

The Italian National Statistical Office Experience in Addressing Violence against Women

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Why violence against women surveys are important

- To eradicate and to combat violence against women
- For Arising consciousness
- For Inspiring the formulation of policies for changes
- For Monitoring and evaluating policies and measures
- For Monitoring progresses

The UN framework on VAW

1. UNSD indicators  **VAW measurement**

the Friend of the Chair Group on VAW:

- core and support indicators (2009-2011)
- guidelines (2011-2013)

2. UNECE Task force on gender statistics
(2012-2014):

- Core and support indicators for ECE area

UN Core indicators

Physical violence

Total rate of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months/life time, by relationship with the perpetrator, severity and frequency

Sexual violence

Total rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months/life time, by relationship with the perpetrator, severity and frequency

Intimate partner violence

Total rate of ever-partnered women/men subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner and frequency in the last 12 months /life time

Psychological violence

Total rate of ever-partnered women/men subjected to psychological violence by intimate partner in the last 12 months

Economic violence

Total rate of ever-partnered women/men subjected to economic violence by intimate partner in the last 12 months

Female genital mutilation

Headline INDICATORS for ECE area

Stalking

Total rate of women/men who have been stalked, by stalking behaviour

Under reporting

Total rate of women/men subjected to sexual and/or physical violence who did not report the crime to the authorities/to the police

Homicides by an intimate partner

Total rate of women/men killed by a current or a former partner in the last 12 months

Already in the UNECE DATABASE

Surveys cover a lack of information ...in 2006....

- Not only justice statistics on violence perpetrator
- Not only the reported violence ($\approx 85\%$ of women don't report)

- In a year:

From police statistics about 4.000 sexual violence reports

From VAW survey about 74.000 victims of rape/attempted rape

- Not only unknown But very well know perpetrators
- A widespread phenomenon and transversal to social classes

History and previous editions

- **Specific modules on sexual harassment and sexual blackmail at work** were inserted in National Victimization Survey in 1997-'98, 2002, 2008-'09
- First comprehensive survey dedicated to **violence against women** 2006, updated in 2014

PLUS

- Administrative statistics data:
 - police statistics
 - proceeding statistics
 - court statistics
 - prisoners statistics

The Italian Women Safety Survey: 2006 - 2014

**Accurate planning phase involving community:
shelters, NGO, data users, policy makers**

- Focus groups
 - Workers in shelters for women victims of violence
 - Women victims of domestic violence
 - Women from the community
 - NGO for migrants
- Interviews to key professionals
 - Police, legal and social experts
- Pre-test and pilot survey

**Multidisciplinary approach of research team:
Psychologist, Sociologists, Statisticians**

Which kind of information: the essential issues

- Focus on physical and sexual violence (partner and non partner)
- Focus on domestic violence (current partner and former partner)
 - Psychological and verbal violence (denigration, behaviour control, segregation strategies, intimidations)
 - Economical violence (heavy financial restraint)
 - Stalking

Which kind of information: the essential issues

Focus on:

- Victim's violence perception as a crime
- Seriousness (injuries and type of injuries, perceived seriousness, feeling in danger of life, use of medicine and therapy to cope with violence)
- Intensity (one or more times violence occurred, repetitiveness)
- Violence dynamics (arms, alcohol abuse of perpetrators)
- Reporting behaviour and women capacity of seeking for help (shelters, with whom women speak of violence, police relationship...)
- Children witness of violence
- Violence in pregnancy

Which kind of information: the essential issues

Risk factors of violence

Abuse in WOMEN background

- Mother abuse history
- Childhood victimisation

Abuse in the PARTNER background

- Experience of violence in childhood
- Witness of father violence against own mother's

Individual factor risks partner's related

- partner's alcohol abuse
- Partner violent outside family too

Social factor risks partner related

- Women considered as an object to denigration and berate

Which are our methodological choices

- Use of large and representative samples of the population → About 25.000 Italian and foreign women aged 16-70 years
- Use of validated instruments and appropriate methodology
- Use of standardized procedures
- Focus on quality besides quantity
- A Dedicated survey instead of a module in another survey
- *Periodically repeated → the best approx. every 4 year*

