

# SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER

Impact indicator, Outcome indicator, SDG indicator

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## Indicator Phrasing

**English:** % of women aged 15 - 49 who experienced sexual violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months

**French:** % de femmes âgées de 15 à 49 ans ayant subi des violences sexuelles de la part d'un partenaire intime au cours des 12 derniers mois

**Portuguese:** % de mulheres com idades entre 15 e 49 anos que sofreram de violência sexual por um parceiro íntimo nos últimos 12 meses

**Czech:** % žen ve věku 15 - 49 let, které během posledních 12 měsíců byly svým partnerem nuceny k sexu

## What is its purpose?

Freedom from violence is a critical aspect of women's empowerment and greater gender equality. This indicator measures the proportion of women who experienced sexual violence from their current or previous intimate partner in the past 12 months. Considering how sensitive the collection of the required data is, this indicator should be used only in interventions that are specifically addressing the prevention and response to sexual violence.

## How to Collect and Analyse the Required Data

Collect the following data by conducting individual interviews with a [representative sample](#) of women aged 15 - 49 years:

### RECOMMENDED SURVEY QUESTIONS (Q) AND POSSIBLE ANSWERS (A)

**Q:** *Have you ever had an intimate partner? By intimate partner I mean someone whom you married or with whom you lived at any point in your life.*

**A:** yes / no / did not respond

(ask the following questions only if the previous answer is YES)

**Introduction:** *When two people marry or live together, they usually share both good and bad moments. I would now like to ask you some questions about the intimate partners you had in the course of your life. If anyone comes near us I will change the topic of our interview. I would again like to*

*assure you that your answers will be kept secret, and that you do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to. May I continue?*

**A0:** the respondent provided consent / the respondent refused to continue

**Q1:** *In the past 12 months, has your current or previous partner physically forced you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?*

**Q2:** *In the past 12 months, did you ever have sexual intercourse you did not want because you were afraid of what your partner might do?*

**Q3:** *In the past 12 months, did your current or previous partner ever force you to do something sexual that you found degrading or humiliating?*

**A1-3:** yes / no / did not respond

In all instances where the answer is YES, it is recommended (though not required) that you also ask the following question:

**Q:** *In the past 12 months, would you say that this has happened once, a few times or many times?*

**A:** once / a few times / many times

To **calculate the indicator's value:**

1) exclude those respondents who did not report any incidence of sexual violence but refused or could not respond to one or more questions

2) divide the number of the remaining respondents who replied "yes" to one or more of the questions (Q1-3) by the total number of respondents (do not count those you excluded in step 1)

3) multiply the result by 100 to convert it to a percentage

Disaggregate by

[Disaggregate](#) the data by the respondent's age group and other factors depending on the local context.

Important Comments

1) Collecting data about gender-based violence is sensitive and can cause serious harm. **Take**

**advantage of IndiKit's Rapid Guide** to Collecting Survey Data on GBV (see below) to know how to minimize the risk of any harm and ensure the desired quality of collected data.

2) Ensure that the enumerators and respondents understand that the questions are trying to capture the proportion of women who have experienced abuse from an intimate partner in the past 12 months. However, that partner may not be 1) the current partner or 2) someone she has been with in the past 12 months. It can be **any intimate partner the respondent had at any point in the course of her life**. For example, the partner can be someone she no longer lives with but he still abuses her.

3) Consider including an additional question **assessing whether the woman that suffered from physical violence has told someone** about it and if so, to whom (use general categories, such as “a friend” – do not ask about specific people or names).

4) If required for your project’s monitoring and evaluation purposes, you can **extend the reference period** - for example, to “in the past 2 years” (however, the standard period commonly used in surveys is 12 months).

5) According to the existing data\*, the proportion of women reporting sexual violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months ranges from 1% to 44% in different countries. In order to accurately record even smaller changes in the baseline and endline values of this indicator, **consider using a larger than usual sample size** (so that the margin of error is not larger than 3-4 percentage points).

6) The **Sustainable Development Goals** use an indicator that combines both physical and sexual violence: *% of girls and women 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence [by an intimate partner] in the last 12 months*.

7) The guidance for this indicator was developed based on WHO (2005) Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women and Oxfam (2017) Measuring Women’s Empowerment.

\* data source:

WHO (2005) Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women

## E-Questionnaire

- [XLS form for electronic data collection - indicator Sexual Violence by an Intimate Partner](#)

## Access Additional Guidance

- WHO (2005) [Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women](#)

- Oxfam (2017) [A 'How To' Guide to Measuring Women's Empowerment](#)
- MEASURE Evaluation (2008) [Violence Against Women and Girls: A Compendium of M&E Indicators](#)
- People in Need (2022) [Rapid Guide to Collecting Survey Data on Gender Based Violence](#)