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Regional Workshop on Measurement
of Sustainable Development Goals
on Violence Against women and
Time-Use Indicators

Violence Against Women Questionnaire – overview and updates

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Overview

1. Overview of WHO VAW questionnaire
2. 2017-2018 – update and revisions
3. On-going measurement and methodological work

I. Overview of WHO VAW questionnaire

- WHO Multi-Country Study [MCS] on Women's Health and Domestic Violence
 - Implemented in 10 countries, 2000-2003
 - Implemented in more than 20 countries by 2017
- WHO MCS instrument:
 - IPV prevalence (physical, sexual, emotional)
 - Risk and protective factors
 - Impacts on mental, physical, sexual and reproductive health
 - Non-partner sexual violence
 - Sexual abuse in childhood
- Replicated study in several other countries, several years of data collection indicated possible improvements to the instrument

Overview of WHO VAW questionnaire

- Socio-demographics
- General health
 - Self-Reporting Questionnaire 20 (mental distress), self-reported health and functioning, suicidal thoughts and attempts, smoking and drinking
- Reproductive Health
- Children
- Current or most recent partner
- Attitudes towards violence against women

Overview of WHO VAW questionnaire

- Experience of intimate partner violence
 - Controlling behaviours
 - Emotional, physical and sexual violence, lifetime and past 12 months
 - Violence during pregnancy
- Injuries
- Coping
- Non-partner sexual violence, childhood sexual abuse,

II. 2017-2018 update and revisions

i. **General Health:**

- Added optional disability measure
- Changed mental health measure to Kessler 6; optional to utilize 3 sub-scales (depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder) for more detail

ii. **Added items on reproductive coercion**

iii. **Norms and attitudes**

- Expanded to include perceptions of gender roles and norms; acceptability of violence; communal social norms

2017-2018 update and revisions

iv. Psychological violence and controlling behaviours

- Reworded items as recommended in Expert Meeting
- Questions added (in previous versions) on economic abuse
- Changes in time periods and questions on frequency

v. Non-partner physical violence

- Specific items added, questions on sex of perpetrator, lifetime and past 12 month prevalence, frequency

vi. Non-partner sexual violence

- Questions focus on male perpetrators
- Questions ask about experiences after the age of 15, and when experience first occurred
- Included list of locations where NPSV occurred (for SDG data disaggregation) – list of places of occurrence agreed upon by Interagency Expert Group on Gender Statistics

2017-2018 update and revisions

- vii. Added questions on sexual harassment**
 - Have you ever experienced inappropriate sexual advances or behaviours that made you feel uncomfortable or afraid?; follow-up questions on location (work, school); past year prevalence, past year frequency
 - Have you ever been groped, sexually touched or had someone rubbing against you?

- viii. Added question on transactional sex**

- ix. Added questions on traumatic events experienced before the age of 15**

III. Ongoing measurement and methodological work

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

Psychological violence - 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 – changed in most recent version of instrument
 - Standardize abuse frequency measures, timeframes and item stems for 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

Violence against older women

- Age group in SDG indicators is 15+
 - Measures of violence amongst 50+ may 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 – ENDIREH module example