Data Collection on Violence against Women and COVID-19: Decision Tree

WHY do you want to collect data and how will it be used?

What questions are useful to explore?

Potential questions answered by population-based surveys :

- Has violence increased?
- Have the nature, forms or severity of violence changed?
- Have the risk/ protective factors for violence changed?

Potential questions answered by other sources of data:

- Is there a change in the nature, forms or severity of reported violence?
- Is there an increase or decrease in service use?
- Are services being accessed and/or delivered differently and is this safe and effective?

Can existing data answer the common questions being explored?

Yes

Use existing data!

- Explore data from existing surveys.
- Analyse service case records (before and during COVID19).

No

Primary research options that are safe and can provide relevant information:

- **Map services**, including changes in availability and resources.
- **Conduct short surveys or key informant interviews** with service providers.
- **Interview survivors if possible to do safely and with full consent** (e.g., in women's organisations, health facilities or shelters).

Is there a national lockdown or are there significant movement restrictions?

Yes → **Do NOT do it** ⊘ → Interviewers cannot safely visit homes and arrange private and confidential interviews.

No → Can you ensure confidentiality, privacy and support?

No → Interviewers cannot safely visit homes and arrange private and confidential interviews.

Yes → Safe to collect data through violence surveys or interviews.
Important!
Representative data on how many women experience violence (prevalence) before, during and after COVID-19 can only be collected through surveys with a random sample of women.

Could I use service data to determine prevalence? (e.g. police reports, calls to helplines, data from shelters)?

Do NOT do it ⊘

No. Only a small fraction of abused women use services. It is not correct to interpret any change in service use data as a change in prevalence. Service data are useful to answer different questions.

Could I add a few questions on experience of violence in a rapid assessment population-based survey on the impact of COVID-19?

Do NOT do it ⊘

Could I conduct phone interviews or collect data using the internet/mobile devices to get violence prevalence data?

No. Women's participation in any survey on violence, particularly when at home with their abusers, may result in more violence and/or in poor quality data.

Would it be useful to add proxy questions in a rapid assessment (e.g. violence experienced by others)?

Do NOT do it ⊘

No. We will not know what it tells us. It is not actionable.

Always prioritize women's safety over data collection!

Please refer to accompanying brief for details (forthcoming)
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