

Residential care for intimate partner violence (IPV) victims. Victim's profile and satisfaction about professional intervention.



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Introduction

Shelters are the last resource for IPV victims. His aim is to accommodate and support battered women and their children for a period of time, providing them with a comprehensive professional treatment to alleviate the consequences of the mistreatment suffered, increasing their self-esteem and personal autonomy.

Objectives

The aim of this work is to know the profile of women attended in these resources, the reasons of fostering in shelters and her satisfaction level about professional intervention.

Method

Participants.

- Sixty two women refugees with her children in shelters for victims of intimate partner violence from Valencian Community (Spain) have participated.
- Age 20-62 (Average 34'6 years old); 38,7% Spanish and 61,3% foreigners; 35,5 % only primary school studies and 88,8% without economic resources.

Measures

- Information about sociodemographic characteristics, violence background, and care received assessment of her files.
- ASI (*Index of Spouse Abuse*) by Hudson y Macintosh, 1981) is completed for women.
- Satisfaction level questionnaire. (ad hoc).

Results

- ✓ Women refugees in shelters after IPV situations show formative, economic and work deficits.
- ✓ They have suffered severe physical but especially non-physical violence, according to the ISA survey, (Fig. 1).
- ✓ They come to the resource together with her children. They in turn have been witness and/or victims of this violence.
- ✓ Women's satisfaction level with the resources is moderate. (Fig. 2).
- ✓ The most valued aspects have been counseling, legal guidance and security. However, they consider that help to looking for employment and home, priority aspects for them was insufficient. (Fig.3.).

