



2022

UNTIL ALL ARE FREE

A study on the prevalence of violence against women and adolescents and their reliance on the Salvadoran Justice System



IJM



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STUDY PARTICIPANTS

International Justice Mission Team:

Juan Miguel Rivera: Vice president, Northern Triangle Hub
Diana Melgar: Program Officer, Northern Triangle Hub
Marla González: El Salvador Field Office Director
Jacobo Mazariegos: Regional MERL Director, Analysis and technical reporting
Karina Siguil: Senior Data Specialist, Northern Triangle Hub
Francisco Quiroa: Systematization, processing, statistical analysis, and data visualization
Ximena Caycedo: Study Methodology and Training
Johanna Guerrero: Project Management
Molly Acevedo: Logistics assistance to the project
Laura Romero: Quality Assurance
Lourdes Hernández: MERL Specialist; Study Writer

Consulting Team for Data Collection (Borge y Asociados):

Víctor Borge González: General Coordinator
Mara Miranda: Field Team Coordinator
Óscar Gerardo Ramírez Berrocal: Statistician
Rafael Gutiérrez Cervantes: Data Processing

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Design and Diagramming:

Mishell Perez

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About International Justice Mission

Who we are

International Justice Mission (IJM) is a global organization working in 33 offices, in 23 countries in the world, with the purpose of protecting people in poverty from violence. This protection is achieved by rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring and strengthening survivors, and cooperating with local legal authorities to build a safe future that lasts. IJM's work has been recognized by the U.S. State Department, the World Economic Forum, as well as featured by *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, Reuters, BBC and CNN.

IJM has worked in El Salvador since 2017, a country in which it joins efforts with government institutions and civil society to strengthen the capacities of the national Justice System in the fight to eradicate violence against women, children, and adolescents.

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Acronyms

DIGESTYC	General Directorate of Statistics and Census
FGR	General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic
IJM	International Justice Mission
LQAS	Lot Quality Assurance Sampling
BGA	Boys, Girls, and Adolescents
PNC	National Civilian Police
VAWC	Violence Against Women and Children

Key Terminology

Relief to Victims Legal measures adopted by the competent judicial authority, to reduce the impact and disrupt the damages caused by those that have attacked survivors or victims.

Places where violence occurs Violence can occur in public or private spaces. Public spaces include violent actions committed in the community, schools or workplace (paid employment), while in the private spaces it includes actions committed against women, based on gender, in family spaces or in coexistence with their partner (DIGESTYC, 2018).

Reliance Degree to which a victim or survivor of violent crimes against women and children (VAWC) trusts and feels safe in the Justice System to report her case and undergo the criminal proceedings with the purpose of receiving protection and justice.

Impunity This term refers to the absence of punishment. In the presence of a human rights violation, the Criminal Justice System designed to prosecute and punish those responsible is absent or ineffective.

Reference Period	Time criteria specifying the period in which the physical or sexual violence crimes occur against women, girls, boys, and adolescents in El Salvador examined in this study. Violent experiences that occur throughout the life of a woman are registered in the tally of women affected in their lifetime, while a shorter period of time –the 12 months prior to the survey– considers and expresses the current level of violence. In this case, the total of women affected by violence is registered for the past 12 months (DIGESTYC, 2018).
Prevalence of violence	Percentage of women, girls, boys, and adolescents in a population and in a selected geographic area that have experienced physical or sexual violence within the reference period. This number is expressed in the percentage of women, girls, boys, and adolescents affected by the selected types of violence.
Protection	International Justice Mission (IJM) understands protection as a strengthened justice system that provides quality services to women, children, and adolescents affected by multiple aggressions (poverty and violence, among others). This allows for improved confidence of the population in the justice system.
Restoration	Process that allows victims or survivors of violent crimes to thrive and function in society with low vulnerability to experiencing new victimization.
Victim and Survivor	IJM uses the term «victim» when referring to those persons that find themselves in a situation of violence and, by legal definition, when the person is a victim of a criminal offence. The term «survivor» applies once the person is free from violence.
Violence Against Women	Is any action that, based on the woman's gender, causes death, harm or physical, sexual or psychological distress to women in the public and private environments (according to Decree No. 520, Art. 8 of the Special Comprehensive Law for a Life Free From Violence for Women [LEIV]).
Violence Against Girls, Boys, and Adolescents	Includes physical and sexual violence experienced by persons under the age of 18. Violence against this population can occur in the home or in the community; perpetrators can be caregivers, partners or strangers. This study addresses violence committed against girls, boys, and adolescents aged 13 to 17.

Physical Violence and Behaviors Addressed in this Study

Physical violence is «all such behavior that directly or indirectly is aimed at causing physical harm or suffering against women, that results in or has the risk of physical injuries or damage when carried out by the person who currently is or was or is connected to her by an analogous affectionate relation, even if not in coexistence. Also, actions of physical violence against women are those carried out by the perpetrator in a family, social or work environment» (according to Decree No. 520, Special Comprehensive Law for a Life Free from Violence for Women in El Salvador, 2011). This survey addresses the following four physical violence behaviors: a) pushing, shaking throwing objects intentionally; b) punching or kicking, c) strangling, asphyxiating or burning, and d) threatening to use a bladed weapon or firearm.

Sexual Violence and Behaviors Addressed in the Study

Sexual violence is all behavior that threatens or goes against the right of women to voluntarily make decisions about her sexual life. This violence not only includes sexual intercourse, but all kinds of sexual contact or access, genital or non-genital, regardless of whether or not the aggressor has a marital or partner relationship, social, work, emotional or family relationship with the female victim (according to Decree No. 520, Special Comprehensive Law for a Life Free From Violence for Women in El Salvador, 2011). The current survey addresses five types of sexual violence: a) attempts at unwanted sex; b) unwanted sexual groping, c) pressuring, threatening or deceiving to have sex; d) forcibly having sex, and e) giving material or financial gifts to have sex with persons younger than 18.

Summary of Findings

1. In El Salvador, 4 out of every 10 adult women (38%) have experienced physical or sexual violence at some point in their life, a figure that exceeds world estimates (at 30%). Adult women have suffered physical violence (33%) at one point in their life and 16% have experienced sexual violence.
2. The prevalence of violence against adolescents aged 13 to 17 is slightly higher than that experienced by adult women in the 12 months prior to the survey. In the case of adult women, 6.20% have experienced physical or sexual violence, while 4.92% have experienced physical violence and 1.95%, sexual violence.
3. Nine out of every 10 persons that have reported physical or sexual violence before the Justice System have also shared with someone in their community the violence they were experiencing. In many cases, family members are persons close to them in the community to whom women or adolescents who have experienced violence turn for support. When survivors find strength in their community, especially in their family, the likelihood of initiating a criminal process increases. However, physical and sexual violence is mostly perpetrated by those persons closest to the victims and survivors.
4. Two out of every 10 women and adolescents aged 13 to 17 state they need to receive care and restoration services to reduce the vulnerability to experiencing new victimization. Despite this, only 3 in 10 survivors receive these types of services.
5. Reducing the prevalence of violence in the future with a higher guarantee of success requires the prioritization of six areas, as follows: 1) safe spaces; 2) mental wellbeing services; 3) legal protection; 4) social support; 5) economic and education empowerment, and 6) physical wellbeing services.

