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**UNITED NATIONS DIVISION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

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Expert Group Meeting on indicators to measure violence against women

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**ENDIREH-2006'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND LIMITATIONS IN DETERMINING INDICATORS FOR
MEASURING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN MEXICO**

Invited Paper

Submitted by Mexico¹

1. Background

Since the last decade of the 20th century, the Mexican government has recognized the unequal, unfair nature of relationships between women and men, and consequently, has acknowledged the unfavorable conditions in which women live, affecting all the spheres of their lives. In Mexico, and especially on the part of Mexico's National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (*Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática*—

To generer

NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE DYNAMICS OF RELATIONSHIPS IN HOMES, 2006

Objectives

- To generate information on the different types of violence against women, on the part of current or most recent spouses or partners; and to study the characteristics of the dynamics of couple relationships.
- To identify the different types of violence against women in schools, at work and in communities.

Target population

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Expansion of topics covered. ENDIREH 2003 was focused on violence inflicted by current spouses or partners against women who were married or living with their partners. ENDIREH 2006 focused on the above situations plus it also included violence in labor, educational, social and ec

Table 1
Characteristics of study population, ENDIREH -2006

	Total	Married or living with partner	Previously married or living with partner	Single
Total Population	133398	83159	15773	34466
	%	%	%	%
	100.0	62.4	11.8	25.8
Area of residence*	%	%	%	%
Rural	21.1	23.2	16.0	18.4
Urban	78.9	76.8	84.0	81.6
Ethnicity	%	%	%	%
Indigenous	6.4	7.6	6.2	4.3
Not indigenous	93.5	92.4	93.8	95.5
Age	%	%	%	%
15 to 19	14.2	3.0	0.3	41.8
20 to 29	23.6	20.9	4.1	35.6
30 to 39	21.9	28.5	13.8	11.1
40 to 49	17.6	23.0	20.2	5.4
50 to 59	11.4	14.0	20.5	3.0
60 and older	11.4	10.6	41.0	3.1
Level of schooling	%	%	%	%
Did not complete elementary	9.4	10.7	21.4	2.8
Elementary	32.0	38.9	41.0	14.9
Junior high	28.3	28.3	19.9	31.2
Senior high	15.8	11.7	7.4	27.2
Professional or higher	13.9	10.4	10.3	22.4
Not specified	0.5	0.1	0.1	1.5
Type of activity	%	%	%	%
Economically active	40.9	36.2	53.7	46.1
Household work	37.4	51.9	25.3	11.9
Other non-economic activity	21.7	11.9	21.0	41.8

The expanded educational opportunities for women during recent decades can be observed by comparing the schooling levels achieved by single women, most of whom are young, with those of women previously married or living with their partners, representing an older age group. While half of single women have reached the levels of high school and professional studies, nearly half of women previously married or living with their partners only attended elementary school, although may not have completed this level, and a fifth of these women never attended school.

3. General description of types and categories of violence included in ENDIREH 2006

The structure and contents of the questionnaire encompass a broad, varied range of context information, necessary for conducting analysis of intervening, causal and explanatory factors of violence (characteristics of couple

relationships, conflict situations for couples, information for evaluating the levels of women's freedom to choose and freedom of movement, and their autonomy in making decisions and participating in decision-making within their couple relationships, for example). However, in this document we will focus exclusively on the group of questions directly referring to investigating violent events, with the aim of describing and demonstrating the various alternatives for constructing indicators related to the dimension and magnitude of violence against women, by type and category, and also by environments and relationships.

In all, 71 events or situations were included to identify the violence experienced by women who are married or living with their partners; 74 for women previously married or living with their partners, and 57 for single women. In addition, for women currently or previously married or living with their partners, and 60 years of age or older, 11 items were included to identify the violence against older women that is inflicted by family members.