Fig. 1: Type of abuse

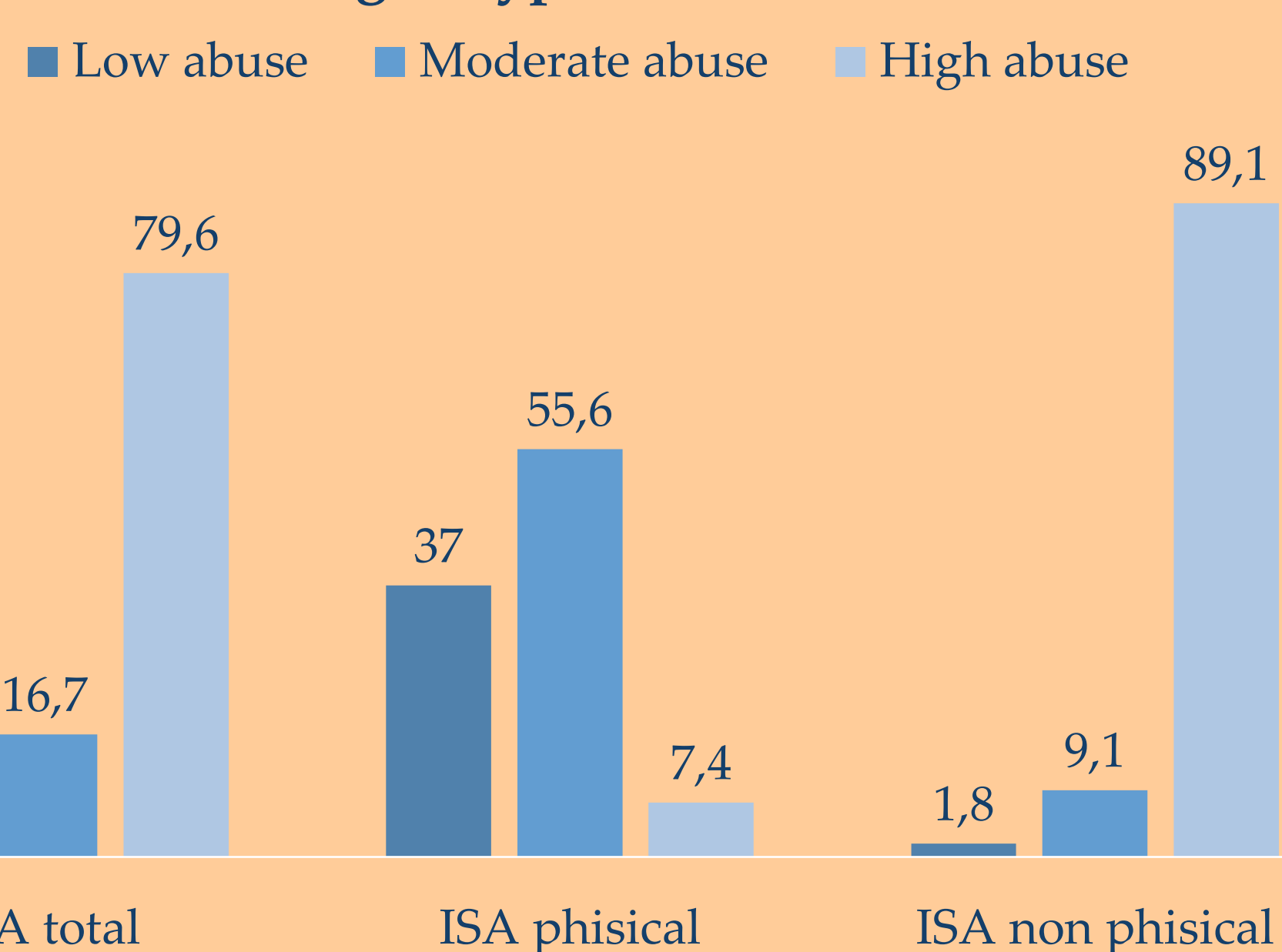


Fig. 2: Satisfaction level (1-4)

