



# Defining and measuring VAW with COVID-19 impact and different forms of violence

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Regional workshop on Strengthening data system on Violence Against Women for Western  
Balkans and Turkey, Eastern Europe and Central Asia  
Virtual Workshop, 7-9 December 2020

# Gender equality is central to ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all



## Target 5.2.



Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

### Indicators:

- **5.2.1. (“IPV”)** 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 last 12 months, by form of violence and by age group
- **5.2.2. (“SV”)** Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by age group and place of occurrence

Resource: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/>

Custodian Agencies: UN Women, UNICEF, UNSD, WHO, UNFPA



# SURVEYS ON THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE

## GOLD STANDARD APPROACH TO COLLECTING VIOLENCE PREVALENCE DATA:

➤ Standard international survey methods with structured questionnaires

➤ Guided by set of ethical and safety measures

➤ Extensive, specialized, in-depth interviewer training

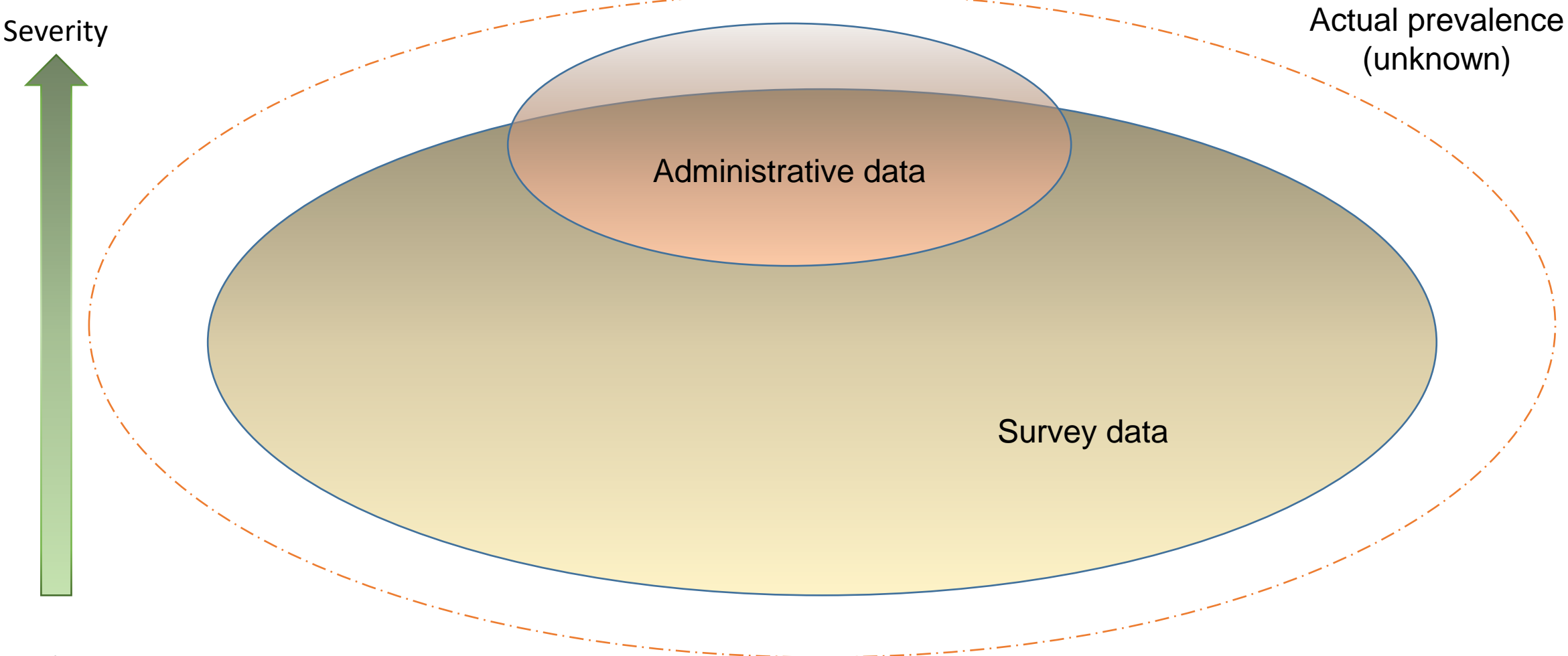
➤ Participatory process and national ownership

➤ Capacity building and mentoring of national staff

➤ Data for action!!



# Administrative data (service records) vs. population-based survey data on experience of violence against women: How well do they represent prevalence in a population?



Graphic: Henriette Jansen



# Data Collection on Violence against Women and COVID-19: Decision Tree



**WHY** do you want to collect data and how will it be used?

What questions are useful to explore?

## Use existing data!

- Explore data from existing surveys.
- Analyse service case records (before and during COVID19).

## Primary research options that are safe and can provide relevant information:

- **Map services**, including changes in availability and resources.
- **Conduct short surveys or key informant interviews** with service providers.
- **Interview survivors if possible to do safely and with full consent** (e.g., in women's organisations, health facilities or shelters).

**Always prioritize women's safety over data collection!**

Please refer to accompanying brief for details (forthcoming)  
v. 30 June 2020

## Potential questions answered by population-based surveys :

- Has violence increased?
- Have the nature, forms or severity of violence changed?
- Have the risk/ protective factors for violence changed?

