

# Global indicators on gender based violence

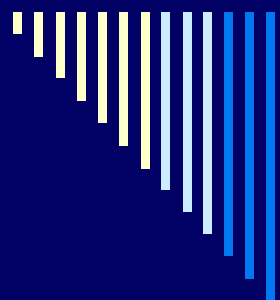
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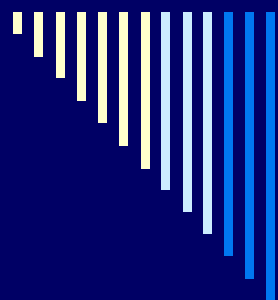
# Introduction

- Gender-based violence (GBV) and UN and UNDP goals
- Indicators and policy development
- The development of indicators of GBV



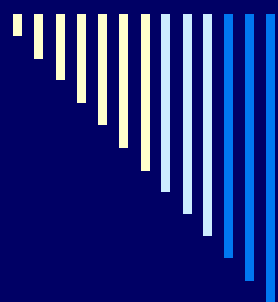
# Gender-based violence and UN and UNDP goals

- Gender-based violence (GBV) is a violation of women's human rights (UN)
- GBV is cause and consequence of
  - n Gender inequality
  - n Lack of women's empowerment
  - n Failure to reach Millennium Development Goals
  - n Detriments to (women's) human development and well-being
  - n Poverty
  - n Lack of democratic governance



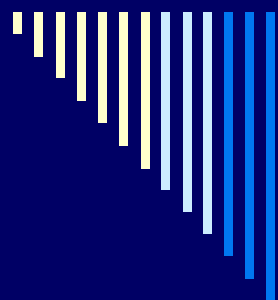
# Why Indicators?

- An indicator is simple piece of information, usually a single number, that represents a broader set of information
- Instead of a mass of statistics, an indicator simplifies complex information
- It is a key link between policy and statistics
  - n For policy makers:
  - n Produced by data collectors
- To assess if there is progress:
  - n results focused
  - n beyond rhetoric and just good intentions
- To evaluate impact of policy and events



# Outcome and process

- Outcome indicators
  - n Measure results
  - n Measure changes in the extent of GBV
  - n Require data that can be hard to obtain
- Process indicators
  - n Measure stage of policy development
  - n Useful where no data on actual level of violence



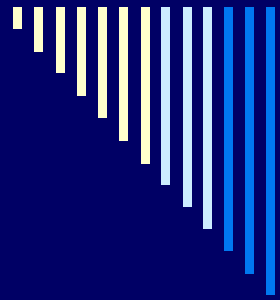
# General criteria for developing indicators

- Unambiguous and easy to interpret
- Enable an assessment as to whether an improvement or deterioration has occurred
- Directly meaningful and relevant to policy makers, service providers and the wider informed public
- Capable of being supported by reliable and robust quantitative data
- Neither so many as to confuse, nor so few as to mislead
- Available at regular intervals and comparable over time
- Comparable between countries and population groups



# Specific criteria for violence against women indicators

- Inclusive scope of types of violence, but not so specialised as to prevent comparison between countries
- Meaningful measurement of the extent of the violence: appropriate balance between prevalence and incidents
- Meaningful measurement of severity of the violence, especially in relation to its impact.
- Consistent identification of the time period: both a longer period e.g. life-time and a more recent period, e.g. last year
- Consistent identification of the same population sub-set, in relation to age and marital status.
- Consistent with indicators in adjacent fields, so as to facilitate the mainstreaming of violence against women into mainstream data collection and policy development, while still being sensitive to the nuances in the specific field of violence against women.



# Definition of gender-based violence

## UN definition

'Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life'.



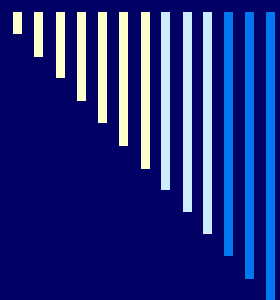
# Definition dilemmas

- Either: Many different types in detail, naming women's experiences in their cultural specificity
  - n intimate partner violence
  - n rape
  - n sexual harassment in the workplace
  - n female genital mutilation
  - n forced marriage
  - n trafficking
  - n dowry deaths
  - n 'honour'-related crimes
- Or: Use general headings
  - n Easier to compare countries and over time
  - n Easier to mainstream into adjacent policy areas
  - n Single indicator easier to apply in other fields e.g. MDG



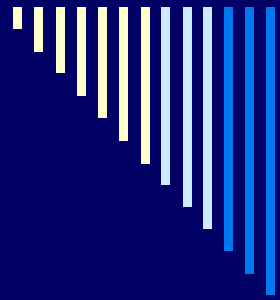
# Recommendations

- A main indicator includes all of the types of violence and does not separately specify them (although separately named during data collection )
- Additional separate indicators for specific types of violence: intimate partner violence; rape; sexual harassment in the workplace; female genital mutilation, forced marriage, trafficking, dowry deaths, honour-related crimes.
- Intimate partner violence:
  - n define sub-category of domestic violence as violence against adult women by family and household members; never use domestic violence only as the basis of an indicator for violence against women.



## Dimensions of gender based violence: focus on intimate partner violence

- Extent
  - n Prevalence
  - n Number of incidents
- Severity
  - n frequency
  - n nature of the action
  - n injuries



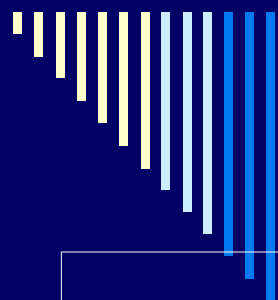
# Prevalence: advantages and disadvantages

- Advantages

- n Captures nature of domestic violence as a course of conduct, which is widely used in VAW community

- Disadvantage

- n Produces misleading finding that nearly as much violence from women to men as from women to men
  - p Because one instance of defence/retaliation produces symmetry
- n Hard to mainstream into adjacent policy fields that use incidents, e.g. criminal justice



## Intimate partner violence: incidents and gender, UK 2001

|                                     | Women        | Men         | % against women | Ratio:<br>Women:<br>men |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Victims                             | 657,000      | 356,000     | 65%             | 1.8                     |
| Average number incidents per victim | 20           | 7           |                 | 2.9                     |
| Total incidents                     | 12.9 million | 2.5 million | 84%             | 5.2                     |



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# Number of incidents

- Advantages

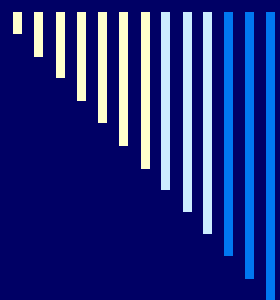
- n Easier to mainstream into adjacent policy fields such as criminal justice which use number of incidents
- n Easier to measure small changes, since possible to measure reductions as well as elimination

- Disadvantages

- n Not in common use in VAW community
  - p Conflict Tactics Scale is ambiguous on incidents

- Conclusion:

- n Incidents is better
  - n But use both prevalence and incidents
-



# Severity: frequency

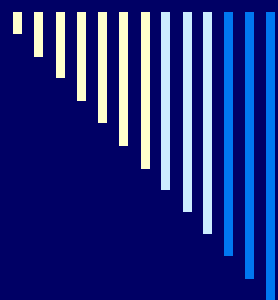
- Frequency

- n Number of times a person is subject to VAW



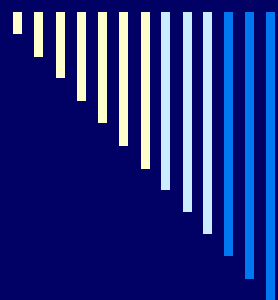
# Severity: Nature of action

- Used in Conflict Tactics Scale as a hierarchy of actions of increasing severity
  - n E.g. push, kick, choke
- Disadvantages
  1. Confined to domestic violence and does not include sexual violence
  2. Action not congruent with injury, by gender
  3. Unique to DV, so hard to mainstream



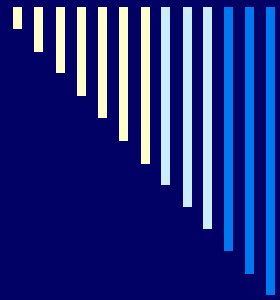
# Severity: Injury

- Victim focused measure
- Scale
  - n No injury/injury
  - n Rape as injury in itself
  - n Need gradations of seriousness of injury
- Advantage
  - n Easier to compare between countries
  - n Easier to mainstream into adjacent fields
- Disadvantage
  - n Non-physical injuries hard to capture



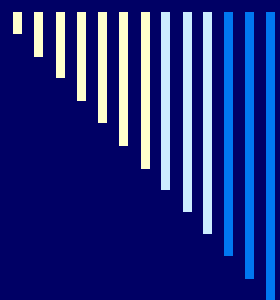
# Consistency

- Time period
  - n 1 year?
  - n Life-time?
  - n Short time period needed if there is to be comparison over time to investigate impact of changes in policy and circumstances



