

A Framework for Global, Regional, and National Estimates of VAW Statistics

Claudia García-Moreno, Team lead Violence against women, WHO

Lynnmarie Sardinha, VAW Data



**World Health
Organization**

UN JOINT PROGRAMME

- Establishment of an inter-agency working group on VAW data and statistics (all co-custodians of SDG target 5.2. WHO, UNWomen, UNICEF, UNODC, UNFPA, UNDP,) and an independent advisory group (TAG)
- Global, regional and country VAW prevalence database and estimates
- Measurement of violence against older women
- Measuring psychological violence in VAW surveys

PREVALENCE DATABASE 2019

Evolved from the WHO Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2013 study

Focuses on intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence from a non-partner (NPSV)

Systematic review of Ovid-based databases + Exhaustive manual searches (updated March 2018)

Population-based studies, either representative at national or sub-national level were included

WHO GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND COUNTRY PREVALENCE DATABASE 2019 (for the VAWDE – IAWG)

- Types of IPV (Physical, sexual, physical and/or sexual, psychological)
- Sexual violence by any perpetrator since age 15, and non-partner sexual violence
- Age-disaggregated data (5 year age groups where available)
- Residence (national; urban; rural; mixed)
- Population sampled
- Perpetrator status
- Type of VAW survey
- Measures of quality:
 - Training of interviewers
 - Acts-based measures of violence

Data availability: 2000-2019

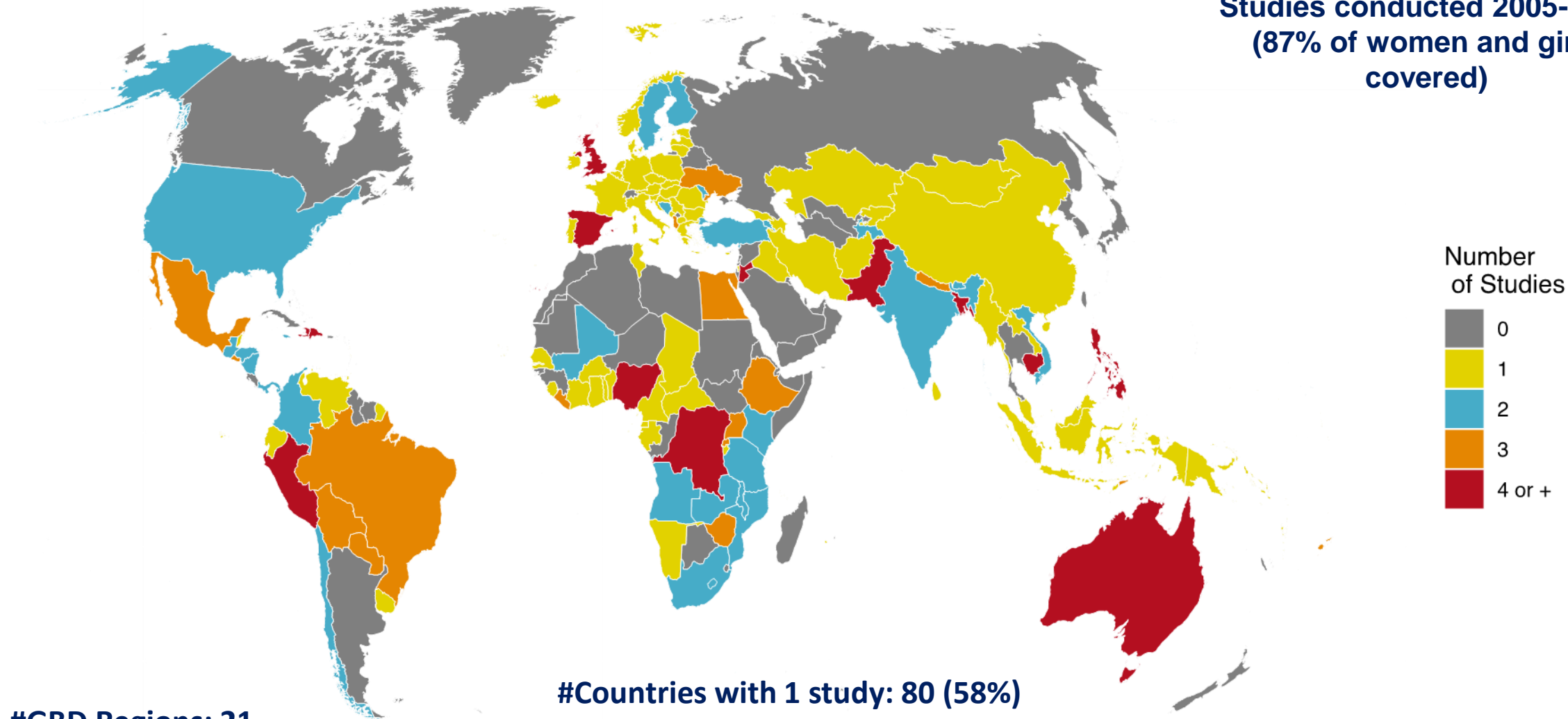
The 2013 GBD Study included 141 studies and covered 85 countries

