

***MEN, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE MDGs  
Results from the International Men and Gender  
Equality Survey (IMAGES)***

**Gary Barker, Juan Manuel Contreras,  
Brian Heilman, Ajay Singh, Ravi Verma  
*International Center for Research on Women*  
Marcos Nascimento and Marcio Segundo, *Promundo***

# A Global Snapshot of Gender Inequality

- Women's income 22% that of men globally
- Women spend 2-10 times the amount of men in care work
- 1/3 of women experience physical violence from a male partner during their lifetime
- Women responsible for three-quarters of global contraceptive use

***Change in all of these areas requires large-scale change in men and an understanding of what's happening with men***



## The Questions ...

- Are men changing? What promotes or hinders that change?
- What are men's current practices in care work, health, relationships?
- What do women say about men's practices?
- What factors contribute to more equitable and non-violent relationships?
- ***Are men on board with the global gender equality agenda as articulated in the MDGs?***
- ***Do we need to drag men kicking and screaming into gender equality or can we find ways to engage their self interest? Or both?***



## International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)

- **Multi-country study** on men and gender equality, asking men and women about men's practices and attitudes
- Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Croatia, India, Rwanda – 2009-2010
- South Africa MRC study on men, health and violence incorporated some IMAGES questions and provided questions for IMAGES
- 5 additional sites in Asia starting in 2010 coordinated by Partners for Prevention (Joint UN program)
- **Stratified random household surveys** in at least two major urban areas, women and men ages 19-59
- **Sample sizes** ranged from 750 to 2300 men in each country

# The International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)- Partners

**Overall Coordination:** ICRW and Promundo

## **Countries**

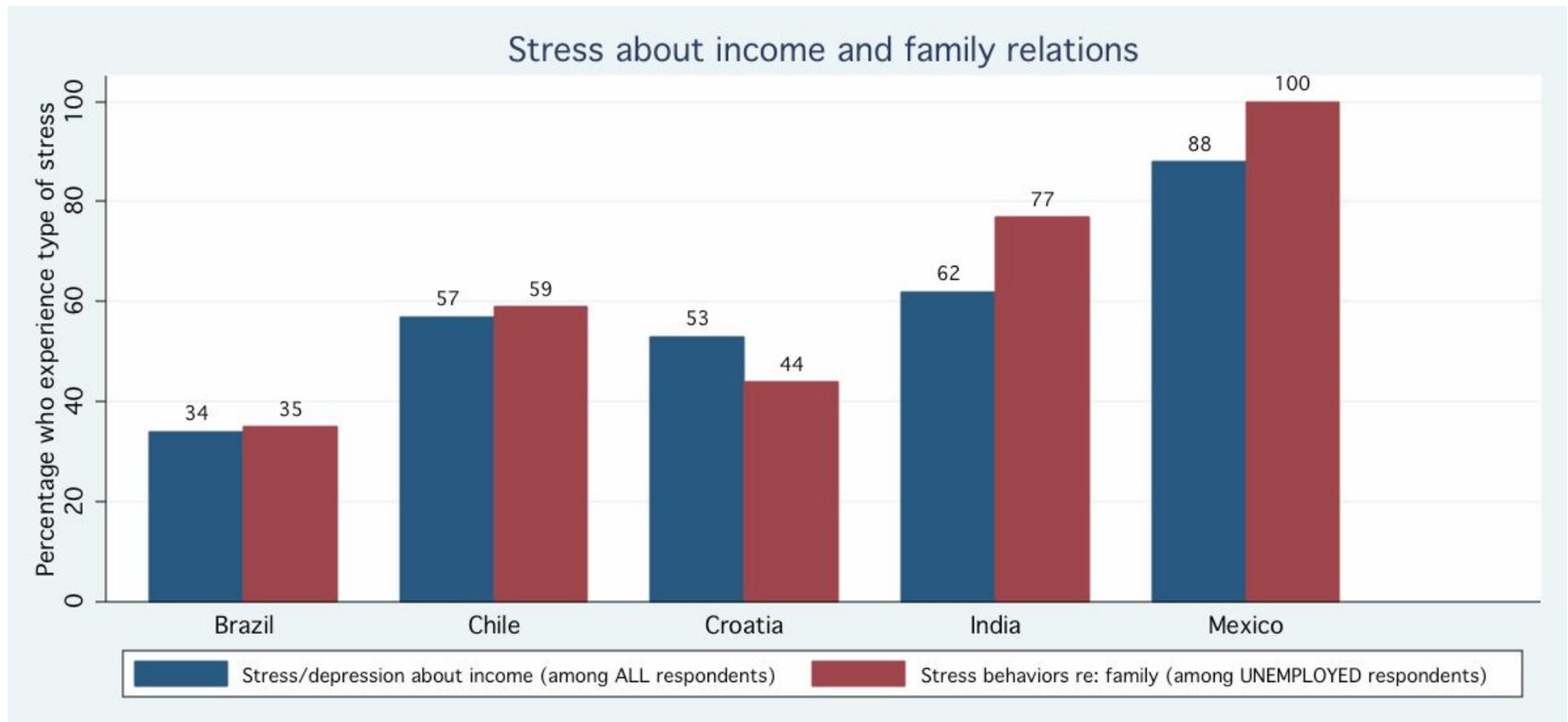
- Brazil, Mexico, Chile, South Africa, Rwanda, Croatia, India

## **Collaborating Organizations**

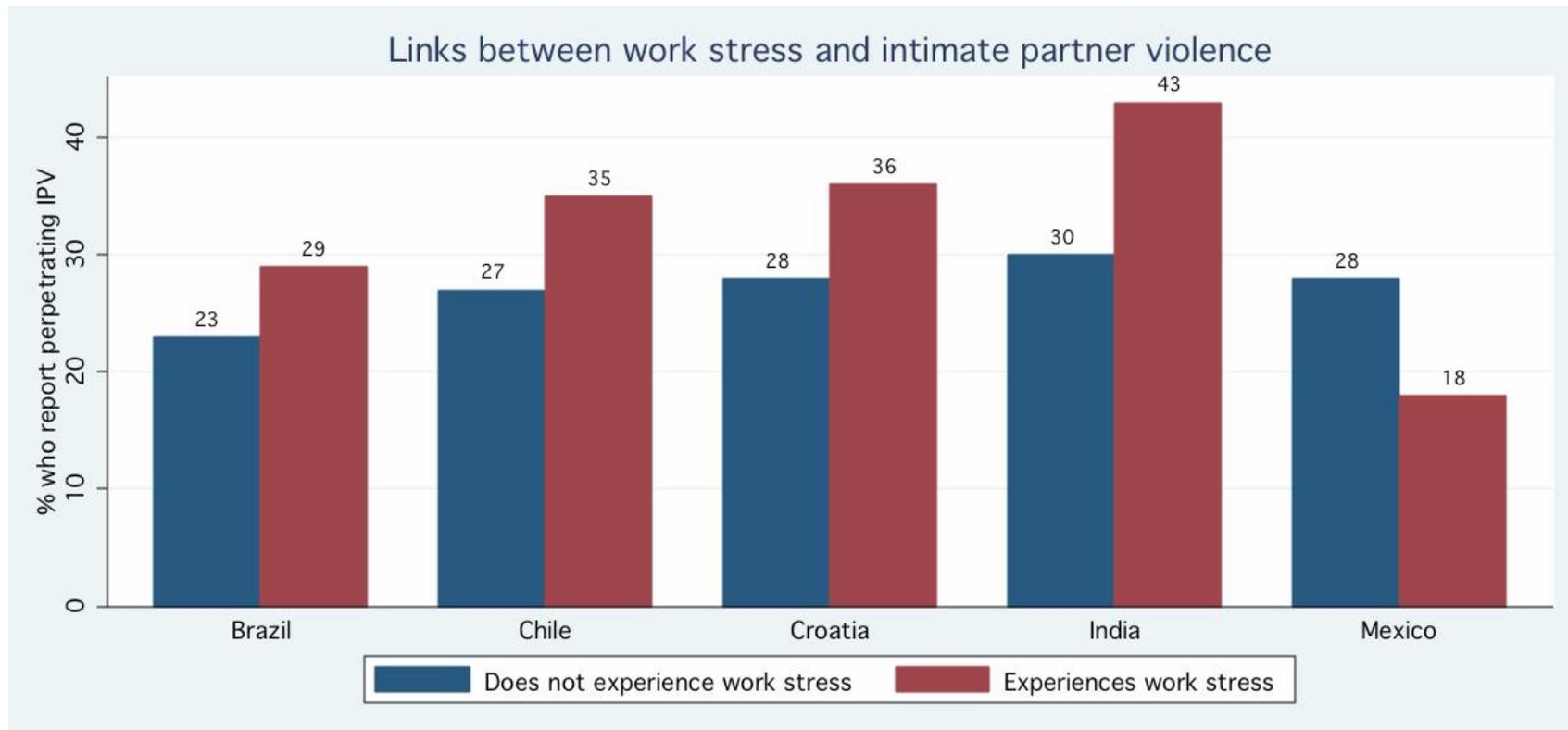
- Center for Gender Studies, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
- ICRW – Asia Regional Office, Delhi, India
- Colégio de Mexico, Mexico, D.F.
- Medical Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa
- University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban, South Africa
- CulturaSalud, Santiago, Chile
- Partners for Prevention: A UN Joint Programme for Ending Violence Against Women in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
- CESI, Zagreb, Croatia
- Rwandan Men's Resource Center