6. When people have a safe environment, they are seven times less likely to experience violence than those whose context does not protect them from the threat of violence. Consequently, strengthening security in their environment contributes to preventing violence in the future. Adult women need mechanisms that increase their security in the private environment, as this is where most of the violence perpetrated against them happens, especially from their current or former partners. On the other hand, adolescent boys and girls need improved security mechanisms in public spaces to prevent their victimization, especially from their parents, neighbors, friends, classmates or teachers.
7. When women and adolescents aged 13 to 17 experience violence, it is difficult for them to go to the Justice System and rely on its institutions. In the 12 months prior to the survey, only 3 out of 10 women victims (27%) and 1 out of 10 adolescents aged 13 to 17 (15%) reported the violence experienced to the Justice System. The main reason why adolescents aged 13 to 17 do not file complaints of violence before the Justice System institutions is the normalization of violence. In the case of women, fear is the main reason why violence goes unreported.
8. Communities have the opportunity of changing this paradigm that normalizes violence. Community stakeholders can identify risk behaviors against women and adolescents early on, and ensure the proper connections exist with Justice System institutions to provide education on how to address these behaviors.
9. Five in 10 persons who turn to the Justice System to report violence are not satisfied with what they receive from it. These persons connect their lack of satisfaction with the perception that Justice System institutions have not done or do not do enough to prevent violence from reoccurring.

INTRODUCTION

Section 01

Introduction

This publication presents a baseline study that addresses the prevalence of violence and the reliance of the population in its Justice System. The study, which was conducted using a representative sample in 15 municipalities of the three zones in El Salvador, is based on 2,700 household surveys. International Justice Mission carries out these measurements to help guide the decisions in its own work program and to contribute data on the degree of transformation of the Salvadoran Justice System in response to Violence Against Women and Adolescents.

Central America's Northern Triangle appears as one of the most violent regions in the world. Its rates of violent deaths of women almost doubles the world average and surpasses the rates in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOSEGURA, 2020). Hence the need to deepen the knowledge of the phenomena of violence in El Salvador to contribute to the protection of women and adolescents in the region.

METHODOLOGY

Section 02

Household Survey on the Prevalence of Violence and the Reliance of the Population on the Justice System

This study applied a survey to 2,700 households, stating the expected objectives, the Salvadoran population to be studied, the data collection methods, and the quality assurance system for the process and results. For more information on the methodology used, see Annex 1.

In addition, this study was supervised and approved by the ethics committee of the Central American Institute for Public Administration (Instituto Centroamericano de Administración Pública, ICAP) using a protocol that guided the training and ethical procedures used in all stages of the study.

Study objectives

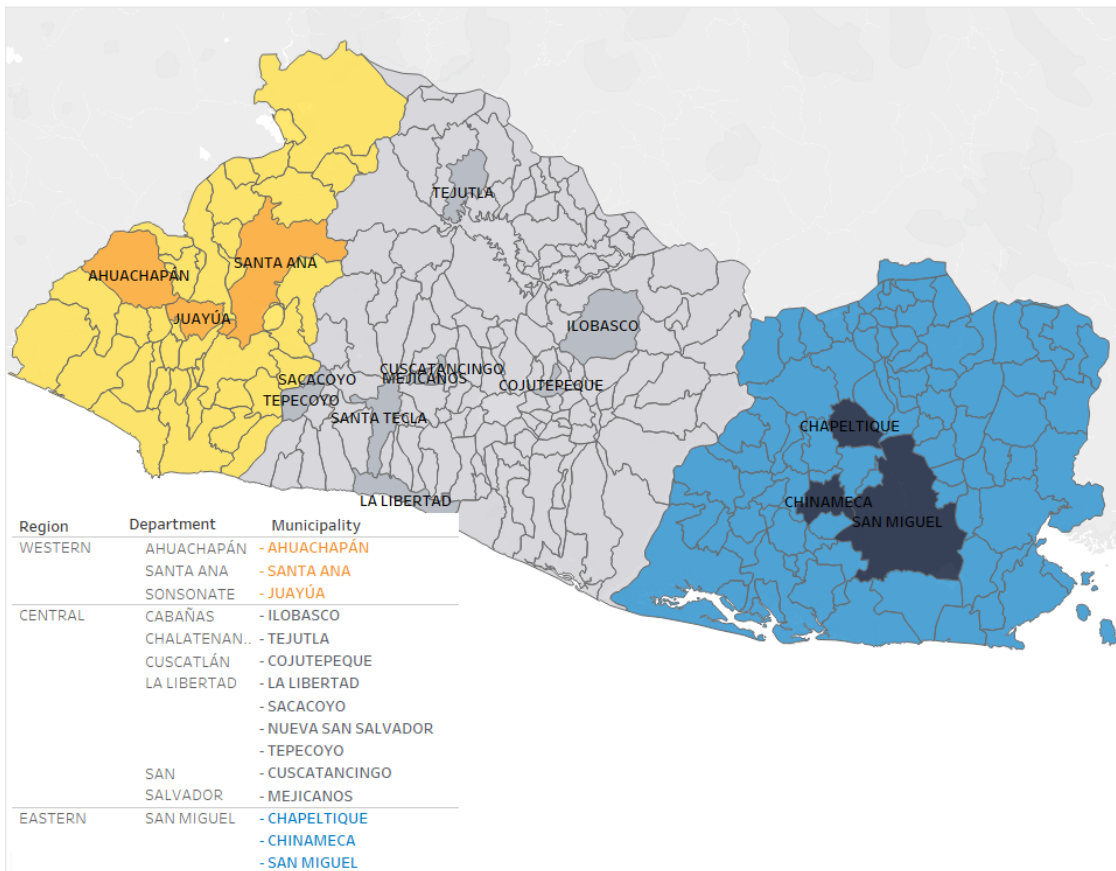
1. Estimate the prevalence of physical and sexual violence against women and adolescents in El Salvador.
2. Measure the reliance of the population to access the Justice System in cases of physical and sexual violence against women and adolescents in El Salvador.
3. Measure the knowledge, access, and the experience of victims and survivors in their interactions with Justice System institutions and victim services in El Salvador.

Population Studied and Representation

IJM used household surveys to study the prevalence of physical and sexual violence, as well as the reliance on the Salvadoran Justice System, in 15 municipalities distributed among the three zones in the country: 4 municipalities in the western zone; 7 in the central zone, and 4 in the eastern zone (see Graph 1).

These municipalities were selected considering the ratio of adult women and adolescents aged 13 to 17 for each of the zones in the country (according to the population census by DIGESTYC, 2007), the population in multidimensional poverty (UNICEF, 2015), and the number of victims of physical and sexual violence registered (ISDEMU, 2021).

