



# Background Paper on the Collection and Use of Administrative Data on Violence against Women

Regional workshop on Strengthening data systems on Violence against Women for Europe and Central Asian countries

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Juncal Plazaola-Castaño, Policy Specialist, Violence against Women Data  
UN Women

## OUTLINE OF SESSION

**(1) What administrative data can tell us**

**(2) The background paper:**

Guiding principles

Minimum dataset

Informed consent and personally identifiable information

Steps for establishing and strengthening administrative data systems

**(3) Some questions for discussion**

## VAW STATISTICS DATA SOURCES- Administrative data



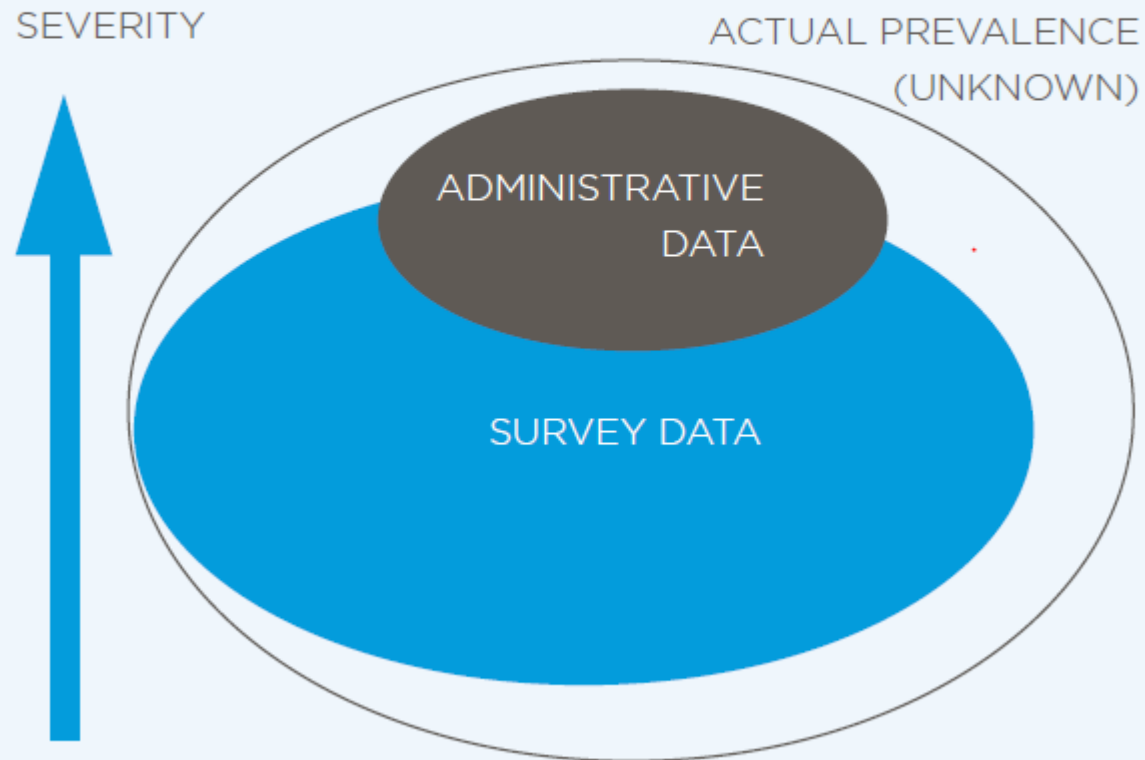
\* Service records kept by health services, police, justice, social services. They can provide information on:

- The number of cases or incidents of VAW reported to a specific service;
- Estimate of the need for such services and their costs;
- Sector responses to violence and how far they meet the needs of women, i.e. number of cases investigated among those reported; number of convictions among cases investigated;
- They can contribute to evaluating the response of agencies to which women turn for help.

**Administrative data cannot provide an estimate of the magnitude or prevalence of VAW in the population.**

# What data tell us/don't tell us

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA ON VAW CANNOT REPRESENT PREVALENCE



Graph courtesy of Dr. Henrica A.F.M. Jansen

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# COVID-19

## The importance of administrative data

**Violence Against Women and Girls Data Collection during COVID-19**

Published on 17 April 2020

**INTRODUCTION**

This is a living document that summarizes principles and recommendations to those planning to embark on data collection on the impact of COVID-19 on violence against women and girls (VAWG). It was informed by the needs and challenges identified by colleagues in regional and country offices and has benefited from their input. It responds to the difficulties of adhering to methodological, ethical and safety principles in the context of the physical distancing and staying at home measures imposed in many countries.

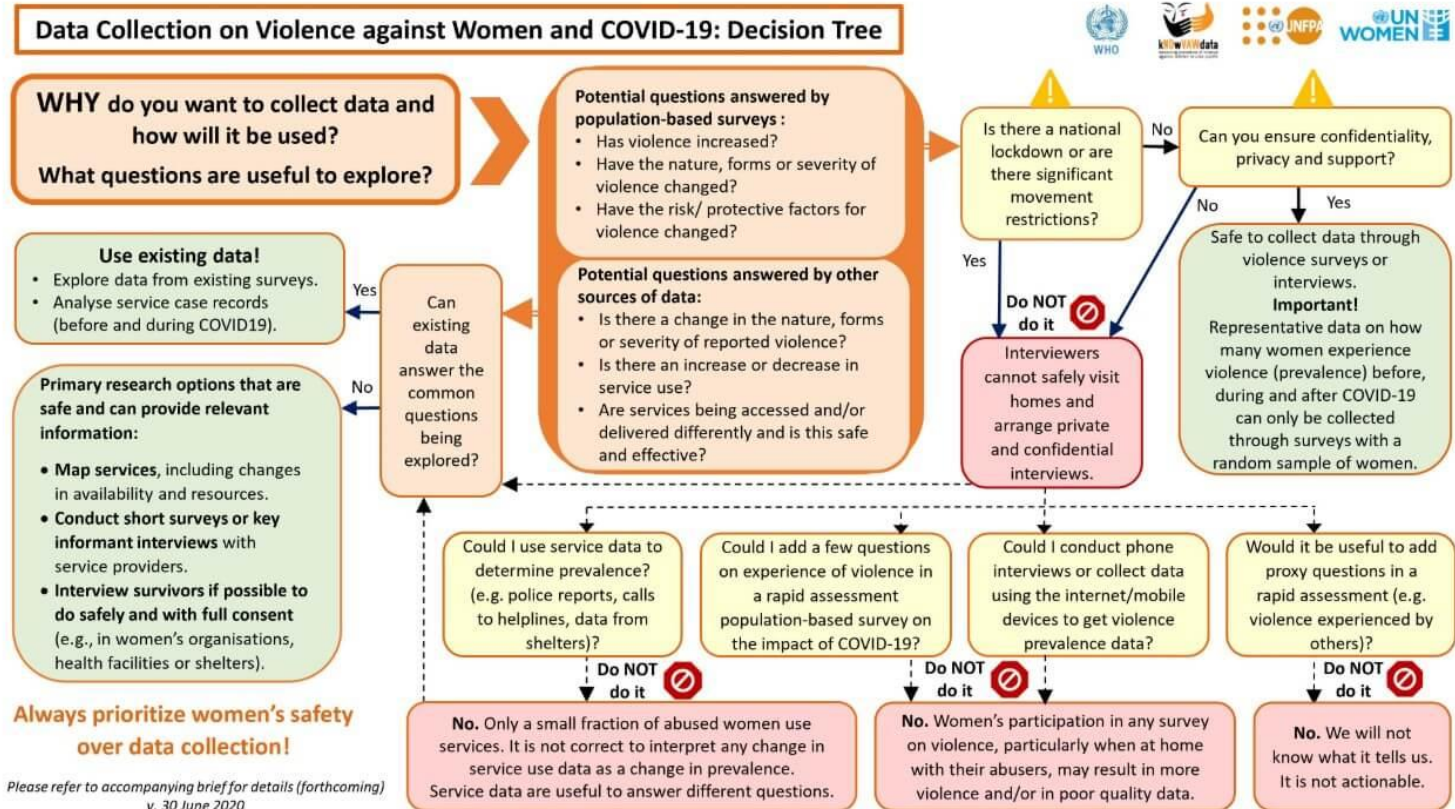
Pandemics like COVID-19 can exacerbate not only violence within the home, but other forms of VAWG. Violence against female healthcare workers as well as migrant or domestic workers increases. Xenophobia-related violence, harassment and other forms of violence in public spaces and online is more prevalent and the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse in exchange for health care services and social safety net benefits becomes more likely. Some groups of women may experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination making them even more vulnerable to violence. Access by women survivors of violence to informal support networks (friends and family), as well as to quality essential services, including psychosocial support, may be limited or need to be delivered differently as a result of physical distancing regulations.