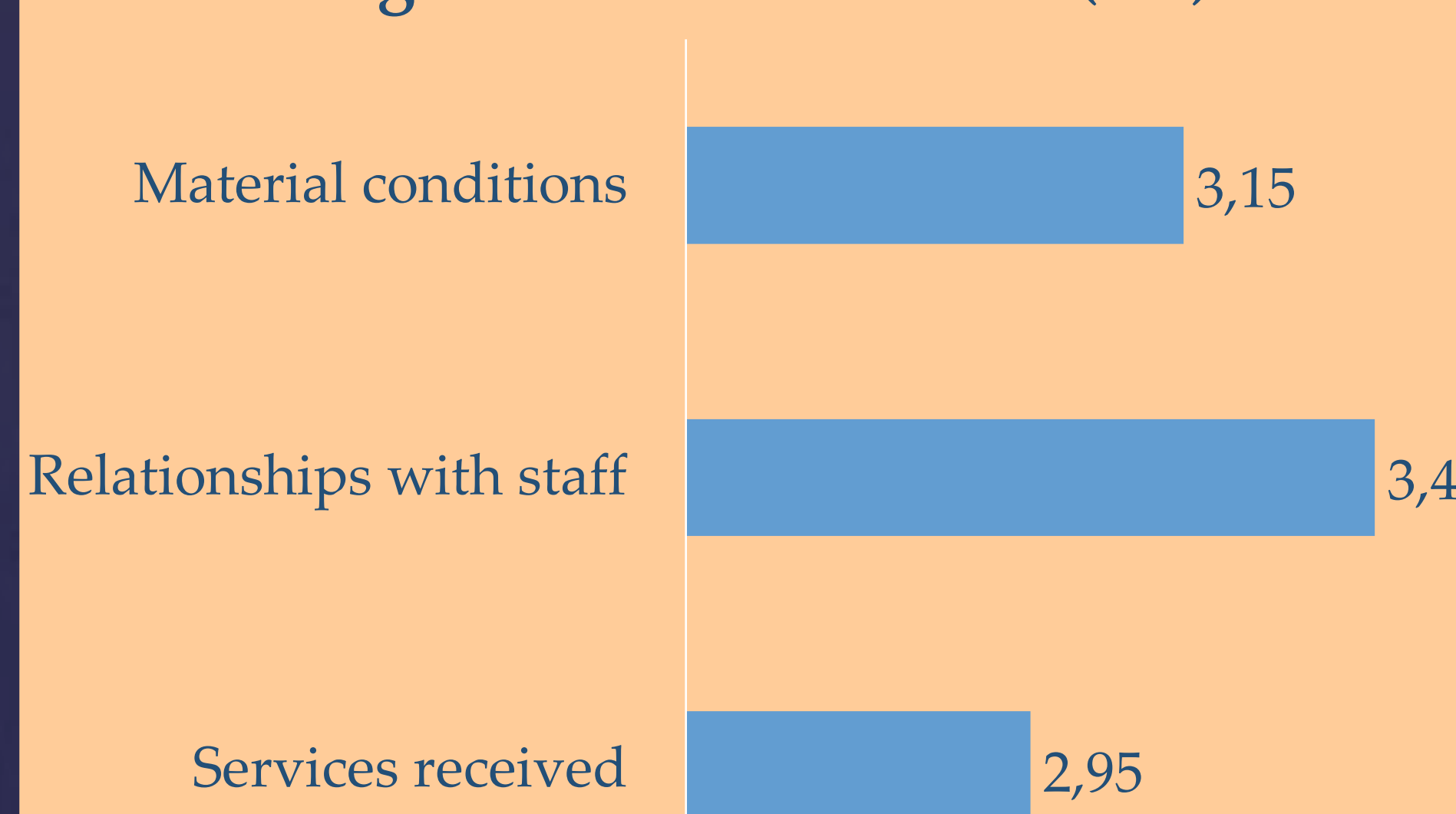
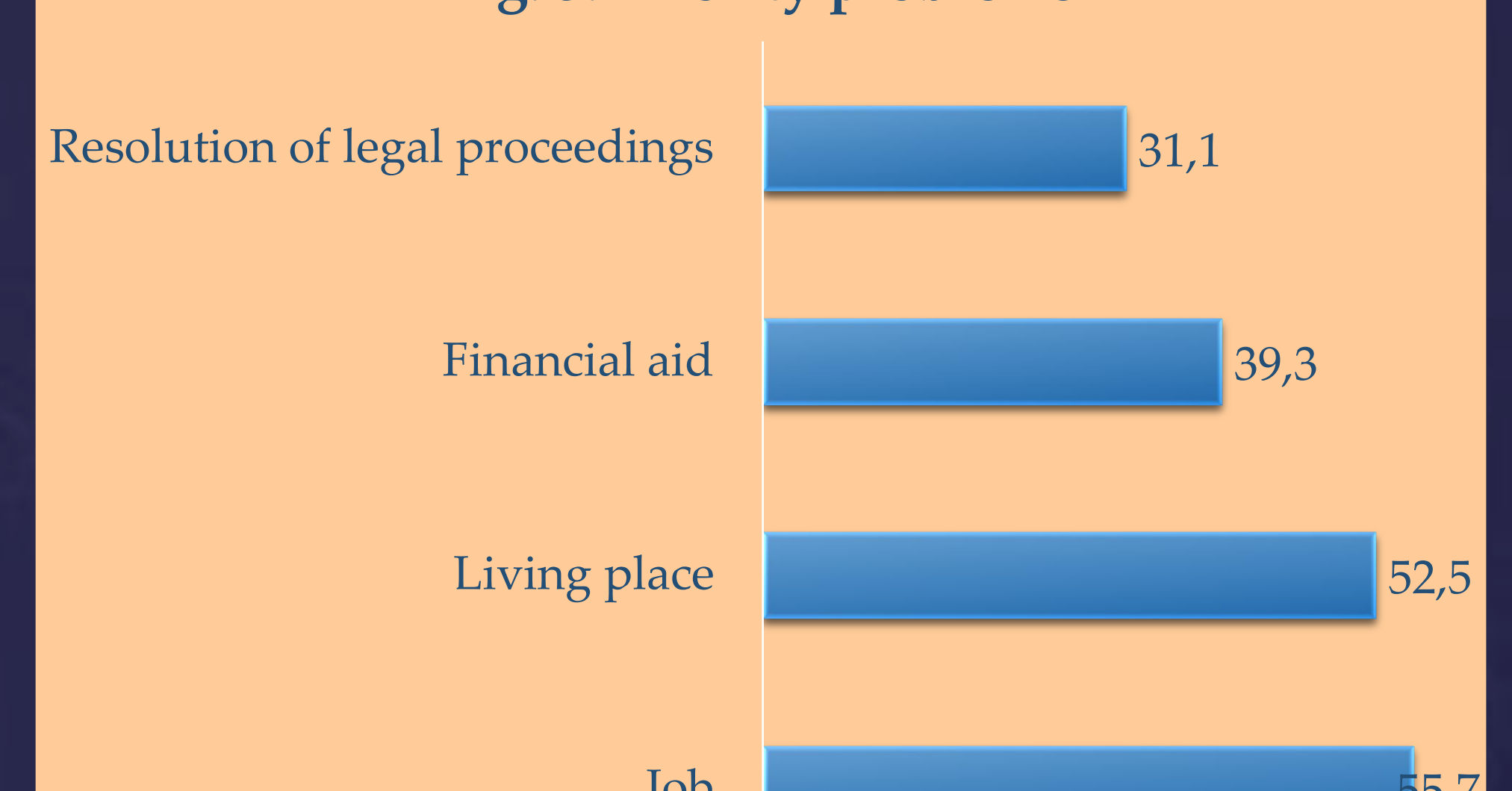


Fig. 3: Priority problems



Conclusions

Situation of IPV victims is very uncertain. They have fled with their children from a serious situation, with scarce resources and they don't know what will happen when they leave the shelters.

Shelters for IPV victims develop an important role in the recovery of women and it is very important pay attention over their needs during the time of fostering and preparing for coping the life when they leave it. This work suggest that shelters offer a supportive and affective resource to women experiencing IPV but they don't offer sufficiently resources for the future.

The intervention must go aimed to their empowerment, to personal aspects, but also to those aspects related to employment and housing, which are a priority so that these women can succeed when they leave the shelters.

References

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