Measuring violence against women
Challenges, tools and methods

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SVRI, Cancun Mexico
19 September 2022
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Introduction

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Part 1
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SVRI, Cancun Mexico 19 September 2022
kNOwVAWdata course team
OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

Part 1:
• How and why data collection on violence against women through surveys is different from most other surveys
• Understand ethical and safety challenges around data collection on violence against women
  • Identify options to mitigate risks

Part 2:
• How to critically & meaningfully examine and use VAW data
  • Understand challenges of prevalence indicators for measuring change, gender bias, and interpretation with cultural context
Introductions & expectations

– Your name
– Where you work
– One key expectation for the workshop

https://PollEv.com/SVRI
Pre-Workshop

3 Question Quiz

https://PollEv.com/SVRI
Group Activity: risks and risk mitigation

**Group 1.**

What are risks for women to participate in violence against women surveys?
List ways to keep them safe and to provide support.

**Group 2.**

What are risks for field workers/researchers to participate in violence against women studies?
List strategies to deal with these.

**Group 3.**

What are risks for stakeholder to advocate and support violence against women studies?
List strategies to deal with these.
About half of the women had talked about partner violence for the first time during the interview.

“One of the reasons why I do not share my problems with others is because if he finds out that I’ve been talking about him, he’ll beat me up again.”

(Woman interviewed in Solomon Islands)
Analysis of 161 countries

Estimates 1 in 3, or 30%, of women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or non-partner sexual violence or both.
SIX GOLDEN PRINCIPLES FOR INTERVIEWING WOMEN WHO MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE
SIX GOLDEN PRINCIPLES FOR INTERVIEWING WOMEN WHO MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE

1 | Empathy & maturity
2 | Sensitization
3 | Confidentiality & safety
4 | Minimizing distress & providing support info
5 | Reaching the unreachable
6 | Taking care of wellbeing for the whole research team
1 | EMPATHY & MATURITY

INTERVIEWER QUALITIES:

- Engage with people of different backgrounds
- Judgement-free, empathetic
- Build rapport with survey respondents
- Comfortable with sensitive issues
Training must build deeper understandings of gender-based violence

“Violence is something we all know happens. It is distant and close to us always—but we didn't know how to talk about it.”

- Survey interviewer in Mongolia, 2017
Exercise – Imagine....
INTERVIEWERS MUST:

- Respect privacy & confidentiality
- Know how to explain the survey without revealing its true topic, as to not compromise her own safety or the respondent’s
- Understand ethical photo best-practices

Conduct interviews in a private, safe setting
Know how to handle interruptions
Come from, and live in, a different community

“Co-workers were sort of interrogating an interviewer about the survey topic, so she made up stories like ‘it’s about women’s health and menstruation.’ After that people said, ‘Oh okay, we don’t want to hear about it.’ Role-playing was one of the biggest tools that helped us.”

- Palau survey coordinator, 2014
Confidentiality and safety also has implications for sampling!

Sample size: should result in safely collected and quality data
- Clusters not too close
- Households' density not too high (e.g., 1 in 10 urban; 1 in 4 rural)
- Need to take into account training capacity, number of skilled interviewers and team size
- Cluster preferable to be finished in one day
- Workload for interviewers often max 50-100 pp
4 | MINIMIZING DISTRESS & PROVIDING SUPPORT INFO

**INTERVIEWERS MUST:**

- Ask questions in a supportive, non-judgmental way
- Be aware of signs of distress & know how to respond
- Be empathetic & supportive without taking on the role of counselor
- Know when & how to terminate the interview
- End in a positive manner
- Provide all respondents with a list of local support services & referrals as needed

“When I encounter a case of abuse, sometimes I feel tense and end up stopping the interview to invite the woman to take some water, give her a tissue and at the same time take a sip of water myself to restore my own psychological balance.”

- Survey interviewer, Viet Nam, 2010
Test: What are appropriate reactions from interviewers to disclosure of violence?!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible reaction</th>
<th>OK or not?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Maybe you should not have gone out with this friend.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. It will go away if you just bear it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I’m sorry this happened to you. It is not your fault.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I think it is your personal matter.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Nobody deserves this to happen to them.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Thank you for sharing your story. I can only imagine how difficult that must have been for you.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. If you dress more modestly it may not have happened.</td>
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"Somehow it made me feel good, because it was something that I had never told anyone before. Now I’ve told someone".