## Potential questions answered by other sources of data:

- Is there a change in the nature, forms or severity of reported violence?
- Is there an increase or decrease in service use?
- Are services being accessed and/or delivered differently and is this safe and effective?

Can existing data answer the common questions being explored?

Yes

No

Is there a national lockdown or are there significant movement restrictions?

Yes

**Do NOT do it**

Interviewers cannot safely visit homes and arrange private and confidential interviews.

No

Can you ensure confidentiality, privacy and support?

No

Yes

Safe to collect data through violence surveys or interviews.  
**Important!**  
Representative data on how many women experience violence (prevalence) before, during and after COVID-19 can only be collected through surveys with a random sample of women.

Could I use service data to determine prevalence? (e.g. police reports, calls to helplines, data from shelters)?

**Do NOT do it**

**No.** Only a small fraction of abused women use services. It is not correct to interpret any change in service use data as a change in prevalence. Service data are useful to answer different questions.

Could I add a few questions on experience of violence in a rapid assessment population-based survey on the impact of COVID-19?

**Do NOT do it**

**No.** Women's participation in any survey on violence, particularly when at home with their abusers, may result in more violence and/or in poor quality data.

Could I conduct phone interviews or collect data using the internet/mobile devices to get violence prevalence data?

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**No.** We will not know what it tells us. It is not actionable.

Would it be useful to add proxy questions in a rapid assessment (e.g. violence experienced by others)?

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Do NOT do it

**No.** Only a small fraction of abused women use services. It is not correct to interpret any change in service use data as a change in prevalence. Service data are useful to answer different questions.

**No.** Women's experience of violence is not the same as service use. Adding questions on violence to a survey is not the same as conducting a survey on violence.

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# Always prioritize women's safety over data collection!

Before you start, ask yourself:

Is this really the best time to be collecting data?

Reflect on the motivation for the research:

Who will benefit and in what way?

Are the women at the center?

Does the research add value?

Will the findings be actionable?

How will you ensure that findings will be used?





# Current Translations:

- Arabic
- Chinese Mandarin
- English
- French
- Russian
- Spanish

- Bahasa (Indonesian)
- Bangladesh
- Burmese
- Hindi (India)
- Khmer (Cambodian)
- Nepali (Nepal)
- Thai
- Urdu (Pakistan)
- Vietnamese

Adaptations for related areas (e.g. Violence against Children)

**Arabic Decision Tree:** **جمع البيانات بشأن العنف ضد المرأة وجائحة 'كوفيد-19': مخطط لتبسيط القرارات**. It addresses questions like 'Why do you want to collect data?' and 'What questions are useful to explore?'. It provides guidance on using existing data, conducting surveys, and ensuring safety.

**Russian Decision Tree:** **Сбор данных о насилии в отношении женщин и о COVID-19: Дерево решений**. It asks 'Почему вы хотите проводить сбор данных?' and 'Какие вопросы следует рассмотреть подробнее?'. It offers advice on data availability, survey methods, and confidentiality.

**Spanish Decision Tree:** **Recopilación de datos sobre la violencia contra las mujeres y la COVID-19: Árbol de decisiones**. It asks '¿POR QUÉ desea recopilar datos?' and '¿Qué preguntas conviene analizar?'. It details how to use existing data, conduct surveys, and ensure the safety of women.



**kNOwVAWdata**  
measuring prevalence of violence  
against women in asia-pacific



ANROWS

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH  
ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY  
*To Reduce Violence against Women & their Children*

# APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

## kNOwVAWdata Course on the Measurement of Violence against Women: 2020



- Online course by University of Melbourne
- Course begins December 2020
- Learn at your own pace; average completion time: 3 weeks
- Take full course for certification or partial course
- Interactive, live sessions interspersed
- 2020 fee significantly reduced
- Learn about measuring violence against women & COVID-19
- Register your interest & more info: [kNOwVAWdata.com](http://kNOwVAWdata.com)



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# RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

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- Regional Snapshot (2020) by UNFPA/kNOwVAWdata: [Map of Violence against Women prevalence in Asia-Pacific region | July 2020](#)
- Decision Tree by UNFPA/kNOwVAWdata, WHO, UNWomen: [Data Collection on Violence against Women and COVID-19 | 30 June 2020](#)
- Brief paper by UNWomen-WHO Global Joint Programme: [Violence against women and girls data collection during COVID-19 | April 2020](#)
- Blog post by SVRI: [Opportunities for SGBV Data Collection in the Time of COVID-19: The Value of Implementation Science | 26 June, 2020](#)
- Resource by SVRI: [Pivoting to remote research on violence against women during COVID-19 | 24 July, 2020](#)
- Think piece by UNICEF Innocenti: [Remote data collection on violence against women during COVID-19: A conversation with experts on ethics, measurement & research priorities \(Part 1\) | May 2020](#)
- News article by Devex: COVID-19: [Has it become too dangerous to measure violence against women? | 6 May, 2020](#)

# THANK YOU!



[asiapacific.unfpa.org/knowvawdata](http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/knowvawdata)



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