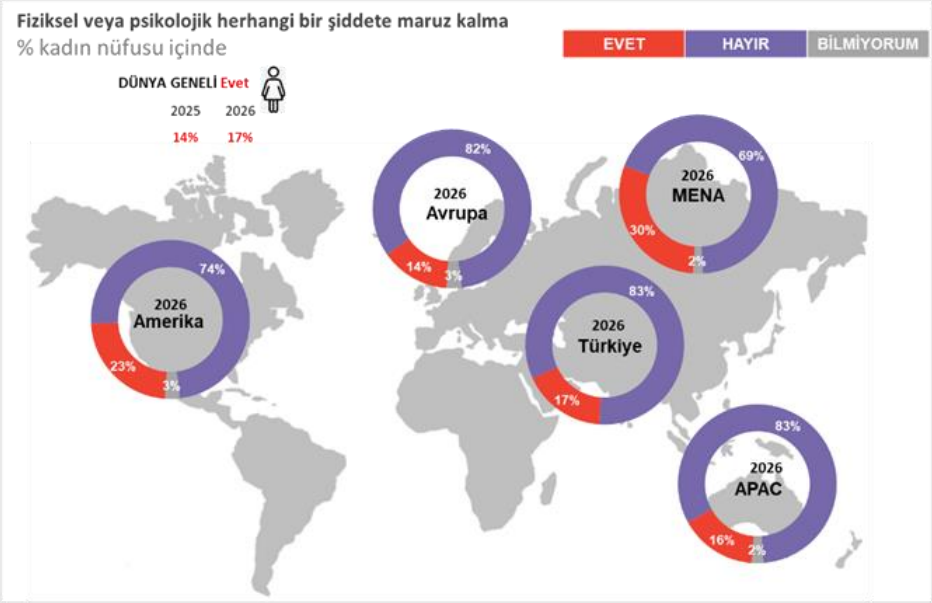
It is 2026, and walking outside at night is still a source of concern for women!

BAREM's global partner, the Worldwide Independent Network of Market Research (WIN), conducted a comprehensive global study in observance of International Women's Day on March 8. Based on the views and beliefs of 44,000 participants across 44 countries, the research addresses critical issues for 2026, including gender equality, safety, and violence. According to the findings, walking alone late at night remains a global concern for women, while violence against women continues to grow in significance each year. The study serves as an important resource for understanding the challenges women face in society, as well as changes and developments in areas such as equal opportunities and rights between genders.

Violence against women is increasing

Globally, the proportion of women reporting exposure to either physical or psychological violence rose from 14% in 2025 to 17% in 2026.



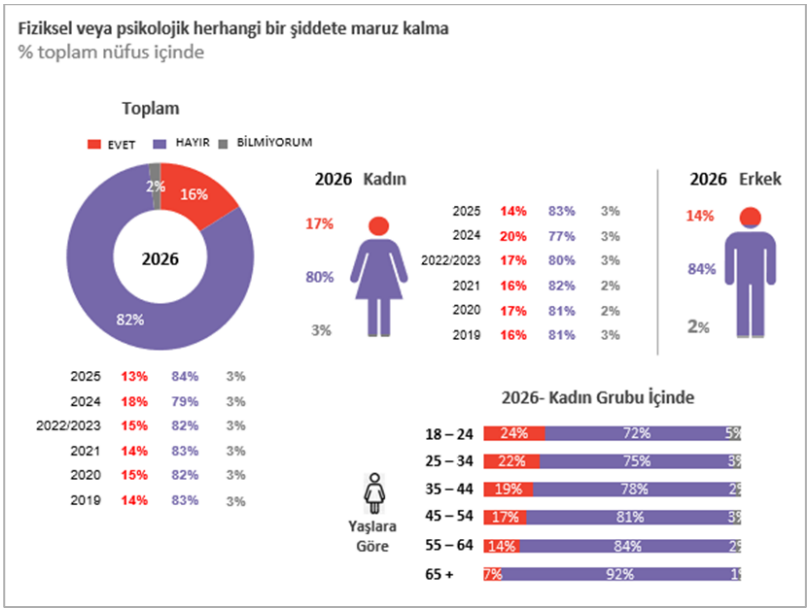
Exposure to Physical or Psychological Violence by Region
(Within the female population)

Regionally, the prevalence of violence varies significantly:

- **Europe:** 12% in 2025, rising to 14% in 2026
- **MENA:** 24% in 2025, increasing sharply to 30% in 2026
- **APAC:** 11% in 2025, climbing to 16% in 2026
- **The Americas:** 21% in 2025, reaching 23% in 2026

In the Turkey section of the 2026 research, 17% of women report having been exposed to either physical or psychological violence.

Beyond gender-specific findings, the study also presents overall (women and men combined) exposure rates and their change over time. Globally, total exposure to violence has increased from 14% in 2019 to 17% in 2026, indicating a concerning upward trend.



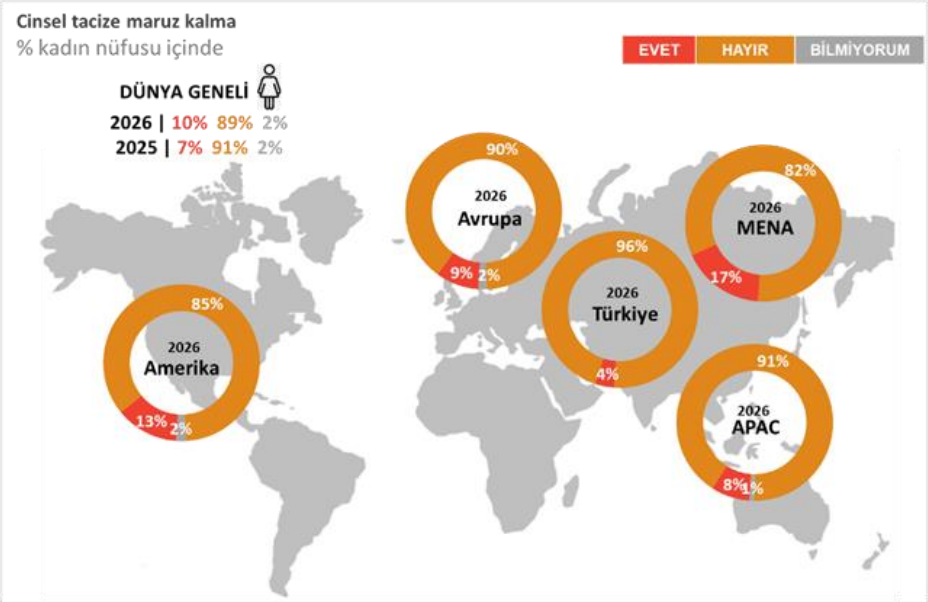
Exposure to Physical or Psychological Violence
(Within the total population)

In 2026, the rate of exposure to any form of physical or psychological violence stands at 17% among women and 14% among men.

When examined by age groups among women, younger women appear to be at significantly higher risk. The highest exposure rate is observed among women aged 18–24, at 24%. This rate decreases to 22% among those aged 25–34, indicating that violence disproportionately affects younger women.

Exposure to Sexual Harassment

Globally, the proportion of women reporting exposure to sexual harassment has increased from 7% in 2025 to 10% in 2026, highlighting a notable and concerning upward trend.