CHART 1. MUNICIPALITIES IN THE STUDY



Resulting from the survey is a series of prevalence and reliance indicators representing the country and each municipality in the sample, but also of the population of adult women and adolescents between 13 and 17 years of age.

The representation in the results is explained by the size of the sample (with 1,350 surveys for each of the two types of population) and also by the heterogeneity in the size of the municipalities, poverty levels, the levels of violence records, and location in all the zones in El Salvador. This allowed national estimates to reach 95% in confidence levels.

Data Collection

Contributing to the soundness of the study is the methodology used: lot quality assurance sampling (LQAS). This approach is effective when providing a general overview and identifying general trends and patterns of the situation in El Salvador, even though it has limitations in ensuring estimates at smaller levels, such as in municipalities or departments.

Experienced surveyors were trained on how to use the research tool following quality and ethical standards. They carried out interviews and collected the responses from May 27 to August 17, 2022 using SurveyToGo by Dooblo, a cloud-based platform for Windows and Android devices used to carry out surveys.

Quality Assurance Process and Ethical Standards

The surveys underwent quality control by a team of three auditors that were part of the team collecting the information and an additional IJM auditor. This team verified that quality criteria was met when collecting data and surveys were effectively standardized in the different municipalities in El Salvador. Additionally, it was ensured that ethical criteria had been met by obtaining informed consent from respondents in the household surveys.

Surveyors informed all interviewees on the potential risks and benefits of the investigation to ensure they participated voluntarily, without any coercion or incentive. In the case of adolescent boys and girls, consent was obtained from the parents, caregivers and the approval of every adolescent. These procedures followed and abided by IJM's global ethical research standards on human subjects (2020).

RESULTS

Section 03

Prevalence of Violence Against Women and Adolescents

Characterization of the Population and the Territories in the Study

El Salvador has a population of 6,325,827 persons according to the *Multipurpose Household Survey* (DIGESTYC, 2021): 61.7% lives in urban areas and 38.3% lives in rural areas. When differentiating the population by sex, the survey found that women represent 53.3% of the country's total population, while men make up 46.7%. On the other hand, the 7 to 14 age group is 12.9% of the population, which is a relevant indicator of the demand for education services associated with this group.

Regarding the distribution of the population by departments, 64.2% is concentrated in five of the 14 departments, i.e. San Salvador, La Libertad, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, and San Miguel. It is worth mentioning that the information collected in this analysis includes these five departments: 11 of the 15 municipalities in the study are among the departments with the highest concentration of population in the entire country.

Among the municipalities included Ahuachapán and Cojutepeque show the highest poverty level (52.7% and 44.7%, respectively), followed by Ilobasco with 44.1%. The municipalities with the lowest poverty rates are Cuscatancingo and Mejicanos, with 18.6% (UNICEF, 2015) (see Annex 2). Additionally, the larger the population size the greater the number of VAWC victims registered by the Justice System, especially in the municipalities in metropolitan areas. The central region in El Salvador concentrates 40% of the victims registered for the 15 municipalities in the study, followed by the western zone with 34%. The remaining 26% is distributed among the municipalities in the eastern region (DIGESTYC, 2021).

Characteristics of Women Respondents

Although Annex 3 details the social and demographic characteristics of the sample of adult women and adolescents aged 13 to 17, it is interesting to highlight and analyze the following findings:

- There is a considerable lag in education. Only 31.9% of adult women have 12 years of schooling or more, while middle school is the education level reached by the highest percentage of adolescents aged 13 to 17 (59.29%). Both populations mention the lack of money or support as the main obstacles in their education.

- Among adult women, 82.1% and 12.6% of adolescents aged 13 to 17 state having had a romantic partner. Adult women, 57.9%, stated they were married or in a common-law marriage, while 93.3% of adolescent boys and girls stated their civil status as single, followed by those in a common-law marriage (2.2%).
- Adult women, 90.8% and 10.40% of adolescents aged 13 to 17 state they are sexually active. The average age to initiate sexual relationships was 19 years old for adult women and 15 years old for adolescents. Adult women, 73.8%, stated they had initiated their sexual relationships with a stepbrother, stepfather, brother, father, uncle, or other relative.
- Among adult women, 10% and 5.1% of adolescents aged 13 to 17 stated they had some disability or physical condition, which may be mental or sensory (permanent or temporary).
- Most of the adult women and adolescents aged 13 to 17 have access to internet, although 20% accesses it intermittently or with limitations. Facebook and WhatsApp are the most used social media platforms.

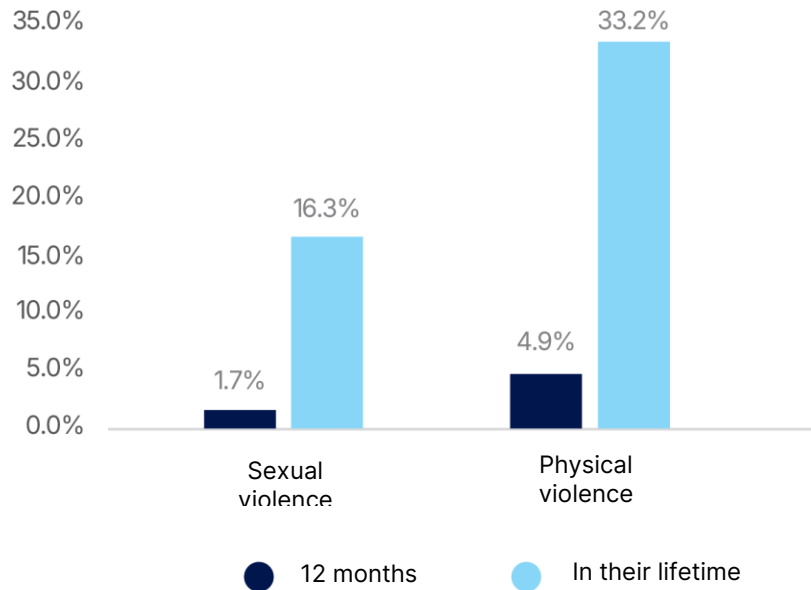
Violence Against Women 18 Years Old and Older

Key findings

- Adult women that have experienced physical or sexual violence at one point in their is 37.9%, while 33.2% have experienced physical violence, 27.5% have experienced sexual violence, and 11.62% have experienced both physical and sexual violence.
- The prevalent behaviors in physical violence are slapping, shoving, shaking or having objects thrown at them; in sexual violence, what predominates is unwanted sexual attempts.
- In the 12 months prior to the survey, 6.2% of adult women experienced physical or sexual violence; 4.92% experienced physical violence, and 1.95% experienced sexual violence.
- Among women aged 18 to 24 that have experienced violence before age 18, 21.5% have experienced physical violence; 26% experienced sexual violence and 28.1% experienced both types.
- In private spaces is where 60.9% of physical violence occurs, contrasting with sexual violence which takes place in public spaces in 56.9% of the cases.
- Physical violence aggressors (59%) and 49% of sexual violence aggressors are known to the victims and are part of their close circle.

