Measuring violence against women

Prof. Marcella Corsi
Let’s talk about…. 

• Main problems still affecting data collection on violence against women 

• Available data 

• Specific type of violence: sexual harassment and femicide
Problems still affecting data collection
The impact of violence against women on equality

Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. It both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

A call to end all forms of violence against women was made in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, in 1993, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in 1995.

Intergovernmental bodies, including the United Nations General Assembly, have on many occasions reiterated the critical importance of collecting and improving statistics on violence against women.

There is a broad consensus among policymakers, legislators and civil society concerning the need for reliable data on the prevalence of different forms of violence against women and on the causes, nature and consequences of such violence.
The information needed

Detailed data are required to gauge the magnitude and dimensions of the problem, to establish baselines:

1. to identify **groups at high risk**
2. to focus **intervention and prevention** efforts where they are needed
3. to monitor **change** over time
4. to assess the **effectiveness** of interventions
5. to address the **harm** to victims of violence
Different data sources are available, but fragmentary.

- Health and medical services
- Agencies of the criminal and civil justice systems
- Social services, legal aid services, research and documentation centres
- Shelters or refuges, rape/sexual assault centres
- Telephone line and women’s groups and advocacy organizations
## Limits and strengths of administrative data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weak points</th>
<th>Strong points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> They <strong>cannot provide an estimate of the prevalence</strong> of violence against women</td>
<td>Administrative data can be useful in providing an indication of both the <em>societal response</em> to reported cases of violence against women and <em>serviced available</em> for victims.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong> Acts of violence against women are <strong>underreported</strong>, especially when violence is perpetrated by an intimate partner or other family member</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong> Acts of violence that are brought to the attention of agencies and services often are among the <strong>most severe</strong> and affect the <strong>most disadvantaged women</strong>.</td>
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<td><strong>4</strong> Cases of violence against women recorded in administrative systems <strong>do not represent the full extent</strong> and nature of the problem</td>
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The information needed

Accurate and comprehensive data serve to increase societal awareness of violence against women and call attention to the accountability of States to act against such violence (UN Guidelines, 2014)

1. the **number of women affected by various types of violence** and the short- and long-term consequences thereof

2. the **personal characteristics** that leave certain women particularly **vulnerable** to victimization

3. the **barriers to seeking help** and the responses of criminal justice

4. **health and social services** to women who seek help.
### Population-based surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong points</th>
<th>Weak points</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Best source of data for estimating the prevalence of violence against women</td>
<td>It requests a proper design and being well executed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women in the population are interviewed about their experiences of violence and additional information</td>
<td>EXPERTISE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE &amp; COMPETENCIES TRAINING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated surveys on violence against women produce the most reliable data on the prevalence of such violence and shed light on the scope, nature and consequences of most types of violence against women</td>
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The UN Guidelines for producing statistics on Violence against Women

• Introduce the concepts, definitions and data requirements for measuring violence against women and provide guidance on planning, organizing and implementing a survey on violence against women as well as on planning for data analysis and dissemination.

• Guidance is provided on how both to plan a stand-alone survey and to introduce a module on violence against women into another survey.

You can easily download the Guidelines at the following link:
Many problems are still on the floor

• Many countries do not have any data, let alone reliable data, on violence against women.

• Among those that do have data, the quality and reliability vary. Many surveys do not provide the detail necessary for policy development or monitoring purposes.

• Very few national statistical authorities conduct surveys on violence against women on a regular basis to allow for comparisons over time.

• Survey results are often not comparable across settings or over time because the methodologies used differ with respect to concepts and definitions of violence, time frame and population groups.

Source: UN Guidelines, 2014
Survey methodology: a first dilemma

Stand-alone dedicate surveys

• Survey designed primarily, if not exclusively, to gather information on violence

Module in an already existing survey

• Data collection is nested in an already existing survey related or not to the topic (Health surveys, Safety surveys, Crime victimization surveys)
## The stand-alone surveys

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Strong points</th>
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<th>Weak points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Allow multiple opportunities for respondents to disclose their experience of violence</td>
<td>5. Enable the collection of many details on a variety of violence.</td>
<td>1. They are costly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. They yield higher prevalence rates than a module questionnaire incorporated into a large scale survey broad topic</td>
<td>6. Enable the collection of sociodemographic data on the respondents and their partners, so making an analysis of the the risk and impact of violence possible</td>
<td>2. They are difficult to repeat in a regular basis</td>
</tr>
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<td>3. Produce high quality statistics. Provide the most reliable and comprehensive statistics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Interviewers are specifically trained for and equipped to deal with a sensitive topic → minimize the under-reporting</td>
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## The modules nested in an already ongoing survey

