



# Collecting violence against women data amid COVID-19

What kind of data should we collect amid COVID-19?

Decision tree available in 15 languages

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# HOW IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVALENCE MEASURED?

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How many women experience it? (%\*)



## Two time periods

**Lifetime:**  
Did it ever happen?

**Current:**  
Did it happen in the last 12 months?

\*Proportion or percentage of the population of interest

# SURVEYS ON THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE



## GOLD STANDARD APPROACH TO COLLECTING VIOLENCE PREVALENCE DATA:

➤ Standard international survey methods with structured questionnaires

➤ Guided by set of ethical and safety measures

➤ Extensive, specialized, in-depth interviewer training

➤ Participatory process and national ownership

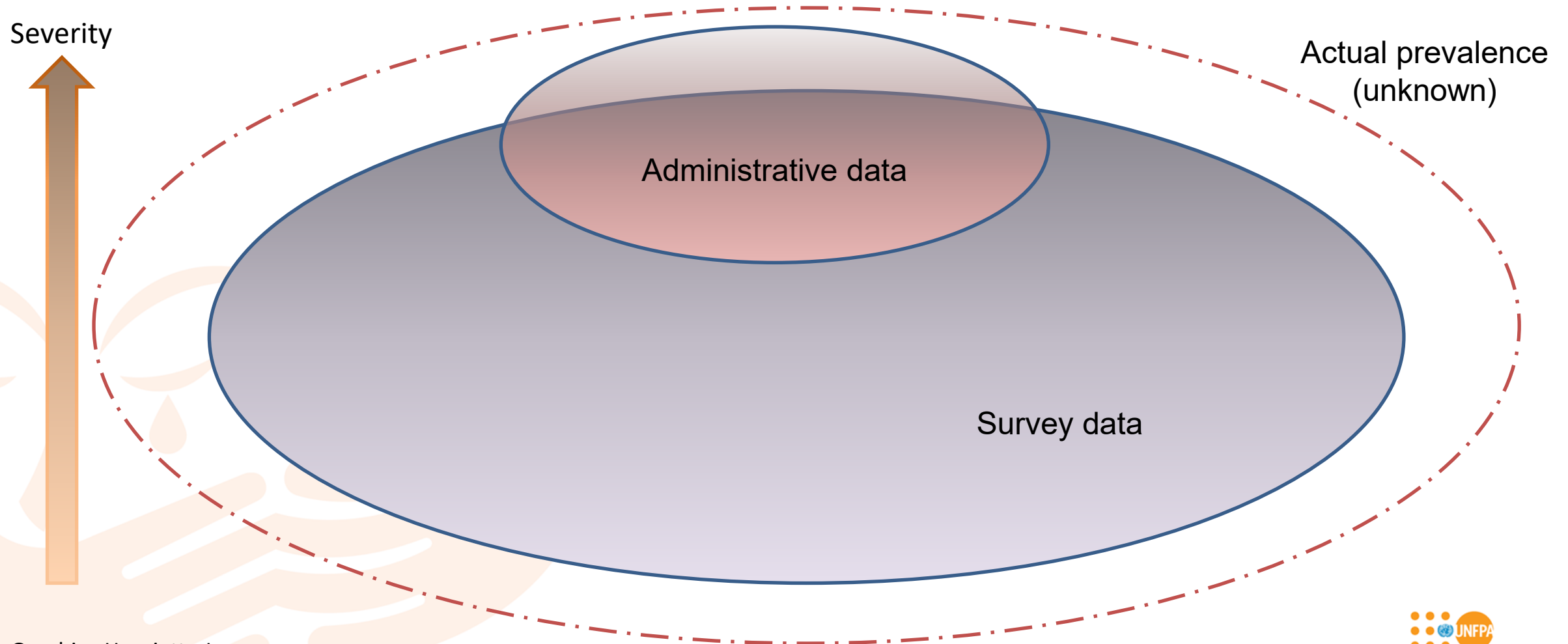
➤ Capacity building and mentoring of national staff

➤ Data for action!!



# Administrative data (service records) vs. population-based survey data on experience of violence against women:

How well do they represent prevalence in a population?



# Data Collection on Violence against Women and COVID-19: Decision Tree



**WHY** do you want to collect data and how will it be used?

What questions are useful to explore?

## Use existing data!

- Explore data from existing surveys.
- Analyse service case records (before and during COVID19).

## Primary research options that are safe and can provide relevant information:

- **Map services**, including changes in availability and resources.
- **Conduct short surveys or key informant interviews** with service providers.
- **Interview survivors if possible to do safely and with full consent** (e.g., in women's organisations, health facilities or shelters).

**Always prioritize women's safety over data collection!**

Please refer to accompanying brief for details (forthcoming)  
v. 30 June 2020

## Potential questions answered by population-based surveys :

- Has violence increased?
- Have the nature, forms or severity of violence changed?
- Have the risk/ protective factors for violence changed?