Out of every 10 adult women that have experienced violence, six have suffered physical violence behaviors more than once and five have experienced sexual violence more than once.

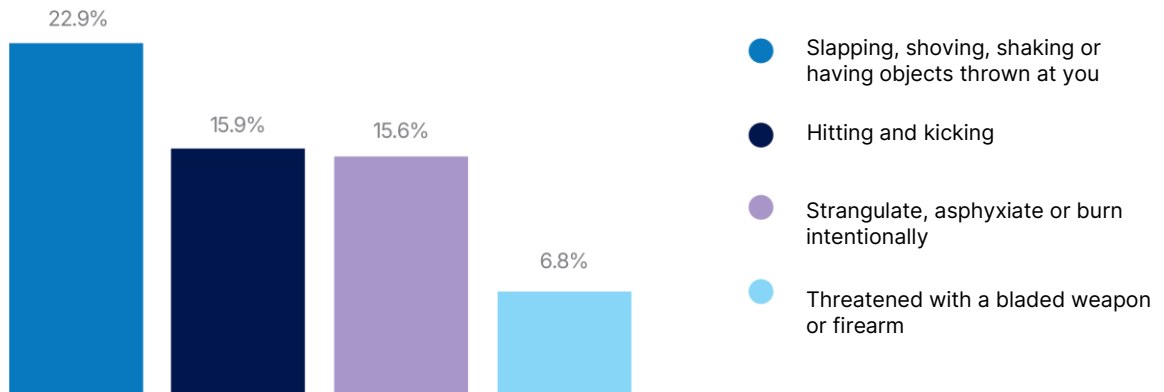
CHART 2. PREVALENCE OF PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Physical Violence

Prevalence of physical violence at one point in the life of adult women throughout the country is 33.2%. This type of violence refers to violent behaviors that directly affect the physical integrity of women. The most common violent behaviors are slapping, shoving, shaking or throwing objects at them, followed by hitting, and kicking (see Chart 3).

CHART 3. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BEHAVIORS EXPERIENCED BY WOMEN IN THEIR LIFETIME



The study also showed that 55.9% of the adult women that have experienced physical violence in their lifetime have experienced it more than once; 12.2% experienced it for the first time when they were 13 years old or younger; 14.2% were 14 to 17 years old, and 47.8% were 18 to 30 years old. That is, almost 1 in 2 women who have experienced this violence experienced it for the first time when they were between 18 and 30 years old (see Table 1).

TABLE 1. AGE OF ADULT WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL VIOLENCE FOR THE FIRST TIME

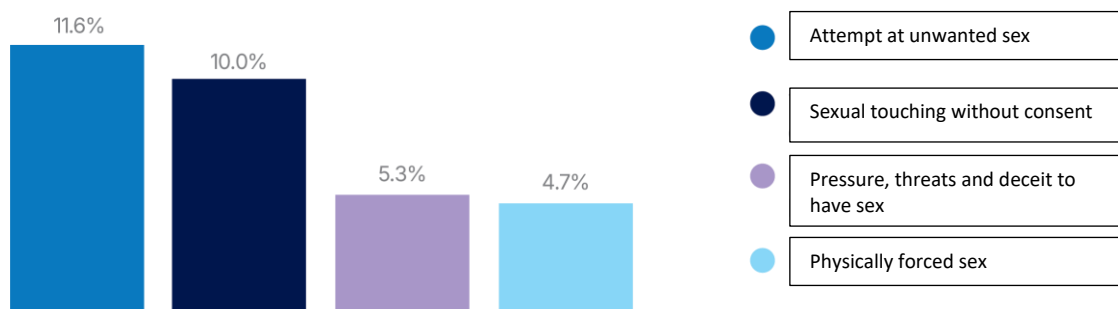
Age in which adult women experienced physical violence for the first time	Physical Violence	
	n	%
13 years old, approximately	25	12.2%
14 to 17 years old	29	14.2%
18 to 30 years old	98	47.8%
31 to 49 years old	45	21.9%
50 years or older	8	3.1%
Total	205	100.0%

On the other hand, according to the 59.3% of adult women who suffered physical violence, the last time they experienced it was by someone known and close to them. Out of 100 perpetrators, 32 were their partner or former partner, while 14 were friends, neighbors, classmates or teachers, and 13 were family members. Consequently, physical violence against adult women occurs mainly in private spaces (62.14%). Additionally, women stated that in the last physical violence incident, 45.2% of the perpetrators were under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and 41.3% had behaviors, incidents or actions that transgressed the social order.

Sexual Violence

Prevalence of sexual violence against adult women in all of the country is 16.3%: this percentage refers to having experienced any of the sexual behaviors detailed in Chart 4. Attempts at unwanted sex is the predominant behavior. On the other hand, 49.5% of the adult women who have ever experienced sexual violence stated having experienced it more than once.

CHART 4. SEXUAL VIOLENCE BEHAVIORS EXPERIENCED BY WOMEN IN THEIR LIFETIME



In the 12 months prior to the survey, the prevalence of sexual violence was 1.65%, which implies they experienced any of the four sexual violence behaviors mentioned. Additionally, almost 3 out of every 10 women that experienced sexual violence suffered it for the first time in their adolescence and more than 4 when they were girls (see Table 2).

TABLE 2. AGE OF ADULT WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCED SEXUAL VIOLENCE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Age in which adult women experienced sexual violence for the first time	Sexual Violence	
	n	%
13 years old or younger	61	42.9%
14 to 17 years old	40	28.2%
18 to 30 years old	31	21.8%
31 to 49 years old	10	7.0%
Total	142	100.0%

A consequence of this violence is that 16.48% of the women that were raped became pregnant and 93.3% gave birth as a result of these pregnancies.

On the other hand, according to 48.8% of adult women that have experienced sexual violence, the last time they experienced it was by someone known and close to them. Out of 100 aggressors, 16 were friends, neighbors, classmates, teachers or religious leaders; 17 were family members, and 16 were partners or former partners. This sexual violence against women occurs mostly in public spaces (56.5%). Additionally, the women stated that in the last sexual violence incident, 29.4% of the aggressors were under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Overlap of Physical and Sexual Violence

When a person experiences physical violence, they do not necessarily experience sexual violence too, or vice versa. However, 11.62% of adult women have experienced the overlap of violence in their lifetime, i.e., a same person has experienced both sexual and physical violence.

Women Ages 18 to 24 Who Suffered Violence Prior to Age 18

When examining the prevalence of violence against adolescents it is advisable to consider women in the 18 to 24 age group who experienced violence before turning 18: physical violence represents 21.56%; 26.09% experienced sexual violence, and 28.16% experienced both types of violence.

