

Gender-Based Violence

Overview

May 2023



The World Health Organization estimates that one in three women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

WHO has declared violence against women a leading global public health problem affecting women, children and families of all social classes.

The United Nations defines violence against women as “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 in public or private life.”

Our Approach

Vital Strategies is integrating gender equity into interventions, activities, monitoring and analysis across all program areas, specifically in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative (2015-present) and the Data Driven Initiative for Women’s Health (2019-2023). Our work promotes and protects equitable representation of all sexes and gender identities, where feasible, in country health data and strives to ensure equity in health policy development while supporting governments to build reliable and responsive health data systems and processes.

We have extensive experience supporting more than 20 government partners with their national or sub-national health information systems, including work that has tremendous implications for gender equity. For example, we work with partners toward ensuring that their civil registration and vital statistics systems are capable of reporting sex-disaggregated, complete and timely data that can be presented to decision-makers in actionable formats.

Areas of Expertise

- Data production and collection systems
- Use of quality public health data for decision-making and policy development
- Technical assistance to government agencies responsible for civil registration, vital statistics and identification systems
- Use of government and other data sources to enhance public health planning and policy development
- Guidance for countries comparing their legal frameworks against international best practices
- Incorporating legal protection of LGBTI people and universal registration
- Use of data according to global best practices, along with advocacy and strategic communication toward policy development, enforcement or change
- Collaboration with governments and civil society organizations

Gender-Based Violence Projects

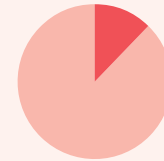
2023

Analysis of Deaths Due to Gender-Based Violence: An Autopsy-Based Cross-Sectional Study from Mumbai, India

The department of forensic medicine and toxicology, Seth G.S Medical College and KEM hospital, Parel, Mumbai, and Vital Strategies undertook a study to understand the proportion and pattern of deaths due to gender-based violence among females (of all ages) and people of non-binary gender. The study highlights the critical gaps in the availability and completeness of data concerning gender-based violence among the study subjects. The study recommends strengthening data management at the institutional level and building the capabilities of stakeholders in ethical data collection. The study also advocates for systematically collecting and disaggregating data on unnatural deaths to reveal the proportion of gender-based violence.

Funded by the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, Gender Equity program.

Key Findings



The autopsy-based retrospective observational study found that in **12.3% of the 1,467 autopsies** conducted on females over a five-year period, there was an underlying history or indication of gender-based violence.

2023

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Hospital-Based One-Stop Crisis Centers (Dilaasa Centers) for Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Mumbai, India

The Department of Public Health, Mumbai, has been running 12 hospital-based one-stop centers (Dilaasa Centers) for gender-based violence survivors. The Vital Strategies India team analyzed monthly report data for the last five years from Dilaasa Centers. This was followed by visits to the centers, focus group discussions with staff, and a thorough review of recording and reporting tools to understand the centers' data collection, management, and data use. The assessment highlighted the lack of standardization of indicators, recording and reporting tools, as well as a lack of collective understanding of data variable terminology and definitions. Vital Strategies drafted the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Dilaasa Centers which included the theory of change, monitoring indicators and their definitions, revised recording and reporting tools, and an online data entry tool. Also, an orientation for Dilaasa staff from all 12 centers was conducted on the monitoring and evaluation framework and recording and reporting formats for implementation. Vital Strategies will continue to support strengthening data analysis and use for programmatic review and improvement.

Funded by the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative.

2022 -
PRESENT

Analysis of Mortality Trends and Years of Life Lost Due to Interpersonal Violence Against Young Women in Data for Health Initiative Countries: A multi-country project in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Colombia

Homicides represent a significant proportion of deaths among females. Many countries have difficulty providing reliable data on female homicides and underestimate women's deaths by violence. The classification of causes of violent death depends

on the information provided by the medical-legal death investigation system. A well-functioning medical-legal death investigation system is essential to provide reliable data on deaths by violence against women. However, there is often a lack of country-level data on violence against women. Through workshops involving representatives from public agencies, the project aims to discuss the quality of public mortality data and the challenges to leveraging data to inform policies related to violence against women. The project is led by specialists from Brazil who work with data on mortality and violence against women in the country and share good local practices that can contribute to the improvement of strategies in other locations.

Funded by the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, Gender Equity program.

2022

Estimating the Burden of Gender-Based Violence in Brazil

Policies that protect people from violence, primarily women and girls, must start with the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate data. **In order to estimate the burden of gender-based violence in Brazil, Vital Strategies developed an analytic method integrating multiple data sources to enable data-driven decision-making.** Vital also identified missed opportunities in health services to address violence against women; generated a reproducible methodology to identify morbidity and deaths related to gender-based violence; and built capacity within the health sector to enact data-driven health policy at the subnational level.

Funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Key Findings



19.38%

In Brazil, it is estimated that the prevalence of violence among women aged 18 or over is 19.38%.



One in five

One in five school-age girls has been abused at least once in their lifetime and 8.8% have been raped.



50%

All Brazilian states have an average of 50% underreporting of physical violence against women.

2022

Decreasing the Incidence of Mortality Among Women Who Have Been Exposed to Violence

Building upon its two preliminary studies in Brazil, Vital Strategies proposed a three-phase project, **From Data Analysis, to Policy, to Response.** The project collected and analyzed data on reported cases of violence against women and women's deaths; developed data-driven policies that sustain the collection and analysis of data about violence against women and women's deaths; and aligned evidence-informed interventions with policy designed to mitigate the impact of violence and prevent deaths due to violence.

Funded by the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative.

2019

Exploratory Analysis: Mortality Risk Among Women Exposed to Violence

Looking at data from Brazil between 2011 and 2016, Vital Strategies led a study aimed at exploring mortality risk among women exposed to violence and to provide evidence to foster discussions and direct additional investigations and analyses on violence-related issues.

*Funded by the Bloomberg Philanthropies
Data for Health Initiative.*

Key Findings

Compared to the general population, women exposed to violence died at a rate 8.3 times higher than men during the period 2014-2016, and 5.3 times higher during the period 2011-2013.

This means an estimated **100 women died (from any cause) on a weekly basis due to exposure to violence** during the 2014-2016 period, and 40 during 2011-2013.

Additional Gender Equity Activities

- Assessing quality of abortion and post-abortion data in Rwanda, Uganda and Bangladesh
- Activities targeting equitable death registration among men and women
- Updates to legal frameworks to ease the process of birth registration for single parents
- Assessment of cancer registry data, with a focus on women's cancers
- Establishment of stillbirth registration in Thailand
- Early detection of cervical cancer
- Gender and TB/HIV
- Infant mortality by sex
- Measuring maternal deaths among adolescents
- Improving maternal and reproductive health in Kigoma, Tanzania
- Contraception and abortion services
- Adolescent pregnancy
- Grants addressing inequity in country health systems, some to address gender disparities
- Benefits of birth companionship in Tanzania
- Strategic communication to support reproductive health services for adolescents and youth in Burkina Faso, Senegal and Uganda
- Understanding gender-based barriers to COVID-19 testing and treatment
- Understanding the differences in impact of the pandemic among men and women through examination of sex-disaggregated data by age
- Understanding the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on care responsibilities of women

About Vital Strategies

Vital Strategies believes every person should be protected by an equitable and effective public health system. We partner with governments, communities and organizations around the world to reimagine public health so that health is supported in all the places we live, work and play. The result is millions of people living longer, healthier lives.

For more information, please visit: vitalstrategies.org

