

# Ógnanir og ofbeldi í garð félagsráðgjafa



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## Research questions:

- 1) Social workers in Iceland are less likely to experience violence than social workers in countries that have been former studied and have been listed in this paper,
- 2) Social workers are more likely to experience emotional violence than physical violence by clients,
- 3) Social workers in child protection are more likely to experience violence in their job than social workers who work in other fields and
- 4) Social workers who do home visits are more likely to experience violence than social workers who do not do home visits.

## Method:

A questionnaire was used in this study, a shorter version of a former questionnaire by Sousa et al. (2014). All social workers registered at The Social Workers Association in Iceland (N = 495) received an e-mail in the fall of 2017, asking them to participate in this study. Participants were 271 or 55 percent of those who were asked to participate.

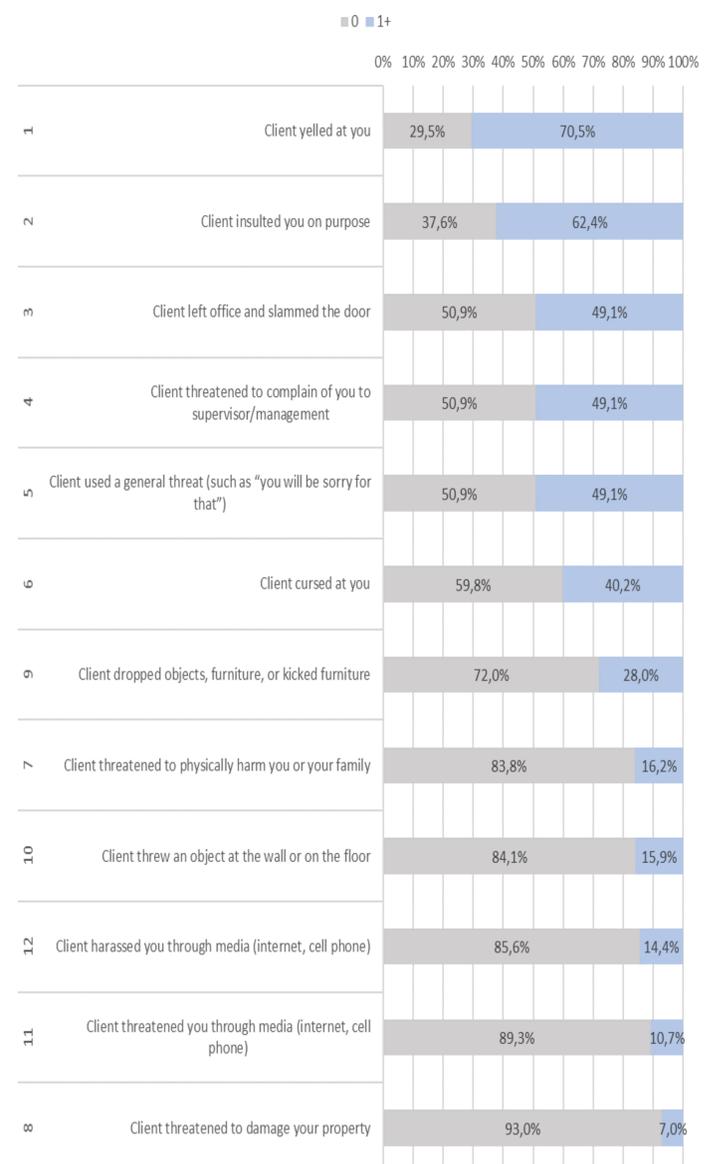
## Results :

- There was not a significant difference in the experience of emotional or physical violence between women and men. The younger social workers were more likely to have experienced emotional violence than the older social workers. Moreover, the longer work experience the social workers had, the less emotional violence they had experienced. The following are answers to the research questions:
- 1). The ratio of social workers who had experienced violence was higher or similar to the ratio in Portugal (Sousa et al. 2014), Australia (Koritsas, Coles and Boyle 2010), the U.S. (Ringstad 2005) and Canada (Macdonald and Sirotych 2005). Interestingly the rates do not seem to be higher in Iran which is a developing country (Padyab et al. (2012).
- 2) A large part of the social workers who participated or 71 percent had experienced emotional violence and 6 percent had experienced physical violence during the last six months.
- 3) Child protection workers experienced violence more frequently in eleven items of sixteen ( $p < 0,05$ ) than social workers who worked in different areas.
- 4) Social workers who did home visits experienced violence by their clients more frequently in twelve items of sixteen, than social workers who did not do home visits.

## Discussion:

- The results of this study clearly indicate that social workers in this small Nordic welfare society, Iceland, are professionals that are likely to experience violence in their job. It seems that many social workers in Iceland experience emotional violence, even though physical violence is rare. Thus, social work in Iceland seems to be a stressful job that can even be physically dangerous.

The ratio of social workers who had experienced emotional violence by clients over the last six months



The ratio of social workers who had suffered from physical violence by their clients over the last six months

