

# INDICATOR ANALYSIS

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING CONFLICT

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<p>How is the indicator calculated?</p>	<p>The sexual violence during conflicts dataset provides information on the prevalence, perpetrators and forms of reported sexual violence in armed conflicts based on data from the U.S. State Department, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (1).</p> <p>An armed conflict is defined here as: “a contested incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths” (2). As such, a threshold of 25 battle related deaths per year is used to define active conflict years. Armed actors can include government forces, pro-government militias and rebel groups.</p> <p>Sexual violence is defined as rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization/abortion, sexual mutilation, and sexual torture (1).</p> <p>The prevalence measure is given on an ordinal scale representing relative magnitudes of sexual violence that is primarily based on a qualitative description of the event and is further discussed in Cohen and Nordås (2014) (3). Prevalence measures can take four possible values (descriptions taken directly from (Cohen and Nordås 2013) (1)):</p> <p>Prevalence=3: (Massive) is likely related to the conflict and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual violence was described as “massive,” “systematic,” or “innumerable”</li> <li>• Actor used sexual violence as a “means of intimidation,” “instrument of control and punishment,” “weapon,” “tactic to terrorize the population,” “terror tactic,” “tool of war,” on a “massive scale”</li> </ul> <p>Prevalence = 2 (Common). Sexual violence is likely related to the conflict, but did not meet the requirements for a 3 coding, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual violence was described as “widespread,” “common,” “commonplace,” “extensive,” “frequent,” “often,” “persistent,” “recurring,” a “pattern,” a “common pattern,” or a “spree”</li> <li>• Sexual violence occurred “commonly,” “frequently,” “in large numbers,” “periodically,” “regularly,” “routinely,” “widely,” or on a “number of occasions;” there were “many” or “numerous instances”</li> </ul> <p>Prevalence = 1 (Some). Sexual violence is likely related to the conflict, but did not meet the requirements for a 2 or 3 coding, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were “reports,” “isolated reports,” or “there continued to be reports” of occurrences of sexual violence</li> </ul> <p>Note: Reports of less than 25 incidents or victims of sexual violence are coded as 1.</p>
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	<p>Prevalence = 0 (No reported sexual violence). A report was issued for a country in a given year, but there was no mention of sexual violence related to the conflict.</p> <p>Prevalence = -99 (Missing; BOTH no report AND no information.) No report was issued for a country-year and no data about this actor-conflict-year was available from subsequent years.</p> <p>The dataset includes sexual violence information during active conflict years as well as interim years and post conflict years. Interim years are defined as years when battle deaths drop below the 25 threshold but increase again before five years have elapsed. The post-conflict years are the five years following an active conflict.</p>
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### GLOBAL TRENDS

<p>What are the global trends for the indicator?</p>	<p>According to the 2019 UN report on Conflict Related Sexual Violence, prevalence of sexual violence is hard to determine because of a host of social, and political barriers preventing reporting, but the current trends appear to be steady (4). Spikes were observed in 2001-2003 due to increased conflicts. The main perpetrators were militias and rebels.</p>
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### RELEVANCE TO UNDERSTANDING RELATIONSHIPS AMONG GENDER, HEALTH, FRAGILITY/PEACE

<p>How could this indicator contribute to our understanding of how gender, health and fragility and peace influence one another?</p>	<p>This indicator provides one measure of women aged 15 years and older's subjection to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner. Thus, it indicates the level of non-intimate-partner sexual violence against women in a given area. Because high levels of sexual violence against women are associated with perverse outcomes such as (but not limited to) higher rates of depression, unwanted pregnancy, and HIV prevalence, this indicator is closely related to women's overall mental and physical health (2). Because women and girls are especially vulnerable in the face of sexual violence, analysis of this indicator can be of value to reach those who experience the greatest fragility.</p> <p>According to the United Nations, having data on this indicator can aid in understanding the extent and nature of this form of violence, and could potentially help develop appropriate policies and programs to reduce gender-based sexual violence and promote stable, peaceful societies (1).</p>
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### UTILITY

What does the indicator measure?	The dataset provides information on the prevalence, perpetrators and forms of reported sexual violence in armed conflict. The unit of measurement for the dataset is the conflict-actor-year.
What does it NOT measure - what does it miss?	Peacekeeper and civilian perpetrators, non-state actors (both rebel groups and PGMs) that are not fighting the government, peacetime sexual violence, special police, special units, treasury police, presidential guards, presidential units, security forces, violence perpetrated against members of an armed group's own organization. and verbal abuse.
If and how does the indicator relate to interface/relationship among health, gender and fragility/stability;	Sexual violence in conflict has primarily focused on women and girls. More recently the inclusion of men and LGBTQI+ has challenged long held beliefs about sexual violence in conflict. There is a decrease in positive health outcomes for those who have been sexually assaulted. They have an increase in both physical and mental health related issues.

#### AVAILABILITY

Sources for indicator (CRVS, DHS etc - include links);	Data is sourced from the U.S. State Department, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch  The dataset is available at the following link: <a href="http://www.sexualviolencedata.org/dataset/">http://www.sexualviolencedata.org/dataset/</a>
Dates available;	1989-2019.
Availability across geographic areas;	All active or recent state-based conflicts covered by UCDP, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the United States Department of State
Availability in conflict affected settings;	Yes.

#### GRANULARITY

##### *Disaggregation at national level*

Data disaggregated by sex;	No.
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Data disaggregated by identity group (race, ethnicity);	No.
Data disaggregated by income;	No.
Data disaggregated by citizenship;	No.
Data disaggregated by migration background;	No.
<i>Disaggregation at sub-national level</i>	
Data disaggregated by geographic region;	No.
Data disaggregated by identity group (race, ethnicity);	No.
Data disaggregated by income.	No.

### SOURCES OF BIAS

What bias can exist with these data?	Inclusive Bias - Data is not directly sourced from conflict zones. Additionally, the US state department does not report human rights abuses the USA committed in any country. Chronic underreporting of sexual violence (especially for males - see JPR article using SVAC 1.0 1989-2009).
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### VALIDITY

Clear and accepted international standards for indicator;	Sources being used are reputable given the difficulty of gathering sexual violence data in conflict impacted areas.
Validity of measurement of indicator generally accepted;	At least a dozen peer reviewed articles, book chapters, and several media and policy briefings have used this data.

### RELIABILITY

Reliability of indicator generally accepted;	Yes, given the transparency in definitions and methods.
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<b>COMPLEXITY</b>	
Enables analysis across time and location.	Yes.

<b>OTHER REFLECTIONS</b>	
Is the indicator modelled?	No.....

## References

1. Cohen DK, Nordås R. Sexual violence in armed conflict (SVAC) dataset codebook and user instruction guide. Vol. 1. Version; 2013.
2. Gleditsch NP, Wallensteen P, Eriksson M, Sollenberg M, Strand H. Armed conflict 1946-2001: A new dataset. *Journal of peace research*. 2002;39(5):615–37.
3. Cohen DK, Nordås R. Sexual violence in armed conflict: Introducing the SVAC dataset, 1989–2009. *Journal of Peace Research*. 2014;51(3):418–28.
4. Guterres A. Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Report of the United Nations Secretary-General. United Nations. 2019.