

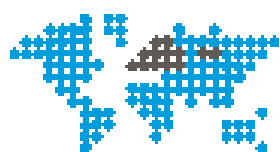
BACKGROUND PAPER

A SYNTHESIS OF EVIDENCE ON THE COLLECTION AND USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



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UN WOMEN

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ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DOB	Date of Birth
EGM	Expert Group Meeting
EIGE	European Institute for Gender Equality
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action Against Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
ICCS	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
ISP	Information-Sharing Protocol
MESECVI	Mechanism to Follow-Up on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention
NPSV	Non-Partner Sexual Violence
NSO	National Statistics Office
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TAB	Technical Advisory Board
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The need for data on violence against women (VAW), including from administrative sources, is currently high on the global agenda. Yet, despite the potential importance of such administrative data for improving policy and programmes, benefiting survivors and ensuring accountability of perpetrators, synthesis of good practices and guidance for their collection from and use by different sectors is generally lacking.

The objective of this background paper is to synthesize evidence, including divergent expert opinions, on the collection and use of VAW administrative data. It was used as the technical document for an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) convened in September 2019 by UN Women. The background paper and the discussions and recommendations coming out of the EGM will inform the development of global guidance on the collection and use of VAW administrative data. The anticipated audiences for the guidance are national and sub-national policymakers as well as managers responsible for providing services to survivors of VAW and interacting with perpetrators.

This effort contributes to the five-year (2018-2022) Global Joint Programme on Strengthening Methodologies and Measurement and Building National Capacities for Violence against Women Data with UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO) as participating UN organizations and other UN agencies such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as technical partners. Funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, the Global Joint Programme aims to ensure that quality, standardized data on VAW are available to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action. The eventual global guidance will also support monitoring and evaluation components of the "Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence"¹ now being implemented in more than 50 countries.

The objectives proposed for the eventual global guidance are:

- To increase understanding of what VAW administrative data are, what they can tell us and, critically, what they cannot tell us (data literacy);
- To propose a small number of variables to be collected across service delivery sectors;
- To make recommendations to establish or improve national and sub-national initiatives to safely and ethically collect and use these data.

Analysing and reporting on VAW administrative data permits better understanding of service demand and use (including gaps) and policy and programme implementation and outcomes. The goal is to inform VAW prevention, improve services for survivors and increase the accountability of perpetrators. Estimating service gaps and unmet needs based on service data can also contribute to ensuring that no one is left behind. Administrative data are also a powerful tool for dialogue and advocacy with governments to improve VAW prevention and response. The paper discusses four possible priority uses for such data:

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

Countries require regularly produced standardized data to monitor efforts to eliminate VAW. Sectors generate sector-specific administrative data and have sector-specific needs, so standardization does

¹ UN Women, UNFPA et al. 2015.

not imply that all sectors need to collect the same variables but rather that when the same variables are used, the information generated is standardized. The proposed approach at this juncture is to focus on building consensus on a minimum cross-sectoral data set and shared operational definitions for types of VAW. Even a small number of data points can provide valuable information to monitor and improve national and sub-national responses to VAW. The proposal is to aggregate information collected about physical, sexual and psychological/emotional intimate partner violence (IPV) as well as non-partner sexual violence (NPSV) using behavioural definitions (acts committed by the perpetrator against the survivor). The scope of the background paper and the eventual global guidance refers to adult women.

The guiding principles proposed for the global guidance are: a human rights-based approach; advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment; cultural sensitivity and age appropriateness; a survivor-centred approach; safety and confidentiality; and perpetrator accountability. Part of a survivor-centred approach is prioritizing the autonomy, self-determination and well-being of survivors. Among other things, this means that women are not asked about violence unless services are in place to respond; that survivors can decline to answer questions or refuse consent to share information without fear of losing support or access to services; and that any limits to confidentiality are clearly explained prior to women's disclosure of violence they have experienced.

The global guidance will promote international ethical standards for informed consent and the management of personally identifiable information (PII)² as well as provide guidance and model tools for implementation. This background paper discusses issues related to informed consent and the policy, procedures and personnel needed to manage PII and describes some steps to advance privacy protection (including establishing information-sharing protocols (ISPs) and role-based data access). The paper summarizes different expert perspectives on consent for information sharing in the context of case management and for secondary analysis of data that includes PII and use of PII for data linkage.

Data collection, management, analysis and reporting require human and financial resources. VAW administrative data are generated through routine service delivery. Nevertheless, improving the quality of data collected and transforming those data into useable information to improve policy and programmes are additional tasks with resource requirements. When considering the collection and use of VAW administrative data, it is important to distinguish between roles and responsibilities for collection, aggregation, analysis and reporting.

The background paper discusses the following five steps to improve collection and use of VAW administrative data:

1. Mapping of data producers and users;
2. Establishing a coordination and governance mechanism;
3. Establishing and implementing training;
4. Establishing responsibilities and standards for data collection, entry, validation and analysis;
5. Reporting.

² PII is any data related to an individual that could result in them being identified. It includes socio-demographic information such as name, sex, marital status, date and place of birth, country of origin, country of residence, individual registration number, occupation, religion and ethnicity and biometric data (photograph, fingerprint, facial or iris image) as well as any expression of opinion about the individual, such as assessments of their specific needs by a service provider.

INTRODUCTION

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