Violence inflicted by current or most recent spouses or partners is the type of violence that was studied the most, since the highest number of situations were included, covering four types of violence (30 situations were

included for women previously married or living with their partners, and 16 events were included for single women).

Each one of the items corresponds to a type of violence (emotional, economic , physical or sexual), and to one of the environments or relationships (family of origin during childhood; current family; school, work or community; and current or previous spouse or partner).

Table 2 summarizes the types of violence against women in each environment or relationship, and briefly demonstrates what can be measured, whether by type of violence or type of relationship or environment.

Typically, the results from surveys on violence presen

For example, in the questions on sexual violence, nine events or situations were included to refer to different sexual acts of aggres

- Generally, physical violence during childhood is studied as a factor that increases the likelihood of experiencing violence at another time in life. Nevertheless, we have used this factor to analyze the “history” or “path” of violent events, and to measure their prevalence.
- The prevalence of total physical violence is lower than the prevalence of sexual violence. Single women play an important role here, since the questionnaire for this group of women did not include questions regarding violence during their childhood—a type of violence considerably high in the other two groups studied.
- In terms of economic violence, women who were previously married or lived with a partner are those who experienced this type of violence the most, during and after their relationship, and in the three modalities: theft, control and failure to fulfill responsibilities.
- Nearly a fourth of wage-earners suffered one or more situations in which they were discriminated against as women. This matter should be considered when defining government strategies for preventing and punishing this type of practice.

Table 5

Prevalence of economic violence against women of 15 years of age or older by category and environment in

play an important role here, since the questionnaire for this group of women did not include questions regarding violence during their childhood—a type of violence considerably high in the other two groups studied.

- Emotional violence is the type of violence most suffered by women, especially by women who were previously married or lived with a partner. This violence is inflicted by husbands and partners, and during childhood, by family members.
- Degradation is the category of violence most reported in school and work settings.
- Isolation occurs more among single women than among married women.

Table 6

Prevalence of emotional or psychological violence against women of 15 years of age or older by category and environment in which violence occurred and actual marital status				
	Married or living with partner	Previously married*	Singles	Total
INDIFFERENCE	33.6	49.2	12.5	28.9
<i>By family (during last year)</i>	7.2	10.2	6.7	7.3
<i>By current or most recent spouse or partner (throughout relationship)</i>	30.6	46.3	9.3	27.1
<i>By current spouse or partner (during last year)</i>	24.2			
<i>By most recent spouse or partner (since separating)</i>		16.4		
DEGRADACIÓN	52.2	62.1	30.1	46.6
<i>Childhood, by family of origin</i>	21.6	24.0		21.9
<i>By current or most recent spouse or partner (throughout relationship)</i>	24.7	40.1	15.5	24.1
<i>By current spouse or partner (during last year)</i>	18.6			
<i>By most recent spouse or partner (since separating)</i>		14.6		
<i>At school (throughout lifetime)</i>	11.1	12.5	13.2	11.9
<i>At work (during last year)</i>	11.8	16.6	8.5	10.9
INTIMIDATION	13.9	39.2	10.5	15.8
<i>By current or most recent spouse or partner (throughout relationship)</i>	13.9	35.1	10.5	15.4
<i>By current spouse or partner (during last year)</i>	8.5			
<i>By most recent spouse or partner (since separating)</i>		35.6		
ISOLATION	7.2	21.5	10.2	9.5
<i>By family (during last year)</i>	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.6
<i>By current or most recent spouse or partner (throughout relationship)</i>	6.9	21.2	12.6	9.8
<i>By current spouse or partner (during last year)</i>	4.8			
<i>By most recent spouse or partner (since separating)</i>		8.1		
THREATS	14.6	33.6	6.9	14.2
<i>By family (during last year)</i>	4.1	6.2	5.2	4.6
<i>By current or most recent spouse or partner (throughout relationship)</i>	12.0	31.1	2.9	11.8
<i>By current spouse or partner (during last year)</i>	7.8			
<i>By most recent spouse or partner (since separating)</i>		11.7		
PREVALENCE OF EMOTIONAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE	54.1	65.1	35.6	49.7

* Include separated, divorced and widowed

In our opinion these rates indicate a summarized measurement of the dimension of violence, and they facilitate a more specific identification of violent behaviors, thus making it possible to design and address differentiated strategies.