In 2019 we are drawing on data from:

- ❖ 153 countries with studies measuring IPV (or NPSV), covering 100% of the GBD / SDG regions
- ❖ 142 countries with national or subnational data on lifetime and past year physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence
- ❖ Greater availability and quality of data: of age- and region dis-aggregated data; and on husband/partner perpetrating violence; specific acts used to measure violence; reporting of interviewer training (although still some gaps)

Data Availability 2005-2018: Ever IPV

Studies conducted 2005-2018
(87% of women and girls covered)

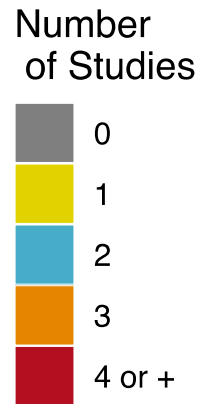
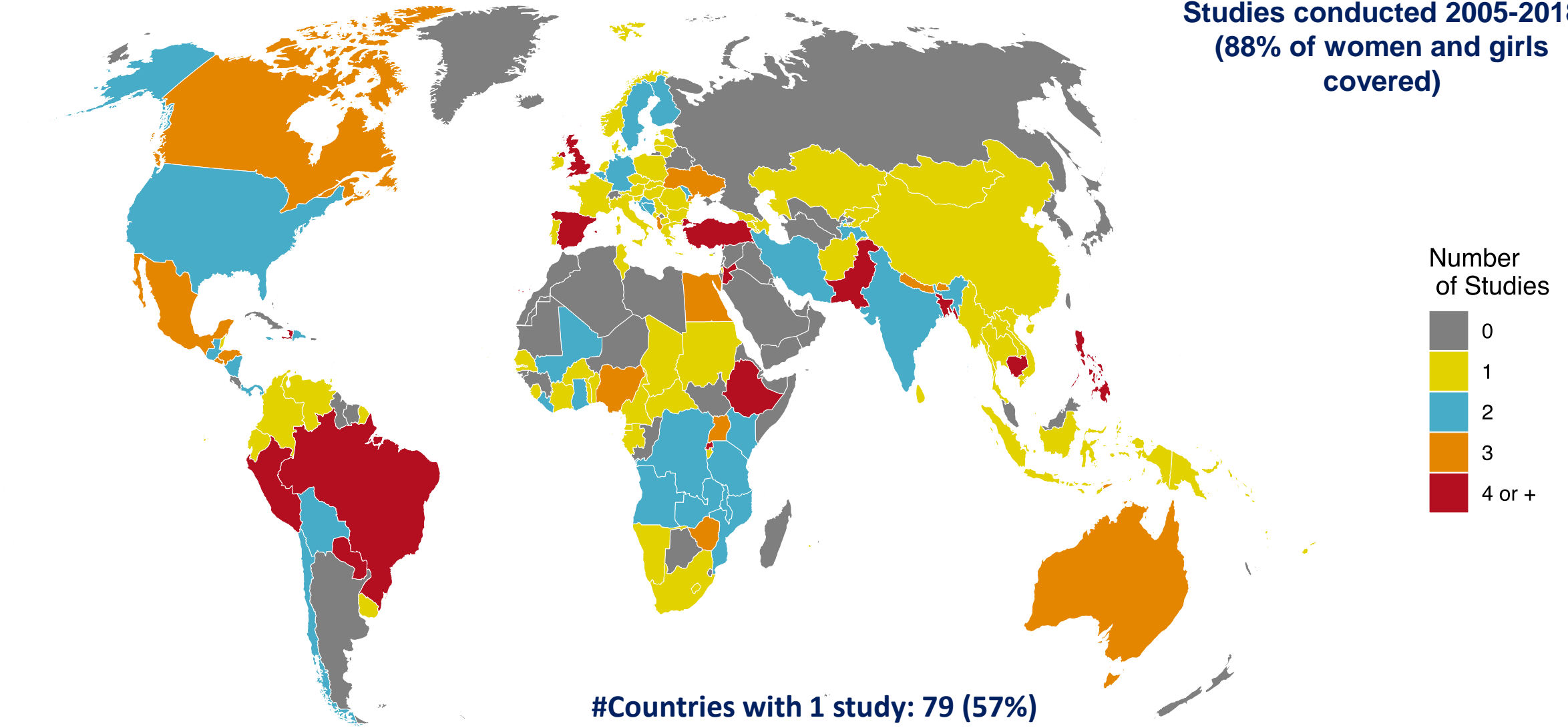


#GBD Regions: 21
Countries: 138
Studies: 254

#Countries with 1 study: 80 (58%)
#Countries with 2 studies :29 (21%)
#Countries with 3 studies: 16 (12%)
#Countries with 4 or more studies 13 (9%)

Data Availability 2005-2018: Past Year IPV

Studies conducted 2005-2018
(88% of women and girls covered)



#GBD Regions: 21
Countries: 138
#Studies:

#Countries with 1 study: 79 (57%)
#Countries with 2 studies :31 (22%)
#Countries with 3 studies: 14 (10%)
#Countries with 4 or more studies 14 (10%)

What indicators did surveys publish?

Many surveys did not measure or did not publish:

- ▶ Both timeframes (ever and past year)
- ▶ Both current/most recent partner vs. any partner
- ▶ Physical partner violence and sexual partner violence
- ▶ Composite indicator for physical and/or sexual IPV
- ▶ Age group 15-49 years old not always reported
- ▶ Consistent denominators for most IPV indicators

DHS surveys are the only ones publishing all indicators

Limitations with IPV data collection

- ▶ Measured using non-acts based questions: *'Have you ever ever experienced physical violence from your husband/partner in the last 12 months?'*
- ▶ Aggregation of all forms of intimate partner violence: *'Have you ever experienced violence from your husband/partner?'*
- ▶ Current and/or most recent husband/partner versus any husband/partner
- ▶ Population surveyed (all women, ever-partnered, currently partnered)
- ▶ Asked about violence experienced from spouse only=husband only *versus* any intimate (cohabiting) partner
- ▶ Lack of or inadequate training of interviewers
- ▶ Lack of attention to ethical and safety standards

Which women were asked about IPV? Who was included in denominators?

Often challenging to answer! May require checking:

1. Partnership history questions (married, cohabited, romantic partners, number of partnerships, etc.)
2. Additional filters specific to violence questions/modules
3. Wording of preambles and items
4. Explanations of indicators construction in text of reports
5. Table/figure labels

➔ Subsample of women and girls asked about IPV is not always the subsample included in IPV indicators denominators

Limitations of reports:

