Measuring Violence against Women – a global perspective

United Nations Statistics Division

Francesca Grum
Chief Demographic and Social Statistics
grum@un.org

International Association for Official Statistics – IAOS 2022



Outline



Eliminating violence against women (VAW) to achieve sustainable development

Available data on violence against women

Ongoing efforts to close data gaps





Eliminating violence against women to achieve sustainable development – a global commitment





Indicators on VAW in the SDG indicators framework

- **5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence** by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age
- **5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner** in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence
- 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18
- **5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting**, by age (FGM)

11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment.

by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months **16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide** per
100,000 population, by sex
and age

16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months

16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation





5.2.1 Intimate Partner Violence: multiple indicators to monitor



Intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence, peaking during women's reproductive years in both developed and developing countries

82%

Proportion of countries that have laws on domestic violence

69%

Proportion of countries that have laws on sexual harassment

27%

Proportion of countries that have laws on marital rape

J.,

75% of countries, where acceptance of wifebeating among women is decreasing

13%

Proportion of police officers who are women

Less than 40% of victims of intimate partner violence have told anyone

(10% to the police)

Prevalence



Frequency



13%

(past 12 months - 2000-2018)*
Physical and/or sexual 15-49 – global estimates

[2% - 36%]



Source: UNSD and partners— World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics

* Updated prevalence as per WHO 2021

How are we doing in terms of data availability?



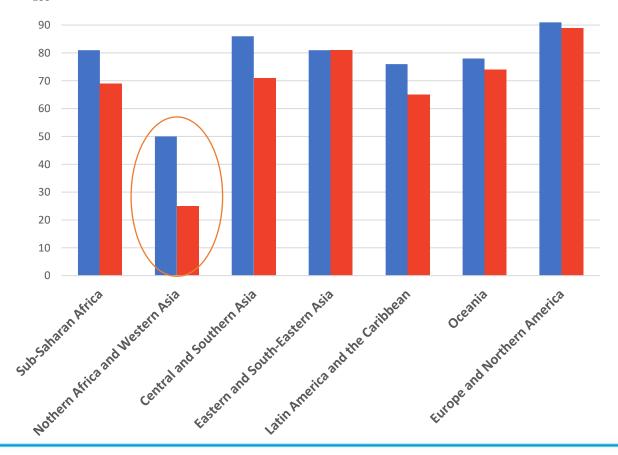


Data availability on VAW is increasing

(SDG indicators 5.2.1, 5.2.2)

- 161 countries with prevalence data in 2000-2018 (81 as of 2010);
- 78 countries with more than 1 surveys

Proportion of countries with data on prevalence of intimate partner violence (5.2.1) and non-partner sexual violence (5.2.2) among women (previous 12 months)





Statistics Division



Challenges in measuring VAW-country level

Complex data collection: sensitive topic requiring special measures

- Leadership and political will at all levels
- Specification of formal requirements of violence against women statistics in the national statistical legislation
- **Training** of statisticians, interviewers, ...
- Resources to collect data on a regular basis to monitor progress and trends;
- Collaboration of NSOs with other institutions for harmonizing concepts and methods (e.g., for use of admin records);



Challenges in monitoring VAWG-international level

Comparability of data

- **Different** survey **methodologies**, **definitions** of partner or spousal violence and recall periods;
- Lack of disaggregation by different **forms of intimate partner violence** (physical, sexual, psychological; diverse age groups; denominators (e.g. all women, or only evermarried/partnered or currently married/partnered women).
- Gaps in data on **sexual harassment**, and other types of violence
- Measuring psychological IPV and threshold for psychologically abusive act
- Measuring violence on specific subgroups (older women, women with disabilities)

Ensuring statistics are nationally relevant while promoting production according to international standards

Improving evidence on VAW



Opportunities for improving evidence on VAW

(outcomes of global meetings in 2021)

Integration,
harmonization
and use of
traditional and
new data sources,
to obtain a
comprehensive
picture of violence
against women

Establishment of "VAW data system"

- •Cooperation with different stakeholders, new partnerships (consistency of concepts);
- Strengthen userproducer dialogue

Mobilization of (domestic) financial resources for investments on building capacity and skills

Development of international methods/guidelines, incl.

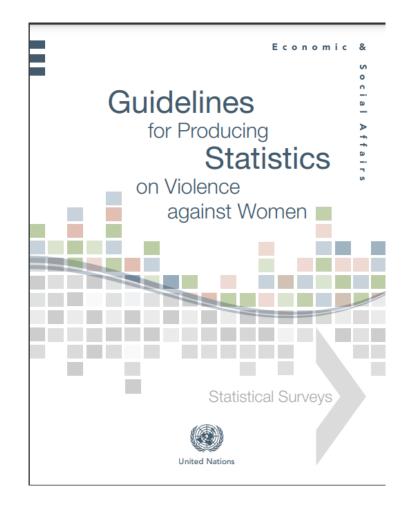
- •Root causes of violence
- •Men's perspective and experience
- Men as perpetrators and victims
- Behaviors and attitudes

Measure impact of COVID-19 on VAW and on data



UN Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women

- Provides national statistical agencies with guidance on collecting, processing, disseminating and analysing data on VAW
- Introduces the concepts, definitions and data requirements for measuring VAW





Gender Data Portal



• Dashboard:



Key takeaways

Eliminating
VAW is
central to
achieve
gender
equality and
sustainable
development

Multiple
dimensions
of VAW need
to be
measured
and
monitored

Greater
availability of
data on IPV
but still low
level of
international
comparability

Leave No
One Behind
principleolder
women,
women with
disabilities,
other groups

Need for data on men's experience as perpetrators and victims

Call for establishing a comprehensive data "system" for VAW

Priorities at international level - UNSD and partners



Thank you!

Learn more about our work!





Department of Economic and Social AffairsStatistics