Measuring gender-based violence: key indicators, sources, and guidance

ESCAP-UNODC Webinar series on
Measuring Gender-based Violence in Asia and the Pacific

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“Violence is something we all know happens. It is distant and close to us always - but we didn’t know how to talk about it.”

Violence against women survey enumerator, Mongolia

Source: The Journey: Collecting data on violence against women in Mongolia
knowvawdata.com/story/the-journey-mongolia/

Incidence vs prevalence

Incidence

- counting new cases, number of incidents
- number of times women experience violent events during a specific period, such as in one year, or lifetime

Source: UNODC & UN Women. 2022. Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) Global estimates of gender-related killings of women and girls in the private sphere in 2021.

Prevalence

- proportion of women who have experienced violence as part of the population of women 'at risk'
  - e.g. for intimate partner violence → women who have or ever had an intimate partner
- counting people rather than events or incidents
- presented as a percentage or proportion of women

Source: WHO. 2021. Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022256

Where does the data come from?

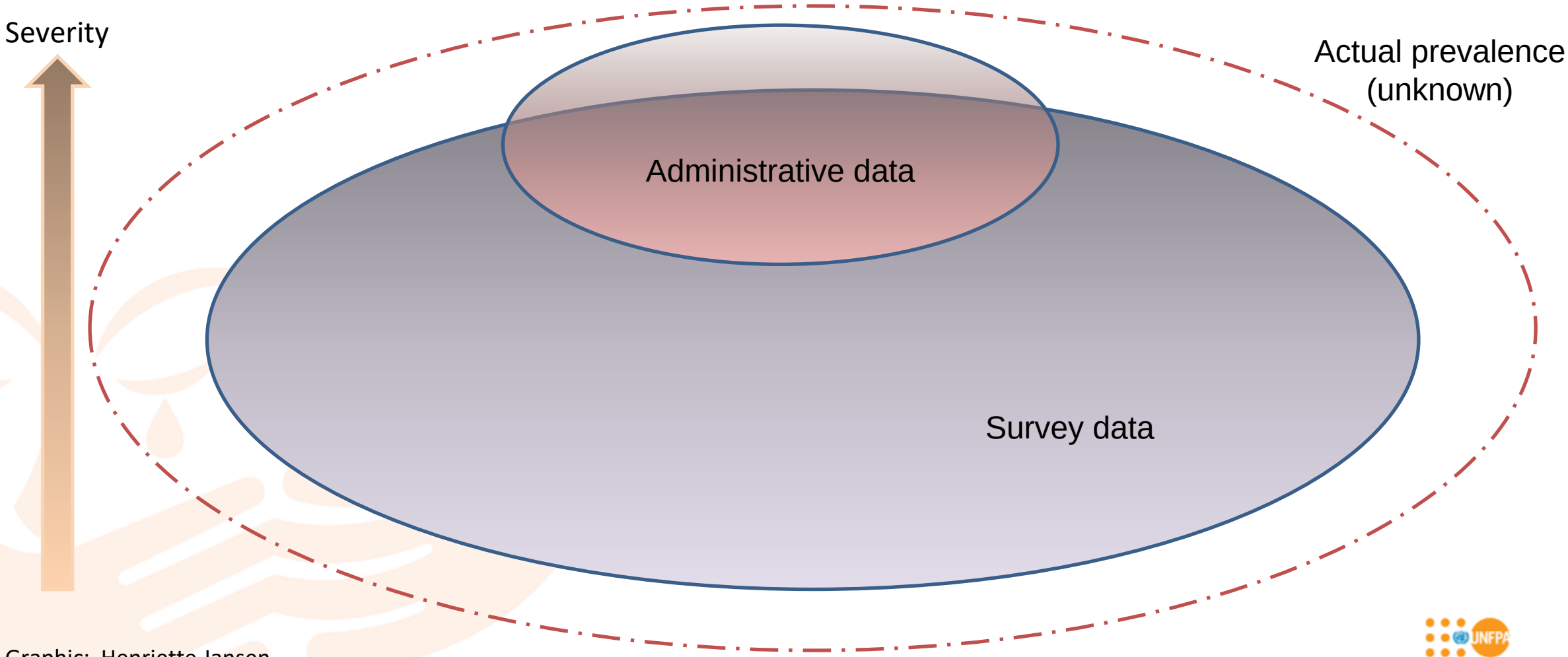
Censuses	Administrative data	Survey data	Other sources of evidence
Not appropriate for measuring gender-based violence	Health and medical services Shelters/refuges Crisis hotlines Police Justice system Women's groups	Dedicated surveys • WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence • Survey conducted by European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) • Crime victimization surveys Domestic violence modules in another survey • Demographic and Health Surveys (DV-module) • Reproductive health surveys (DV-module) • UNECE module to measure UN VAW indicators	Qualitative research Citizen-generated data

"...administrative data **cannot** provide an estimate of the prevalence of violence against women taking place within a population…"

UN Guidelines on Producing Statistics on Violence against Women (UNSD, 2014)

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

How well do they represent prevalence in a population?