Which are our methodological choices

Need of methodological and procedural dedicated tools to guarantee women safety, help women disclosure, have sound data

- To choose the most suitable interview technique
 - ✓ Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing
 - ✓ but face to face for foreign women
- Find the best time for her
 - ✓ It's important to interview the **woman when she is alone**
 - ✓ Possibility to be reached to a **mobile phone**, call back and to take an **appointment**
 - ✓ Toll free number
- Respondents sensitization
- Accurate selection and training of interviewers

Which are our methodological choices

- Continuous daily monitoring
- Supervision and support during the interviews collection
- Psychological support during training and fieldwork
- Attention to emotional trauma
 - ✓ Address to shelters
 - ✓ Female interviewers **well recruited** and **well trained** at the aim to be supportive but not a counsellor

How to collect data: the questionnaire design

- Three screenings: on non partner, current and former partner violence
 - ➔ to help partner violence disclosure
- Asking also sensitive forms of violence
 - ➔ sometimes the interview represents the only occasion to speak of violence
- Questions are constructed as behaviourally based
 - ➔ Violence is defined in a way that women can remember and reflect their lives as if in a mirror
- Attention to graduate items and to the sequence of sections
- Attention to how to cope with disclosure

How to collect data: the questionnaire design

- Psychological violence questions are measured considering the different aspects of the daily life
- **No name violence**
 - ☐ Nor in the name survey
 - ☐ Nor in the advanced letter
 - ☐ Nor from the people answering to the toll free number
 - ☐ Nor in the introduction
 - ☐ Nor in the questions

The first official numbers on violence against women Indicators: February 2007

1. Prevalence rate by:
 - a) different violence forms (sexual, physical, psychological and economical violence)
 - b) different violent perpetrators (current/former partner/non partner)
 - c) different reference period (lifetime, last 5 years, last 12 months)
 2. Intensity
 3. Seriousness
 4. Consequences
 5. Seeking for help
 6. Risk factors
 7.
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For the data delivering

Clear messages

**Explicative notes about
how to interpret the
phenomenon for users
and politicians**

**Training for journalist
and media**

From data to campaign

**You know
he'll bang you up.
If he bangs on the door,
don't open it.**

**VIOLENCE HAS
MANY FACES.
LET'S FACE THE
NEAREST ONE.**



**A violent
deser
He
to be**

**Don't marry
a violent man.
Children
learn very fast.**

**VIOLENCE HAS
MANY FACES.
LET'S FACE THE
NEAREST ONE.**



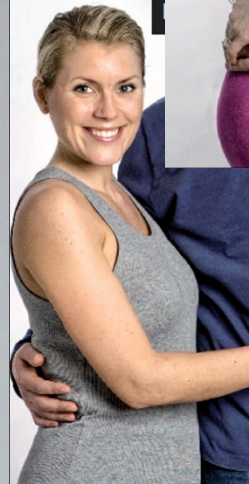
**A violent partner
will get you nowhere:
or rather, he'll get you
to a hospital bed**

**VIOLENCE HAS
MANY FACES.
LET'S FACE THE
NEAREST ONE.**



**If your dream lover
starts to whack you,
wake up!**

**VIOLENCE HAS
MANY FACES.
LET'S FACE THE
NEAREST ONE.**



**VIOLENCE HAS
MANY FACES.
LET'S FACE THE
NEAREST ONE.**



**Mistaking slaps for love
might hurt you easily.**

**VIOLENCE HAS
MANY FACES.
LET'S FACE THE
NEAREST ONE.**



In conclusion

- It's important to develop and reinforce a deep relationship between **data users** and **data producers** to **plan survey, to interpret results**
- It is important to **understand social changes**
- **Women situation can change**

From the last survey, for instance a complex framework:

- Overall decreasing of physical, sexual and psychological violence, but with the exception of the most serious forms;
- Women are more aware of what they suffer, they report more and they seek more frequently help
- The number of women who suffered injuries and who feared for their lives increased