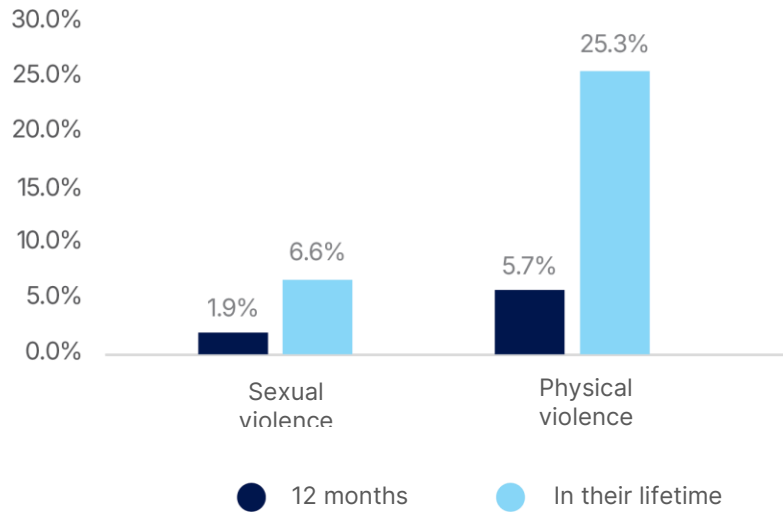
Violence Against Adolescents

Key findings

- Both adolescent boys and girls have experienced physical or sexual violence (27.92%) at some point in their life; physical violence represents 25.3%, sexual violence 6.6%, and 3.9% experienced both physical and sexual violence.
- Slapping, shoving, shaking or having objects thrown at them with the intent of causing harm are the prevalent violent behaviors, while in the case of sexual violence, unwanted sexual groping is what prevails.
- In the 12 months prior to the survey, 6.93% of adolescents aged 13 to 17 experienced physical or sexual violence; 5.7% experienced physical violence and 1.9% experienced sexual violence.
- Public spaces are where 66.6% of physical violence and 51.7% of sexual violence occurs.
- Perpetrators who are known and close to the victim are divided into 77% physically violent aggressors and 49% are sexually violent aggressors.
- Out of 10 adolescents aged 13 to 17 that have experienced violence, 4 have experienced physical violence behaviors more than once and 5 have experienced sexual violence more than once.

Throughout the country, the prevalence of violence against adolescent boys and girls aged 13 to 17 is 27.92%: this percentage represents having experienced any of the physical or sexual violence behaviors. In the last 12 months, this prevalence rate is 6.93% (Chart 5 shows the percentages per type of violence).

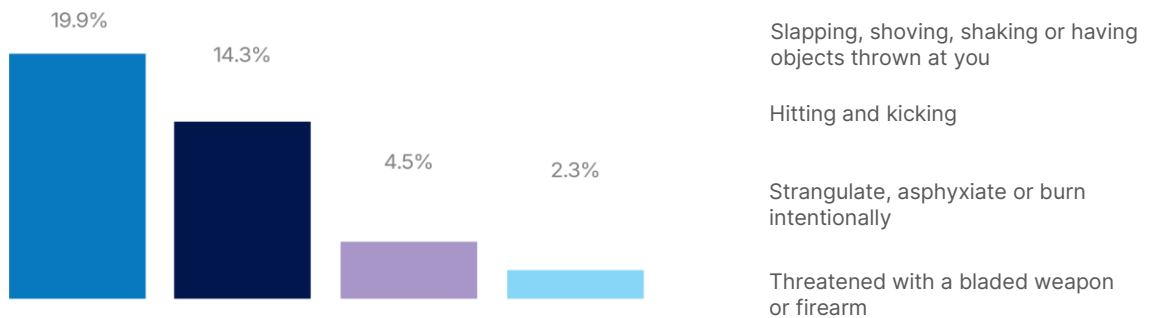
CHART 5. PREVALENCE OF PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ADOLESCENTS



Physical Violence

Throughout the country, the prevalence of physical violence against the adolescent population aged 13 to 17 is 25.3%: this percentage represents having experienced any of the physical violence behaviors detailed in Chart 6 at some point in their life. Slapping, shoving, shaking or having objects thrown at them are the most prevalent physical violence behaviors.

CHART 6. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BEHAVIORS EXPERIENCED BY ADOLESCENTS AGED 13-17 IN THEIR LIFETIME



In the 12 months prior to the survey, the prevalence of physical violence reached 5.69%: this percentage reflects having experienced any of the four physical violence behaviors mentioned in that period of time. Additionally, 42.5% of adolescents aged 13-17 who experienced physical violence at some point in their life have experienced it more than once.

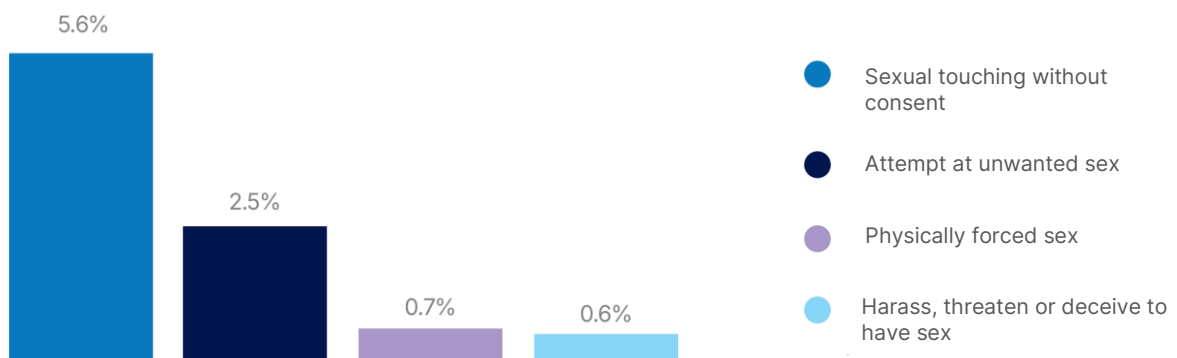
Regarding the first time they experienced that violence, 59.1% was 13 years or younger and 35% were 14 to 17 years old. Also, according to 77.5% of adolescents aged 13 to 17 the last time they experienced it was by a person known and close to them. Aggressors that were known and close to the victim, 59% were friends, neighbors, classmates or teachers, while 16% were family members and 2% were partners or former partners. Consequently, physical violence against adolescents occurs mainly in public spaces (66.6%), especially in places such as sports fields, outdoors or other nature settings, or in the bus.

Likewise, adolescent boys and girls aged 13 to 17 stated that in the last violence incident experienced, 14.3% of the aggressors had been under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and 23.8% had behaviors, incidents, or actions that disturbed the social order in the community, i.e., caused harm to other people in the streets, homes or businesses.

Sexual Violence

Throughout the country, the prevalence of sexual violence against the adolescent boys and girls aged 13 to 17 is 6.6%: this percentage represents ever having experienced any of the four sexual violence behaviors detailed in Chart 7. As evidenced in this study, non-consensual sexual groping is the prevalent sexual violence behavior.

CHART 7. SEXUAL VIOLENCE BEHAVIORS EXPERIENCED BY ADOLESCENTS AGED 13-17 IN THEIR LIFETIME



In the 12 months prior to the survey, prevalence of sexual violence was 1.89%: this includes having experienced any of the sexual violence behaviors mentioned during that period. Almost half of the adolescent population aged 13-17 that has experienced sexual violence at one point in their life (48.4%) states that they experienced it more than once. Regarding the first time they experienced this violence, 61.9% were 13 years old or young.

