

Mapping Intimate Partner Violence in Democratic Republic of Congo

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Fig 1. Proportion of Women Experiencing IPV by Province in DRC in 2013

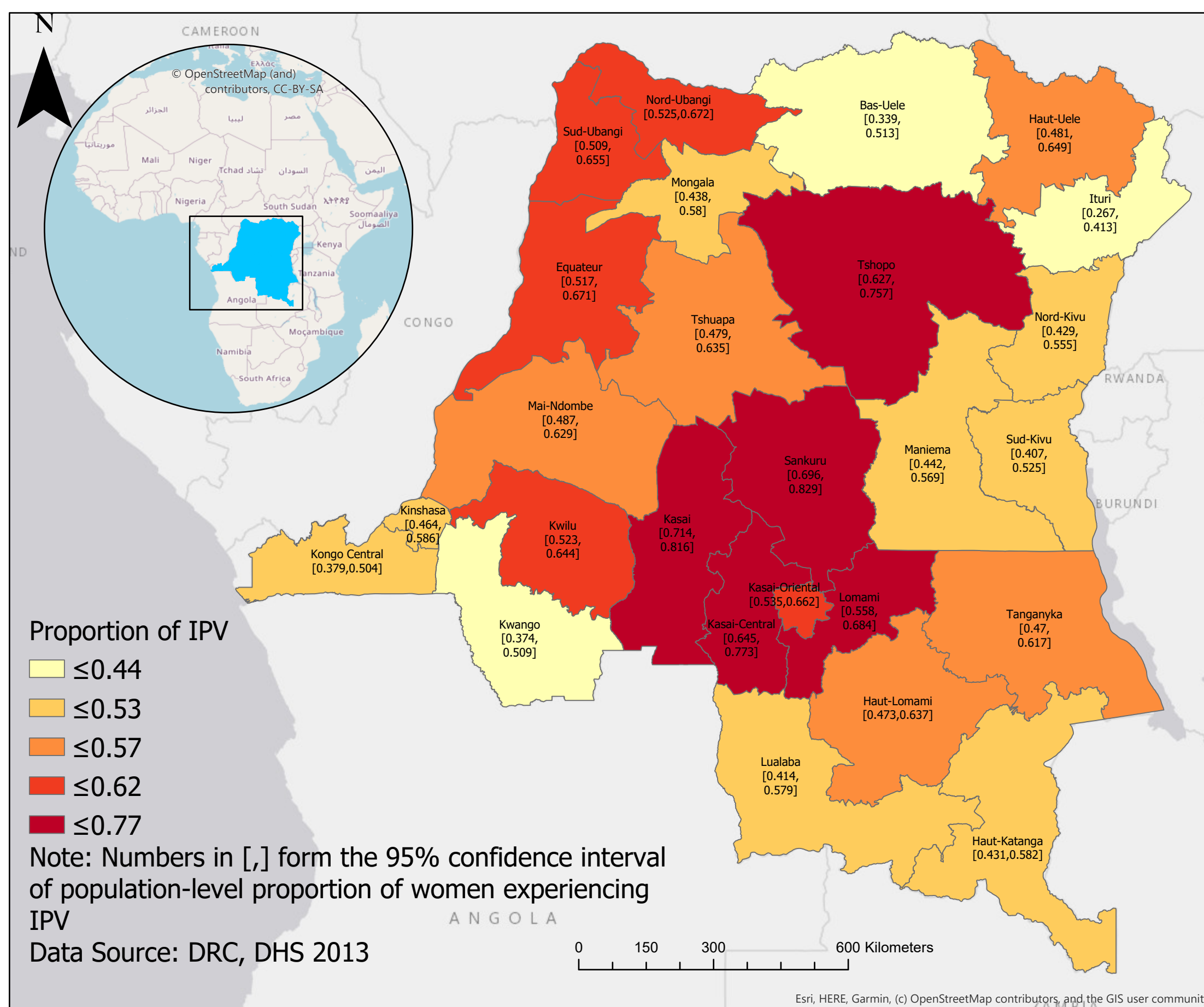
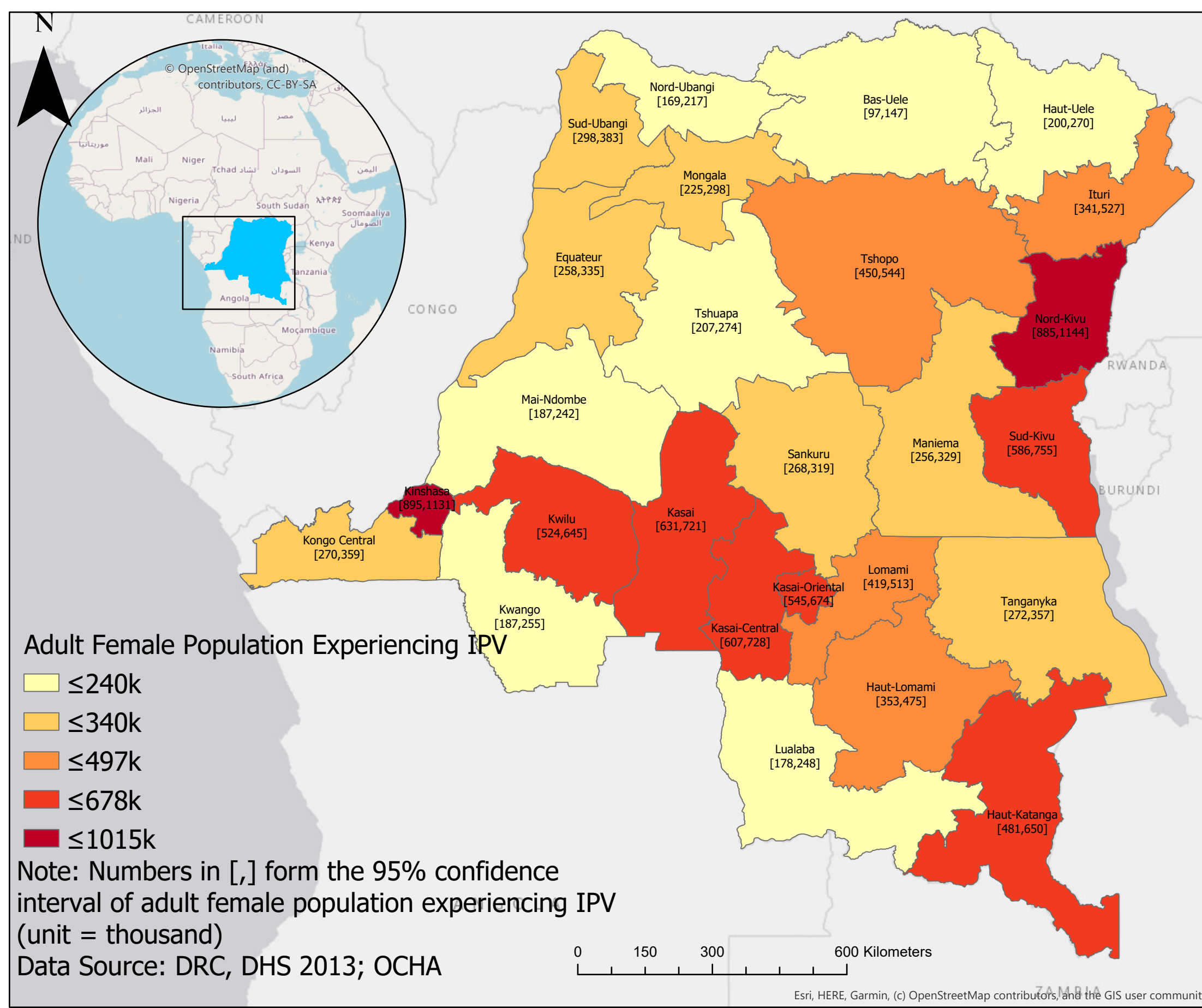


