Violence Against Women Statistics: Latest Guidelines and Data

5th Global Forum on Gender Statistics, 3-5 November 2014, Aguascalientes, Mexico
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
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
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 perpetrator
  • Age
  • Substance abuse
  • Economic activity status
  • Educational attainment
  • Witnessing violence in childhood

• For perpetrator (non-partner)
  • Sex
  • Location of the violence

• For violence
  • Attitude towards violence against women
  • Reporting to authorities/seeking help
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

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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