

## Comparative Criminology: **VIOLENCE AGAINST FEMALES**

### **Cross-Regional Rates of Intimate Violence Committed Against Females**

In this section, we compare various regions based on their rates of intimate violence against females. This box is relevant to the chapter because countries with higher rates of violence against females tend to have cultural norms that are more permissive of such violence within families.

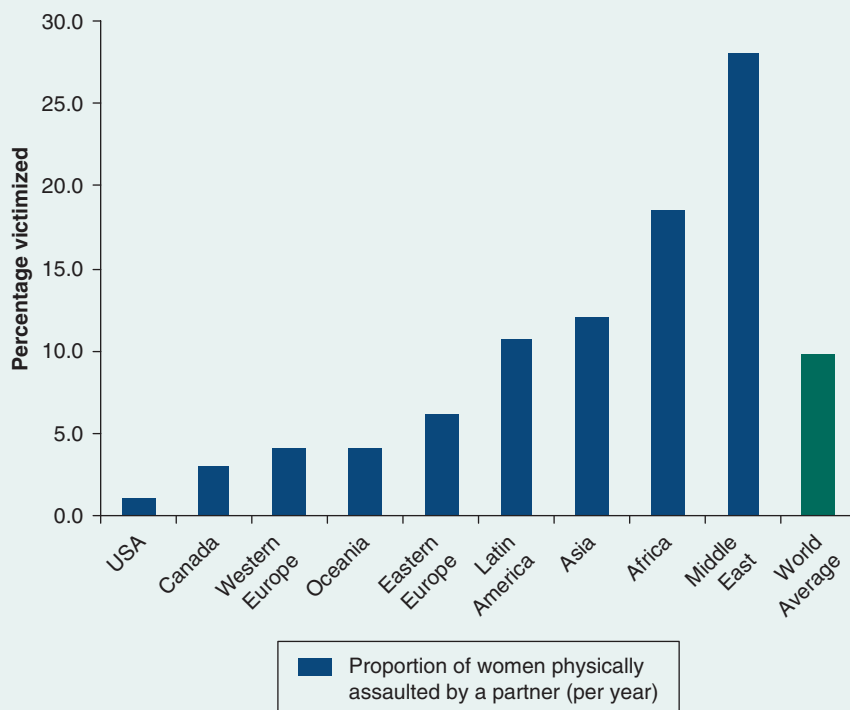
As shown in Figure 9.3, the region of the world with by far the highest annual percentage of females 15 and over being victimized by violence from intimate partners was the Middle East. The second highest region was Africa, but it was a distant second. The leading theory for why these two regions, and especially the Middle East, are so high is the

extreme patriarchy—or dominance of males—prominent in most countries in those regions.

Consistent with this conclusion, Van Dijk (2008) points out that perhaps the most comprehensive studies of domestic abuse in modern times were done in Germany and surveyed more than 11,000 teenagers about their experiences with domestic violence in their homes. One consistent finding was that rates or percentages of violence against mothers reported by children of immigrants were significantly higher, with extremely high rates reported among those from Turkey (32%), Yugoslavia (25%), and Russia (20%). Another interesting pattern was that the immigrant families who had resided in Germany for longer periods had higher rates of violence, which Van Dijk claimed suggested “growing tensions between

**FIGURE 9.3**

Percentages of Women, 15 Years and Older, Victimized by Violence From Intimate Partners Over the Past 12 Months



Sources: Independently run, dedicated surveys of violence against women in 72 countries; United Nations. (2006). *In-depth study on all forms of violence against women*. Report to the Secretary-General, New York, United Nations. (A/61/122/Add.1.)