

Indicator Name

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

Goals and Target Addressed

Goal: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target: 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

Definition and Rationale

Definition:

This indicator is defined as the percentage of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and above who have experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the past 12 months.

Concepts:

Intimate partner refers to a current or former partner within the context of marriage, cohabitation or any other formal or informal union. Surveys should include a broad definition of partner that reflects contextual differences in the definition of partnership and includes all types of intimate stable relationships where women may be exposed to such violence.

Physical violence consists of acts aimed at physically hurting the victim.

Sexual violence is defined as any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone.

Psychological violence includes a range of behaviours that encompass acts of emotional abuse.

More detailed definitions and behaviours that can be attributed to each of the three aforementioned forms of violence can be found in the Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical Surveys (UN, 2014).

Rationale and Interpretation:

Violence against women and girls is the most common form of gender-based violence. This indicator provides prevalence data that is required to measure the magnitude of this problem, understand the various forms of violence and their consequences, identify high-risk groups, explore the barriers to seeking help, and ensure that appropriate responses are being provided. Tracking this indicator over time allows for monitoring change and assessing the effectiveness of interventions.

Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations

Computation Method:

The percentage of ever-partnered women and girls of age group a who experienced one or more types of violence ($P_{v,a}$) in the past 12 months can be calculated using the following formula:

$$P_{v,a} = \frac{W_{v,a}}{W_{Total}} \times 100$$

where,

$W_{v,a}$ is the number of ever-partnered women of age group a who experienced one or more types of violence in the past 12 months;

W_{Total} is the total number of ever-partnered women of age group a in the country; and

v denotes the combination of one or more type of violence experienced by the women.

This indicator should be computed separately for (v) physical violence only, sexual violence only, psychological violence only, any form of physical and/or sexual violence, and any form of physical, sexual and/or psychological violence.

Comments and limitations:

The availability of comparable data remains a challenge in this area due to differences in survey methodologies, different definitions of partner or spousal violence and of the different forms of violence, different survey question formulations, and reporting of prevalence by different age groups. Willingness to discuss experiences of violence and understanding of relevant concepts may also differ according to the cultural context, and may lead to under-reporting of prevalence levels. There are aspects of survey design and implementation that can improve rates of disclosure, including asking questions about violence that are specific and acts-based (for example, listing several types of specific physical violence, rather than one question asking "Have you been physically abused) and quality training of data collectors to ensure good rapport with respondents and adherence to important ethical principles.

Gathering data on violence against women is costly and time-consuming, whether they are collected using dedicated surveys or through added modules of existing household surveys. Furthermore prevalence is unlikely to change in the short term without major investments at all levels and across sectors. Therefore, the periodicity of this indicator need not be more than every 5 years, or even more if financial resources are unavailable.

Surveys on violence against women require particular attention to safety and ethical dimensions, including ensuring all interviews are conducted in privacy, the data is treated confidentially and that women provide their informed consent. For more detailed information see *Putting women first. Ethical and safety recommendations for research on domestic violence against women* (WHO, 2001)

Proxy, alternative and additional indicators:

Data Sources and Collection Method

Data sources and collection method:

The primary source of data for this indicator are specialized national surveys dedicated to measuring violence against women, and international household surveys that include a module on experience of violence by women such as the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). For further information on data sources and collection methods, see: *UN Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence Against Women – Statistical Surveys (UN, 2014)*. The module should be administered to all ever-partnered women and not only to currently partnered women.

It is to be noted that, though, administrative data from health, police, courts, justice and social services etc. used by survivors of violence, can provide valuable information about service use, this incidence data is insufficient for producing prevalence data.

Data Disaggregation

This indicator is required to be disaggregated by the type of violence and age. It can also be disaggregated by income/wealth, education, ethnicity (including indigenous status), disability status, geographic location and frequency of violence.

References

Official SDG Metadata URL: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-02-01.pdf>

Internationally agreed methodology and guideline URL:

United Nations (2014). *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence Against Women – Statistical Surveys*. New York. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/docs/Guidelines_Statistics_VAW.pdf

Other references:

United Nations (2015). *The World's Women 2015 – Trends and Statistics*. New York. Internet site: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/worldswomen.html>

WHO (2013). *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*. Geneva. Available at: <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9789241564625/en/>

UN Women. *Global Database on Violence against Women*. Internet site: <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en>

UNICEF. *Data Portal – Child Protection*. Internet site: <http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/violence.html>

UNSD. *Portal on the minimum set of gender indicators*. Internet site: <https://genderstats.un.org/#/home>

UNSD. *Dedicated portal for data and metadata on violence against women*. Internet site: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/vaw/>

WHO. *Putting women first. Ethical and safety recommendations for research on domestic violence against women* (WHO, 2001)

Country examples:

Contact International Organization for Global Monitoring

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

World Health Organization (WHO)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)