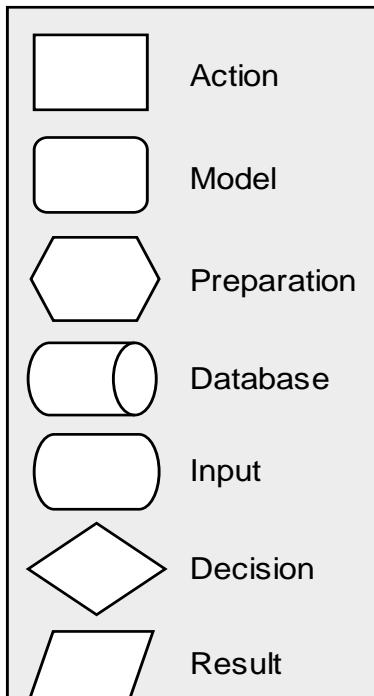
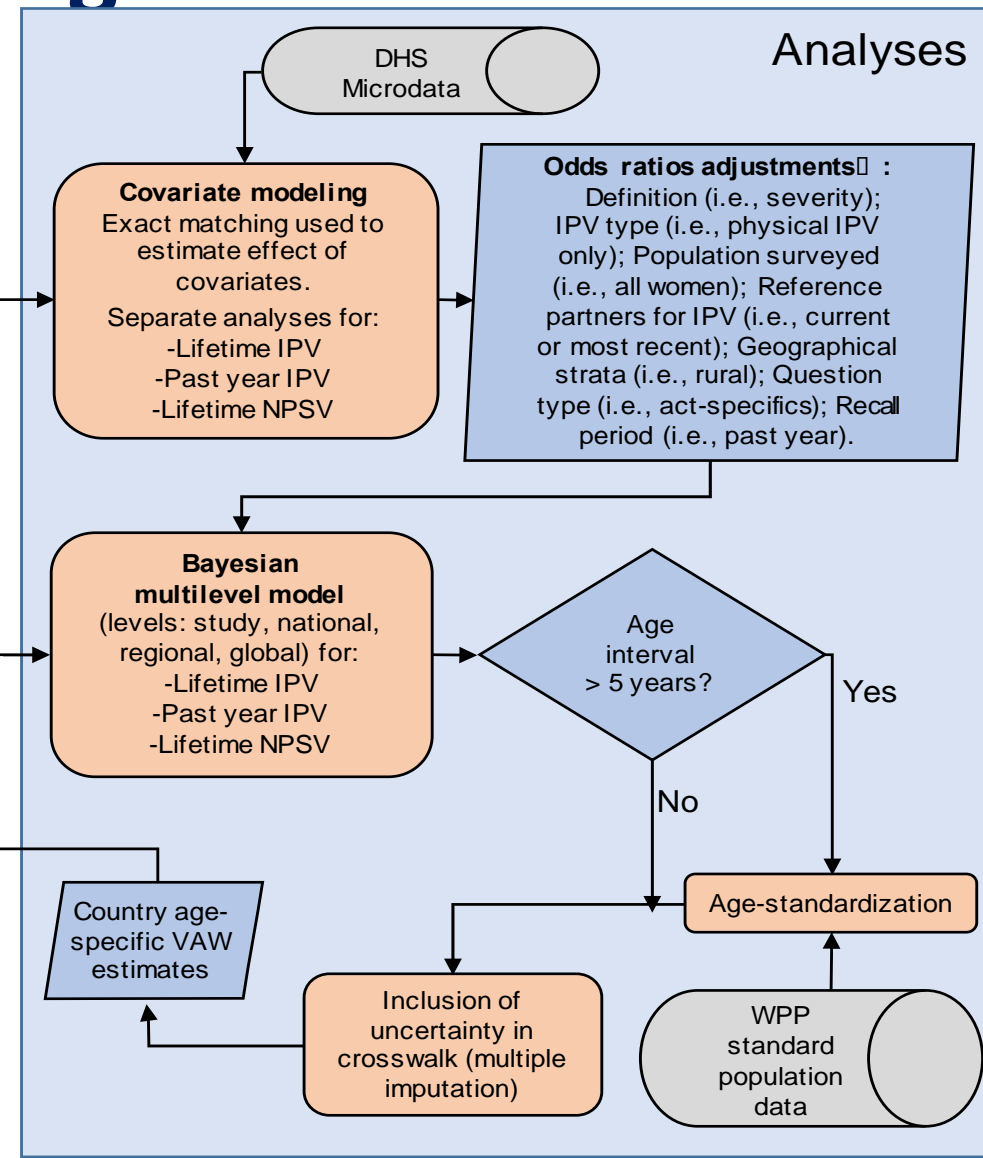
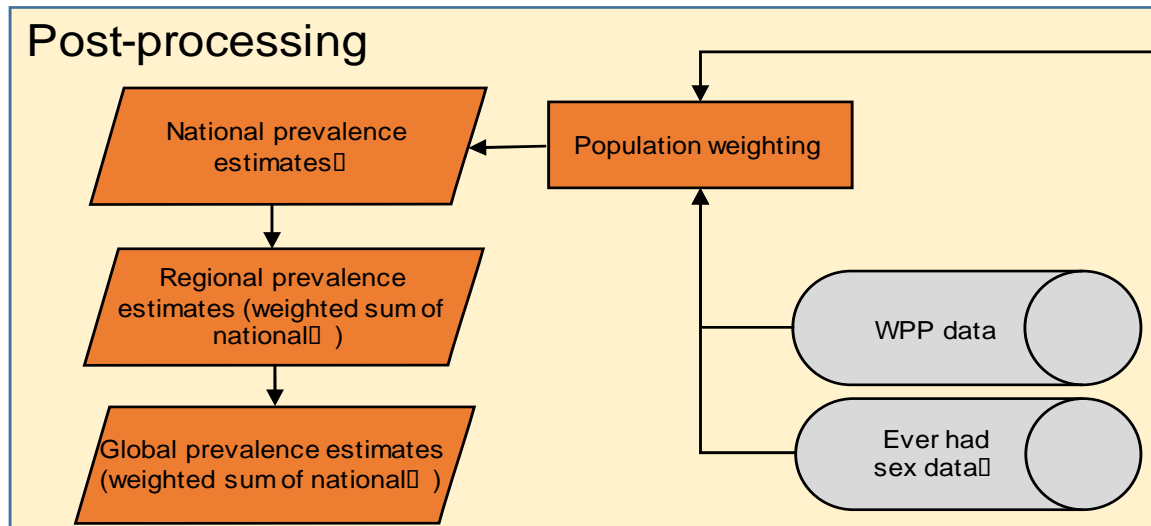
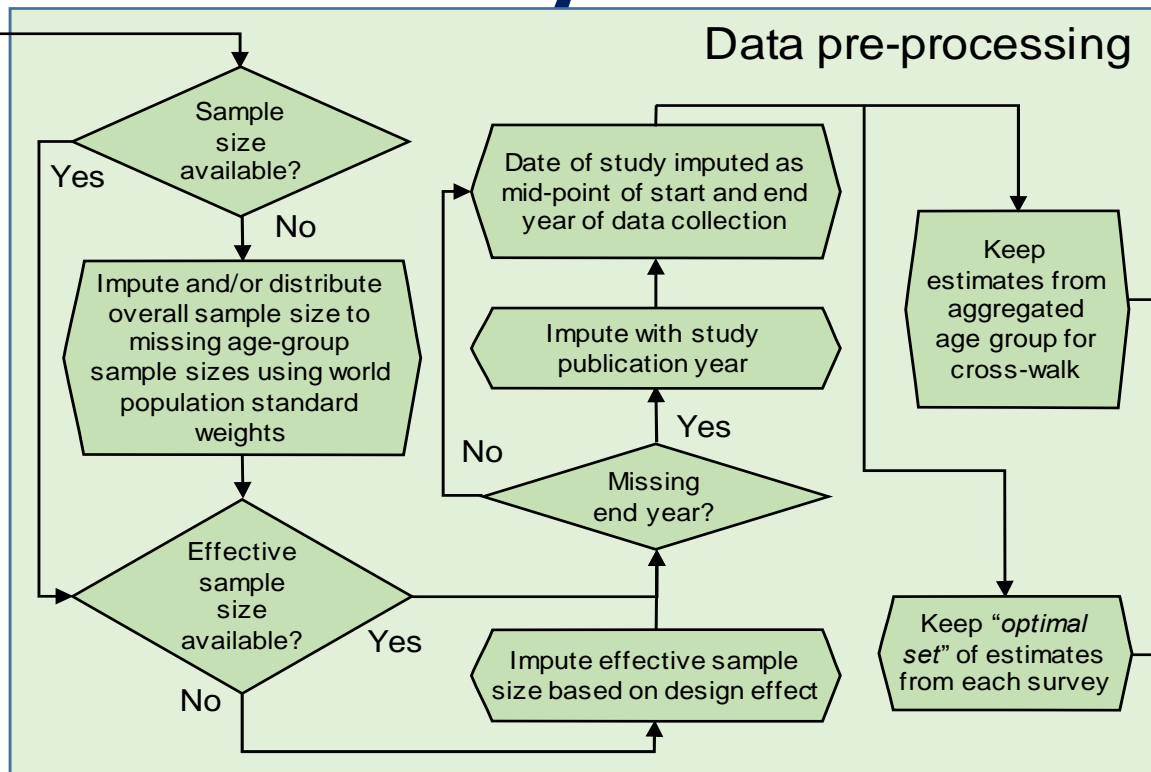
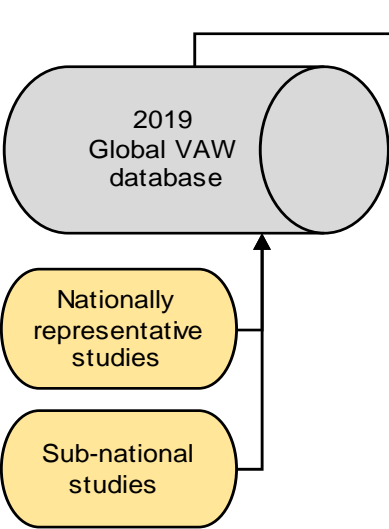
- ▶ Poor labeling (no information about denominator, timeframe, or sometimes even type of violence, extrapolation to population)
- ▶ Heterogeneous age bands, missing age profile or unclear upper age limit of sample
- ▶ Current and/or most recent husband/partner versus any husband/partner
- ▶ Population surveyed (all women, ever-partnered, currently partnered)
- ▶ Lack of clarity on perpetrator of violence: spouse only; spouse or partner; non-partners perpetrating sexual violence
- ▶ Overreliance on figures vs. tables
- ▶ Lack of disaggregation (age, partnership, type of IPV, by act)
- ▶ Little/no information on ethical and safety measures
- ▶ Lack of clarity about methods (weighting, missings, operational **definitions**)