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</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1. Well designed and well implemented modules may work well if principles and guidelines are taken into consideration</td>
<td>1. Risk of underreporting of violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The <em>British Crime Survey</em> (UK) and the <em>Statistics Canada’s General Social Survey on Victimization</em> represent two main benchmarks with respect to the instruments and protocols refined in details</td>
<td>2. Women could be not aware about the importance of the question posed and could skip the module or answer without pay the needed attention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cheaper than the stand-alone surveys</td>
<td>3. Possible problems with the sample design</td>
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Modes of data collection

**Interviewer Assisted Methods**

1. **Face-to-face interviewing**
   - Computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI)
   - Paper questionnaires
2. **Telephone interviewing**
   - Computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI)

**Self-administered Methods**

1. **Self-administered paper questionnaires** (postal survey)
2. **Self-administered questionnaires on disk** (disk-by-mail) or other storage device (CD-Rom or USB flash drive) and web-based questionnaire (CAWI)
Key topics and levels of priority

Core topics

Optional topics

Main level of priority

Secondary level of priority
Key topics and levels of priority

Core topics

1. Physical violence
2. Sexual violence
3. Psychological violence
4. Economic violence

Optional topics

1. Female genital mutilation
2. Attitude towards violence against women
3. Reporting to authorities/seeking help
Key descriptive variables to analyse VaW

Key descriptive variables:
1. Severity of violence
2. Relationship of victim to perpetrator
3. Frequency of violence

Optional variables:
1. Location of violence
The personal characteristics of respondents

Key variables

1. Marital/relationship status
2. Age

Additional personal variables

1. Age at first marriage
2. Educational attainment and literacy
3. Economic activity status
4. Place of residence
5. Ethnicity
6. Religion
7. Language
The personal characteristics of the intimate partner

An in-depth understanding of the root causes of violence, which in turn depends on a knowledge of the correlates of violence as they relate to partner characteristics.

1. Age
2. Educational attainment and literacy
3. Economic activity status
4. Substance abuse
5. Witnessing partner violence or experiencing childhood violence in the family of origin.
Most recent steps forward

• Efforts have been made in the past decade to conduct surveys using standardized methodologies in a diverse set of countries in order to arrive at comparable statistics.

• The best known of these multi-country surveys are the World Health Organization (WHO) Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women, which was initially conducted in 10 culturally diverse countries and later replicated in dozens of countries.

• Another one is the International Violence against Women Survey, which was coordinated by the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, to study violence against women.

Source: UN Guidelines, 2014
What is ongoing around the world?

- Over **70 countries** have conducted surveys specifically dedicated to measuring the prevalence and nature of various forms of violence against women. At least **40 of them have done so at the national level**.

- Some of the surveys **focused specifically on intimate partner violence**, while others were broader and encompassed a wide range of physical and sexual violence and threats of violence perpetrated by intimate partners, other family members, other known men and strangers.

- In some countries, **national statistical agencies** have been responsible for conducting surveys on violence against women, while in others such efforts have been **led by other Government ministries, university researchers and non-governmental organizations**.

*Source: UN Guidelines, 2014*
Prevention programmes in the school system

• Information campaign in the schools funding training projects for students, teachers and families

Model of intervention and recommendations

Prevention Project

- students
- teachers
- families

Strongly recommended at the very early stages (nursery school)

Counseling desk

Ex-ante and ex-post assessment
Sexual harassment
EU definition of sexual harassment


“where any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature occurs, with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment”.

2007 Framework Agreement on Harassment and Violence at Work

Harassment can take the following forms:

• can be physical, psychological and/or sexual.
• may be performed by one or more individuals.
• may be one-off incidents or more systematic patterns of behaviour.
• may take place amongst colleagues, between superiors and subordinates or by third parties such as clients, customers, patients or pupils.
• can range from cases of disrespect to criminal offences.
Sexual Harassment

Social Dimension
Social behaviors negatively affected by
- Insufficient Legislative Framework
- Pervasive Gender Inequality
- Inadequate Awareness Campaign

Workplace Dimension
Experiences of harassment amongst colleagues, between superiors and subordinates or by third parties. One-off or systematic patterns of behaviors:
- Psychological
- Sexual
- Physical