## Potential questions answered by other sources of data:

- Is there a change in the nature, forms or severity of reported violence?
- Is there an increase or decrease in service use?
- Are services being accessed and/or delivered differently and is this safe and effective?

Can existing data answer the common questions being explored?

Yes

No

Is there a national lockdown or are there significant movement restrictions?

No

Yes

**Do NOT do it**

Interviewers cannot safely visit homes and arrange private and confidential interviews.

Can you ensure confidentiality, privacy and support?

No

Yes

Safe to collect data through violence surveys or interviews.  
**Important!**  
Representative data on how many women experience violence (prevalence) before, during and after COVID-19 can only be collected through surveys with a random sample of women.

Could I use service data to determine prevalence? (e.g. police reports, calls to helplines, data from shelters)?

**Do NOT do it**

**No.** Only a small fraction of abused women use services. It is not correct to interpret any change in service use data as a change in prevalence. Service data are useful to answer different questions.

Could I add a few questions on experience of violence in a rapid assessment population-based survey on the impact of COVID-19?

**Do NOT do it**

**No.** Women's participation in any survey on violence, particularly when at home with their abusers, may result in more violence and/or in poor quality data.

Could I conduct phone interviews or collect data using the internet/mobile devices to get violence prevalence data?

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**No.** Only a small fraction of abused women use services. It is not correct to interpret any change in service use data as a change in prevalence. Service data are useful to answer different questions.

**No.** Women's experience of violence is complex and can change over time. Adding a few questions on violence to a rapid assessment population-based survey on the impact of COVID-19 is not safe and effective.

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# 15 languages!



English



Nepali



Bengali



Hindi



Urdu



Bahasa Indonesia



Vietnamese



Khmer



Burmese



Thai



French



Russian



Spanish



Arabic



Chinese

<https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/decision-tree-data-collection-violence-against-women-and-covid-19>

[https://youtu.be/cUS9Z8DC\\_94](https://youtu.be/cUS9Z8DC_94)



# **Always prioritize women's safety over data collection!**

**Before you start, ask yourself:**

**Is this really the best time to be collecting data?**

**Reflect on the motivation for the research:**

**Who will benefit and in what way?**

**Are the women at the center?**

**Does the research add value?**

**Will the findings be actionable?**

**How will you ensure that findings will be used?**

# When surveys can be resumed safely: New (optional) COVID19 question

Think of the COVID pandemic and how it affected what your (last) (husband/male partner) did to you, which of the following statements best describes his behavior to you (ONLY ONE ANSWER):

- a) None of this behavior happened during the pandemic. It had **already stopped before the pandemic.**
- b) He did this already before the pandemic and it was the **same during the pandemic.**
- c) He did this already before the pandemic, but it **got worse (more often, more severe) during the pandemic.**
- d) Before the pandemic he did not do any of this; but it **started during the pandemic.**

# Selected references and Resources

- Regional Snapshot (2020) by UNFPA/kNOwVAWdata: [Map of Violence against Women prevalence in Asia-Pacific region | July 2020](#)
- Decision Tree by UNFPA/kNOwVAWdata, WHO, UNWomen: [Data Collection on Violence against Women and COVID-19 | 30 June 2020](#)
- Brief paper by UNWomen-WHO Global Joint Programme: [Violence against women and girls data collection during COVID-19 | April 2020](#)
- Blog post by SVRI: [Opportunities for SGBV Data Collection in the Time of COVID-19: The Value of Implementation Science | 26 June, 2020](#)
- Resource by SVRI: [Pivoting to remote research on violence against women during COVID-19 | 24 July, 2020](#)
- Think piece by UNICEF Innocenti: [Remote data collection on violence against women during COVID-19: A conversation with experts on ethics, measurement & research priorities \(Part 1\) | May 2020](#)
- News article by Devex: COVID-19: [Has it become too dangerous to measure violence against women? | 6 May, 2020](#)

# Thank you!!



[asiapacific.unfpa.org/knowvawdata](http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/knowvawdata)



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[@kNOwVAWdata](https://twitter.com/kNOwVAWdata)



[kNOwVAWdata](https://www.facebook.com/kNOwVAWdata)

**kNOwVAWdata course: [knowvawdata.com](http://knowvawdata.com)**

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The collage features several documents and a dashboard:

- Sources of Data:** A report titled "kNOwVAWdata: Sources of Data" discussing administrative data systems versus prevalence surveys.
- Survey Methodologies:** A report titled "MEASURING PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: Survey Methodologies" explaining the 'prevalence' of violence against women and the two time periods used for measurement.
- Palau Report:** A report titled "LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY IN PALAU" featuring a photo of women in traditional attire.
- Dashboard:** A web interface for "Women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime". It includes filters for "Intimate partner violence", "Non-partner violence", "Violence against pregnant women", "First sexual experience was forced", and "Help seeking after violence". It also has a "Time Frame" selector (Lifetime or Last 12 months) and a "Legend" for percentage ranges.
- Map:** A map of Asia and the Pacific region showing the percentage of women who reported experiencing physical or sexual violence, with data points for various countries.

