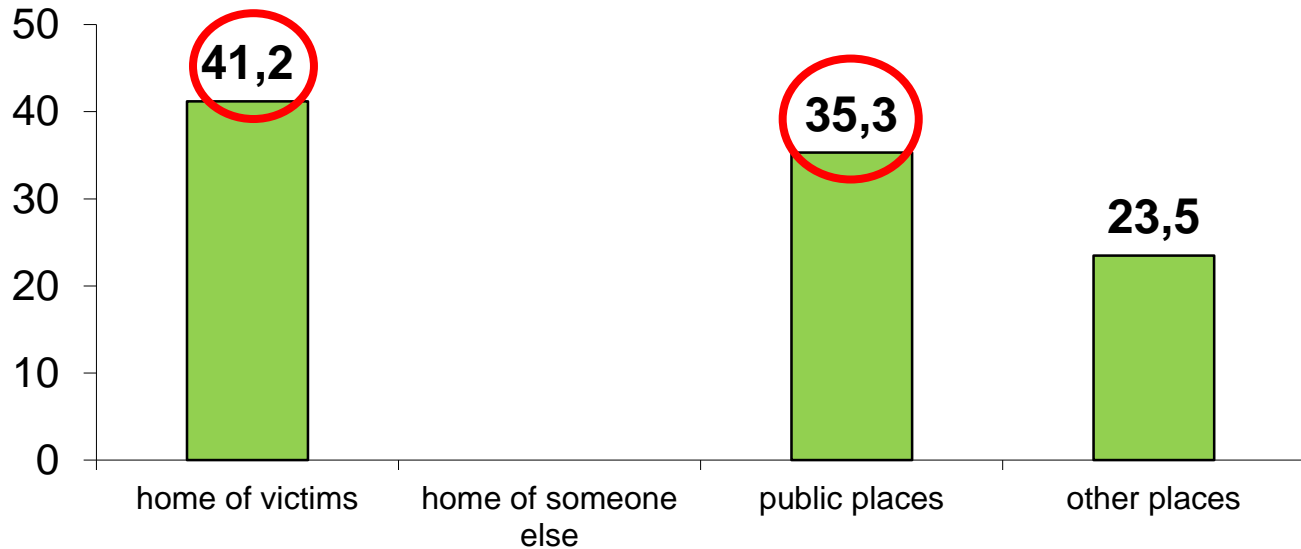
## % perpetrators of financial abuse (n=17)



