

MINI ARTICLE

2020 lockdown influence on "Línia d'atenció contra la violència masclista 900 900 120" incoming calls

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Abstract

These last years humanity has been dealing with social problems, but the reality is the fact that the social differences are difficult to overcome. What's more, extreme events make these inequalities bigger. Gender-based violence is a clear example and we will see how the lockdown affects to it. We will see a case increase of this phenomena under this non usual situation of COVID-19 lockdown using a Catalan institution data. Besides, we will prove the lockdown had psychological consequences and manifested itself in a growth on the cases brutality. The clear implication are: the current protocols and the way to deal with this problem are insufficient and inadequate.

Keywords: Lockdown; Gender-based violence; Isolation consequences; Social issues

1. Background

This study is about how affected the lockdown period to the "Línia d'atenció contra la violència masclista" incoming calls. Data comes from *Dades Obertes de Catalunya* [1]. The data was provided by *Institut Català de les Dones* (ICD). The mentioned institution has a gender-based violence (GBV) hotline, this service is used to report as well as to give support. The information that victims give to the hotline is anonymously collected and is what it is used in this paper.

GBV is a very big problem in the actual society and it is not under control yet. This statement is said because in extraordinary conditions weaknesses come out. Particularly we are talking about society weaknesses at lockdown extraordinary condition. So the first hypothesis is: "The lockdown has increased domestic violence". Under stress conditions some people use to become less rational and more instinctive. This fact affects aggressors too. As it is said in [3] we expect an increasing in this phenomena. From a psychological point of view is plausible to have an increasing of rate for physical rate violence the psychological one. The second hypothesis is: "Aggressor used more

physical violence". The paper goal is to characterize if this stressful events affect and how they affect in order to have it in account to stipulate a better operating procedure.

2. Methods

In order to get the data it is used the provided API in *Dades Obertes de Catalunya* web site. The data was obtained from the open data set [2]. Once we got it, we did a comparison by plotting the daily incoming calls for two different years. On one hand 2020 incoming calls are plotted because this year holds the lockdown period. On the other hand is plotted 2016 due to the fact that it is the nearest leap year. The curve all over the years from 2013 to nowadays are similar and this two years coincide in number of days.

After this comparison I've computed the number of calls due to violence versus the number of calls not related with violence.

The last graphic shows the differences between which kind of violence women receive before and during the lockdown, it is used just the calls which includes some kind of violence.

All code is public in *GitHub* https://github.com/JaviCu5/Group1_AVdDM. By downloading the repository and executing the *javierCastillo.ipynb* file in *Jupyter Notebook* you will recreate all this graphics mentioned.

3. Results

It is shown the two different years comparison in Fig. 1, for the 2020 curve we can observe an increasing at March the 15th when IDC received 55 calls/day. That was the lockdown first day. It saturates after a period of 5 weeks, when the incoming calls increased a 79%. The day the lockdown finished at June the 21st, the incoming calls decay in number but it takes almost two months to stabilize around the pre-lockdown values (35 calls/day).

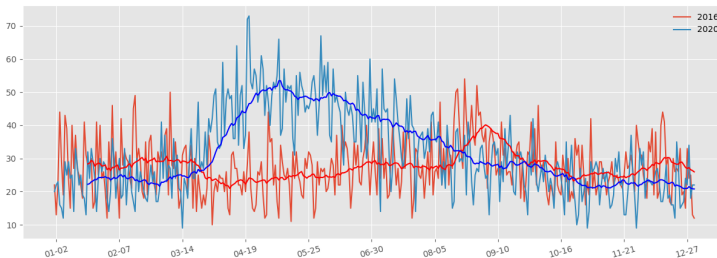


Figure 1. It is shown the incoming calls for GBV per day for 2016 and 2020, each curve has its own soft mean computed over 10 days. Y axis shows the number of calls per day and X axis shows the year day in "mm-dd" format.

For the Fig. 2 we can observe an increasing in the non violence related calls rate. Although they are non violence related calls, this is a hotline for GBV so, women can

call because they need support or advise about this topic. So we can see an increasing on woman concern during the lockdown period.

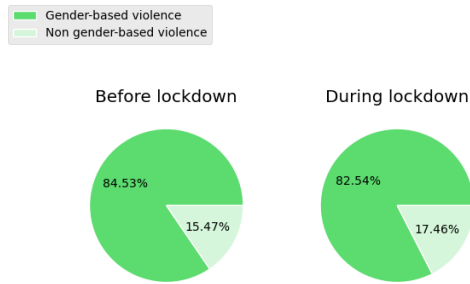


Figure 2. It is shown the rate of violence based calls versus the non violence related calls for the lockdown period and the "before lockdown" period.

The last Fig. 3 shows how the rate of different kind of violence changed before and during the lockdown. It can be appreciated how psychological and physical violence decays but there is a growth on receiving both psychological and physical violence. The pink area is the stacked area between both curves

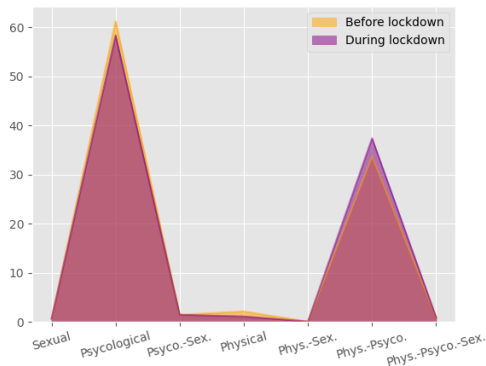


Figure 3. It is shown the rate of different kind of violence received before and during the lockdown period. Y axis shows the rate of each violence and X axis shows which kind of violence.

4. Conclusions / Discussion

The number of incoming calls increased a 79% during the lockdown period, so based in this data behaviour the first hypothesis, "The lockdown has increased domestic violence", is confirmed. There are two possibilities to explain this growth. The

increasing of domestic violence cases or the same number of cases but the victim is more willing to ask for help. As you will see below, the violence used in the lockdown is more brutal, so we can conclude is a mix between both previous possibilities.

For the second one, "Aggressor used more physical violence", we conclude it is confirmed too. There is a growth on physical violence but mixed with psychological aggressions. When stressful events occurs added to the fact that the aggressor have to coexist with the victim day to day has a growth of the more brutal, "instinctive", less rational violence as a consequence.

In order to give a more precise conclusions it would be helpful to know if women who called during the lockdown suffered GBV before. It would be helpful too to have a psychological profile of aggressors in order to explain why it took two months to reach the usual number of calls. Maybe we will see a pattern in psychological lockdown consequences related to be more aggressive. The most important conclusion is: GBV is still a huge social issue due to the fact that becomes out of control during extraordinary situations. Current protocols and the way to deal with this problem are insufficient and inadequate.

References

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