Recommendations

- ▶ Disaggregate by age 15-49 even if older women are interviewed
- ▶ Measure and report BOTH current/most recent and any partner in life
- ▶ Clarify definition of romantic partners
- ▶ Address scientific and other implications of data on IPV against men
 - Engage in discussion of measures
 - How to interpret and position findings (some report prevalence with impact).
- ▶ Find strategies to improve quality of 'unique' dedicated surveys
- ▶ Reports need improvement! Above all, more clarity and detail.
- ▶ Ensure data is used for policy and programming

Estimates and country consultation process

Multilevel Bayesian Modelling Framework



- Adjustment factors for crosswalk vary as function of VAW outcomes.
- Not included for NPSV.
- Countries without data not reported.
- Countries without data assigned regional prevalence.

Meta-Regression Multilevel Model

- Multilevel models are useful to pool estimates from different sources.
 - Estimates are nested within studies, nested in countries, nested in regions, and globally.
- Advantage of the proposed approach relies on *random effects* that help “*borrow strength*” across units.
- Theoretically possible to fit the proposed model in a frequentist framework but much more robust to do so using Bayes (and better uncertainty propagation).

Covariates Adjustments

Ever IPV

- Severe violence
- Sexual violence only
- Physical violence only
- Denominator is currently partnered
- Denominator is all women
- Act-specific questions
- Perpetrator is current or most recent spouse only (vs .any)
- Rural/urban (vs. mixed/national)

Past Year IPV

- Severe violence
- Sexual violence only
- Physical violence only
- Denominator is currently partnered
- Denominator is all women
- Act-specific questions
- Perpetrator is current or most recent spouse only (vs .any)
- Rural/urban (vs. mixed/national)

Limitations

- VAW statistics are based on self-reports and associated with significant stigma (underreporting).
- Necessity to adjust some of the surveys.
 - But robust estimation of adjustment factors.
 - Most observations belong to “optimal set”.
- Some populous countries do not have observations.
 - But >87% of the global population of women and girls is represented for IPV estimates

Strengths

Model has some useful features:

- Ability to pool both nationally representative and subnational studies.
 - Account for heterogeneous age groups and age trends.
 - Accommodate differences in surveyed populations.
 - Adjust for differences in survey instruments.
 - Efficient propagation of uncertainty to model outputs.
- ✎ Posterior predictive checks, in-sample comparisons, and out-of-sample predictions provide reassuring results.

Country Consultation Process

- ▶ Contacting Regional Offices and appointment of country focal points : December 2019
- ▶ Preparation and circulation of country profiles [Data sources used; covariates adjustment; age-disaggregated national estimates] : January 2020
- ▶ Technical document outlining the methodology and modelling framework used shared with countries: January 2020
- ▶ Feedback and agreement from countries : April 2020
- ▶ Publication of final estimates : June 2020