**WORK STRESS AND POVERTY: No  
work, no manhood?**

## Stress related to not having enough work and income is a common experience for men in low and middle income countries



## Work stress is related to men's use of violence against women



Statistically significant relationship (at  $p < .05$  level) in Chile, Croatia, and India

## In IMAGES data, economic stress related to ...

- Higher rates of alcohol use
- Lower condom use
- Higher likelihood of having sex with sex workers
- Criminal activity



# Implications of economic stress and gender

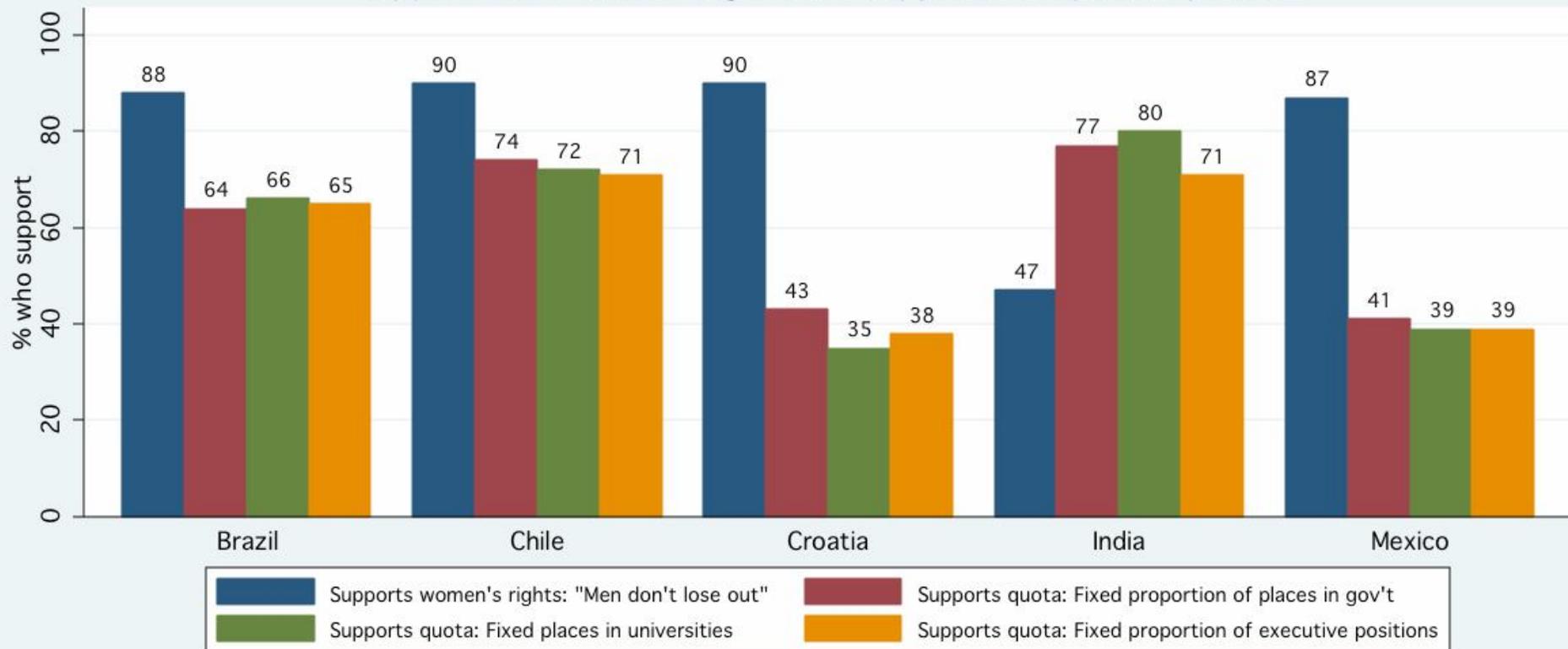
- How to understand this stress without reinforcing the traditional social roles of women and men?
- How can we help men find other meaningful roles in addition to provider?
- How to think about men within the women-focused microfinance movement?
- How to think about men within conditional cash transfers (CCTs)?
- Acknowledging the relationship of economic stress and conflict
- ***How to acknowledge the specific stress that men experience in times of economic instability while keeping the focus on the need to economically empower women?***