Additionally, adolescent boys and girls aged 13 to 17 stated that in the last sexual violence experienced, 22.2% of the aggressors were under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and 17.9% had incidents, behaviors or actions that disturbed the order in the community (causing harm to others on the street, homes or businesses).

Additionally, according to 48.9% of adolescent boys and girls aged 13 to 17 that have experienced sexual violence, the last experience was by a person known and close to the victim. Out of 100 aggressors that are close and known to the victim, 25 were friends, neighbors, classmates or teachers, while 14 were family members, and 10 were partners or former partners. Sexual violence experienced by adolescents aged 13 to 17 occurs in private spaces (home of the aggressor or other people's homes) and in public spaces (outdoors, sports fields, bus, hotel elsewhere), with no significant differences between the two spaces.

Overlap of physical and sexual violence

When a person experiences a physical violence incident, they do not necessarily experience sexual violence too, or vice versa. However, 3.93% of adolescent boys and girls aged 13 to 17 have experienced the overlap of violence in their lifetime, i.e., a same person has experienced more than one type of violence.

Reliance of the population on the Justice System

Reliance on the Justice System

Key findings

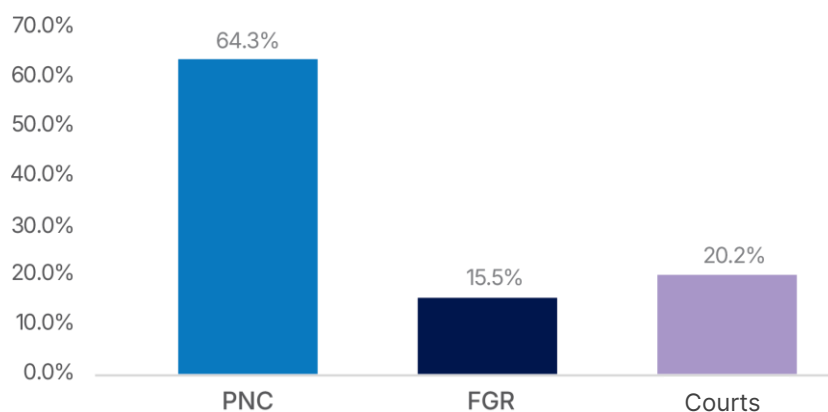
- In the 12 months prior to the survey, 26.8% of adult women and 14.7% of adolescents aged 13 to 17 formally reported in the justice system the violence they experienced.
- The National Civilian Police (PNC) was the main institution where victims filed complaints: approximately 5 of every 10 complaints. On the other hand, only 1 out of 10 victims chose to file a complaint in a court.

- Almost half of the persons that filed complaints were satisfied with what they received after reporting. The main reason for their satisfaction was said to be the protection offered by the system. Other key reasons included ease to file a complaint and the consequences faced by the aggressor as a result of the process.
- In the case of adolescents aged 13-17 who experienced physical violence, 37.5% stated being satisfied or very satisfied with what they received after they filed a complaint.
- Adult women (38.9%) and 53.6% of adolescents aged 13 to 17 who filed complaints before the Justice System remained throughout the justice proceedings. Most of the persons that abandoned their cases, did so right after filing a complaint.
- Communities emerge as those who have the most power to link the population that has suffered violence with the Justice System, as 9 out of every 10 persons that reported physical or sexual violence incidents before the Justice System also told someone in their community what was happening: 86.4% of adult women and 76.8% of adolescents aged 13-17.

Complaints Filed in Justice System Institutions

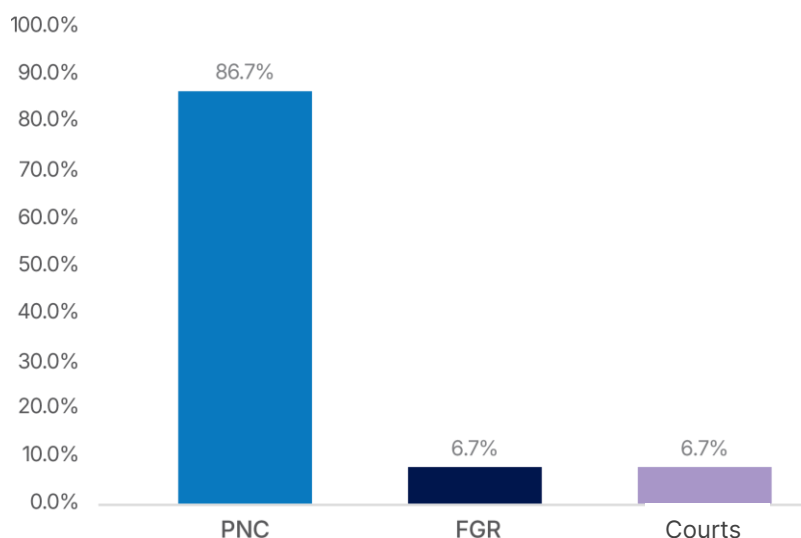
Adult women report physical or sexual violence at low rates in Justice System institutions: only 26.85% had formally reported said violence one year prior to the survey. Victims of physical violence prioritized the National Civilian Police (PNC) and courts to report, while 100% of the sexual violence cases were reported in the PNC (Chart 8 shows the percentage distribution for complaints filed in each entity).

CHART 8. JUSTICE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS WHERE ADULT WOMEN REPORTED THE VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED



Even when the rate of complaints by adult women is limited, it is even lower for adolescent boys and girls aged 13-17. In this segment, only 14.7% of victims in the 12 months prior to the survey reported the violence experienced before Justice System institutions. The PNC was the entity that adolescent boys and girls turned to the most (see Chart 9).

CHART 9. JUSTICE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS WHERE ADOLESCENT POPULATION AGED 13-17 REPORTED THE VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED



Level of Satisfaction with the Results After Filing a Complaint

Half of the persons that reported having experienced physical or sexual violence at some point in their life were satisfied with what they received after filing a complaint (see Table 3). According to the qualitative data collected, survivors stated this satisfaction is connected especially to the adequate response from the authorities in preventing violence from recurring, as well as to the existence of consequences for aggressors.

TABLE 3. LEVEL OF SATISFACTION AFTER REPORTING VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED IN THEIR LIFETIME

Level	Physical Violence				Sexual Violence			
	n		%		n		%	
	Women	BGA	Women	BGA	Women	BGA	Women	BGA
Satisfied	48	6	51.06%	37.50%	11	2	47.83%	66.67%
Unsatisfied	46	10	48.94%	62.50%	12	1	52.17%	33.33%
Total	94	16	100.00%	100.00%	23	3	100.00%	100.00%

Permanence and Abandonment of Action in Justice Proceedings

Regarding those that made a formal complaint of the violence experienced before Justice System institutions in the 12 months prior to the survey, 38.9% of the adult women and 53.6% of adolescent boys and girls aged 13-17 remained in the process and participated in the different procedural stages.