Fig 2. Estimated Female Population Experiencing IPV by Province in DRC in 2020



Introduction

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a widespread form of violence against women and human right violation. Research shows that this problem is particularly severe in developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is estimated to have the highest rate of reported violence among all countries in this region (Cools and Kotsadam, 2017). In this project, I explored how provinces in DRC differ from each other on: 1) the prevalence of IPV; 2) the size of population affected by IPV; 3) the difference between urban and rural areas on the prevalence of IPV; and 4) the acceptance toward IPV. Knowing the spatial pattern of IPV has policy implications. This information can inform policy decisions on allocating social workers, planning women's empowerment programs and support centers in provinces with high prevalence of and acceptance toward abuse.

Data

- The Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) in DRC in 2013: DHS contains individual-level characteristics of about 12,000 in-union women aged 15 to 49 and is representative at both national and province level.
- Adult female population size in DRC from United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Method

- I aggregated individual-level information by province and estimated the proportion of women who experience IPV and that of women who consider wife-beating justified for at least one reason.
- I used bootstrap method to estimate the 95% confidence interval for the proportions of IPV.
- The size of population affected by IPV in 2020 = the population size of adult female in 2020 * the province-level proportion of women experiencing IPV in 2013 (although outdated, it is the most recent statistics). The 95% confidence interval (CI) of the population size is calculated using the population size and 95% CI of the proportions.
- I estimated the proportion in urban and in rural areas separately by aggregating individual-level information and took the difference.