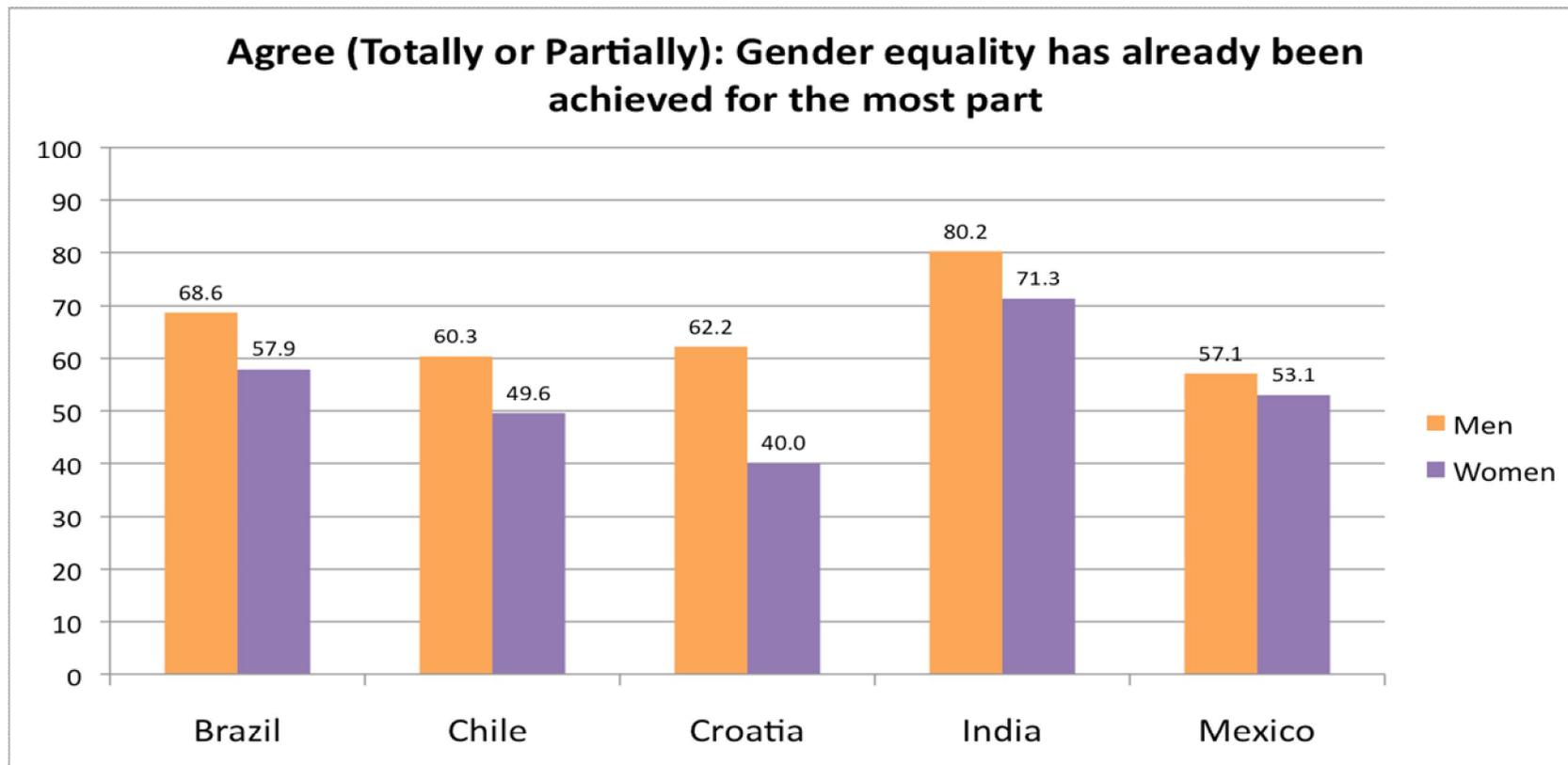
# ARE MEN ON BOARD WITH THE GENDER EQUALITY AGENDA?

## Men believe in gender equality in the abstract and in the specific

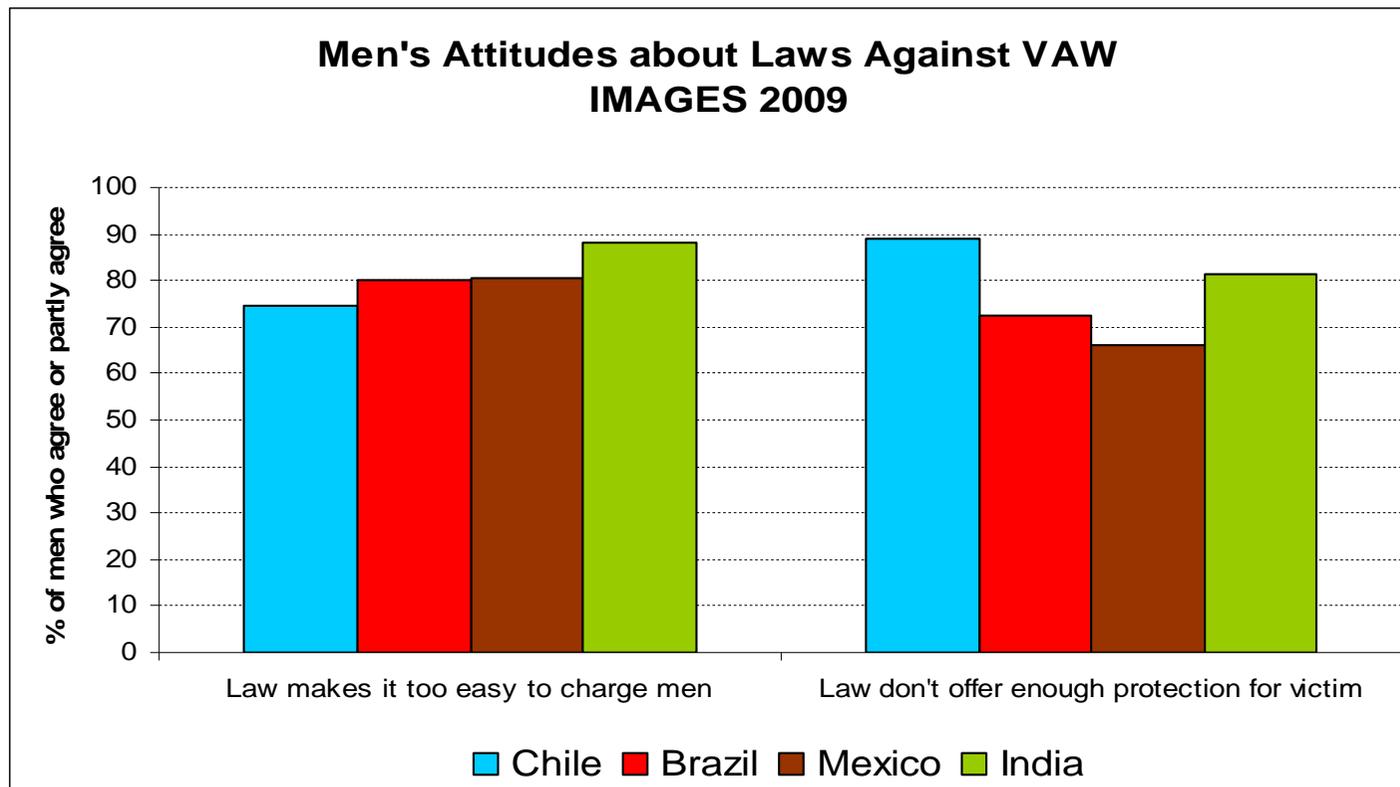
Support for women's rights vs. support for specific policies



