

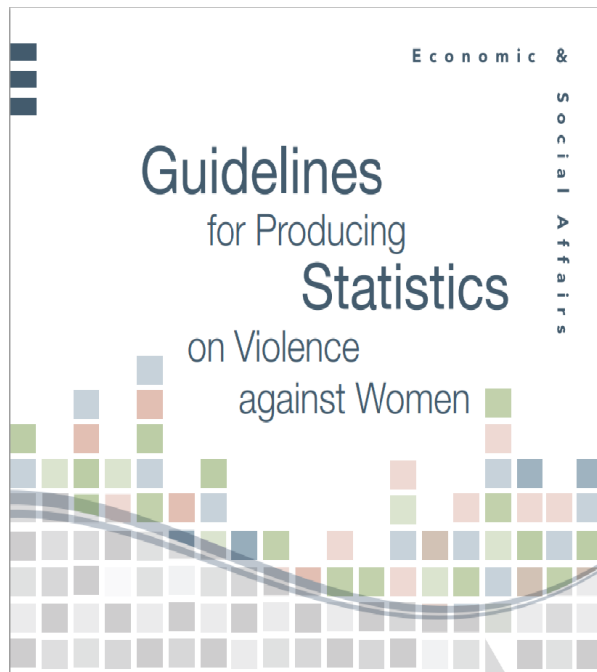


# UN Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence Against Women

**Francesca Grum**  
**Chief, Social and Gender Statistics Section**  
**United Nations Statistics Division**  
**[grum@un.org](mailto:grum@un.org)**



## UN Guidelines for Producing Statistics on VAW



- Provide methodological advice on:
  - What to measure
    - UN core<sup>1</sup> and additional topics
  - 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
  - All other relevant issues for NSOs to undertake statistical surveys on VAW

<sup>1</sup> FOC indicators on VAW – adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2009



# What to measure



# What to measure (core)

- **Type of violence** = selected forms of violence only!  
(that can be measured through household sample surveys) - Any act of:
    - Physical
    - Sexual
    - Psychologicalviolence perpetuated on women by intimate partners and other perpetrators
  - **Frequency**
  - **Severity of violence**
  - **Relationship to perpetrator**
  - **Age**
  - **Marital/relationship status**
  - **Reference time**
    - Last 12 months (12 months before the survey)
    - Lifetime experience (since age 15)
- => Calculate Prevalence
- Percentage of women aged 15 and older, subject to “Type of” violence (among all women 15+ or ever-partnered 15+, depending on the indicator)

# What to measure (additional characteristics)



- For respondents
  - Ethnicity
  - Labour force status
  - Religion
  - Language
  - Educational attainment and Literacy
  - Age at first marriage or co-habitation
  - Place of residence (U/R)
- About violence
  - Attitude towards violence against women
  - Reporting to authorities/seeking help
- About perpetrator
  - Age
  - Substance abuse
  - Labour force status
  - Educational attainment
  - Witnessing violence in childhood
- About non-partner perpetrator
  - Sex
  - Location of the violence

# Types of Violence: Physical



- Questions should always be posed about occurrences of **specific** acts rather than just asking generally about violence, which will result in under-reporting
- A minimum list of acts of physical violence consists of the following:
  - Slapped
  - Thrown something at you that could hurt
  - Pushed, shoved, pulled hair
  - Hit with something
  - Hit with fists or other objects
  - Kicked, bit or dragged
  - Beat
  - Choked or burned
  - Threatened with knife, gun, or other weapon
  - Used a knife, gun, or other weapon against her
  - Other threats or acts of physical violence (leave open for the respondent to specify)
- Other acts may be appropriate depending on the context e.g. stoning or throwing acid

# Types of Violence: Sexual



- Any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone.

## Includes:

- Rape (any type of coerced and forced sexual acts)
- Attempted rape
  - Other sexual acts:
    - Intimate touching without consent
    - Sexual acts other than intercourse forced by money
    - Sexual acts other than intercourse obtained through threats of physical violence
    - Sexual acts other than intercourse obtained through threats to the wellbeing of family members
    - Use of force or coercion to obtain unwanted sexual acts or any sexual activity that the female partner finds degrading or humiliating
    - Other acts of sexual violence

# Types of Violence: Psychological



... methodological research is ongoing

- Range of acts falling under 3 domains:
  - a) insults and humiliation;
    - Insults her or makes her feel bad about herself
    - Belittles or humiliates her in front of other people
  - b) threats and intimidation;
    - Deliberately scares or intimidates her
    - Threatens to hurt her or others she cares about
  - c) control and social isolation
    - Isolates her by preventing her from seeing family or friends
    - Monitors her whereabouts and social interactions
    - Ignores her or treats her indifferently
    - Gets angry if she speaks with other men
    - Makes unwarranted accusations of infidelity
    - Controls her access to health care
    - Controls her access to education or the labour market

What is the **threshold**?

When does unkind behaviour become psychological violence?

Is it the type of act?  
Frequency of acts?





# How to measure

# How to measure



- Dedicated Surveys (preferred approach)
  - Measure phenomena in all its complexity through a detailed range of questions
  - Facilitate disclosure of sensitive topic through properly designed questionnaire
    - Introductory questions to prompt respondents to think of violence
    - Wording and sequence of questions
  - Ensure essential features of surveys on VAW
    - Importance of appropriate sampling design (not to systematically exclude important population sub-groups)
    - Special training of interviewers
    - Ethical considerations
      - Confidentiality
      - Safety of respondents and interviewers
      - Support to victims



# How to measure

- Alternatively,
  - Use a Module in women's health type of surveys
    - When dedicated survey is not feasible
    - Only as long as previous principles are followed

# Annexes – Additional resources



- Proposed tabulations for core indicators
- Model questionnaire (DA inter-regional project)
- International instruments and conventions on VAW
- Countries that undertook VAW surveys
- Examples of questions for additional topics

To be updated

# Summary: Guidelines



- Focus on producing statistics and indicators on VAW through a population-based survey – relevant for SDG VAW indicators!
- Provide steps by steps process NSOs should follow and highlight special features of VAW surveys
- Stress the importance of involving national mechanisms for the advancement of women, relevant ministries, other stakeholders to ensure:
  - Consistency of concepts
  - Relevance of statistics for policies and programme development
  - Use of information produced



<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/default.html>