Measuring violence against women
Challenges, tools and methods

Part 2
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SVRI, Cancun Mexico 19 September 2022
UNDERSTANDING DATA
Sources for data on VAW

- Records from police, courts, hospital, etc

- Population based surveys:
  - Dedicated specialized surveys
  - National crime victimization surveys
  - Demographic and reproductive health surveys
  - Short module added to other surveys

- Qualitative sources
  - Newspaper clippings
  - In-depth interview and focus group discussions
  - Case studies
  - Anthropological research
To whom do women talk about physical partner violence?

- Bangladesh prov
- Bangladesh Cap
- Thailand prov
- Thailand Cap
- Samoa
- Japan Yokohama

Options: no-one, family, friends, neighbours, services, authorities.
Data on VAW
Admin data on VAW – how well does it represent prevalence in a population?

Severity

Actual prevalence (unknown)

Administrative data

Survey data

Source: Henriette Jansen
Why surveys?

• Only source of data that allows you to find out magnitude of problem in the population
SURVEYS ON THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE

GOLD STANDARD APPROACH TO COLLECTING VIOLENCE PREVALENCE DATA:

- Standard international survey methods with structured questionnaires
- Guided by set of ethical and safety measures
- Extensive, specialized, in-depth interviewer training
- Participatory process and national ownership
- Capacity building and mentoring of national staff
- Data for action!!
1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner.
Target 5.2.
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Indicators:

- **5.2.1. (“IPV”)** 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 last 12 months, by form of violence and by age group

- **5.2.2. (“SV”)** Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by age group and place of occurrence
Prevalence of VAW: how many people experience it (%)?

Number of (ever-partnered) women subjected to (type of) violence

Total number of (ever-partnered) women

Two time periods:
- Lifetime: did it ever happen?
- Current: did it happen in the last 12 months?
Incidents/frequency of VAW: How often does it happen (per person)?

Number of incidents (number of assaults per inhabitant) in a specific reference period

Two time periods:
- Lifetime: did it ever happen?
- Current: did it happen in the last 12 months?
HOW IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MEASURED?

Physical violence
e.g. slapping, pushing, biting, hair pulling, kicking, throwing things, choking, burning, using or threatening to use a weapon such as a gun or knife

Sexual violence
e.g. forced/coerced intercourse, intercourse out of fear, degrading or humiliating sex

Psychological violence
e.g. prevented from seeing friends and/or family, insisting on knowing where she is at all times, verbal insults, making her feel scared or intimidated
Key messages on prevalence

- Overall prevalence rates hide huge variations
- The variation shows us that there violence is not inevitable
- Importance of understanding context and the story that the data tells for effective policy, prevention and response

Challenges:
- Countries without any data, most countries only one data point
- Issues with comparability
- Disaggregation, intersections with disability, poverty, etc.
- Limited capacity
- Prevalence data (surveys) will never capture the most severe
Prevalence of physical violence by husband, among ever-married women, by age, Viet Nam 2010 (N=4561)

Exercise: Explain this graph
Cambodia DHS
Can we see a trend over time?

Data visualization example 2 (1)
CDHS: Physical and/or sexual partner violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Phys/sex lifetime</th>
<th>Ph/sex 12m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data visualization example 2 (2)
CDHS: Ratio past 12 months as proportion of lifetime (physical and/or sexual) violence

Data visualization example 2 (3)
Viet Nam: Most prevalence rates of violence by a husband/partner are lower in 2019 compared to 2010, except sexual violence

Prevalence of physical, sexual, physical and/or sexual, emotional violence by a husband and controlling behaviour during lifetime and the last 12 months among ever-married women, Viet Nam, 2010 (N=4561, aged 18-60) and 2019 (N=5553, aged 15-64)

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical violence</td>
<td>6 (5)</td>
<td>26 (5)</td>
<td>4 (6)</td>
<td>32 (6)</td>
<td>10 (13)</td>
<td>34 (32)</td>
<td>47 (54)</td>
<td>27 (33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence</td>
<td>12 (10)</td>
<td>32 (13)</td>
<td>13 (6)</td>
<td>32 (13)</td>
<td>4 (6)</td>
<td>9 (9)</td>
<td>19 (25)</td>
<td>13 (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical and/or sexual</td>
<td>34 (32)</td>
<td>54 (47)</td>
<td>9 (9)</td>
<td>47 (54)</td>
<td>4 (6)</td>
<td>9 (9)</td>
<td>19 (25)</td>
<td>13 (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional violence</td>
<td>25 (25)</td>
<td>47 (54)</td>
<td>9 (9)</td>
<td>47 (54)</td>
<td>4 (6)</td>
<td>9 (9)</td>
<td>19 (25)</td>
<td>13 (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlling behaviour</td>
<td>33 (33)</td>
<td>27 (27)</td>
<td>9 (9)</td>
<td>27 (27)</td>
<td>4 (6)</td>
<td>9 (9)</td>
<td>19 (25)</td>
<td>13 (27)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Pacific violence against women highest in the world!”
Proportion of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by anyone (i.e., by a partner in lifetime and/or by a non-partner since age 15).

