

# Strengthening measurement of violence against women:

## Methodological work on SDG indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2

**Claudia García-Moreno**

Lead Specialist, Violence Against Women

Twitter [@HRPresearch](#)



## Indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2

- **5.2.1:** Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age
- **5.2.2:** Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

# Presentation

To provide an overview on:

- Update on prevalence database for IPV and NPSV and challenges identified in relation to measurement and reporting
- Progress made in defining measures of psychological violence by an intimate partner
- Measuring violence against older women

# I. Systematic review of prevalence studies

- **Lifetime IPV prevalence:**
  - total of 275 reports
  - 130 countries
  - self-reports from 4,250,932 women
- **Past year IPV prevalence:**
  - total of 282 reports
  - 131 countries
  - self-reports from 3,421,962 women
- **NPSV:**
  - total of 80 reports
  - 75 countries
  - self-reports from 548,135 women

# Quality measures extracted

- National vs. sub-national
- Violence definition – physical only, physical only, sexual only, past-year only, or severe only;
- Specific acts vs. general question
- Interviewer training
- Specific focus on violence vs. a module in a broader survey
- Inclusion: only currently partnered women versus ever-partnered women
- If questions pertained only to the current partner or to any partner.

# Key data quality/reporting issues

- Definition and labeling of forms of violence
  - Aggregate indicators – unclear what forms of violence are included, i.e. ‘physical and/or sexual’ or ‘physical, sexual or psychological’
  - Some studies only report prevalence of specific items, cannot calculate aggregate from the report
  - NPSV: do not disaggregate by perpetrator
- Interviewer training
  - No clear cut-off for what constitutes sufficient training

## Data quality and comparability issues example: 15-49 vs. 15+

- By what % does prevalence change when age limit is removed?
  - Mexico 2011, past year: 15-49: 8.3%
  - Mexico 2011, past year, 15+: 7.5%

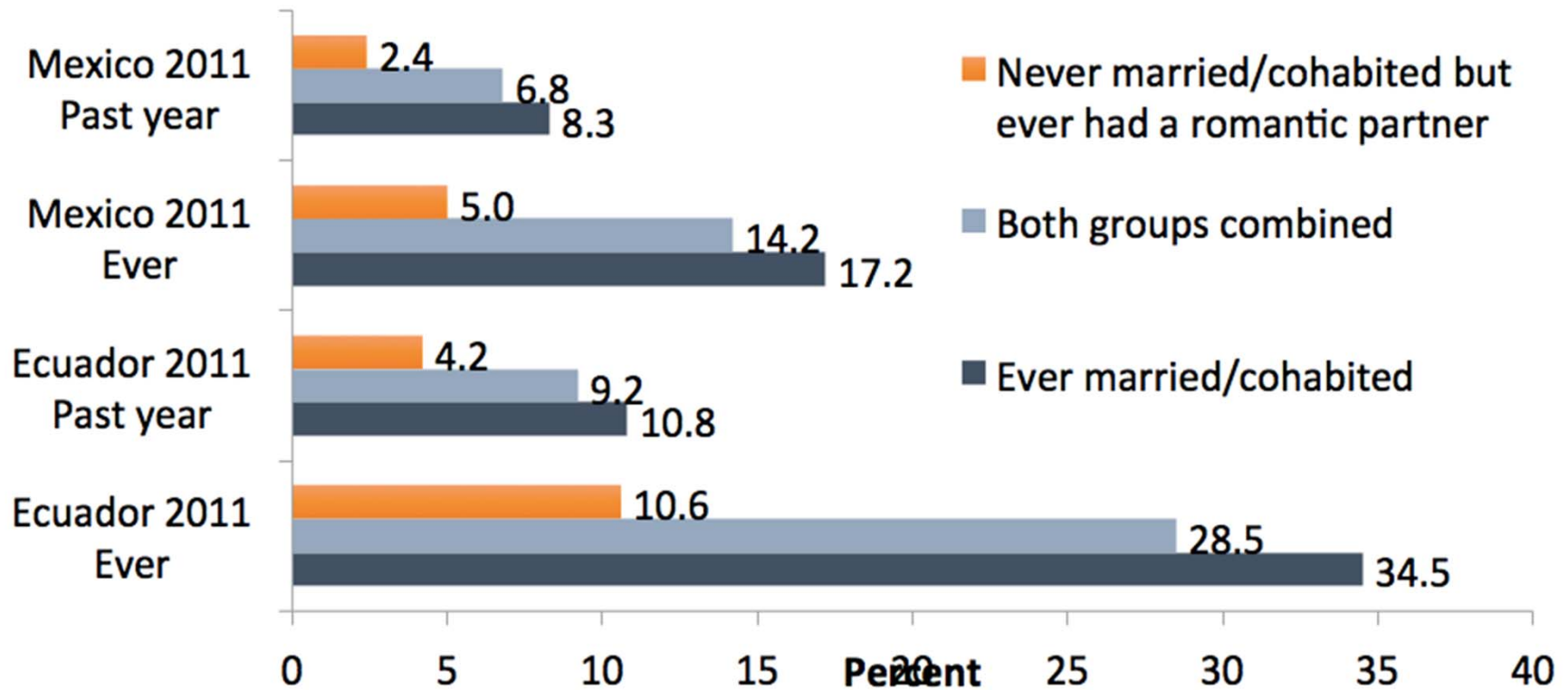
-10% difference

  - Mexico 2011, lifetime: 15-49: 17.2%
  - Mexico 2011, lifetime: 15+: 19.0%

+10% difference
- 15+ reporting of past year makes the prevalence of IPV appear lower as physical and/or sexual IPV is less frequent among older women