Graphic: Henriette Jansen

Computation of prevalence of violence

$$\frac{\text{Number of ever-partnered/all women subjected to (type of) violence}}{\text{Total number of (ever-partnered) women}}$$

Two time periods:

- **Lifetime: did it ever happen?**
- **Current: did it happen in the last 12 months?**

kNOwVAWdata
measuring prevalence of violence against women in asia-pacific

As of September 2022:

32 out of 37 countries in the UNFPA Asia-Pacific region completed at least one violence against women (VAW) prevalence survey

11 countries have completed more than one national VAW prevalence survey with comparable methods

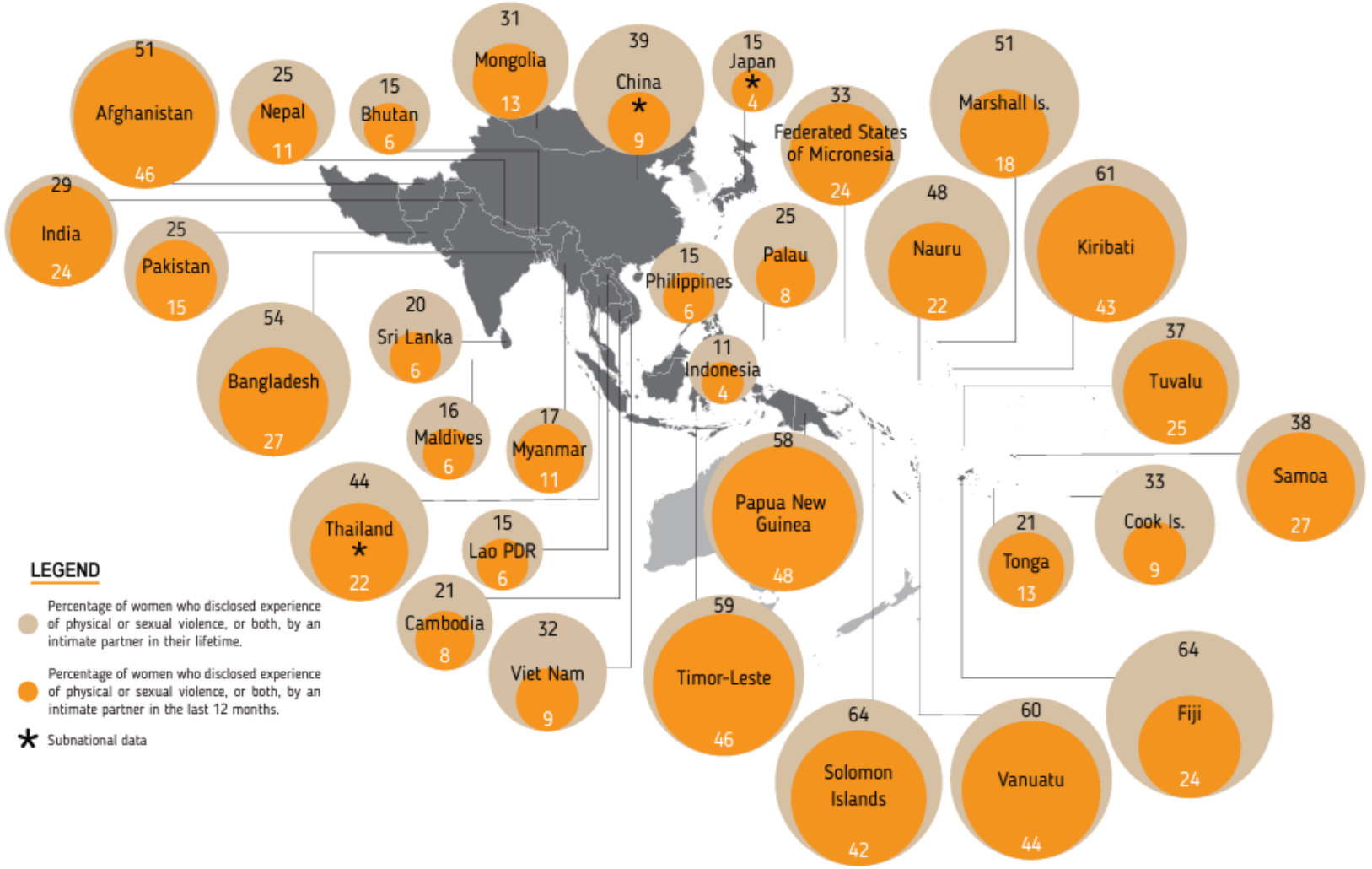
29 countries have national statistics on intimate partner violence

27 of these have data on all three forms of violence in the last 12 months for SDG indicator 5.2.1

20 countries have national statistics on sexual violence by non-partners

17 of these have data on sexual violence in the last 12 months for SDG indicator 5.2.2

2022 **REGIONAL SNAPSHOT**



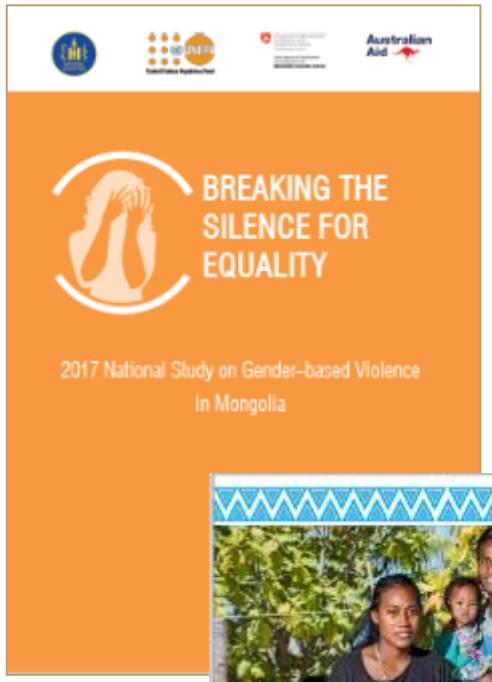
WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, 2000 - 2022

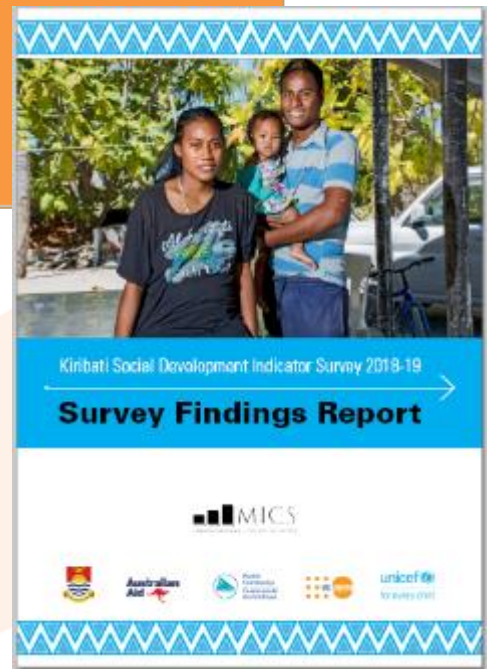
UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Region

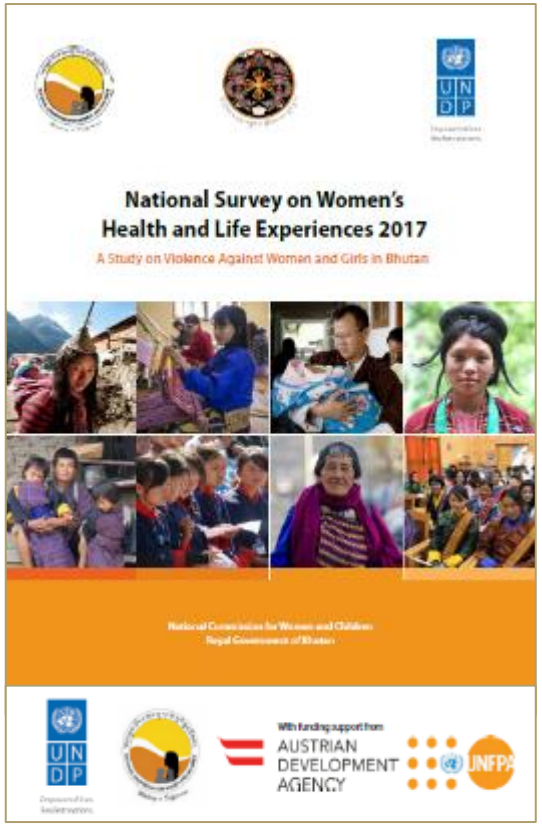
https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2022-knowvawdata

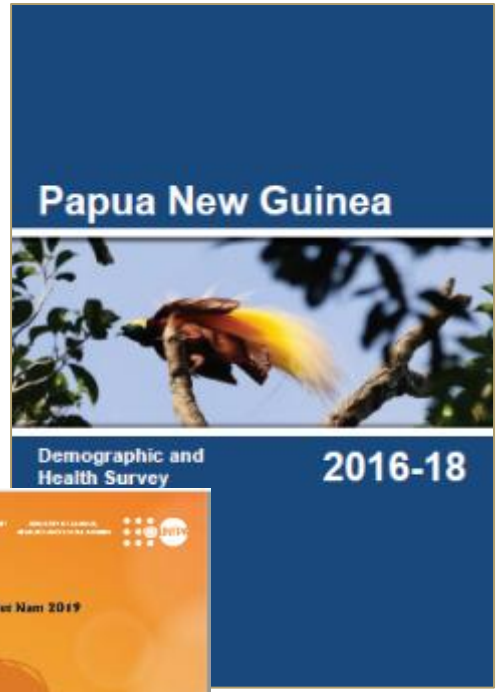
Studies on the prevalence of violence against women should be conducted no more than every 5-7 years

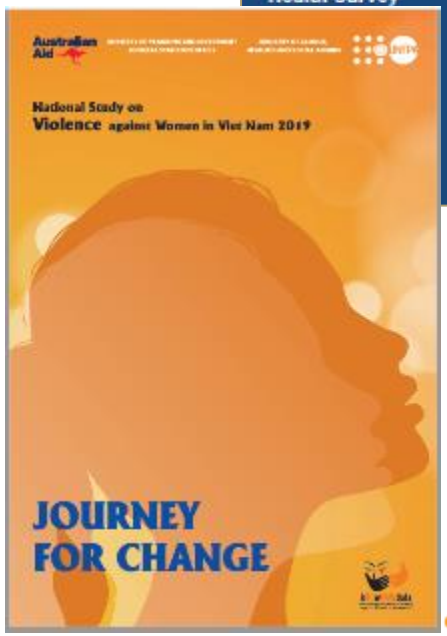
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Cambodia
China
Indonesia
Kiribati
Maldives
Mongolia
Nepal
Pakistan
PNG
Samoa
Sri Lanka
Viet Nam











Deepen understanding through analysis and use of violence against women data

Examples from *Results of the National Study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam 2019 - Journey for Change*
(MOLISA, GSO and UNFPA, 2020)

Figure 9: Prevalence of physical, sexual, emotional, and economic violence, and controlling behaviours by husband/partner during lifetime and the last 12 months among ever-married/partnered women, Viet Nam 2019 (N=5,553)

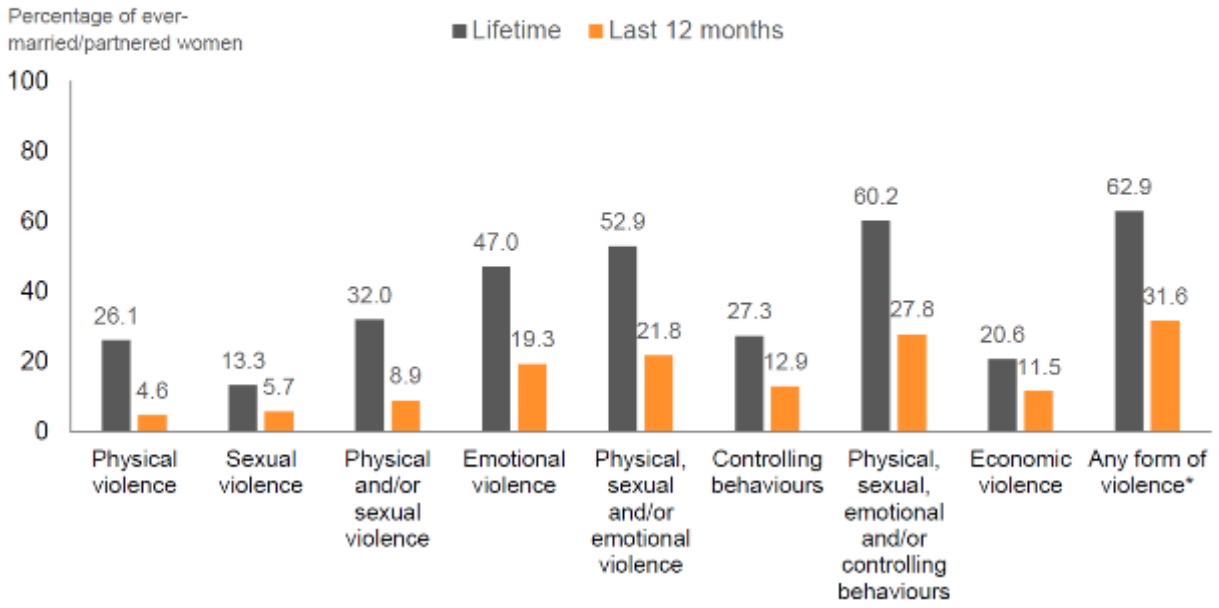


Figure 15: Lifetime prevalence of physical violence by a husband/partner among ever-married/partnered women by severity, total and by age group, Viet Nam 2019 (N=5,553)

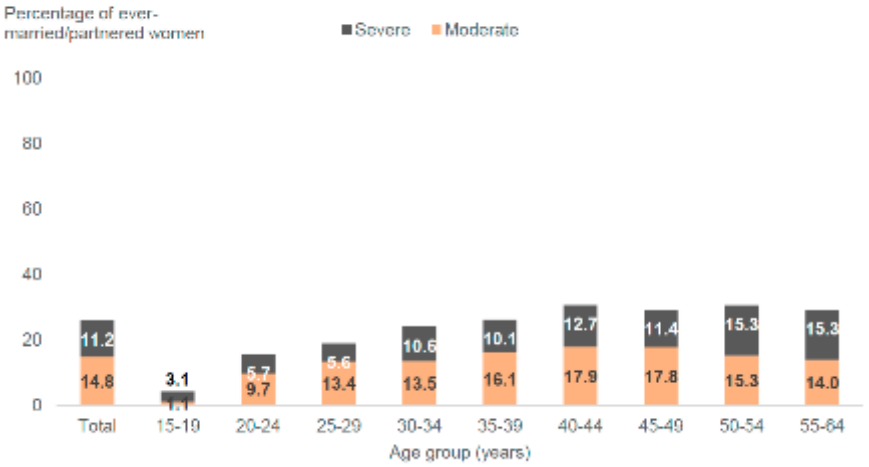
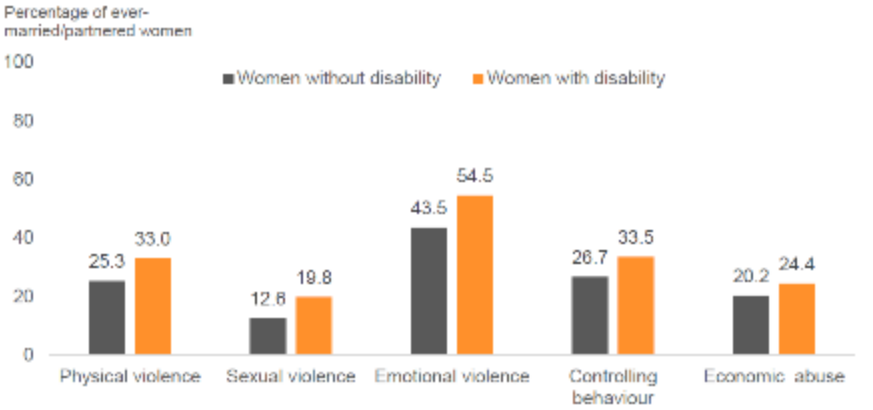
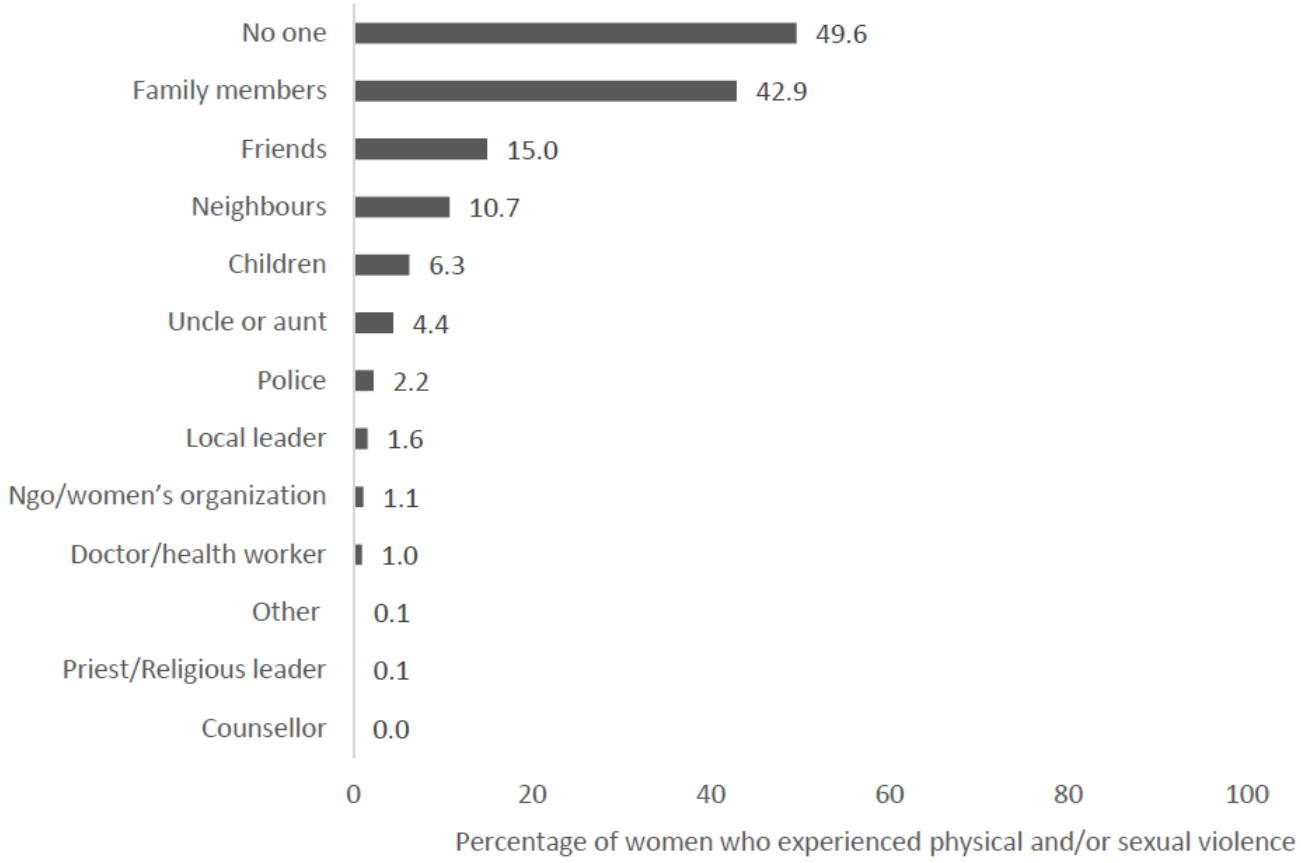


Figure 58: Prevalence of violence by a husband/partner during lifetime among ever-married/partnered women, by disability status, Viet Nam 2019 (N=5,553)



Deepen understanding through analysis and use of violence against women data

Figure 76: Percentage of women who were physically and/or sexually abused by a husband/partner in their lifetime who told no one, someone and/or a service about their experience of violence, Viet Nam 2019 (N=1,791)



"If I report, he might be arrested and beaten. The police may beat my husband. He may get sick and then I must take care of him…

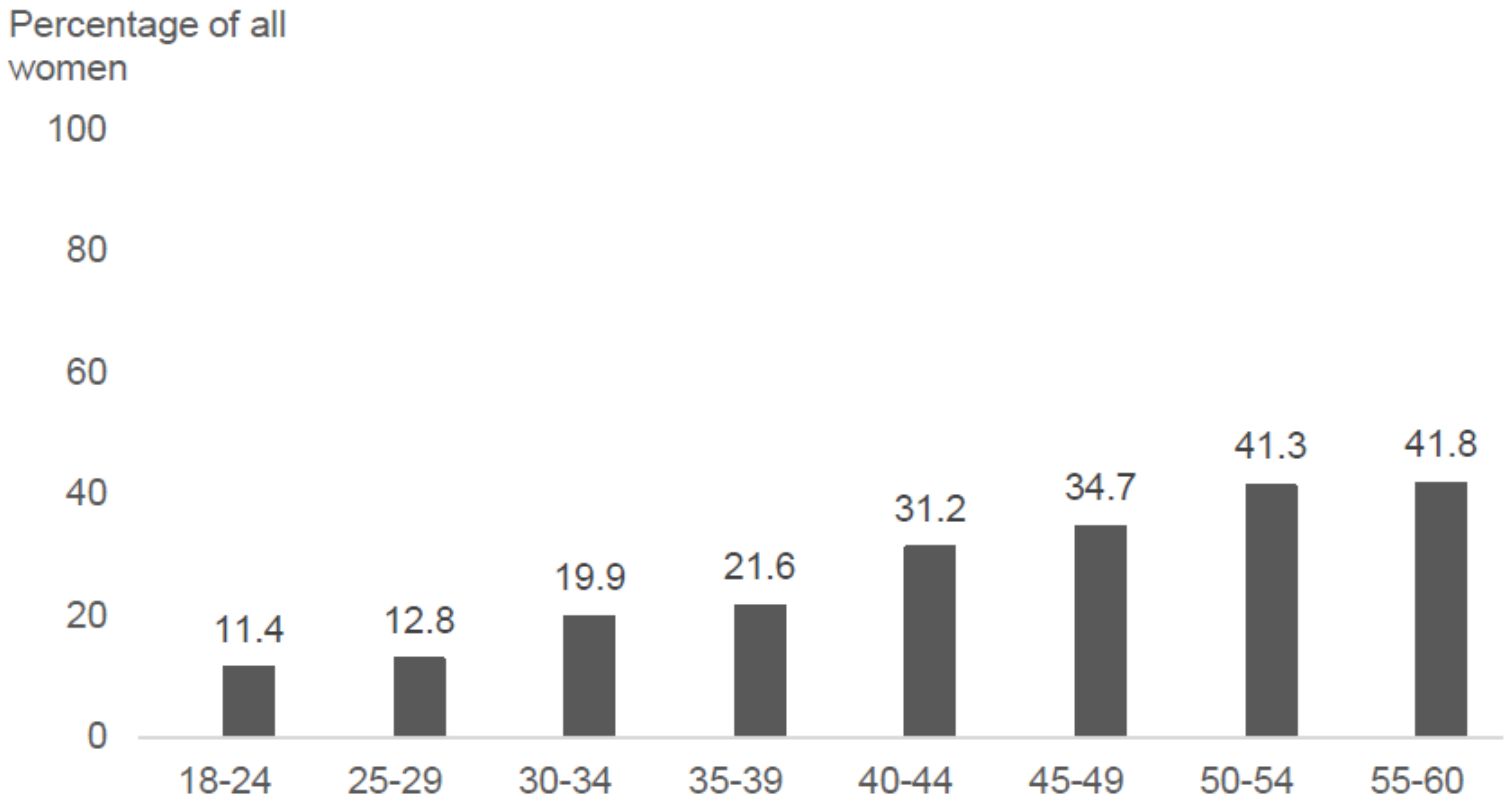
Therefore, I keep silent."

– Woman aged 38
Qualitative research component (in-depth interview)

Source: *Results of the National Study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam 2019 - Journey for Change*
(MOLISA, GSO and UNFPA, 2020)

Deepen understanding through analysis and use of violence against women data

Figure 62: Proportion of all women who said they agree with the statement "a good wife/partner obeys her husband even if she disagrees", by age group, Viet Nam 2019 (N=5,976)



Source: *Results of the National Study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam 2019 - Journey for Change*
(MOLISA, GSO and UNFPA, 2020)

Safe, ethical and robust: collecting and using VAW prevalence data

Standard international survey methods with structured questionnaires

Guided by set of ethical and safety measures

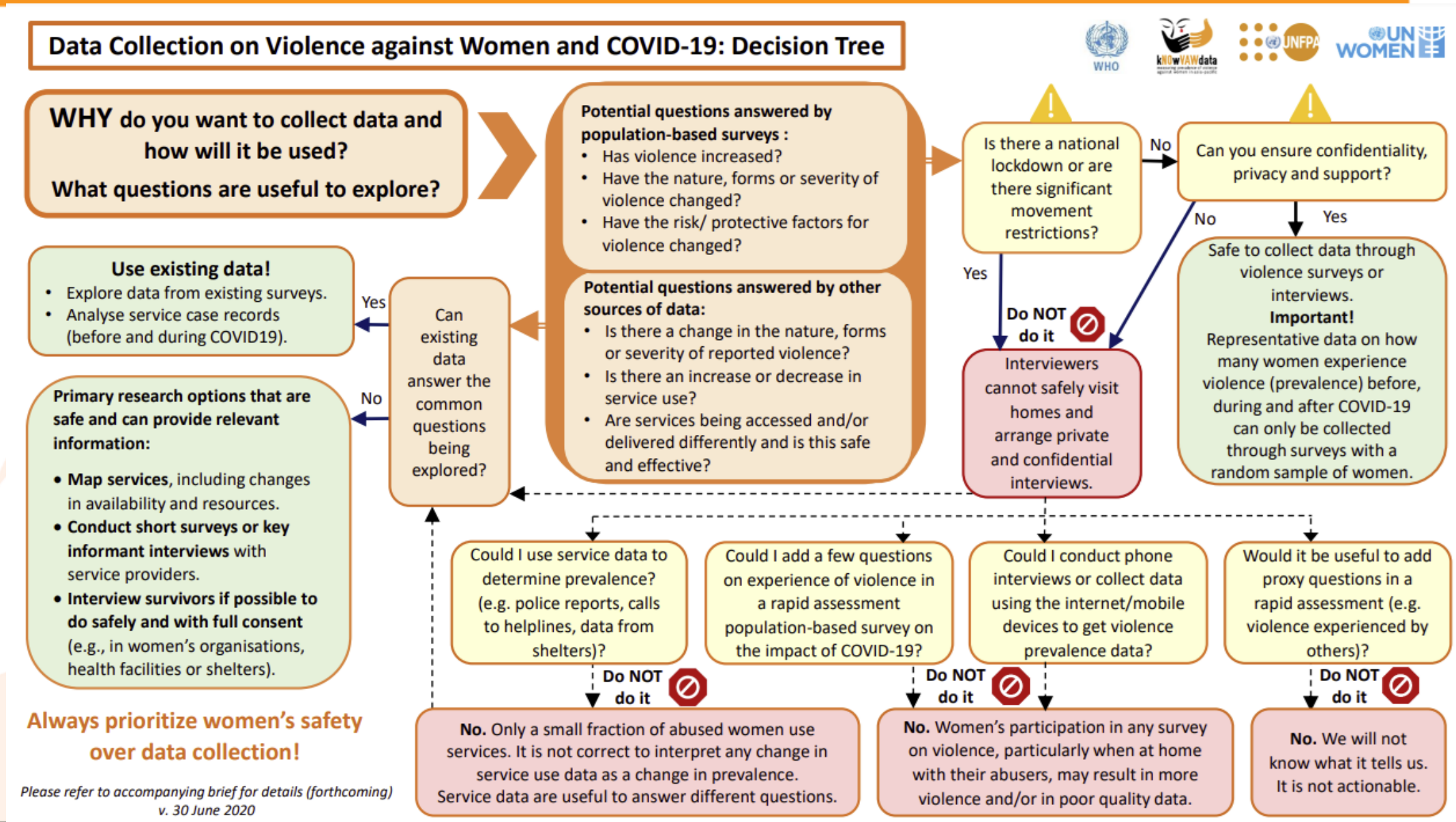
Extensive, specialized, in-depth interviewer training

Participatory process and national ownership

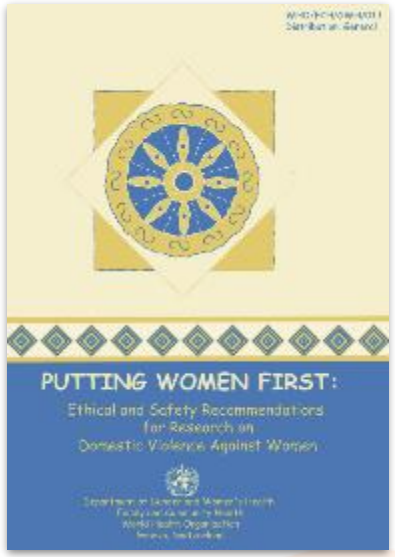
Capacity building and mentoring of national staff

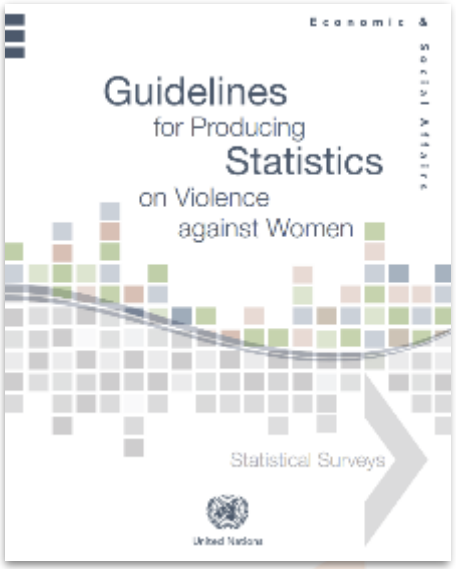
Data for action!!