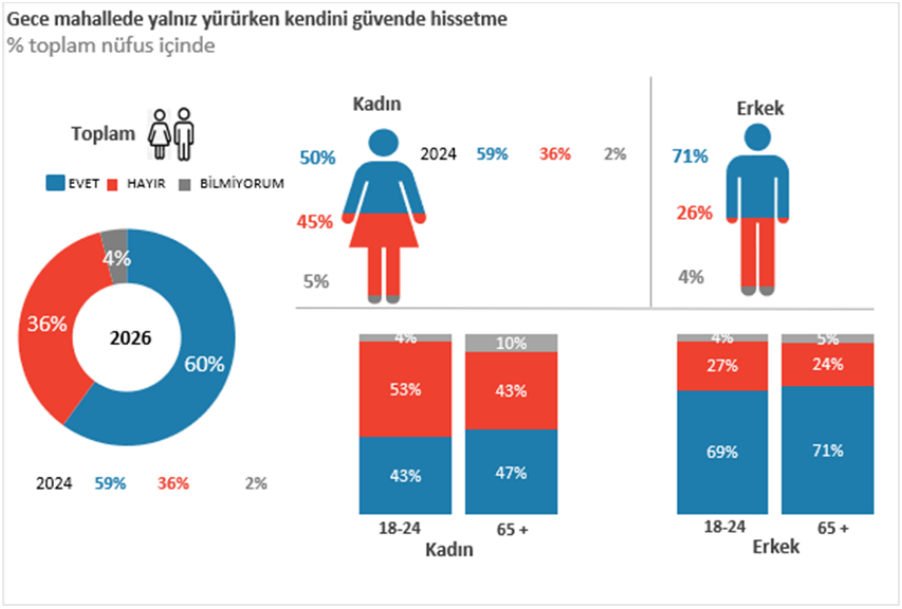


Exposure to Sexual Harassment by Region
(Within the female population)

MENA ranks as the region with the highest rate of sexual harassment at 17%, followed by the Americas at 13%. In Turkey, the proportion of women reporting having experienced sexual harassment in 2026 stands at 4%.

Women Do Not Feel Safe

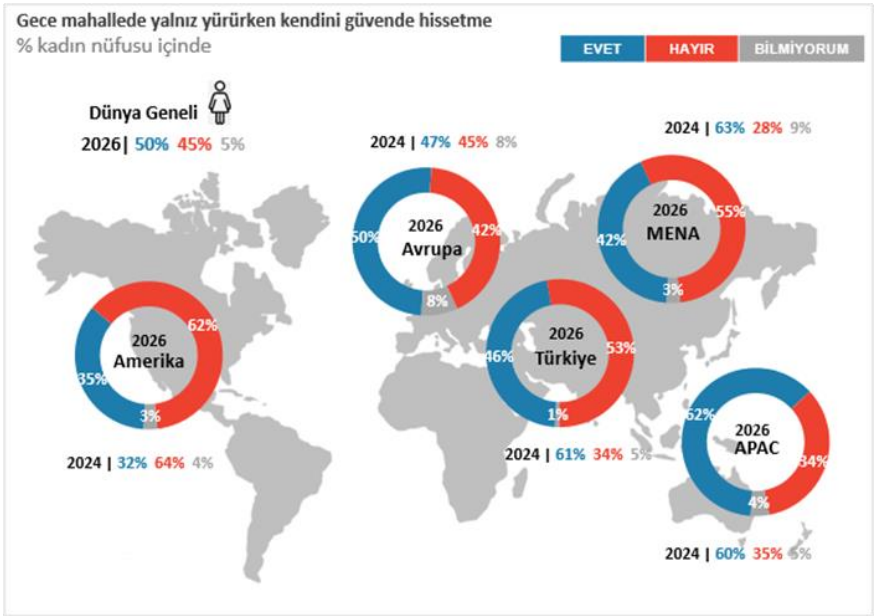
According to the research, 36% of people globally—and nearly half of women (45%)—do not feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night.



Feeling Safe While Walking Alone at Night in One's Neighborhood
(Within the total population)

Safety concerns become even more pronounced when examined regionally. In the Americas, 62% of women say they do not feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night. In Europe, this figure stands at 42%.

In Turkey, 53% of women report that they do not feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night, highlighting the persistence of safety concerns at the national level.



Research Methodology

The study was conducted by BAREM in collaboration with its global partner, the Worldwide Independent Network of Market Research (WIN). A total of 44,000 individuals were interviewed across 44 countries. As part of a regularly conducted global survey program, the data were compared over time to analyze trends and year-on-year changes. In Turkey, the research was carried out by BAREM Research between January 30 and February 4, 2026. The fieldwork was conducted using the CATI (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing) method with a nationally representative sample of 725 respondents.