Methodological developments on violence against women and disability and on violence among older women

LynnMarie Sardinha





Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018



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Prevalence data and estimates

First national, regional and global prevalence estimates on violence against women in the SDG era

161 countries and areas across global regions with population-based surveys drawing on the **Global Database on the prevalence of violence against women**

Key to establishing the magnitude and extent of violence against women

- 1 in 3 women subjected to physical and/or sexual IPV or non-partner sexual violence
- Over 1 in 4 ever-partnered women subjected to physical and/or sexual IPV
- Violence starts early in lives of adolescent girls and young women
- Women in low- and middle-income countries disproportionately affected





Despite improvements in data over the years, many groups remain underrepresented. We still know little about violence against women with disabilities, older women, and migrant women, amongst other groups.







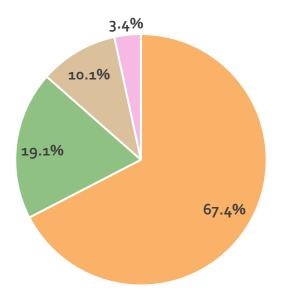
Data and measurement gaps: Violence against older women

Less than 10% eligible prevalence data on intimate partner violence against women aged 50 years and older

Elder Abuse Surveys

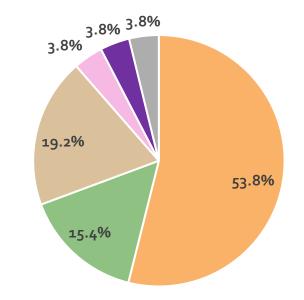
[60 instruments in 89 population-based studies]

World Bank Income Classification (2021)



Violence against women surveys [13 instruments from ~28 population-based studies]

World Bank Income Classification (2021)





■ HIC ■ UMIC ■ LMIC ■ LIC ■ Mixed ■ Not listed





Addressing data and measurement gaps: Violence against older women

Inclusion of **unique elder abuse constructs**

i.e., neglect, financial abuse, abandonment, and malicious accusations.

Consideration of **new items within existing constructs** in VAW instruments

e.g., Physical abuse – Physical or chemical restraint

Psychological abuse – Threats of being sent to a long-term care institution

Inclusion of **perpetrators in caregiving roles** – Expectation of trust

• e.g., informal/paid caregivers, adult children, grandchildren. Violence against older women





Addressing data and measurement gaps: Survey module on VAW 60+

- Informed by systematic reviews and input from qualitative and quantitative systematic reviews and expert meetings
- Developed to be incorporated in violence against women prevalence surveys and builds on the WHO Women's health and life experiences questionnaire
- Addresses the data and measurement gaps and weaknesses
- Currently being cognitively tested and piloted in different geographical settings and converted to CAPI also as part of WHS+

Invitation to test it!





Survey data and measurement gaps: Violence against women with disabilities

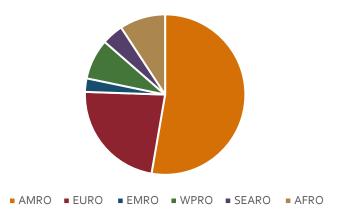
Women with disability likely face higher levels of intimate partner violence than women without disabilities

Based on a scoping review and expert group meeting:

- Survey data skewed to high-income settings;
- Women with disabilities often excluded from household surveys and sampling strategies;
- Small sample sizes
- Primary focus on one type of disability or binary measure;
- Lack of sex disaggregation in large proportion of disability surveys;
- Women with disabilities may experience forms of violence that are not captured in traditional measures;
- Women with disabilities may experience violence from different perpetrators (i.e. not intimate partners) who may not be asked about in standard instruments;
- Ethics and data collection procedures and methods often exclude women with certain disabilities



Study characteristics – WHO regions





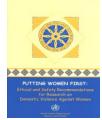
Addressing data and measurement gaps: Violence against women with disabilities

- Sex disaggregation of data in disability surveys
- Considering disability during the design of the study, including which measures to select, sample sizes and sampling strategies
- Consideration of disability-specific violence questions and how different forms of disability intersect with different forms of violence; duration and severity of violence experienced by women with disability
- Consideration of ethics and safety considerations when interviewing women with disabilities in addition to those already recommended in violence against women survey
- Training of interviewers to include focus on both disability and violence against women
- Careful consideration on the use of disability measures as designed for different purposes (e.g. Washington Group short set; WHO-DAS 2.0; Functioning and Disability Disaggregation (FDD11)
- What the purpose of a specific survey is, and what is possible within a specific survey (eg disability-focused v/s violence-focused surveys)
- Module of violence against women questions for use in disability surveys is feasible, and the greater challenge is which disability measure to include in violence-focused surveys while maintaining feasible survey length, sampling strategies and frames to ensure adequate sample size for disaggregation);
- Need for dedicated surveys on violence against women with disability



Strengthening violence against women data and measurement

- Updating, expansion and testing of the WHO multi-country violence against women module, full questionnaire, question-by-question guides and interviewer training manuals
- Updating of WHO's ethical and safety guidelines on violence against women survey and research including considerations related to remote methods of data collection
- Continuing psychometric and related measurement work on psychological intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, violence against older women and women with disabilities
- Methodological Briefing Notes and a quality checklist for violence against women prevalence surveys as part of a data and measurement toolkit
- Update of the UNSD Guidelines skinny note format on the above-mentioned measurement issues
- Updating global, regional and national estimates on intimate partner and non-partner sexual violence
- Capacity strengthening webinars and online courses on violence against women measures and methods



Thank you!

For further Information please contact:

LynnMarie Sardinha: sardinhal@who.int

Claudia García-Moreno: garciamorenoc@who.int