# Data quality and comparability issues example: Definitions of partnership

Widely varying definitions of partnership impacts prevalence

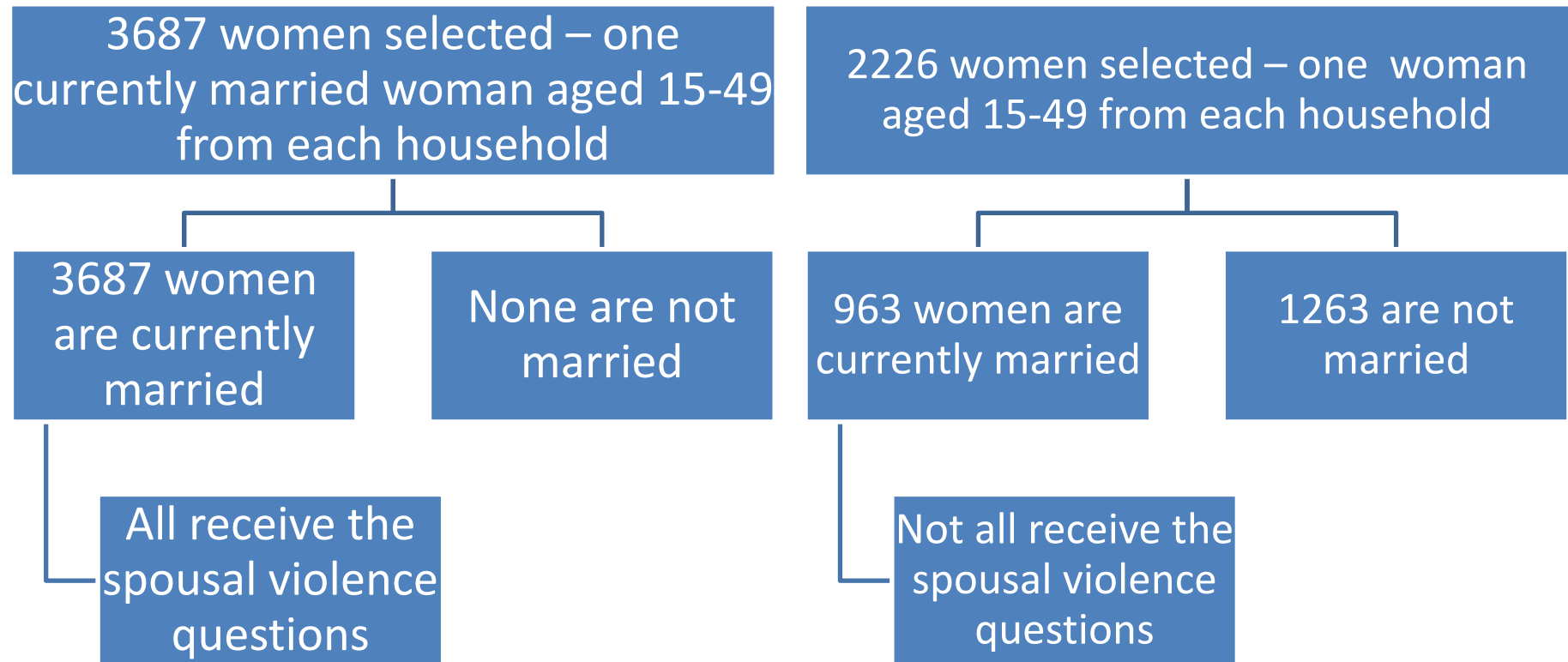




# Data quality and comparability issues example: Sample inclusion

## Pakistan 2012

## Namibia 2012



- Asking all women about intimate partner violence?
- Asking about current partner violence, spousal violence or any partner?

## II. Defining and measuring psychological violence

- What are the core domains?
- Are the items currently used to measure these domains appropriate?
- Is controlling behaviour a part of psychological violence?
- Is economic abuse a part of psychological violence?
- What is the threshold?
  - At what point does unkind behaviour become psychological violence?
  - Is it the type of act? Frequency of acts?

# Recommendations from 2016

## Expert Meeting

- Domains to focus on: a) insults and humiliation; b) threats and intimidation; and c) control and social isolation
- Exclude economic abuse from the proposed domains at this time
  - Difficulty with developing universal definition of economic abuse
- Analyse controlling behaviors separately
  - Pattern of behaviours vs. specific acts
- Items
  - Standardize abuse frequency measures, timeframes and item stems for all psychological violence items
  - Reword items to focus on women's experiences, rather than perpetrator intent, i.e. change "Did things to scare you on purpose" to "Did things that made you feel scared or intimidated"
- Work on threshold is ongoing

# III. Violence against older women

- Age group in indicators is 15+
  - Measures of violence amongst 50+ need to be added to adequately capture dynamics of violence in this age group
- Quantitative systematic review
  - Global prevalence of overall elder abuse among women in the past year was 14.1%
  - Prevalence estimates of abuse subtypes were highest for psychological abuse (11.8%), followed by neglect (4.1%), financial abuse (3.8%), sexual abuse (2.2%), and physical abuse (1.9%).

# Violence against older women – on-going methodological work

- Systematic review of qualitative literature on violence against older women
  - identify, evaluate and synthesize qualitative studies exploring violence against women aged 50 and above
  - identify types and patterns of violence, perpetrators of violence, and impacts of violence on various health outcomes for older women.
- Develop and pilot module
  - Develop module to add to existing quantitative instruments – (e.g. ENDIREH module)

For more information contact:

Claudia García-Moreno  
garciamorenoc@who.int