## But, men think gender equality has come further than women think it has

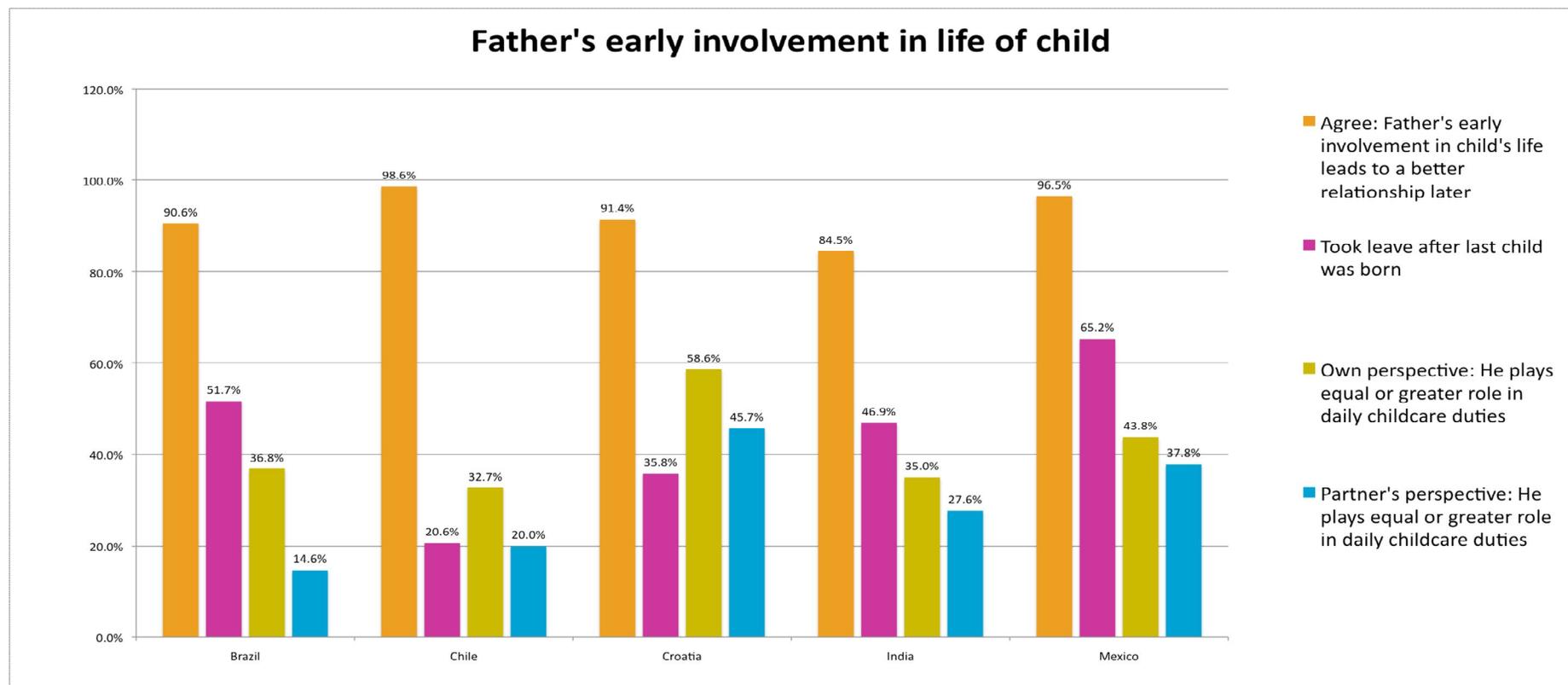


## A majority of men think GBV laws make it too easy to arrest men – suggesting the need for more public education

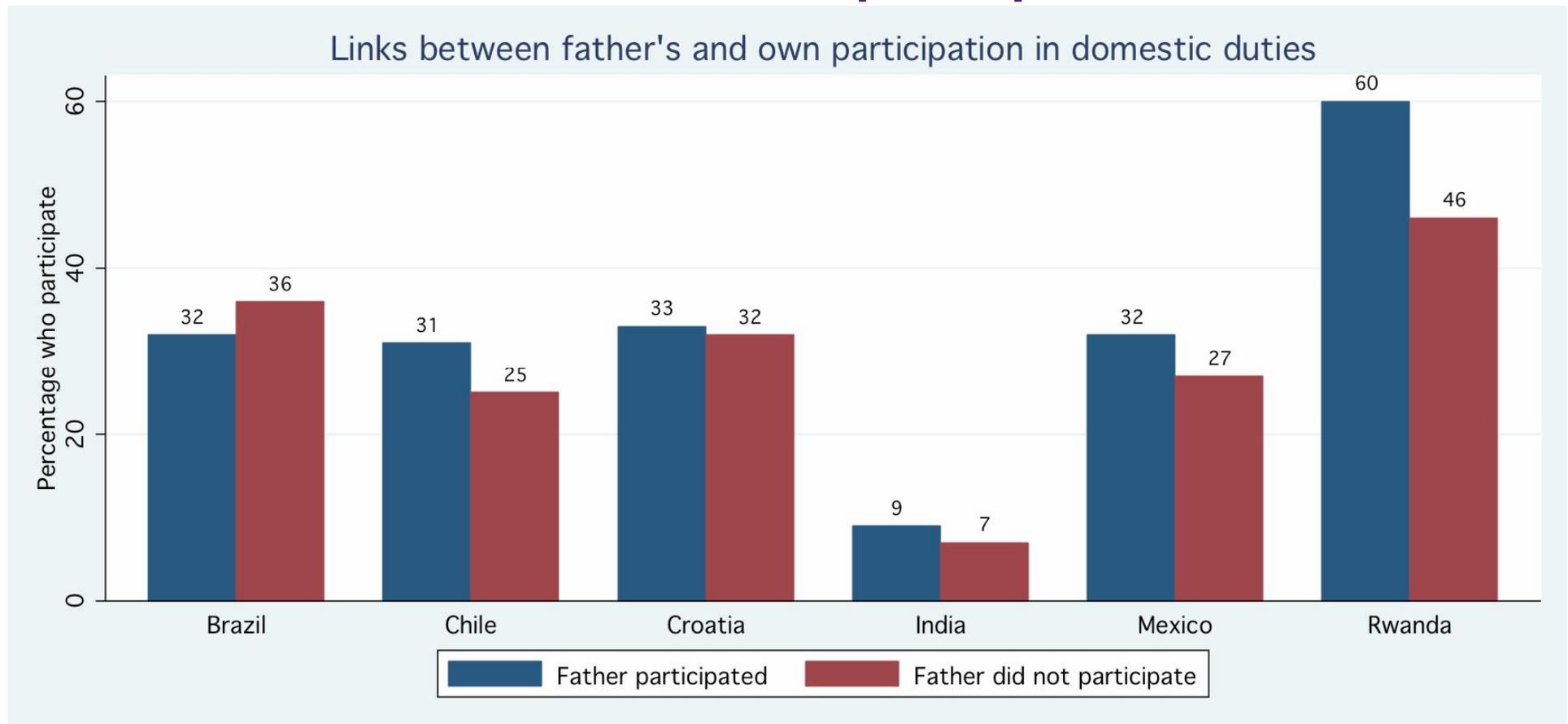


HOME LIFE, CARE WORK: ARE  
MEN DOING THEIR SHARE?

## Many men say they are doing more care work, although not as many women agree that they are



## Domestic duties: In some settings father's participation influences men's participation



Statistically significant relationship (at  $p < .05$  level) in Chile and Rwanda