--Respondent, Brazil
"Our car got stuck one evening so I asked someone to take me on a motorcycle. When I got to my destination, there was no road. I had to climb up a hill. By the time I got to the address, it was quite late at night, and everyone was asleep. I had to wake the woman up to interview her."

- Survey interviewer in Mongolia, 2017
Reducing non-response is crucial

“We met with an angry man who did not want us to interview his wife. We made a plan with the respondent to hide. We met at the sport complex. We finished the interview because the husband did not find us. This is a difficult way to do the work, but we always managed to finish every interview.”

Interviewer in Kiribati

Jansen H.A.F.M. Swimming against the tide. Lessons Learned from Field Research on Violence Against Women in the Solomon Islands and Kiribati. 2010 UNFPA

Better data is collected by people who are emotionally well and who know how to take care of themselves.
Support for interviewers:
give them breaks / time off if needed

Example of Peru
“I felt empowered listening to women’s stories of hardship and violence…Their tears run, and mine run too, and their voices break. But I felt overjoyed seeing women’s faces brighten with relief from sharing the burden of violence and abuse.”

- Survey interviewer, Mongolia, 2017
### Evidence of importance of training: Special training vs professional interviewers (Serbia, 2003)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Inexperienced, 3-week training</th>
<th>Professional, 1 day training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response rate</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disclosure rate</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent satisfaction with interview (survivor)</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent satisfaction with interview (non-survivor)</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Burden and responsibility for having received the untold stories

Interviewing as an exchange of gifts: it involves your heart and emotional response
We did not think that such severe forms of violence existed in the community, but we found out that even the killing, raping, everything came out. That was a big surprise for us.”

Interviewer Cambodia
“Maybe I was mediating by listening to her for half an hour, and it was worth the world when at the end she thanks me and tells me she felt worthy.”

Interviewer in Turkey
“Before doing this work, we did not know we have the same rights as men. Now we voice our problems. In the past we whipped our children to teach them. Now we know there are limits.”

Interviewer in Solomon Islands
Suggestions for role plays

• Interview a young woman while her mother does not want to leave her alone.
• Interview an adolescent girl whose boyfriend comes in every time to see what is happening.
• Interview a young woman who after a sensitive question refuses to answer further and completely stops talking (withdraws into him/herself)
• Interview a woman who starts crying.
• Interview a woman who does not tell you anything about violence during the interview but after you have made your closing remarks and put the papers away tells you about her experience with violence.
Group work: Support plan

• 1. Support for interviewers

• 2. Support for respondents.
Measuring violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic

1. If you are following all of the 6 principles, can you safely and ethically conduct a national prevalence survey to measure violence against women?

2. Why or why not and explain.
Data Collection on Violence against Women and COVID-19: Decision Tree

WHY do you want to collect data and how will it be used?
What questions are useful to explore?

Use existing data!
- Explore data from existing surveys.
- Analyse service case records (before and during COVID19).

Can existing data answer the common questions being explored?

Potential questions answered by population-based surveys:
- Has violence increased?
- Have the nature, forms or severity of violence changed?
- Have the risk/protective factors for violence changed?

Is there a national lockdown or are there significant movement restrictions?

Potential questions answered by other sources of data:
- Is there a change in the nature, forms or severity of reported violence?
- Is there an increase or decrease in service use?
- Are services being accessed and/or delivered differently and is this safe and effective?

Interviewers cannot safely visit homes and arrange private and confidential interviews.

Could I use service data to determine prevalence? (e.g. police reports, calls to helplines, data from shelters)?

Could I add a few questions on experience of violence in a rapid assessment population-based survey on the impact of COVID-19?

Could I conduct phone interviews or collect data using the internet/mobile devices to get violence prevalence data?

Would it be useful to add proxy questions in a rapid assessment (e.g. violence experienced by others)?

No. Only a small fraction of abused women use services. It is not correct to interpret any change in service use data as a change in prevalence. Service data are useful to answer different questions.

No. Women’s participation in any survey on violence, particularly when at home with their abusers, may result in more violence and/or in poor quality data.

No. We will not know what it tells us. It is not actionable.

Can you ensure confidentiality, privacy and support?

Safe to collect data through violence surveys or interviews.
Important! Representative data on how many women experience violence before, during and after COVID-19 can only be collected through surveys with a random sample of women.

Always prioritize women’s safety over data collection!

Please refer to accompanying brief for details (forthcoming)

v. 30 June 2020
RESOURCES


https://knowvawdata.com/story/the-journey-mongolia/
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Part 2
Henriette Jansen
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Take a Break!