

Methodological proposal as an approach to measuring violence against women in Argentina

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Abstract:

One of the indicators to measure the prevalence of different forms of violence (physical, sexual and psychological violence)¹ against women is to calculate the proportion of cases of violence against women of a certain age, by form of violence and by age.

We know that the sources to obtain an estimation of violence prevalence are national surveys dedicated to measuring violence against women and another type of surveys that includes only a module of questions about the experiences of violence by women.

The administrative data from health, police, courts, justice and social services, among other services used by "victims" of violence, can provide some information on violence against women and girls too.

Argentina is developing a single registry of cases of violence against women from the information provided by several national and provincial agencies.

Both, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) like the lead agency of the National Statistical System Statistical Nacional-Sistema Estadístico Nacional (SEN, in Spanish) and the National Women's Council (Consejo Nacional de las Mujeres CNM, in Spanish) signed an agreement to design the National Register of Cases of Violence against Women-Registro Único de Casos de Violencia contra las Mujeres (RUCVM, in Spanish) in the framework of the National Law Number 26.485 of 2009 "Comprehensive Protection Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women in the areas where they are developing their interpersonal relations".

Each agency or institution, like policy or justice institutions for example, committed to the issue on violence against women has been developing a particular procedure of registration and a

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Physical violence consists of acts aimed at physically hurting the victim and include, but are not limited to, pushing, grabbing, twisting the arm, pulling the hair, slapping, kicking, biting or hitting with the fist or object, trying to strangle or suffocate, burning or scalding on purpose, or threatening or attacking with some sort of weapon, gun or knife.

Sexual violence is defined as any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behavior that is imposed on someone. It includes acts of abusive sexual contact, forced engagement in sexual acts, attempted or completed sexual acts without consent, incest, sexual harassment, etc. In intimate partner relationships, experiencing sexual violence is commonly defined as being forced to have sexual intercourse, having sexual intercourse out of fear for what the partner might do, and/or being forced to do something sexual that the woman considers humiliating or degrading.

Psychological violence includes a range of behaviors that encompass acts of emotional abuse and controlling behavior. These often coexist with acts of physical and sexual violence by intimate partners and are acts of violence in themselves (<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/metadata-compilation/>).

methodology of data collection, in order to optimize their management. Usually, each institution uses its own form or questionnaire to identify certain socio-demographic attributes of every woman that has suffered certain type of violence.

The Register of Cases of Violence against Women centralizes and systematizes information available in administrative records in order to design indicators, conceptually and methodologically harmonized. This last information contributes as input for public policy design with the purpose of modifying the scenario of violence based on gender within the framework of the National Law Number 26.485 / 2009.

Violence against women based on gender reflects remnants of patriarchal concepts that define hierarchical structures between man and woman, and manifested in asymmetrical relations of power.

Our contribution is to introduce the operational characteristics of the registration processing; the conceptual and methodological challenges about whom we are working to provide statistical information with national coverage.