# Men's participation in care work associated with women's satisfaction

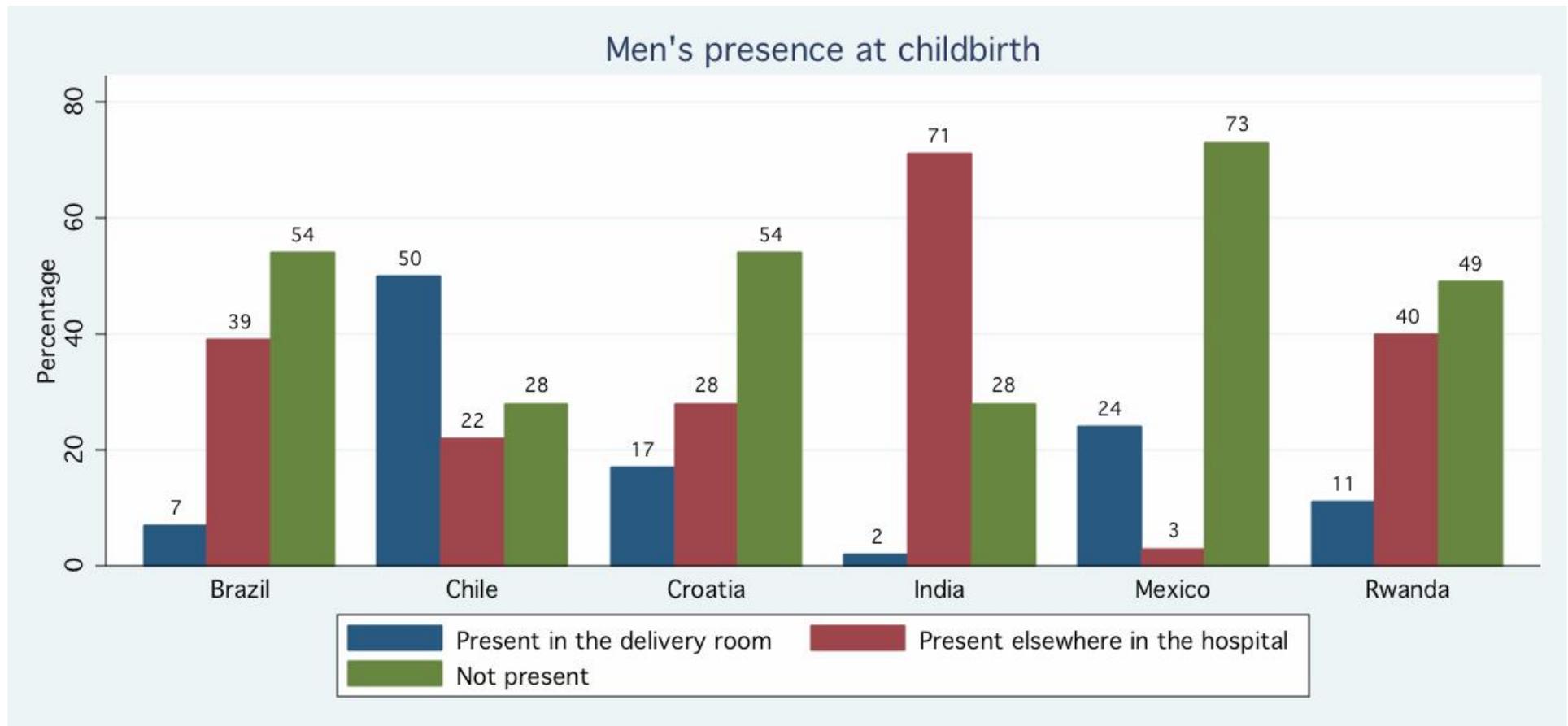
- In India, Brazil and Croatia, men's participation in domestic activities, including child care was associated with:
  - Women's overall satisfaction with their intimate relationship/marriage
  - Women's sexual satisfaction

***If many women and men see the benefits of more equitable relationships, why is it so slow to promote faster change?***

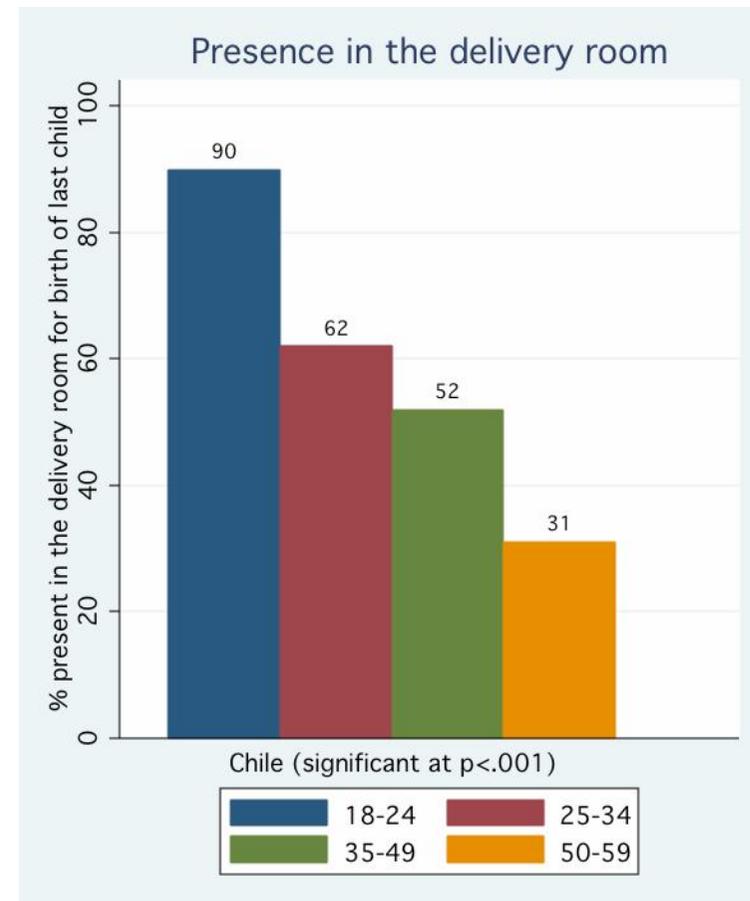


**MEN, CHILDBIRTH AND PATERNITY  
LEAVE: Bringing Men into the  
Picture from the Beginning**

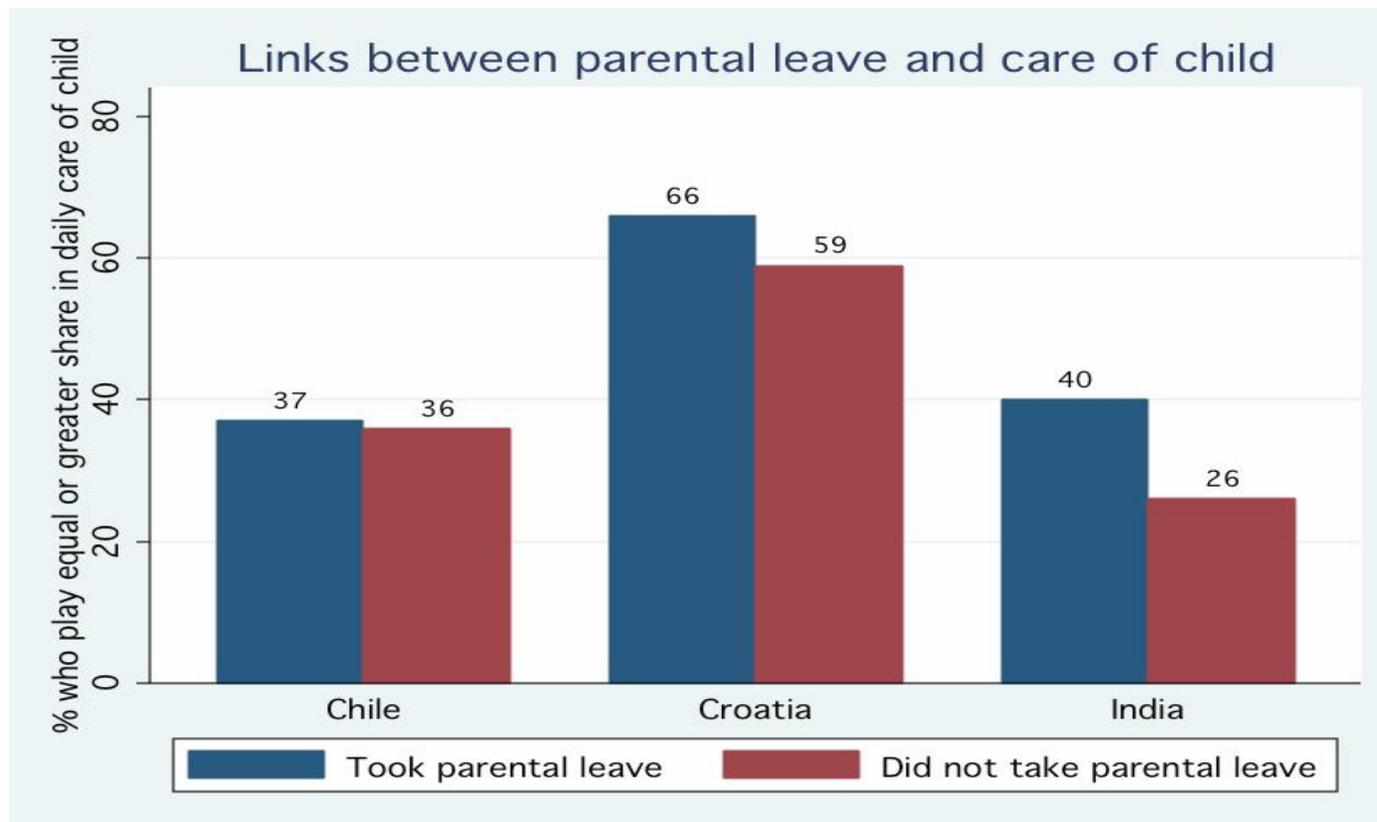
# Presence at Childbirth: Most men still not present