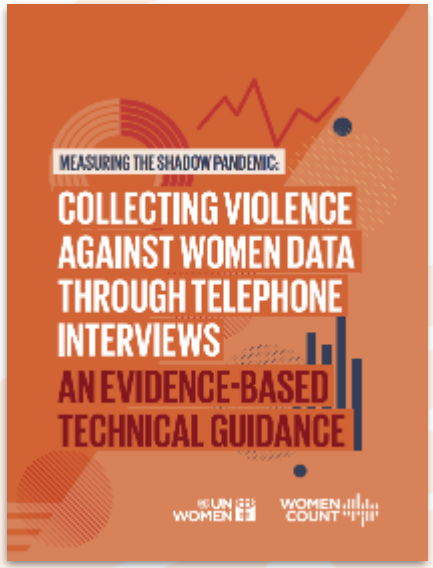
Guidance on safe and ethical data collection

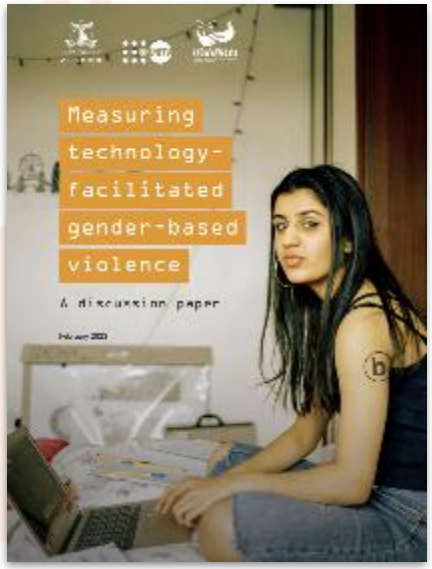


Guidance on measuring violence against women









Global guidance:
Putting Women First: Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Domestic Violence against Women (WHO, 2001)
https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/65893/WHO_FCH_GWH_01.1.pdf

United Nations Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women (UNSD, 2014)
unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/docs/guidelines_statistics_vaw.pdf

Improving the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women (UN Women, 2022)
www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/05/global-technical-guidance-for-collection-and-use-of-administrative-data-on-violence-against-women

New developments in statistical methods:
Collecting violence against women data through telephone interviews: an evidence-based technical guidance (UN Women, 2022)
data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/Guidance_VAW_RGA-EN.pdf

Measuring technology facilitated gender-based violence (UNFPA, 2023)
www.unfpa.org/publications/measuring-technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-discussion-paper

Key messages on measuring prevalence

- Overall prevalence rates hide huge variations - shows us that violence is not inevitable
- Importance of understanding context and the story that the data tells for effective policy, prevention and response
- Prevalence surveys are the only way to estimate the proportion of women who experience intimate partner violence and sexual violence
- Prevalence surveys will never capture the most severe

Measurement challenges:

- Most countries only one data point, countries without any data
- Data collection is difficult and risky
- Need to ensure safe, ethical and robust methods at all stages
- Not business as usual - limited national and regional capacities for data collection, interpretation and use
- Complex to analyse and to ensure data are understood and actively used

Overcoming challenges with the kNOwVAWdata initiative: **how might we help you?**

Technical support to national violence against women prevalence studies

+

kNOwVAWdata course curriculum on violence against women data collection

+

Network of violence against women data professionals for peer support and mentoring

+

Knowledge capture and sharing

=

Sustainable way to understand how many women experience violence, in which ways, and where; and the ability to monitor SDG 5

Next intensive course starting in August 2023

Find out more

kNOwVAWdata 4-week face-to-face course - next intake open now

First two-week block in Bangkok: **21 August to 1 September 2023**

Second two-week block in Melbourne: **23 October to 3 November 2023**

"This training has empowered us by enabling us to truly understand data on violence against women so that we can use it for policy and decision-making."

– 2019 kNOwVAWdata course participants from Kiribati, Agnetha Lemuel, Anitra Teboiti, Melinda Christopher, Seeley Aram

Module 1 | Week 1

- Key concepts
- Gender sensitisation
- Data for researching violence against women
- Data literacy

Module 2 | Week 2

- Planning and implementing a survey

Module 3 | Week 3

- Data analysis
- Other sources of data
- Increase data literacy

Module 4 | Week 4

- From data to action
- Interpret and report on violence against women for policy and practice

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Thank you

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