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| Contact point in international agency |  |
| International agreed definition | Definition:  This indicator measures the percentage of women and girls aged 15 years and older who have experienced sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, since age 15.  Definition of sexual violence against women and girls is presented in the next section (Concepts).  Rationale:  Violence against women and girls is one of the most pervasive forms of human rights violations in the world. Evidence has shown that globally, an estimated 7% of women have been sexually assaulted by someone other than a partner at some point in their lives (WHO et al., 2013). Having data on this indicator will help understand the extent and nature of this form of violence and develop appropriate policies and programmes.  Concepts:  According to the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), Violence against Women is “Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following: […], Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution […]”. See here for full definition: [http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm Sexual](http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm%20Sexual) violence is defined as any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone. It includes acts of abusive sexual contact, forced engagement in sexual acts, attempted or completed sexual acts without consent, incest, sexual harassment, etc. However, in most surveys that collect data on sexual violence against women and girls by non-partners the information collected is limited to forcing someone into sexual intercourse when she does not want to, as well as attempting to force someone to perform a sexual act against her will or attempting to force her into sexual intercourse.  For a more detailed definition of sexual violence against women see <em>Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women- Statistical Surveys</em> (UN, 2014).  Comments and limitations: Comparability:  The availability of comparable data remains a challenge in this area as many data collection efforts have relied on different survey methodologies and used different definitions of sexual violence and different survey question formulation, more focused on intimate partner violence, do not always report on non partner sexual violence as a stand alone indicator. Diverse age groups are also often utilized. Willingness to discuss experiences of violence and understanding of relevant concepts may also differ according to the cultural context and this can affect reported prevalence levels.  Efforts and investment will be required to develop an internationally-agreed standard and definition of sexual violence by non-partners that will enable comparison across countries.  Regularity of data production:  Since 1995, only some 40 countries have conducted more than one survey on violence against women and girls. Obtaining data on violence against women and girls is a costly and time-consuming exercise, no matter if they are obtained through stand-alone dedicated surveys or through modules inserted in other surveys. Not all VAW surveys, however, collect information on non-intimate partner violence, or even if they do collect the information, countries do not always report on non-intimate partner violence. Monitoring this indicator with certain periodicity may be a challenge if sustained capacities are not built and financial resources are not available.</p> |
| Method of computation | This indicator calls for disaggregation by age group and place of occurrence. No standard definitions and methods have been globally agreed yet to collect data on the place where the violence occurs, therefore this is not presented at this point in the computation method below.  Number of women and girls aged 15 years and above who experience sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner since age 15 divided by the number of women and girls aged 15 years and above in the population multiplied by 100. |
| Importance of the indicator in addressing gender issues and its limitation | Violence against women is a serious problem that affects women globally. It is a violation of women’s human rights and has negative consequences for their physical emotional and social wellbeing and ability to participate in civil society. On a broader scale violence against women interferes with the social economic and political development of societies. The experience of violence can affect women in a myriad of ways. Injuries and health problems are common as a result of physical and sexual violence but the psychological and emotional wounds they may also inflict are sometimes deeper and longer lasting. Violence can lead to a reduced ability of a woman to work care for her family and contribute to society. Witnessing violence in childhood can also result in a range of behavioural and emotional problems. Violence against women also incurs significant economic costs both direct and indirect. Direct costs include those associated with the police hospital and other health services legal costs and costs associated with housing social and support services. Indirect costs include those related to reduced employment and productivity and the diminished value of a life lived with violence. |
| Sources of discrepancies between global and national figures |  |
| Treatment of missing values |  |
| Data availability and assessment of countries’ capacity | About 100 countries have conducted violence against women national prevalence surveys or have included a module on violence against women in a national household survey on other topic, although not all include data on non-partner sexual violence. Moreover, not all these data are comparable and in many cases they are not collected on a regular basis. Many countries do not have a regular data collection dedicated to the regular measurement of non-partner sexual violence.  As of 2021, data is available for 46 countries. |
| Expected time of release |  |
| Process of obtaining data | Description:  The main sources of intimate partner violence prevalence data are (1) specialized national surveys dedicated to measuring violence against women and (2) international household surveys that include a module on experiences of violence by women, such as the DHS.  Although administrative data from health, police, courts, justice and social services, among other services used by survivors of violence, can provide information on violence against women and girls, these do not produce prevalence data, but rather incidence data or number of cases received in/reported to these services. We know that many abused women do not report violence and those who do, tend to be only the most serious cases. Therefore, administrative data should not be used as a data source for this indicator.  For more information on recommended practices in production of violence against women statistics see:  UN Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women- Statistical Surveys</em> (UN, 2014). |