## In Chile, policy efforts led to a dramatic increase in men's presence during childbirth

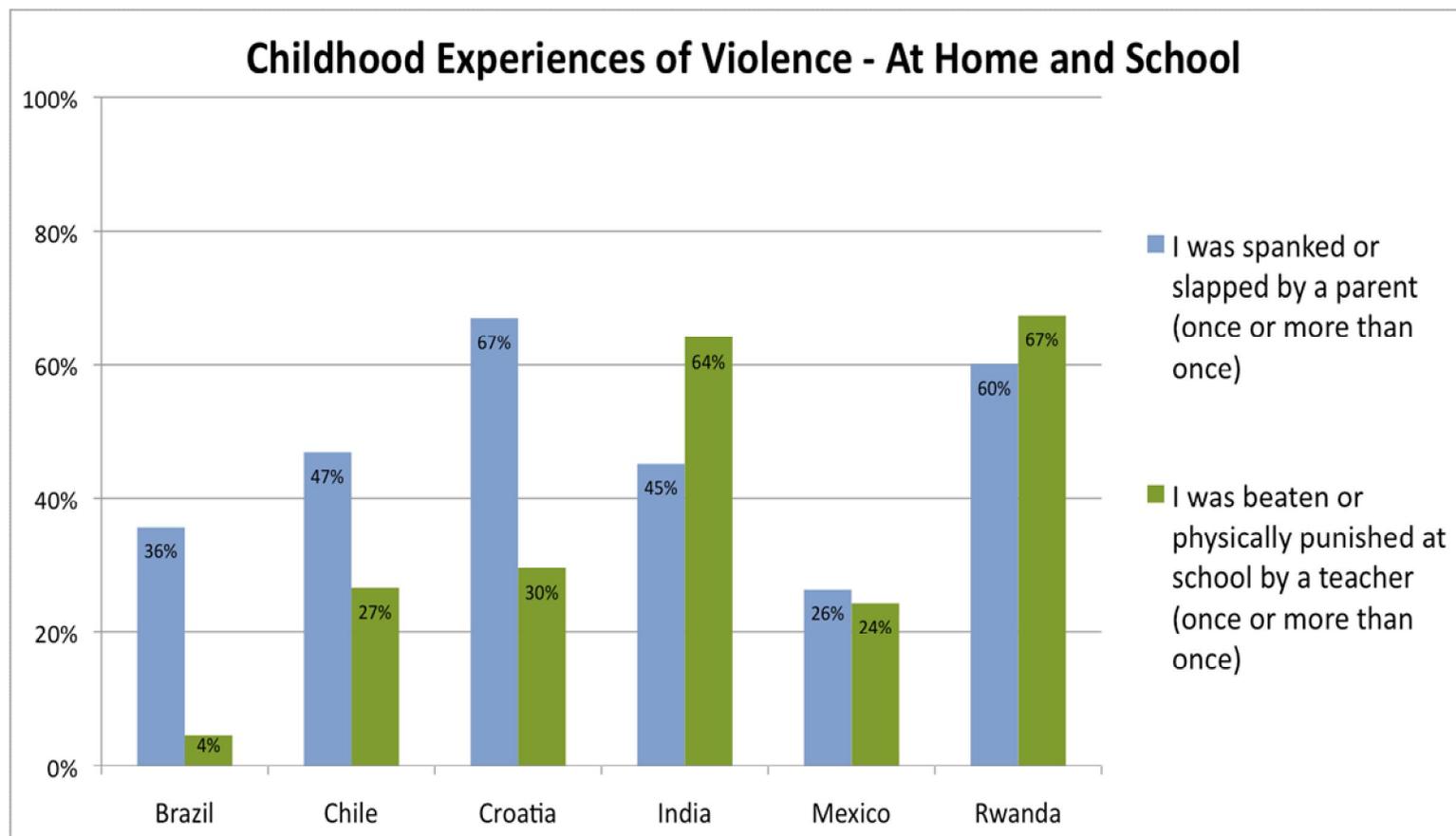


## Men who took parental leave were more likely to report later involvement in daily care of child