With these indicators constructed, it is possible to conduct a homogenous analysis for each interest group, and to analyze them in the light of context or explanatory variables.

These intermediary indicators can be useful for:

- a. Identifying the nature and extent of each type of violence.
- b. The use of categories for each type of violence will make it possible when information is gathered again in the future, to maintain the same classification with regard to the nature and orientation of the situations measured (even when the latter are expanded or modified). This will facilitate greater, more precise comparability in terms of space and time.
- c. Guiding the decision-making involved in formulating diversified public policies, while assessing the severity and extent of certain violent practices against women.

4. Set of indicators of violence against women

In general the indicators that can be constructed—on the basis of the situations or events of violence considered—are prevalence indicators or the specific and total rates for each type of violence and for each environment in which violence occurs.

It is important to keep in mind that we understand the prevalence or rate of violence to refer to the number of women 15 years of age or older who report to have experienced at least one event of violence (of the type and in the relationships specified here) during the reference period, divided by the total number of women 15 years of age or older.

In the case of ~~violence~~ guiding the decision

B. Prevalence by type of relationship or environment, considering all types of violence

- Violence during childhood, by members of families of origin
- Violence at school, throughout their lifetimes
- Violence by current or previous spouse or partner, throughout the relationship
- Violence against women by their current spouse or partner, during the prior year
- Violence against women by their former spouses or partners, after they have been separated or divorced
- Violence against women by members of their current families, during the prior year
- Violence at work, during the prior year
- Violence by other persons throughout their lifetimes, or community violence

Table 7

TOTAL PREVALENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CURRENTLY MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNERS AND WOMEN PREVIOUSLY MARRIED BY VIOLENCE TYPE AND ENVIRONMENT OR RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH OCCURED					
Ámbito o Relación de ocurrencia	Violencia Física	Violencia Sexual	Violencia Emocional	Violencia económica y patrimonial	Prevalencia General por ámbito o relación
<i>By family of origin during childhood</i>	39.5		21.9		43.1
<i>At school throughout lifetime</i>	7.4	2.4	11.3		15.3
<i>By current or most recent spouse or partner</i>	23.4	10.5	41.6	30.6	48.7
<i>By family members during last year</i>	2.4		15.5	1.0	15.9
<i>At work during last year</i>	1.6	2.6	12.7	25.0	31.7

By any other person throughout lifetime 11.75 re ferson

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In other words, it is important to develop instruments capable of recording the history of violence against women, during each stage of life (childhood, puberty, adolescence, adulthood and older age), and including all types, categories and events of violence for each of these stages. For example, sexual abuse should be considered in all environments and during all stages of life. It is also important to consider experiences recorded in fertility surveys, in the section corresponding to the history of pregnancies.

In addition it is also important to include events of violence that limit or prevent women from fully exercising their rights to choose, and to make decisions regarding their lives. Here we are referring to situations of forced or early marriage; the arranged “sale” of daughters or marriage; and practices of imposing punishment on women who fail to maintain sexual abstinence, who are unable to bear children or who do not bear sons, to mention a few examples.

Therefore, the primary limitations of ENDIREH-2006 are focused on not having included violent events that impede women’s ability to choose, and cultural practices that violate women’s rights. Other aspects that should be considered are the cases of women being abandoned, the reasons for separation or divorce, and new discriminatory practices emerging among young people, to mention some of those we feel are the most significant.

ANNEX 1

T TYPOLOGY AND CLASSIFICATION OF EVENTS O

	In family of origin	In school	By any other person	By current or most recent spouse or partner	At work	In current family
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