- Criminal offence
- Abuse
- Threatening
- Humiliation
- Mobbing
- Bullying
- Disrespect

The role of social media #MeToo
**Sexual harassment in EU**

EU-wide FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) study of 2014 (‘Violence against women’):

• one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence during their adult lives;

• up to 55% of women have been sexually harassed in the EU,

• 32% of all victims in the EU said the perpetrator was a superior, colleague or customer;

• 75% of women in professions requiring qualifications or top management jobs have been sexually harassed

• 61% of women employed in the service sector have been subjected to sexual harassment;
sexual harassment and bullying are significantly underreported

**Share of victims of harassment or bulling at workplace, LFS 2007-2013**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Union-28</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td><strong>12.0</strong></td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td><strong>12.7</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td><strong>1.9</strong></td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td><strong>1.7</strong></td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td><strong>3.4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.9</td>
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Femicide

https://www.facebook.com/rai3tv/videos/261480761440192/
▪ First International Tribunal for Crimes against Women, Brussels, 1976 (Diana Russell)

▪ “murder of women by men motivated by hatred, contempt, pleasure, or a sense of woman ownership” (Diana Russell & Jane Caputi, 1990 Femicide: Speaking the Unspeakable)

▪ “…femicide is the killing of women and girls because of their gender…” Vienna Declaration, 2012
Violence

Gender Violence:
- Physics
- Psychological
- Economic
- Sexual
- Institutional

Murder:
- Terrorism
- Death followed assault
- Wars
- Murder of men
- Murder of women for reasons other than their gender

Femicide
TYPOLOGY OF FEMICIDE

KNOWN TO VICTIM
- INTIMATE FEMICIDE
  - CURRENT PARTNERS
  - FORMER PARTNERS
  - NON-INTIMATE FAMILY MEMBERS

INTRA-FAMILIAL FEMICIDE

NOT KNOWN TO VICTIM
- MULTICIDAL FEMICIDE
  - SERIAL MURDERERS
  - MASS MURDERERS

- SYSTEMATIC FEMICIDE
  - ARMED CONFLICT MURDERERS
  - ORGANIZED CRIMINALS
  - CRIMINAL GANGS

Created by Janice Joseph
43,600

• That is the number of women and girls in the world killed by a partner, ex-partner, or family member in 2012. A third of all women claim to have suffered some form of violence, sexual or otherwise, at least once. Only 11 percent of victims reported the incident to the authorities.

• Source: OSCE (2016), *Combating violence against women*
Victims of femicide per 100,000 women (2015)
Data made available by Eurostat and redrafted by EIGE covers only 20 countries, among which are 15 member states, 4 candidate countries from the Balkans (Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia, Montenegro), and Switzerland.

Strong discrepancies persist in the way in which data are collected: to categorize a case as femicide, the sex of the victim and their relationship with the perpetrator are taken into account. This assessment is done by the police, but, according to a recent report published by EIGE, police in Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Malta and Poland don’t collect such information for homicide cases. France and the United Kingdom, in contrast, provide the most detailed data, reporting the motives, weapons used, and the general circumstances of the act.
Relationship between victims and perpetrators (IT, rates per 100,000 persons)

MEN

Partner
Ex-partner
Relationship between victims and perpetrators (IT, rates per 100,000 persons)

WOMEN

The chart illustrates the relationship between victims and perpetrators (IT, rates per 100,000 persons) for women over the years 2002 to 2016. The chart distinguishes between partners (in blue) and ex-partners (in black). The rates vary significantly over the years, with fluctuations observed in both categories. The chart shows a decrease in rates for both partners and ex-partners from 2006 onwards.
Relationship between female victims and perpetrators (IT, %)

- Partner or ex-partner
- Other relatives
- Other

Year: 2007 to 2016
Analysis of web content

Online articles: 2,900 in 20 journals, concerning 780 femicides occurred in Italy in the period (2011-2016).

Methods

1. *Multiple correspondence analysis* (MCA): to explore latent dimensions of the phenomenon.
2. *Cluster Analysis*: to detect Italian femicide profiles.
Profiles of Italian femicide

- Intimate partner
- Sexual violence, erotic games
- Prostitutes
- Robberies
- Disease, old age and loneliness
- Economic reasons

Dim1 (46%) = Age

Dim2 (27%) = Love and hate
Age distribution of the victims
STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN