Measuring domestic violence against women: methodology and key findings in brief

National Survey

(SDVAW-2021)

Gagik Gevorgyan
Member of the RA State Council on Statistics
Vice President of the Statistical Committee
ggevorgyan@hotmail.com
Brief historical overview

Thematic survey

SDVAW: Survey on Domestic Violence against Women

DHS: Demographic and Health Survey
Objective of SDVAW-2021

➤ Obtain reliable estimates of the frequency and prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls by:

▪ spouse/intimate partner (current or former);
▪ another non-partner abuser (parent/other family member).

✓ During their lifetime
✓ During the previous 12 months

➤ Monitoring of DVAW prevention efforts and the progress of SDG indicators предотвращению

➤ National reports (CEDAW Committee, 7th NATIONAL REPORT).

As consistent with the obligations under the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, Article 11 - Data collection and research.
The survey questionnaire was based on the template of the 12th questionnaire developed by WHO, which was revised and localized according to national specifics and priorities. As per WHO recommendations, most of the questionnaire items were not subject to change to ensure international comparability of the survey results.

Also, the manual for completing the questionnaire “Question-by-Question Description of the Survey Questionnaire” has been adapted and used in the survey.

The survey tools were agreed with members of the National Steering Committee on Gender Issues, which includes representatives of various government departments (from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, etc.), CSOs specializing in domestic violence, international organizations and other important stakeholders. Accordingly, the opinions of experts dealing with gender-based violence were taken into account during the revision of the questionnaire and the manual for completing the questionnaire.
The full-scale survey was preceded by a pilot survey.  

The pilot survey allowed for:  

1. piloting the questionnaires and interview techniques by field work coordinators and interviewers;  
2. identifying problems associated with the formulation of questions;  
3. identifying and addressing issues related to the use of the Kobo Toolbox platform.

Pilot interviews were conducted in areas not included in the sample. Each interviewer conducted 4 pilot interviews.

All the survey instruments were tested in the course of the pilot survey.

The problems emerging from the interviewers' discussions and observations were taken into account and the questionnaire was amended as necessary.
**Risks and problems associated with completing the questionnaire in SDVAW-2021**

- **Difficulties related to the questionnaire:** existence of questions that are not “appropriate” to the national socio-cultural environment, such as questions regarding sexual violence and, in part, physical violence,

- **Perception and awareness:** A number of questions related to physical violence were difficult to adopt: being slapped by husband once or throwing something at a woman is not perceived as a form of violence.

- Issues related to sexual violence are still considered taboo and internal complexes had to be overcome in order to raise them (especially in rural areas).

- In matters relating to sexual violence committed by husband, the transition between whether to view this act as violence or not is very subtle.

- **Interview duration:** The average interview lasted **35-45 minutes**, a minimum of **20-30 minutes** and a maximum of **50-70 minutes**.

- etc.
SDVAW-2021 methodology in brief (2)

**Quantitative survey**
- Targeting *ever-partnered* women and girls aged 15-59

**Geographic coverage**
- Whole country
- (urban and rural settlements)

**2-stage sampling**
- 2872 surveyed households
- Response rate 72%

**F2F interview, without the presence of a third person**

**Fieldwork:** February-March 2021

Conducted in very difficult circumstances

Proxy respondents not allowed
The interviewers had no right to replace the selected HH with another HH or the selected respondent with another respondent.

In case there was more than one eligible female respondent, the interview was conducted with the person whose birthday was closest to the interview day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Planned sample size</th>
<th>Actual sample size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample</td>
<td>1 913</td>
<td>1 287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HH response rate - 96%

The sampling framework was based on the database of HH addresses formed as a result of the 2011 RA Census.
The same person could be subjected to more than one type of violence: physical and/or sexual and/or psychological. Similarly, the same person could be subjected to moderate and severe physical violence.
UN Indicators on DVAW

3 forms of DVAW
- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Economic

SDVAW - 2021
PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE BY INTIMATE PARTNER (IP)

NON-PARTNER PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
**SDVAW – 2021: Key Indicators**

- **Interviewed women (15-59 yo):** 2,872 (100%)
  - **Ever-partnered women:** 2,560 (89%)
  - **Never-partnered women:** 312 (11%)

**Ever experienced any type of violence:**
- **441** (17%)
  - **PHYSICAL and/or SEXUAL violence:**
    - **PHYSICAL violence:** 378 (14.8%)
      - **Moderate:** 335 (13.1%)
      - **Severe:** 142 (5.5%)
    - **SEXUAL violence:** 168 (6.6%)
    - **PSYCHOLOGICAL violence:** 814 (31.8%)

**Never experienced any type of violence:**
- 2,119 (83%)
Abuser characteristics (IP)

The older the abuser, the higher the likelihood that the woman will be physically abused by an intimate partner. The older the abuser, the lower the likelihood that a woman will be sexually abused by her partner.

- The lower the woman’s level of education, the more likely she is to experience partner violence.
- Having a job is a direct determinant in the use of violence by an abuser. Unemployed men were more likely to use physical violence against their partner.

Sexual violence is most common among male migrant workers.

The use of alcoholic beverages by a partner is one of the main factors subjecting a woman to physical violence. Women are more likely to experience physical violence from partners who drink alcohol frequently (every day or almost every day).

Ip – Intimate partner
Progress towards SDG 5.2.1

Physical violence

2015-2016
DHS
4.5 %

2021
SDVAW
3.5 % (-1.0)

Source: http://sdg.armstat.am/5-2-1/

DHS: Demographic and Health Survey
Progress towards SDG 5.2.2

Sexual violence

Women and girls aged 15-59

2015-2016
DHS
0.3 %

2021
SDVAW
1.9 % (+1.6)

Source: http://sdg.armstat.am/5-2-1/
Armenia presented its 7th PERIODIC REPORT under CEDAW, which also includes data from SDVAW-2021.

The Analytical Report is posted at the ArmStat’s webpage in two languages.

Country-level SDG Platform.
http://sdg.armstat.am/5-2-2/

Microdata of SDVAW-2021 requested to calculate the gender and corruption index.

Armenia is a State Party to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Thematic events

Meeting of the National Assembly and the Civil Society Cooperation Platform

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
Conclusions

Physical violence
- 15% of women (partner)
- 5% (NON-partner)

Psychological violence
- 32% of women (partner)

Sexual violence
- 7% of women (partner)
- 3% (NON-partner)

Lifetime
https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=82&id=2487
Questions

Thank you!

www.armstat.am

ggevorgyan@armstat.am

Republic Ave Government Building 3 Yerevan 0010

+374 11 52 39 27