Violence Reports Filed in Institutions Other than the Justice System

Institutions dedicated to providing care can support the population that has experienced violence to turn to the system in such a way that, for example, a violence report can later become a complaint before the competent authorities. However, the survey shows that reliance on institutions outside the Justice System is low for both local public or private organizations, as only 0.18% of adult women and 3% of adolescent boys and girls aged 13 to 17 shared the violence experienced in entities external to the Justice System. This reality would not necessarily be a problem if the percentage of complaints filed in the Justice System institutions was high. However, given the opposite is true, if justice institutions worked more closely with local organizations, this proximity could contribute to increase the number of persons that formally file a complaint of violence.

Community Reliance

Communities emerge as those who have the most power to link the persons that have suffered violence with the Justice System, as they are the first ones to find out when violence is reported. In the case of adult women, 87.2% and 9 out of 10 adolescents aged 13 to 17 who filed complaints due to physical or sexual violence before the Justice System also told someone in their community what has happened. This means that when victims and survivors find strength in their community the likelihood of initiating a justice process increases significantly (tripled in the case of women and adolescents). Concerning the population victimized in the 12 months prior to the survey, 86.4% of adult women and 76.8% of adolescent boys and girls aged 13-17 shared with someone in their community that they had experienced an event of physical or sexual violence. These victims resort mainly to family members (see Annex 4).

Among the reasons that prevent victims and survivors from reporting physical or sexual violence experienced in their lifetime, the ones that stand out are fear, pressure, and threats, as well as believing that violence is not a problem, i.e., normalizing violence. Other reasons discouraging people from filing formal complaints include unawareness of the process; shame (their own or for their families); gaps including economic, access, time, health or legal status; distrust in the institutions (see Annex 5).

Care Services Received

Only 3 in 10 survivor women and adolescents aged 13-17 who experienced physical violence in the 12 months prior to the survey received care or restorative services, i.e., services that helped them reduce their vulnerability to being victimized again. This ratio is reduced in the case of adult women survivors of sexual violence (only 1 in 10 received these services) and it improves slightly for adolescents aged 13 to 17, as 4 in 10 received some type of service.

CHART 10. AFTERCARE SERVICES RECEIVED AFTER VICTIMIZATION (2022)

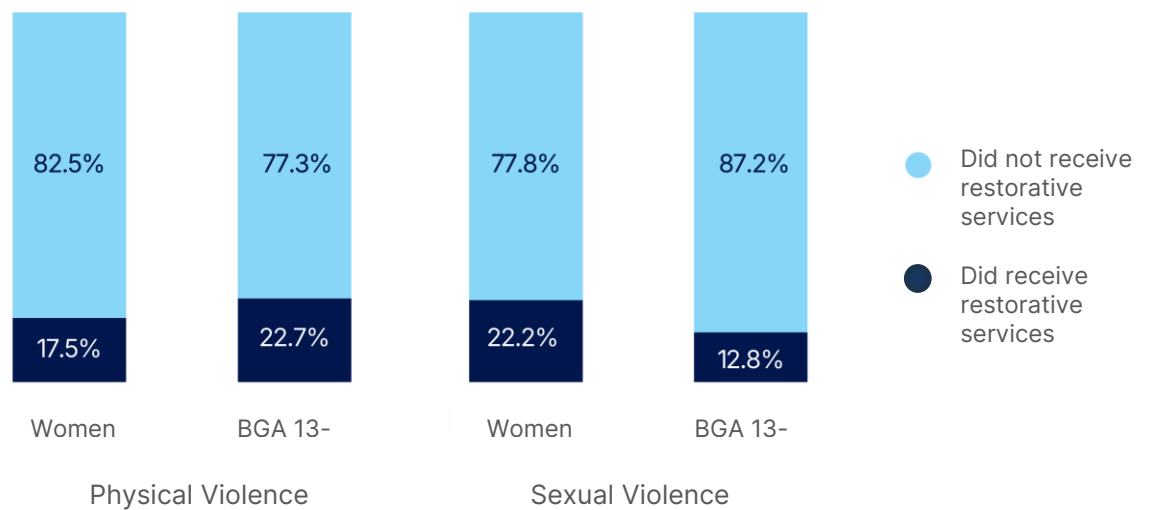


Table 4 shows the types of care services provided and how they were distributed among adult women and adolescents according to the type of violence experienced (provided by the police, prosecution, staff in courts, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or local authorities). When aftercare services are identified after a victimization that have the most potential to reduce vulnerability, the possibility opens up to implement *ad hoc* community projects both by government organizations and institutions, as well as by individual professionals.

TABLE 4. AFTERCARE SERVICES RECEIVED AFTER EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME

Services Received	Physical Violence				Sexual Violence			
	n		%		n		%	
	Women	BGA	Women	BGA	Women	BGA	Women	BGA
Support with protection and security	17	15	17.00%	12.93%	10	20	16.13%	21.28%
Psychological support/ Mental wellbeing	9	35	9.00%	30.17%	14	24	22.58%	25.53%
Social or community support	29	26	29.00%	22.41%	20	24	32.26%	25.53%
Support to remain in safe housing and be risk free	6	3	6.00%	2.59%	4		6.45%	0.00%
Legal support to access the Justice System	8	11	8.00%	9.48%	3	6	4.84%	6.38%
Access to medical services and health needs	21	13	21.00%	11.21%	6	7	9.68%	7.45%
Financial support and Education	10	13	10.00%	11.21%	5	13	8.06%	13.83%
Total	100	116	100.00%	100.00%	62	94	100.00%	100.00%

Opportunities for Survivor Leadership

Survivors are a transforming, advocacy force in their communities and society. These movements advocate and raise awareness in authorities and justice institutions to, on the one hand, dignify survivors and on the other, prioritize their needs for crisis care services, restoration, and empowerment. The survey asked 465 survivors if, with the proper accompaniment, they would be interested in participating in a movement to influence their community. A 53.5% expressed their interest in being a part of these movements, receiving training to share their own stories, and raising awareness; 42.4% stated not being interested due to work or time reasons, and 4.1% did not respond (see Table 5).

TABLE 5. REASONS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN
A SURVIVOR MOVEMENT

Reasons	N	%
Do not trust institutions or persons	11	6.1%
Not appealing/Not interested	19	10.5%
Does not feel capable	10	5.5%
Does not have time; work-related	79	43.6%
No relevant experiences to share/Does not have experience in supporting other persons	8	4.4%
Does not like to participate in these types of groups	23	12.7%
Other reasons	31	17.1%
Grand Total	181	100.0%

The fact that 5 in 10 survivors wants to be a part of an advocacy movement bears testimony of the strong desire for change in the Justice Systems and in the communities. Advocacy, from an empathy standpoint, makes a call to different stakeholders so that others will not have to experience violence.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 04

Current State of Protection in Violence Against Women and Adolescents

The normalization of violence is crucial when seeking to analyze prevalence and reliance in the cases of violence against women and adolescents, because these violent actions are often seen as normal and not reported before PJS institutions. However, it is not acceptable that in El Salvador, in 2022, 4 out of every 10 adult women have experienced physical or sexual violence at some point in their life (38%). This number surpasses global estimates stating that 30% of women have experienced physical or sexual violence from third parties at some point in their life (WHO, 2021).

