Prevalence of intimate partner violence in the Americas

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Overview of presentation

Background

Methodology: Systematic review and reanalysis

Findings: Most recent IPV prevalence estimates

Findings: Changes in IPV prevalence over time

Recommendations and conclusions
Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Comparative Analysis of Population-Based Data from 12 Countries

- PAHO and CDC 2012
- Demographic Health Surveys and Reproductive Health Surveys
- First regional comparison of nationally-representative data
- Physical, sexual and emotional violence; controlling behaviors
- Prevalence, risk factors, consequences, and attitudes towards violence
Survey eligibility criteria – 2018 Systematic review

- Nationally representative (at least urban)
- Population-based
- Household or telephone survey
- From any PAHO Member State
- Gathered IPV prevalence data
- Collected data 1998 - 2017
- Published (at least online) by July 2018
- Any language (English, French, Portuguese, Spanish)
- Sufficient information to assess quality
- Explicitly mentioned partners when measuring violence
Records identified through journal article databases (n = 1219)

Records identified elsewhere (n = 133)

Records screened after duplicates removed (n = 1046)

Full-text records screened for eligibility (n = 133 reports and articles, 73 national surveys)

Records excluded: (n = 913)
- Outside the Americas
- Not a population-based survey
- Not nationally representative (at least urban)
- No IPV prevalence data
- Sample was girls and/or adolescents – not adult women
- Crime victimization surveys/questionnaire items were not partner specific

Excluded: (n = 4 surveys, 4 countries)
- Operational definitions not published
- Indicator definitions were unclear
- IPV data measured but not published
- Estimates not disaggregated by sex

Met eligibility inclusion criteria: (n = 69 surveys, 24 countries)
Geographic coverage of eligible surveys

Searched for national surveys from 35 PAHO member States

- **24 countries**: Eligible survey found (Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, USA, and Venezuela)

- **11 countries**: No published national survey found

- **4 countries**: Survey in development or close to publication (Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Suriname)

- **7 countries**: No survey found (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis)

**Overseas territories with no eligible survey**
Prevalence indicators: Challenges to comparability

% of ever partnered women and girls aged 15-49 years subjected to physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner, ever and in the past 12 months, disaggregated by type of violence and type of partner.

- Ever-partnered, currently-partnered, or never-partnered women?
- What age range?
- What forms of violence? Defined how?
- ¿Current, most recent partner and/or any partner in life?
- In what timeframes did violence occur?
- What type(s) of violence? Physical? Sexual? Physical and/or sexual?
- Who was considered an intimate partner? Husband? Cohabiting partner? Stable partner? Boyfriend? Lover?
- Current/most recent partner and/or any partner in life?
Most recent 24 eligible surveys by type of instrument

**Demographic Health Surveys (DHS)**

**Reproductive Health Surveys (RHS)**
- Paraguay (2008)

**World Health Organization, Multi-country study (WHO MCS)**

**International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS)**

**Encuesta Nacional sobre la Dinámica de las Relaciones en los Hogares (ENDIREH) or similar**

**Unique surveys**
- Brazil (2017), Canada (2014), Chile (2016/17), USA (2010/12)
Challenges to comparability: Difference between any partner in life and current/most recent partner

% of lifetime IPV missed by measures of IPV limited to violence by the current/most recent partner only

- Dominican Republic 2013: 28%
- Ecuador 2011: 12%
- El Salvador 2014: 36%
- Guatemala 2014/15: 15%
- Haiti 2016/17: 16%
- Honduras 2011/12: 22%
- Mexico 2016: 15%
- Uruguay 2013: 55%
Prevalence of PHYSICAL and/or SEXUAL intimate partner violence EVER

% of women who reported physical and/or sexual IPV, ever

- Any partner in life
- Current/most recent

Bolivia: 58.5%
Ecuador: 40.4%
United States: 37.3%
Costa Rica: 35.9%
Colombia: 33.3%
Peru: 31.2%
Trinidad & Tobago: 30.2%
Dominican Republic: 28.5%
Jamaica: 28.1%
Honduras: 27.8%
Argentina: 26.9%
Haiti: 26.0%
El Salvador: 24.7%
Mexico: 24.6%
Nicaragua: 22.5%
Belize: 22.2%
Guatemala: 21.2%
Paraguay: 20.4%
Venezuela: 17.9%
Uruguay: 16.8%
Brazil: 16.7%
Panama: 14.4%
El Salvador: 14.3%
Prevalence of PHYSICAL and/or SEXUAL intimate partner violence PAST YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% Any Partner in Life</th>
<th>% Current/Most Recent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>27.1</td>
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<td>Colombia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
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</tbody>
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Analysis of changes over time in reported IPV prevalence

7 countries

- 3+ rounds of open access data based with a comparable instrument 1998-2017
- Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru
- PAHO analyzed changes over time using Cochran Armitage Trend Test

1 country

- Canadian researcher already published an analysis of changes over 3 points in time
Changes over time: Physical IPV past year

- COLOMBIA
- HAITI
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- PERU
- MEXICO
- NICARAGUA
- GUATEMALA
Changes over time: Sexual IPV past year
Methodological findings of systematic review

- Estimates of IPV by any partner in life are NOT comparable to IPV by the current/most recent partner only – surveys should measure and publish both.

- In according with SDG and UN guidelines, surveys should publish indicators of physical and/or sexual IPV

- Composite indicators of physical, sexual and/or emotional IPV are less helpful (not comparable, tier 3, not compelling to policy makers)

- Surveys vary by age range – please disaggregate for the 15-49 year old cohort

- Many reports do not clearly define their indicators or label their tables/charts for numerator and denominators (type of violence, partner, etc.)
  - readers need more clearly labeled findings

- Inadequate information about ethics and safety
Conclusions

1. IPV remains widespread in the Americas

2. While reported IPV prevalence declined significantly in several countries, some indicators were unchanged or rose over time

3. Availability of prevalence estimates increased significantly, but need: Greater geographic coverage, improved quality and comparability and repeat surveys

4. Greater and sustained investment needed on evidence-based VAW prevention and response
How WHO/PAHO is working to strengthen health systems in the Americas

Strengthen leadership and governance:
- Strengthen political will
- Integrate violence within policies, programs
- Advocate for adoption/reform of laws

Strengthen health service delivery:
- Develop evidence-based normative guidance & curricula
- Train health care professionals
- Integrate VAW into university-level and continuing education

Strengthen prevention:
- Support programs that challenge gender norms
- Inform policies and programs in other sectors

Strengthen evidence:
- Strengthen routine reporting
- Support research to develop, evaluate, and scale up health systems’ interventions
- Provide guidance to improve quality and comparability of data
Tools by WHO and PAHO to support health systems

Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women: WHO clinical and policy guidelines

Strengthening the medico-legal response to sexual violence

Health care for women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence: A clinical handbook

Strengthening health systems to respond to women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence: A manual for health managers

Training Curricula on Violence Against Women Response (forthcoming)

WHO Clinical Guidelines for responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused
Thank you


www.paho.org/violence