* 15-49: Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu
** 15-64: Cook Islands, FSM, Palau, RMI
Comparison of prevalence of different forms of partner and non-partner violence against women.

- **Lifetime physical and/or sexual IPV**
- **Non-partner physical violence > 15 years**
- **Non-partner sexual violence > 15 years**

### MELANESIA
- Fiji: 66\% (29\% physical + 33\% sexual)
- Solomon Isl: 64\% (18\% physical + 18\% sexual)
- Vanuatu: 60\% (28\% physical + 33\% sexual)

### MICRONESIA
- Kiribati: 68\% (11\% physical + 33\% sexual)
- RMI: 51\% (10\% physical + 13\% sexual)
- FSM: 33\% (10\% physical + 13\% sexual)

### POLYNESIA
- Palau: 33\% (25\% physical + 14\% sexual)
- Cook Islands: 39\% (7\% physical + 14\% sexual)
- Samoa: 46\% (11\% physical + 15\% sexual)
- Tonga: 68\% (6\% physical + 6\% sexual)
Examples of reporting on VAW
Example 1:

“There is evidence that violence against women has increased in [country X] during the pandemic:

hotline reports on domestic violence increased by 150% and

there have been an increasing number of violent deaths of women.”
“There is evidence that violence against women has increased in [country X] during the pandemic:

- Hotline reports on domestic violence increased by 150% and
- There have been an increasing number of violent deaths of women.”
• **What is wrong?**

• Based on hotline reporting. Studies show very few women report to the hotlines. No other services accessible. There have been ads promoting the hotlines. More women reporting, particularly survivors of domestic violence.
Example 2:

• “A man is killed every three weeks by an abusive partner. It says that as of August 10 this year 42 women had been killed and 82 men, “all killed violently, many by partners”.

[Aug 2016]

• What is wrong?

Gender bias

- Population based prevalence rates from surveys bias towards a symmetry in the rates women and men are perpetrators or victims of certain forms of domestic violence.
- Service based statistics tend to show that men commit almost all violence and overestimate women as victims of domestic violence.
Domestic Violence: incidents and gender  
(Crime Survey England and Wales)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Ratio: Women: men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victims</td>
<td>657,000</td>
<td>356,000</td>
<td>1:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number incidents per victim</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total incidents</td>
<td></td>
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Prevalence and incidents

• Prevalence: use of ‘course of conduct’ might mean that a series of 20 incidents may count only as one crime, thereby underestimating the proportion of violent crime that is gender-based violence ➔

• thereby skewing the gender composition towards image of symmetry
Turn your data into a story:

• Simplify (but remain correct)!
• Add a human story to touch hearts (why should they care?)
• Tell a story that is made robust by data
• Educate the public about the evidence behind VAW
• Get public support (call for action!)
Give your data story a human face: Violence impacts on women’s health

“I was affected by what he did to me as I had a hard time and I got sick. Sometimes I felt frightened, and I wanted to commit suicide, but I couldn’t because I loved my children.”

(Woman interviewed in Kiribati)

- The data show that women who have ever experienced violence by a partner have:
  - Worse general health
  - More symptoms of ill health such as pain, memory loss, dizziness in the past 4 weeks
  - More signs of mental distress
  - More suicidal thoughts and attempts
  - More induced abortions and miscarriages
The data show that children living in violent homes have more behavioural problems (aggression, bedwetting) and are more likely to have problems at school.

“It has really affected my children, especially our first son. It really affects his education. He has sleepless nights and is scared and this affects his learning ability. He can’t concentrate well in class.”

(Woman interviewed in Solomon Islands)
Other ways of communicating data: How to visualize amounts?
"When I first started working as a civil servant I experienced work harassment, including being touched on my breast and having men touch other parts of my body."

- Violence against women survivor, Kiribati

73% of women* in Kiribati have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lives, either by an intimate partner or by someone else.

*Women ages 15-49
Data source: Kiribati Family Health and Support Study 2010

Image: Dr. Henriette Jansen

Exploited violence
Did not experience violence
"I lost three teeth that day. Luckily I did not lose the baby I was carrying."

- Survivor of violence against women, Tonga

In Tonga 8% of pregnant women* experienced physical violence (like kicking or beating) during a pregnancy

*Of women who have ever been pregnant and have ever been in an intimate partnership | Data source: National Study on Domestic Violence against Women in Tonga 2009
Maldives
Reminder:

Before you start, ask yourself:
Is this really the best time to be collecting data?

Reflect on the motivation for the research:
Who will benefit and in what way?
Are the women at the center?
Does the research add value?
Will the findings be actionable?
How will you ensure that findings will be used?

Always prioritize women’s safety over data collection!
Thank you!

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