**About COVID-19 and VAWG**

VAWG occurs across all regions<sup>1</sup> and is widely underreported<sup>2</sup> in stable as well as emergency contexts. Emerging data indicates that it is increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup> The measures put in place to address the pandemic such as confinement and physical distancing that affect livelihoods and access to services are likely to increase the risks of women and girls experiencing violence. Examples include health and financial stresses in the home, including a woman's loss of livelihood or earnings, restricted access to basic services and ability to leave an abusive situation; stress related to social isolation and/or quarantines; and confinement of women within the home with violent partners who may use the COVID-19 restrictions to further exercise power and control over their partners. Some reports indicate that calls to domestic violence helplines, police and shelters are increasing during the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>4</sup> In other cases, reporting, calls and service use are decreasing as women find themselves unable to leave the house or access help online or via telephone.<sup>5</sup>

**WHY DATA COLLECTION DURING COVID-19 IS IMPORTANT**

Data is a crucial tool for understanding how and why pandemics such as COVID-19 may result in an increase in VAWG. It can help identify the risk factors: how availability of services for women survivors of violence is being affected; how women's access to such services and help-seeking from formal and informal sources is affected; what new short and medium-term needs arise. These data are critical to designing evidence-based policy and programmes that respond to women's needs, reduce risks, and mitigate adverse effects during and after the pandemic. These data can also provide important insights into and inform the development of tailored strategies and interventions that may be particularly effective in preventing VAWG during emergencies and public health crises in the future.



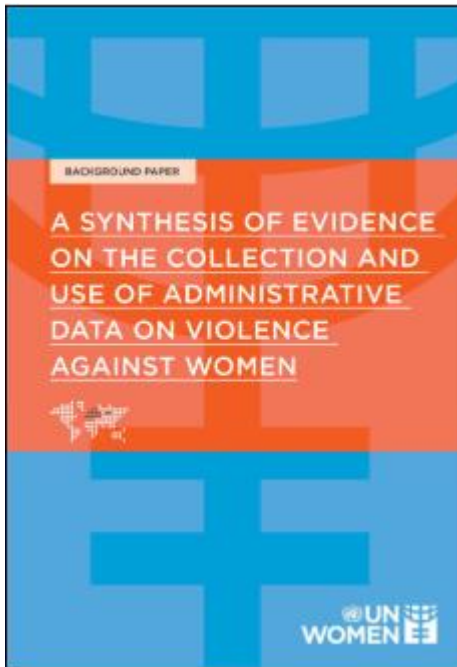
<https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/decision-tree-data-collection-on-violence-against-women-and-covid-19-ar.pdf?la=en&vs=5410>

<https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/brief-violence-against-women-and-girls-data-collection-during-covid-19-ar.pdf?la=en&vs=4100>

# Background paper

## Collection and use of administrative data on violence against women

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/02/background-paper-synthesis-of-evidence-on-collection-and-use-of-administrative-data-on-vaw>



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# Guiding principles

- Rights-based approach
- Culturally and age appropriate
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Survivor-centered
- Safety is paramount
- Perpetrator accountability



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# Priority uses

- Service use and service demand monitoring
- Understanding whether services are delivered to standards (Quality)
- Case management within and across sectors
- Estimating capacity of the VAW response, costing and resource allocation



# Minimum dataset (and definitions)



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- Type of violence: physical, sexual, emotional and psychological
- Date reported violence occurred
- Information about the survivor: sex, age and survivor-perpetrator relationship
- Information about the perpetrator: sex and age
- Registration of the event: when and registrar
- Geographical reference
- Location of event
- Violence perpetrated using a computer or other technology (Y/N)
- Response:
  - services provided (Y/N/NA/survivor declined/decided to come back later)
  - referral (Y/N/NA/survivor declined/referral to which services)

# Informed consent and personally identifiable information

- Set up distinct roles and responsibilities for data collection, aggregation, analysis and reporting
- Establish Standard Operating Procedures for informed consent for data collection and use of personally identifiable information
- Informed consent for information sharing for case management
- Data linkage using personally identifiable information
- Protecting privacy
- Information sharing protocols
- Role-based data access



## Steps for establishing or strengthening administrative data systems

- Mapping of data producers and users
- Establishing a coordination and governance mechanism
- Establishing and implementing training
- Establishing responsibilities and standards for data collection, entry, validation and analysis
- Reporting

## Questions for Discussion

- Which sectors collect data on violence against women in your country?
- Is there any coordination mechanism in charge of overseeing the collection, analysis and use of these data?
- Which data are collected?
- Are administrative data from different sectors consolidated in a single database?
- Are data analysed and made public?
- What are these data used for?
- Which mechanisms are put in place to ensure data privacy?





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**THANKS**

Juncal Plazaola Castaño

[j.plazaolacastano@unwomen.org](mailto:j.plazaolacastano@unwomen.org)