Results

- The result of Chi-squared test of independence suggests that the proportion of women with IPV experience is associated with province membership at $p = 0.001$ level. IPV is particularly severe in the following five provinces in the middle of DRC: Kasai, Sankuru Kasai-Central, Tshopo and Lomami.
- The affected population size is large in populous provinces: Nord-Kivu, Kinshasa, Kasai, Sud-Kivu and Kasai-Central.
- There is a large urban-rural disparity in the prevalence of IPV. The difference (urban minus rural) on the prevalence of IPV ranges from 25% in Ituri province to -21% in Mai-Ndombe province.
- There is a high acceptance toward wife-beating among women across the DRC. The proportion of women who considered wife-beating justified for at least one reason in 2013 ranges from 96% in Sud-Ubangi to 54% in Ituri.

Reference

Cools, S., Kotsadam, A (2017) "Resources and Intimate Partner Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa", World Development, Volume 95, Pages 211-230, ISSN 0305-750X, doi:10.1016, Available at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X17300542>

Links to Data Source

DRC, DHS 2013: <https://dhsprogram.com/data/Using-DataSets-for-Analysis.cfm>
OCHA: <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-administrative-level-0-2-population-statistics>

Fig 3. Urban-Rural Difference in IPV Proportion by Province in DRC in 2013

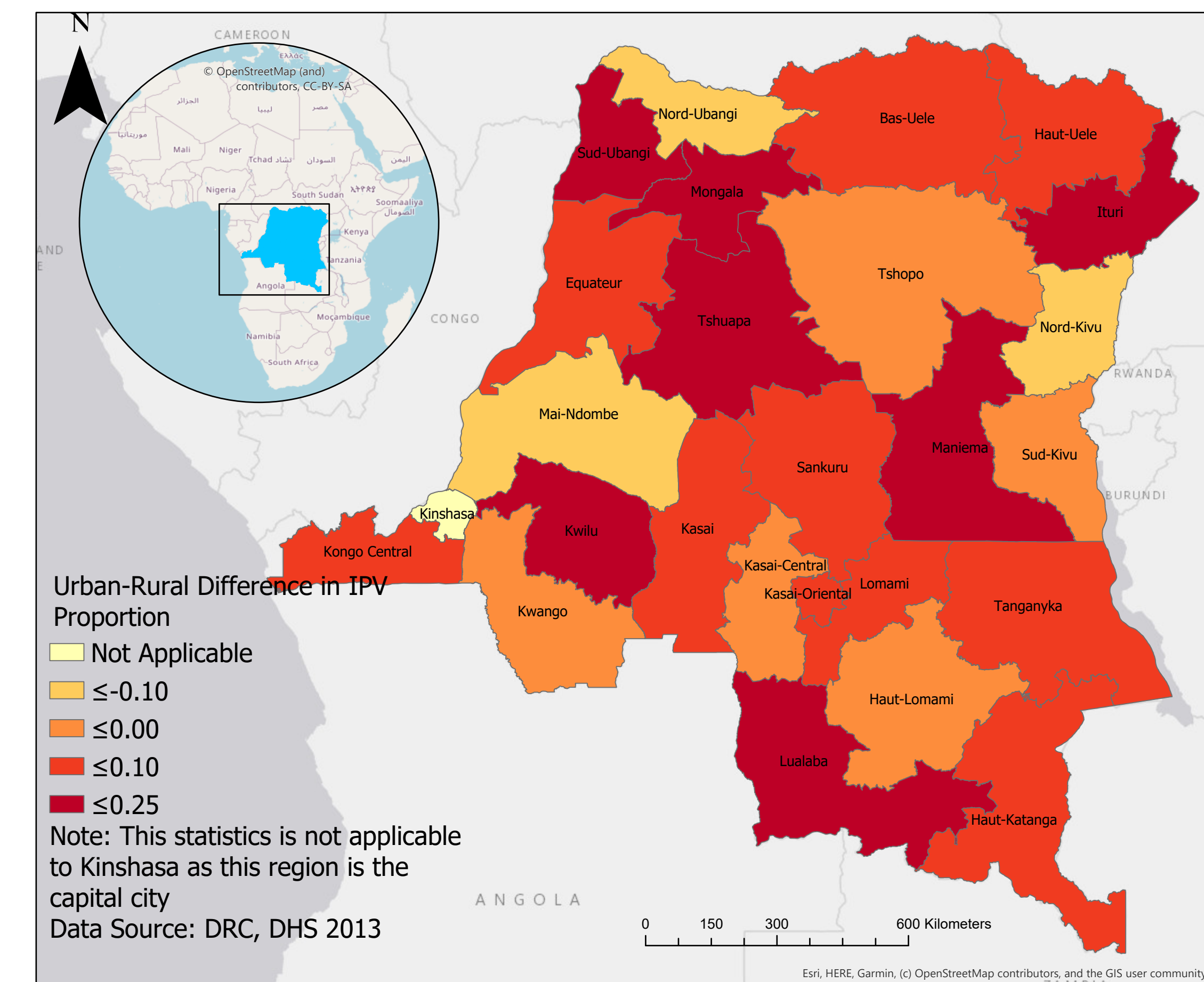


Fig 4. Proportion of Women Who Considered Wife-Beating Justified in DRC in 2013

