



Violence Against Women Statistics: Latest Guidelines and Data

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United Nations Statistics Division

Overview of Presentation



- Overview of *Guidelines on producing statistics on Violence Against Women: Statistical Surveys*
- Focus on ethical and safety aspects of VAW surveys, training, questionnaire design
- ‘Sneak Preview’ of World’s Women 2015 VAW chapter and update on Data Availability

Introduction – Developments at International Level



Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys

- Mandated by the UN Statistical Commission (2009)
- Focus on a core list of indicators (FOC-UNSC)
 - Most common forms of violence
 - Measured through population-based surveys
- Serve as a single methodological resource based on/in line with other international initiatives on the production of VAW statistics



Overview of Guidelines

- Provide detailed methodological advice on:
 - What to measure
 - core and additional topics, (prevalence, severity)
 - How to measure
 - population-based surveys, steps required to plan/organize and execute, recommended tabulations, data analysis and dissemination of results
- Special features of surveys on VAW

Core indicators - UN Statistical Commission FOC



- Total and age specific rate of women subjected to **physical violence** in the past 12 months (severity/perpetrator/frequency)
- Total and age specific rate of women subjected to **physical violence** during their lifetime (severity/perpetrator/frequency)
- Total and age specific rate of women subjected to **sexual violence** in the last 12 months (severity/perpetrator/frequency)
- Total and age specific rate of women subjected to **sexual violence** during their lifetime (severity/perpetrator/frequency)
- Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to **sexual and/or physical violence** by current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months (frequency)
- Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to **sexual and/or physical violence** by current or former intimate partner during their lifetime (frequency)
- Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to **psychological violence** in the past 12 months by the intimate partner
- Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to **economic violence** in the past 12 months by the intimate partner

Intimate partner



What to measure

- Many forms of violence. These guidelines only cover those that can be measured directly through sample survey data.
 - Sexual
 - Physical
 - Psychological
 - Economic
- VAW forms not covered include, for example:
 - trafficking
 - honour killing
 - VAW in armed conflicts among others.



Personal Characteristics

Minimum required:

- Age
- Marital/relationship status

•Additional personal characteristics

- For respondents
 - Ethnicity
 - Economic activity status
 - Religion
 - Language
 - Educational attainment and Literacy
 - Age at first marriage or co-habitation
 - Place of residence (U/R)
- For violence
 - Attitude towards violence against women
 - Reporting to authorities/seeking help
- For perpetrator
 - Age
 - Substance abuse
 - Economic activity status
 - Educational attainment
 - Witnessing violence in childhood
- For perpetrator (non-partner)
 - Sex
 - Location of the violence



How to measure

- Dedicated Surveys (preferred approach)
- Allows for multiple opportunities for respondents to disclose their experiences with violence
- Designed to enable the interviewers to establish a rapport with the respondents
- Generally, yield higher prevalence rates
- Considered to be more accurate reflection of the true prevalence of such acts of violence



- Alternatively
 - Use a Module in women's health type of surveys
 - When dedicated survey is not feasible
 - Only as long as the same principles are followed



Essential features

- Importance of appropriate sampling design (not to systematically exclude important population sub-groups)
- Phrasing of questions
- Ethical considerations
 - Confidentiality
 - Safety of respondents and interviewers
 - Support to victims
- Interviewer training



Questions

- Be explicit in operationalization of concepts
- Clearly defined question

“have you been attacked?”

vs.

“ have you been slapped?”

- Cue respondents to consider a variety of different settings (home, school, work, etc)

Ethical Considerations



- The *safety* of respondents and the research team is paramount and should guide all project decisions
- Protecting *confidentiality* is essential to ensure women's safety and data quality.
- All research team members should be carefully selected, receive *specialized training* and ongoing support.
- The study design must include actions aimed at reducing any possible distress caused to the participants.
- Fieldworkers should be trained to *refer* women requesting assistance to sources of support. Where few resources exist, short-term support mechanisms can be produced



Confidentiality

- Interviewers should not conduct interviews in or near their own community
- Questionnaires should never include names or other identifying information
- Questionnaires and/or data files should always be kept in a secure location and data files should be anonymised
- Access to and control of data files protected



Safety

- The survey should have a safe name, that does not reveal the nature of the survey to reduce risks, e.g. “Women’s Health and Life Events Survey”
- Interviews held only in a private setting
- Allow participants to reschedule if they feel unsafe
- Only one woman per household
- Train interviewers to handle interruptions

Minimizing emotional distress



- Survey questions might elicit negative emotional reactions among both respondents and interviewers.
- So, interviewers need to be trained:
 - How to deal with distress
 - When and how to terminate interviews
- Interviewers should have access to counselors and should not do too many interviews so as to avoid “burn-out”



Selection of interviewers

- Female interviewers and supervisors
- Selection process very important – criteria, base selection on attitudes, motivation as well as competency
- Over sample for interviewers



Interviewer training

- Length of training: 2-3 weeks
- Interviewing techniques for building rapport
- Skills to detect when respondents at risk of being overheard and re-schedule interviews
- How to identify and respond appropriately to emotional trauma by referring respondents to resources in local community
- How to identify emotional reactions in themselves that result from working on this topic and develop skills to manage and reduce stress



Summary - Guidelines

- Dedicated surveys vs module
- Importance of ethical considerations
- Specialized needs for training interviewers

WW2015 – VAW chapter



- Introduction to the issue of VAW and its impacts
- Statistical Methodology and Development
- Physical violence by all perpetrators
- Sexual violence by all perpetrators
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) – Physical and/or sexual IPV, psychological violence, attitudes towards wife beating, violence against men perpetrated by women
- Non-partner sexual violence
- Life-cycle of violence
- Violence in specific settings: FGM, conflict, trafficking
- Help-seeking behaviour and State Accountability

Data Availability



Number of countries	At least 1 survey 1995-2014	At least 2 surveys 1995-2014	At least 1 survey 1995-2004	At least 1 survey 2005-14
Dedicated	61	26	19	57
Module	59	27	25	54
Either	110	54	44	104
Attitudes	98	62	33	95
FGM	29	25	20	27

Data Availability and Comparability



- Much more data available now than for previous World's Women
- Issues with comparability: dedicated survey vs module, methodology, questionnaire design, age group reference
- Publication and use of the guidelines will help with these issues and further improve data quality for monitoring VAW



Next Steps

- World's Women 2015 will be launched next year with available VAW data compiled and presented
- Working towards making VAW data available as part of the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators