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Expert Group Meeting on indicators to measure violence against women

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in collaboration with ECA/ECLAC/ESCAP/ESCWA

**MEASURING VIOLENCE: INDICATORS FROM THE ITALIAN VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY**

Invited Paper

Submitted by ISTAT¹

Since the indicators on an issue produced in a country are strictly linked to the planning phase of the data collection, it's important to know you some information on the Italian violence against women survey. This, named "Women' safety survey", was carried out in 2006 interviewing by phone 60.000 women aged 16-70 years old. The survey represents the result of a partnership between ISTAT, the Institute that carried on the survey, and the Ministry for the Rights and the Equal Opportunities that provided financial support with funds from the National Operative Programme "Safety" and 'system actions' of the European Social Fund.

In February 2007 data were delivered regarding the scope, the prevalence, the nature of violence against women in Italy.

Focusing on the aims of the survey, it's easy to translate them in indicators and vice versa: the planned indicators become the desiderata that lead the survey.

Violence indicators are defined according specific characteristics of violence occurrence: the nature of violence, the authors of violence, the occurrence period, the reference periods, the intensity of violence, the seriousness, the consequences, the costs of violence, the violence reporting, the strategies to end violence, and many others.

Also violence risk factors are very important to be calculated.

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Indicators can be produced with different levels of detail, from the most general one (for example the violence prevalence rate in the life course) to the most specific one (for example, the threats rate during the 12 months previous the interview perpetrated by a friend).

Indicators can be used also for territorial understanding, to know more and to compare different geographical area.

An important issue to be evaluated is also the purpose of indicators; some can be useful for policy and legislative evaluation, others for the quantification of the phenomenon, others for the phenomenon comprehension.

A synergy should be created between policy makers and researchers, taking account of emerging needs and their possible implementation.

Comparisons among countries could require the computation of ad hoc indicators, as not every indicators thought at national level are suitable when compared with other countries.

At the same time, sometimes can happen that different countries to gain the same goal require much more specification and attentions. For instance in Italy due to disclosure problems the study of sexual violence has required to consider more specific and deepen questions than the International Violence against women Survey (IVAWS).

Some Italian issues used to build indicators

1. The nature of violence

The Italian survey considered different forms of violence:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Economic violence (partially)
- Stalking from partner

Each of this macro-category can be split up different violence forms, indicators can be created at general macro-category and micro-category level.

Physical violence is ranked from the less to the most serious one:

1. threat to be physically hit;
2. to be pushed, grabbed;
3. to be yanked or knocked with an object;
4. to be slapped, kicked, punched or bitten;
5. attempted strangulation, of a choking, burning;
6. threats with weapons.

Regarding some violence forms, at the aim to distinguish between things of different seriousness data are also collected separately for the item 2 (pushed, grabbed, twisted your arm, pulled your hair), for the item 4 (slapped, kicked, bit, hit you with a fist), for the item 6 (used a knife or a gun, threatened to use knife or gun).

As **sexual violence** all situations in which women are forced to do or suffer sexual acts of different nature, against their own will are considered:

- rape;
- attempted rape;
- sexual physical harassment;
- sexual intercourses with a third party;
- undesired sexual intercourses, suffered for fear of consequences;
- degrading and humiliating sexual activities (only for partner violence);

2. Authors of violence

The main focus is on partner (current and previous) as the author of violence, but also details on violence from non partner are collected.

Defining partner violence is important to identify who is a partner (not all countries may have the same definition). In Italy we have three different categories, one for husband, one for cohabitant, one for fiancé. The last was a wide category in which we wanted to include every person with whom women have/had a relationship or a “sentimental engagement”; he can be a fiancé, a boyfriend, etc.

Women have to decide when asked how they feel in this kind of definition and accept it or not.

Data on non partners are subdivided in unknown persons, acquaintances, friends, colleagues, family friends, relatives, others.

Regarding relatives item, is possible to have indicators also for subcategories, as father, brother, uncle, grandfather.

Indicators are calculated for the main categories (partner/non partner) but also for each kind of author. The denominators of the rates have to be carefully chosen. They can be all women or only the exposed at risk, that is for instance: for partner violence women had/have at least one partner; for actual partner women have a partner at the moment of the interview.

3. Occurrence period and reference period

Different periods of occurrence are considered: as regards partner violence, the period is identified by the relationship, when considering the non partner violence the period is since the 16teen years old.

But also some forms of violence are collected before the 16^{teen} years old (forced sexual activities by everyone, physical violence by parents).

Women are asked for each type of violence suffered when happened the last episodes (in brackets and in last 12 months before the interview). For repeated partner violence, the year of the violence beginning is asked too.

According to the previous information, the prevalence rates are delivered in the *life course* and in the *12 last months* before the interviews.

This is also a choice result because many other periods can be used, for instance violence happened before 20 years ago or 10-20 years ago, or in the last five years.

A problem regarding indicators can be the management of telescoping effect. It is an important issue in victimization survey, but as regards violence phenomenon it is more disregarded. This is true for many countries, as it comes up from the inventory analysis (Genève, September 2006 – UNECE workshop on gender statistics). This can be due to irregularly that characterizes violence survey and to their different priorities. Nevertheless, when they will be periodically updated more methodological attentions and rigorousness will be paid to this aspect too.

4. Intensit

The results, coming up from this tools, can be used in different ways: ranked items of seriousness can be built, as well factorial analyses can be used. The last ones are efficient in identifying the latent dimensionalities of the different meaning of ndt8tp i7csu

Some examples of Italian indicators

the prevalence rate

Women aged 16 to 70 who have suffered physical or sexual violence by men, by period of happening, type of authors and type of violence - Year 2006 (*per 100 women with the same characteristics*)

	During lifetime*			Last 12 months		
	Any authors	Partner or ex partner	Not partner	Any authors	Partner or ex partner	Not partner
Physical or sexual violence	31.9	14.3	24.7	5.4	2.4	3.4
Physical violence	18.8	12.0	9.8	2.7	1.7	1.1
Sexual violence	23.7	6.1	20.4	3.5	1.0	2.6
Rape or attempted rape	4.8	2.4	2.9	0.3	0.2	0.2
Rape	2.3	1.6	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.0
Attempted rape	3.3	1.3	2.3	0.2	0.1	0.2

* Violence by not partner are collected by age 16th

type of violence

Women aged 16 to 70 victims of physical violence by a man, by period and typology of suffered violence – Year 2006 (*per 100 women victims of sexual violence*)



violence indicators by region

Women between 16 and 70 years of age victims of physical or sexual violence by any man, by kind of violence suffered, period in which the violence was perpeSc -0do Tj 0 66e4nle045.5 0 04 () Tj7 Tc 0.53448 T636periodnolenresidas pelenwoy k5.5 091TD 0 T