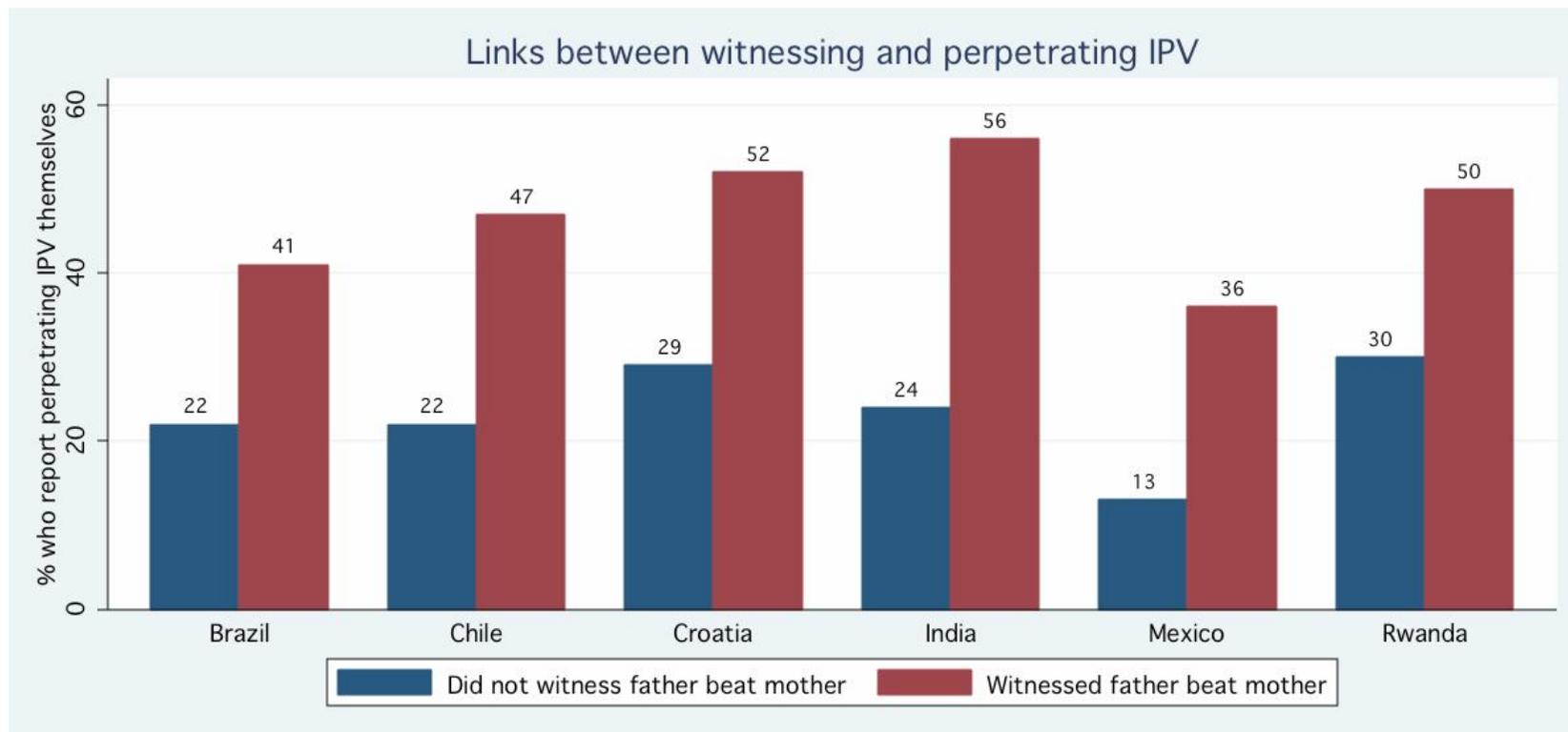


# **MEN AND VIOLENCE: TAKING PREVENTION SERIOUSLY**

## Violence common for most boys at home and in school

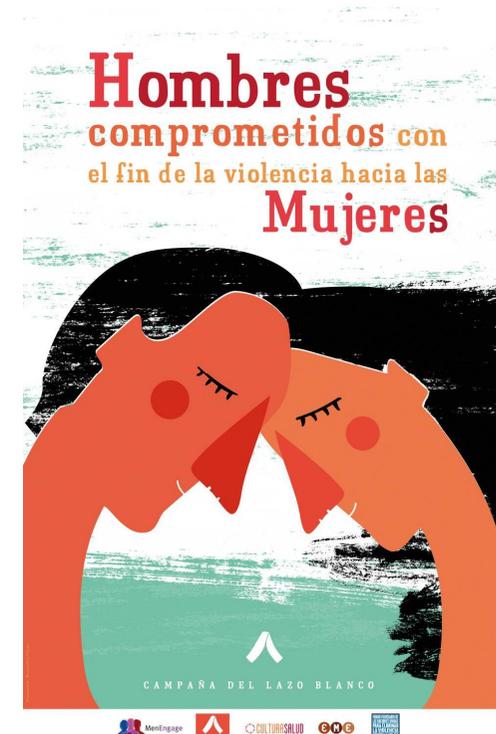
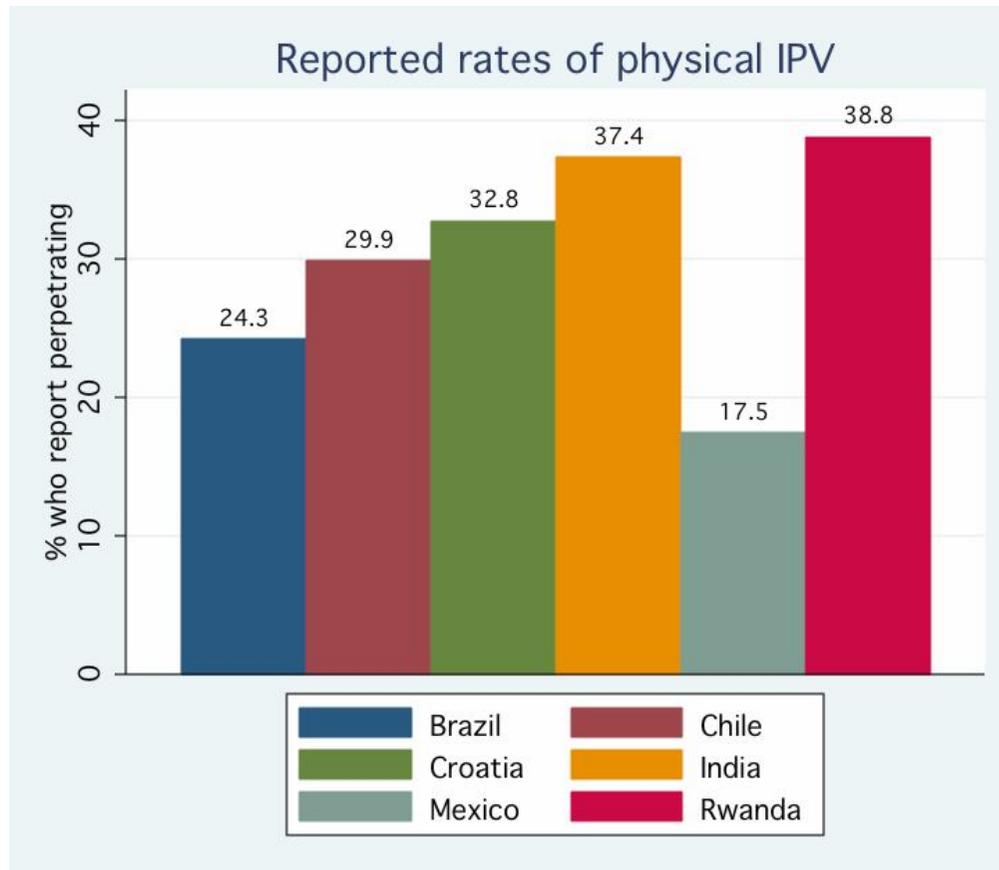