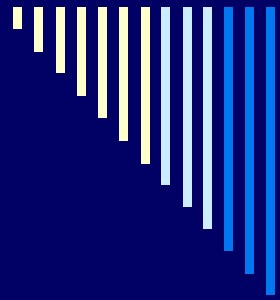
# Survey methodology

- Sample size
- Free standing or integrated
- Sampling frame and response rate
- Mode of questionnaire delivery
- Rapport or confidentiality



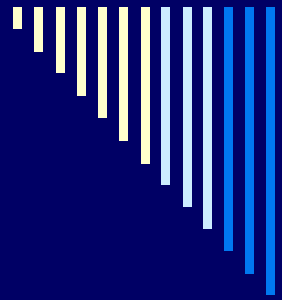
# Sample Size

- Large in order to capture less common forms of violence such as rape
- But cost constraints
- No less than 10,000?



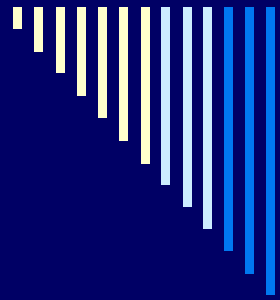
## Free-standing survey or integrated in another?

- Free-standing
  - n Enables the best framing of questions
  - n But expensive
- Integrated questions
  - n May not be well framed, may be only a few questions
  - n Least expensive
- Add-on module
  - n Good compromise on quality and cost?



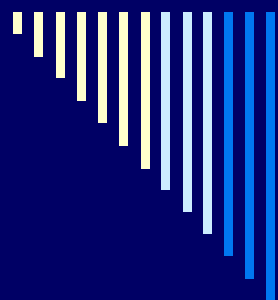
# Sampling frame and response rate

- Very important not to exclude disadvantaged and marginal people where rate of violence may be much higher
  - n Sampling frame
  - n Response rate
- Despite the cost



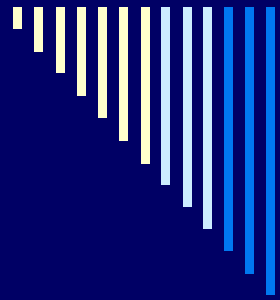
# Delivery of questionnaire

- Does it matter whether questionnaire is delivered by post, phone, face-to-face?
- Affects
  - n comprehensiveness of the sampling frame
  - n response rate
  - n confidentiality
- Phones?
  - n Do the poor have them; What of mobiles?
- Is sample of people in houses best?



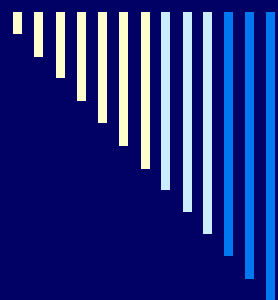
# Survey methods

- Consistency:
  - n Time periods, age, marital status
- Large sample size
- Free-standing or add-on module
- Comprehensive sampling frame
- High response rate
- Confidentiality to facilitate disclosure



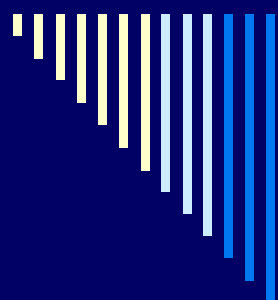
# Rapport or confidentiality?

- Do people disclose more with
  - n Interviewer rapport or confidentiality, e.g. via self-completion?
    - p confidentiality raises the rate of disclosure
      - n In UK five times higher prevalence when confidentiality
- Confidentiality helps security, so information cannot 'leak'



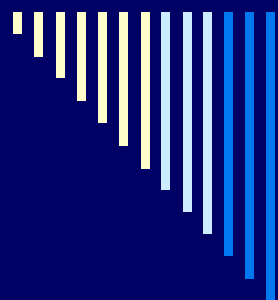
# Non-settled populations

- Surveys work best where populations are residentially settled
- Harder where there is migration, forced movement, refugees, fleeing violence
  - n trafficking
  - n post-conflict zones
- Sometimes any recording is better than no recording



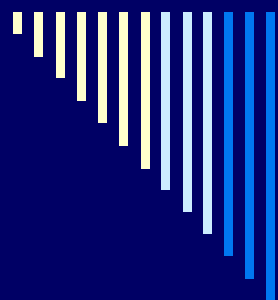
# Indicators and policy making

- How to know if things are getting better or worse?
- Indicators are quick summaries of complex information
- They aid policy making by assisting quick evaluation of changes
- Indicators of gender-based violence are under development, with debates as to which information to prioritise
- Indicators need to be linked to policy goals:
  - Gender equality, empowerment, poverty reduction, democratisation



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