

Population, violence and abuse

Uncovering the burden of fatal and non-fatal violence against women in Mexico: years of life lost and years lived with violence

Ursula Gazeley - University of Oxford, Jesús-Daniel Zazueta-Borboa (joint first author) - University of Oxford; Maria Gargiulo - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, José Manuel Aburto - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Background

There is enormous burden of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in all countries, including Mexico. Ongoing conflict and structural inequalities create conditions in which multi-sided, intersecting forms of VAWG can co-exist from multiple perpetrators across the home, workplace and community. However, the joint contribution of different forms of violence (physical, sexual, psychological and economic), to women's morbidity and mortality, and their co-occurrence across the life course, has not been comprehensively quantified.

Methods

We combined national mortality data on violent deaths with nationally representative survey data (n= 110,127 women aged 15 and older) on women's 12-month and lifetime experiences of violence in 2016 and 2021. We estimated years of life lost (YLL) due to violent deaths and applied the Sullivan method to calculate years of life lived with violence (YLV), defined as the expected number of life years during which women experience at least one form of violence. Estimates of 12 month and lifetime prevalence were disaggregated by type and co-occurrence.

Results

In 2021, 4,946 women died from externally perpetrated violence, accounting for 1% of all female deaths aged 15 years and above and nearly three months of life expectancy lost nationally. State-level YLL ranged from under one month to almost eight months in Zacatecas. Nationally, 42.8% of women reported violence in the past 12 months and 70.1% over their lifetime. Twelve-month prevalence corresponded to 39.7% ([95% CI 38.1% - 41.3%]) of remaining life expectancy at age 15 lived with violence, equivalent to 23.5 years; lifetime prevalence corresponded to 68% (95% CI 66.7%-69.9%), equivalent to 40.4 years. Co-occurrence was common: psychological and sexual violence was the most frequent 12-month combination (5.3%), while lifetime exposure most often involved all four forms (12.5%). The lifetime prevalence of violence increased between 2016 and 2021.

Conclusions

VAWG in Mexico constitutes a life-course public health crisis. Joint assessment of fatal and non-fatal violence reveals a pervasive and overlapping burden that extends far beyond intimate partner violence alone.

Investigating the socio-cultural determinants of VAWG within South Asian communities in the West Midlands of the UK.

Syeda Farhana Islam - University of Staffordshire

The South Asian (SA) community has been considered 'hard to reach' and 'hidden' within domestic abuse research, and when accessing support services, especially regarding SA men.

The aim of this research was to investigate the socio-cultural determinants of VAWG within South Asian communities in the West Midlands. The objectives were; to explore predominant socio-cultural determinants of VAWG in South Asian communities in the West Midlands (e.g. family, language barriers, religion etc.); to identify key gaps and challenges when handling domestic abuse cases in South Asian communities; to understand South Asian family dynamics and how they may perpetuate abuse and explore the role of religion in contrast to culture in permitting acts of VAWG in the South Asian community. Mixed methods were used, including questionnaires and semi-structured interviews centring on a vignette, which generated both qualitative and quantitative data. Quantitative data had been analysed using Principal Component Analysis (PCA), which identified patterns in participants' beliefs. Qualitative data, thematic analysis was used in conjunction with the theory of intersectional feminism to identify significant themes. SA participants were

invited through convenience sampling by the researcher, also of SA heritage, who then volunteered themselves. Some of the preliminary findings consist of mixed opinions on family intervention, condemnation of violence, support of the victim and accessing services in spite of fears. With the outcomes of the research, creative materials will be produced for dissemination, such as a comic, short film and supporting print media.

Reporting experiences of violence during GBV prevalence survey follow-up interviews: methodological and ethical issues.

Stephanie Condon - INED (Institut national d'études démographiques)

Prevalence surveys conducted at the national or local levels have made a significant contribution to the understanding of contexts and consequences of gender-based violence (GBV). Nonetheless, databases are silent about many aspects of the experience of violence. Survey protocols often include the possibility of in depth, follow-up interviews. Whilst much has been written on the complementarity of quantitative and qualitative methods, this is less so in relation to renewed questioning, particularly on sensitive topics. In the field of GBV research, some studies have highlighted the dangers of revictimization induced by repeated recounting of experiences that generate feelings of anxiety, anger or guilt.

During the most recent GBV prevalence surveys in France, conducted by telephone, interviewees who had responded positively to one or more questions on experienced violence were invited to accept a face-to-face interview. The material used for this paper is based on survey data and interviews with women living in the French Caribbean or in Réunion Island (French overseas territories). Whilst some women were ready to talk about past experiences of family or intimate partner violence, others remained silent on violence in some relationships. In addition to gender relations and to differences in the type and circumstances of the acts of violence, class, race, migration history are important considerations and certainly play a role in disclosure within such post-colonial contexts. This paper discusses methodological and ethical issues surrounding data collection and highlights the importance of positionality and reflexivity in both qualitative and quantitative approaches to the study of GBV