Definitions

Women and girls from 15 to 19 years of age, and from 15 to 49 years of age who have ever had a partner and have suffered physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or previous partner, in the previous 12 months.

Numerator

Number of women in the age group of interest (15 to 19, or 15-49 years of age) who suffered physical, sexual and psychological violence at the hands of their current or former partner in the last 12 months × 100.

Denominator

Number of women surveyed from the age group of interest and who have ever had a partner.

Measuring unit

X percent (%).

Considerations for indicator quality

To elaborate the indicator, the following criteria will be used for selection of data to be included in the database that will guarantee quality and comparability of the data:

1. Representative data at national level;
2. Data collected through household surveys;
3. Comparable definition of physical, sexual and psychological violence in couples between countries;
4. Comparable age range (15-19 and 15-49);
5. Reliable data source.

Interpretation implications

According to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), Violence against Women is “any act of gender-based violence resulting in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering for women, threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether they occur in public or private life. Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but is not limited to, the following: Physical, sexual and psychological violence that takes place within the family [...]” See full definition here.

Intimate partner violence includes any abuse perpetrated by a current or former partner in the context of marriage, cohabitation, or any other formal or informal union.

Different forms of violence included in the indicator are defined as follows:

1. Physical violence consists of acts aimed at physically injuring the victim and include, but are not limited to, pushing, grasping, arm twisting, hair pulling, slapping, kicking, biting or hitting with the fist or object, trying to strangle or suffocate, generate burns on purpose, or threaten or attack with some type of weapon or knife.
2. Sexual violence is defined as any type of harmful or unwanted sexual behavior that is imposed on someone. It includes abusive sexual contact, forced participation in sexual acts, attempt or performance of sexual acts without consent, incest, sexual harassment, among other actions.
3. Psychological violence includes a series of behaviors that include emotional abuse and control behavior actions. For a more detailed definition of physical, sexual and psychological violence against women, see Guidelines on producing statistics on violence against women.

Context indicator

For more information on best practices in producing statistics on violence against women, see: United Nations Guidelines on producing statistics on violence against women - Statistical surveys (UN, 2014).

In addition to the form of violence and age, income/wealth, education, ethnicity (including indigenous status), disability status, geographic location, and frequency of violence are suggested as desired variables for disaggregation of this indicator.
### Preferred data source

National Statistical Offices (in most cases) or line ministries/other government agencies that conduct national surveys on violence against women and girls.

Although administrative data from health, police, courts, justice and social services, among other services used by violence survivors, can provide information on violence against women and girls; they do not produce data on violence against women and girls prevalence, but data or the number of cases received in/reported to these services. Many abused women are known not to report violence, and those who do, tend to be only the most severe cases. Therefore, administrative data should not be used as a data source for this indicator.

For more information on best practices in producing statistics on violence against women, see: Guidelines on producing statistics on violence against women - Statistical surveys (UN, 2014).

### Alternative data sources
- Household/demographic surveys that include a module on women's violence experiences, such as DHS.

### Inter-agency group estimates
- Although standardized estimates are not available for all countries, the global UN Women database to limit violence against women is available: [http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/es](http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/es).

### Global monitoring frameworks
- N/A

### For more information
- Guidelines on producing statistics on violence against women.
- ONU Women 2016. [Global database on violence against women](https://data.unwomen.org/).
- UNICEF data portal.
- UNSD portal on minimum set of gender indicators.

### References
- SDG metadata repository.