## This violence is directly related to men's use of violence against women

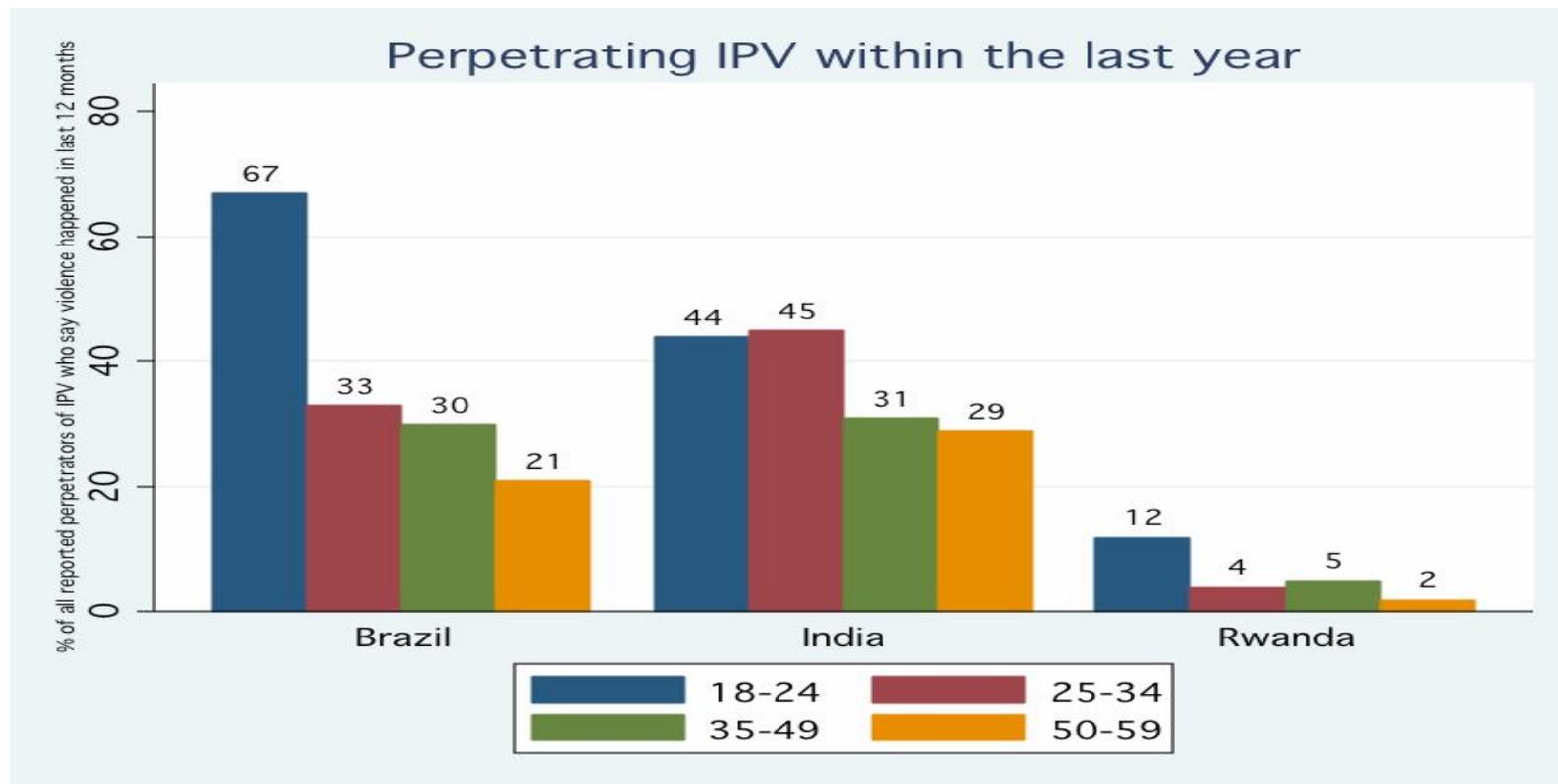


Statistically significant relationship (at  $p < .001$  level) in all countries

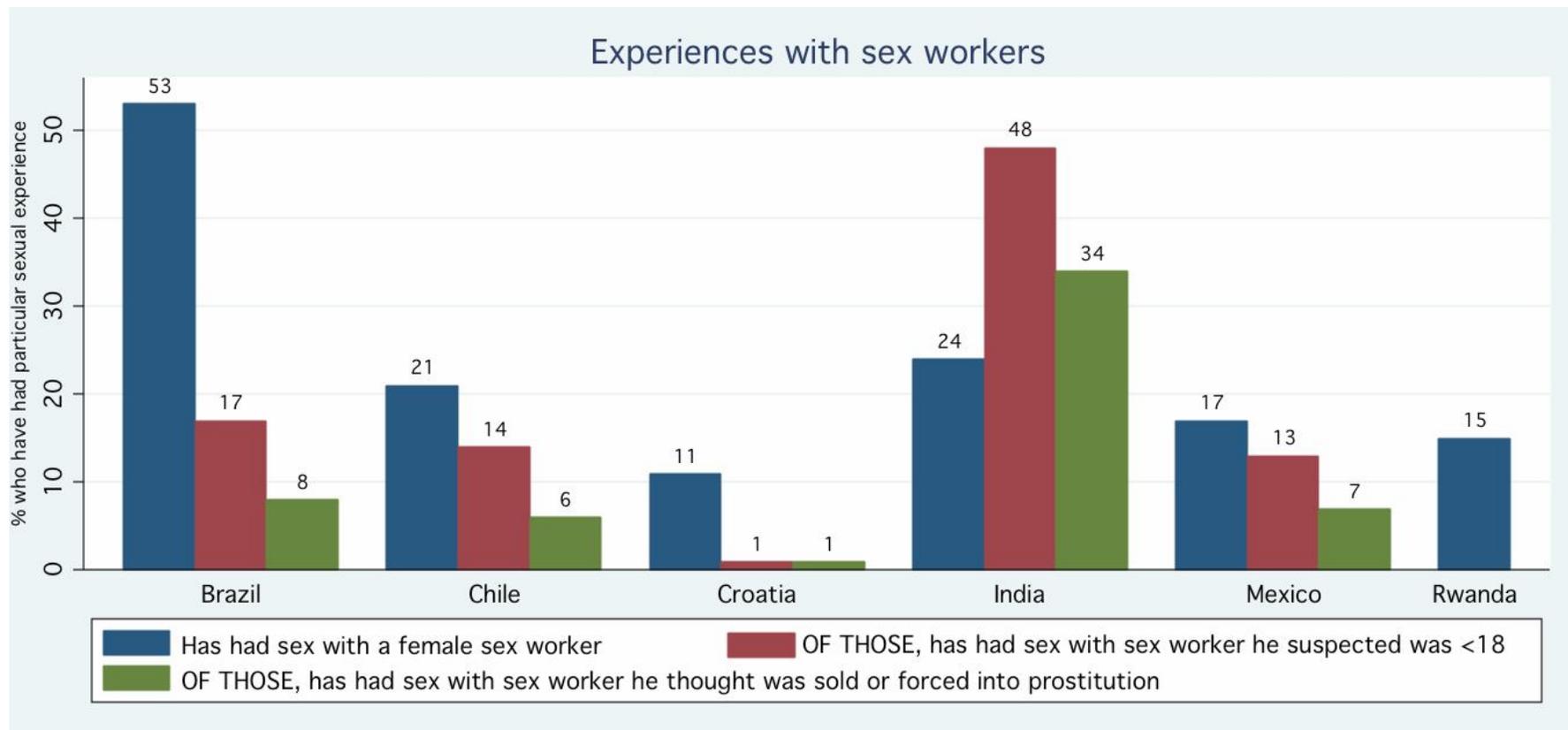
## In spite of 5-10 years of laws against GBV and prevention activities, rates still alarmingly high



## Younger men seem more likely to use IPV in some settings



## Going to sex workers a common experience for many men: *Where is the gender equality in that?*



## Reflections from the Qualitative Component: “Men who Care” study

*Interviews with men who are the principal caregivers*

- **Mexico:** resentment from low income men toward partner and children related to economic stress
- Tremendous generational changes
- Fatherhood as first space for many men for showing emotions and developing close emotional ties
- Men doing care work but not finding a strong sense of identity in it



*“I like to do the work at home because it’s for our well-being, my children and my wife. I clean the house so when my children arrive, they appreciate it. I clean so they look nice .... **But then I get depressed.** I mean, I’m going to do it, because if I don’t, who will and then it’ll just be a mess.” (Sergio).*

Source: Juan Guillermo Figueroa, Colegio de Mexico

## Do gender equality policies “get” men?

- Men still *mostly invisible* in gender policies
- Most policies targeting men are *problem-focused* or response to crisis
- Men conceptualized as obstacles to gender equality in most of the policies
- Policies reinforce stereotypical views of men
- Need to pay attention to gender-related attitudes of those who implement policies
- Need for attention to train those who implement at *local level*

### what men have to do with it

Public Policies to Promote Gender Equality



men+  
gender equality  
POLICY PROJECT

coordinated by the  
International Center for Research on Women  
and Instituto Promundo

## It's the personal and the structural...

If we want to change men and engage them as allies in achieving the MDGs ...

- We must change the structural, including understanding the impact of economic stress on women and men
- We must find men's self-interest in change while also creating real sanctions for men who use violence and abuse power
- We must acknowledge the dual inequalities of income and gender
- We must move beyond a zero-sum game approach that views women's gains as men's losses while not losing sight of the inequality we're starting from