## % settings of psychological abuse (n=91)

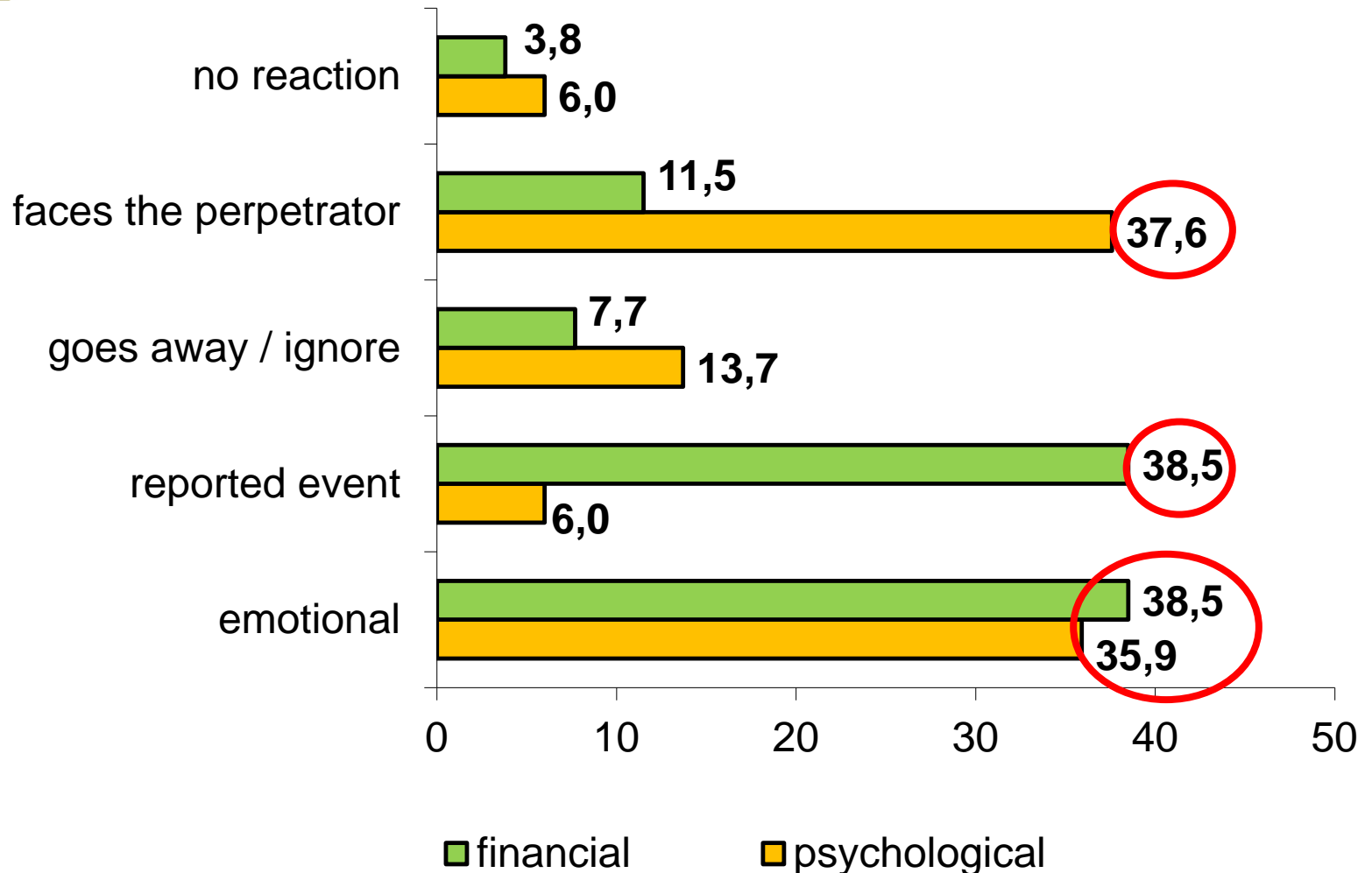


## % settings of financial abuse (n=17)

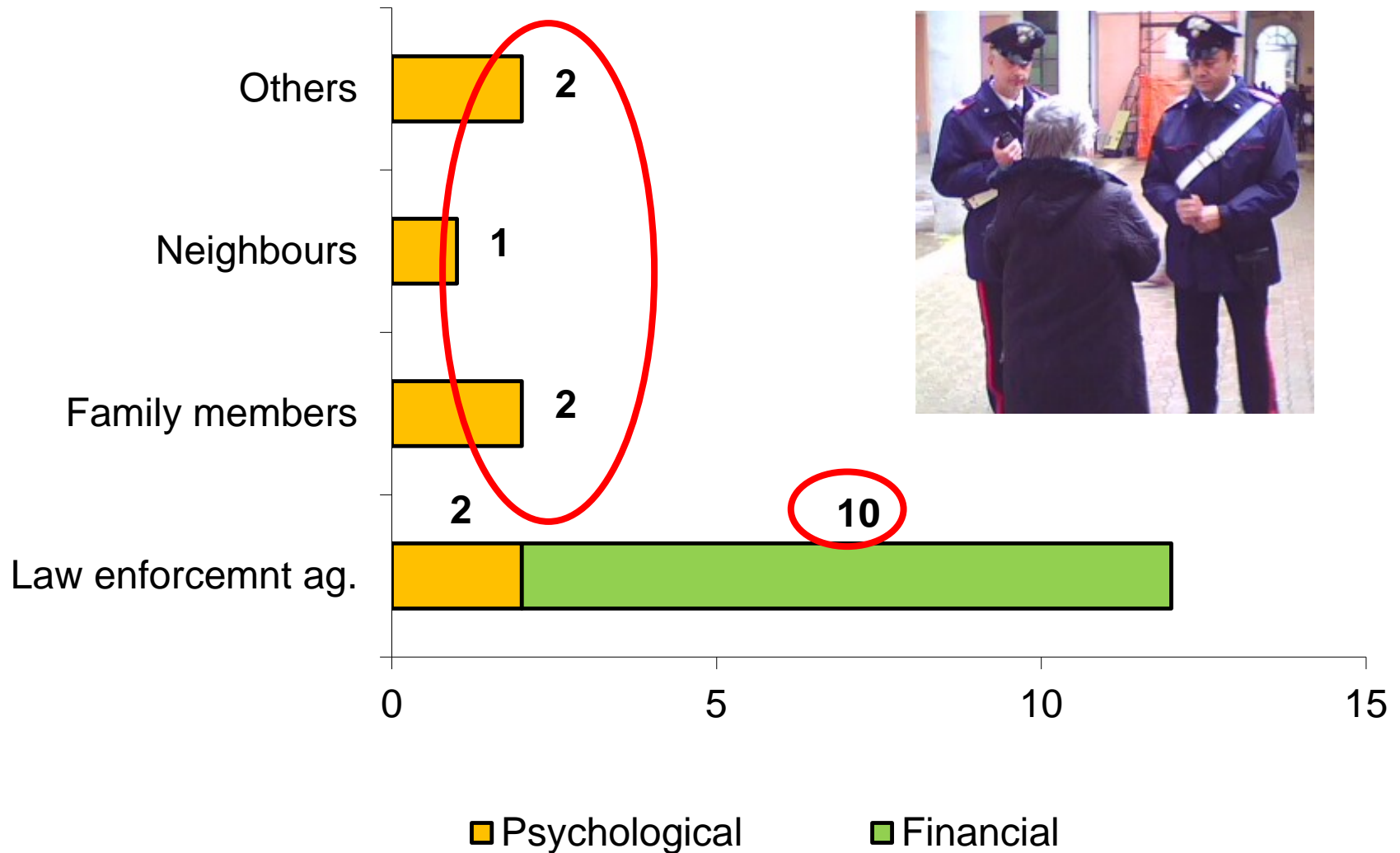


# VICTIM REACTIONS

## % reactions for psychological abuse (n=117) and financial (n=26) (one or more reactions)



## n. Reports of psychological abuse (n=7) and financial (n=10)







# SOME CONSIDERATIONS...

## Today in Italy

- **NO specific forms of support** dedicated to the protections of the older person at risk of abuse
- **Rare psychological or legal support services, some helplines** insufficient
- **No specific legal measures**, excepts some articles of the Penal Code, that more generally concern the context of violence against disadvantaged groups (ex. art. 572 on household mistreatments)



## Crucial role:

- **G.P.** at community level
- **Geriatrician** in hospital setting
- **Home-care professionals**

## Fundamental:

- **Information and training** of care professionals
- **Building of an operational multiprofessional network** to activate **preventive** measures



## Actions to undertake

- **Increase knowledge and awareness**
- **Foster** the capacity and possibility of a **adequately supported reporting**
- **Promote** a stronger **intergenerational solidarity**





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**