In El Salvador, physical or sexual violence against adult women is a current problem and one that demands intervention. In the country 67 out of every 100 women have experienced some type of aggression in the 12 months prior to the survey. The analysis of the data per type of violence shows that 5.7% of women had suffered physical violence and 11.3%, sexual violence in that period of time (DIGESTYC, 2018).

Likewise, the *Survey on Violence Against Boys, Girls and Adolescents* conducted in 2017, shows that 6.6% of women and 2.7% of men ages 13-17 had experienced sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. In the case of women, 2.5% had experienced attempts at unwanted sex. Among the young persons that had experienced sexual violence, 2 out of 3 women (67.9%) and men (67.8%) had experienced more than one incident. Regarding the average age in which they experienced sexual violence for the first time, women were 14.2 years old and men were 14 years old. On the other hand, 1 in every 10 women (11.8%) and men (10.5%) aged 13-17 had experienced physical violence. Almost all, women (97.8%) and men (97.2%), stated that the first incidents had occurred when they were 12 to 17 years old (DIGESTYC, 2019).

Violence has negative consequences in the lives of persons, families, and communities. After considering these implications, the INSPIRE initiative was created by the Panamerican Health Organization, which proposes several strategies to bring violence against children and adolescents to an end (PAHO, 2017; WHO, 2022). The validity and relevance of the findings in this study can be appreciated when contrasted with these strategies.

- Implementing and Monitoring Compliance with Legislation. Even with the current legislation, it is a challenge to comply with the law due to institutional weakness (Forbes, 2019). In this sense, the findings in this study put the following three challenges into perspective:
 - a) The Special Comprehensive Law for a Life Free from Violence (*Ley Especial Integral para una Vida Libre de Violencia*) states in Article 25 the creation of Institutional Units for Specialized Care for Women, to provide comprehensive services in hygienic conditions, with privacy, quality and attentive care, and prioritizing care in crisis, as well as to advise and inform them of their rights, protection measures and safety, and of the emergency and shelter services available. However, only 3 out of 10 survivors of violence received these types of services.

- b) In 2018, the UN's Committee on the Rights of the Child made recommendations to El Salvador on legislative enhancements regarding the rights of adolescent boys and girls. Thus, the Law for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (*Ley de Protección Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia*) was replaced by the law Growing Together for the Comprehensive Protection of Early Childhood, Children, and Adolescents (*Ley Crecer Juntos para la Protección Integral de la Primera Infancia, Niñez y Adolescencia*). This poses several challenges in the protection of adolescents because this law created an institutional structure that requires material and economic resources, and sufficient human resources to enforce the law.
- Shifts in Social Norms and Values. This study revealed that 16% of adult women and 39% of adolescent boys and girls aged 13 to 17 did not believe it was a problem to experience physical violence behaviors. In addition to fear, the normalization of violence is the most significant reason to silence physical and sexual violence.
 - The Role of Parents and Caregivers. This principle can be expanded to the role played by other relatives and persons close to them from the community in the support and accompaniment victims, adult women or adolescents (which can also apply to children). For example, 9 of the 10 persons that filed complaints of the physical or sexual violence experienced before the Justice System had also told someone in their community about those violent actions.
 - Education and Practical Skills. In El Salvador, the law Growing Together for the Comprehensive Protection of Early Childhood, Children, and Adolescents (*Ley Crecer Juntos para la Protección Integral de la Primera Infancia, Niñez y Adolescencia*), Article 21 f, states that all girls, boys, and adolescents have the right to enjoy comprehensive health, education, and protection services. However, this study helped identify that only 3 out of every 10 adult women have continued with their education until the completion of high school. This lag complicates protection vis-à-vis violence, since access to information is far more limited and there are less spaces for reflection.

Practical skills and abilities for life are necessary in education curricula, as much as practical knowledge, to ensure violence prevention (UNICEF, 2017), especially if their purpose is to equip and empower women and adolescents in their search for opportunities and one of those opportunities is a life free from violence.

Opportunities for Capacity Building in Public Justice System Institutions

Criminal justice and law enforcement are integral components in the institutional response to violence against women and adolescents -an answer that usually lacks proper funding. The evidence in this study identified several areas for capacity building in the PJS:

- A. Taking and managing the complaint.** The study shows the importance of the first interaction between victims and the Justice System and how the degree of satisfaction with what was received after filing a complaint determines whether or not they remain in the case. In this sense, the Justice System can:
1. Inform the population about the existing complaint channels and how to use them. There is much willingness to report violence and to remain in the justice proceedings which then crashes against the reality of unfamiliarity and confusion on how to proceed and adopt measures. Equipping the population with the knowledge on what to do and where to go is a key first step.
 2. Expand the availability of complaint channels to allow access for the population. This implies facilitating access of the population to the Justice System through the means that are most convenient to them, according to their particular circumstances and needs, and with cultural awareness.
 3. Interconnect complaint-taking channels to the institutions taking complaints. If these channels are connected at some point, the process will advance faster and more efficiently, which is beneficial to survivors and prevents unjustifiable fatigue.
 4. Set standards to elevate the quality of the complaint-taking process. If Justice System institutions establish a common standard to ensure the complaint contains the minimum necessary information, the odds of the case moving forward will improve and unnecessary dissatisfaction in survivors can be avoided.
 5. Expand coordination with organizations and institutions supporting the complaint process. Those accompanying the victims can improve the experience of victims and survivors in the process. It is strategic that Justice System institutions establish close relationships with these companions, as this expands the likelihood of satisfaction, of aftercare services after filing a complaint, and the permanence in the justice process.
- B. Provide immediate protection to victims of violence to avoid a new victimization.**
1. Establish efficient methodologies to assess risk in order to prioritize the services needed for each victim. Justice System officials have heavy workloads which makes it difficult to act in a timely manner. Effective mechanisms to address this problem include case prioritization, based on a standardized measurement of risk for victims and survivors which contributes to determining the protection measures that must be adopted to allow the most efficient management of the different steps involved in a case. This will increase the perception of protection.
 2. Strengthen case referral networks to provide victim-centered services. A safe environment is just the first step to reduce the likelihood of experiencing violence again, because survivors are faced with fear, rejection, shame, lack on income, unfamiliarity with the process, and the need for legal protection, among others. Referral networks imply going one step further, as they have the real and effective capability of reducing the likelihood of experiencing violence again by providing direct restoration services. Institutions can improve community engagement to increase the chance that a person will not be victimized again.

3. Strengthen the police to focalize monitoring of protection measures. The presence of the police sends a deterrent message which, with a strategic approach, must prioritize the risk level of victims and survivors. The implementation of this monitoring requires strengthened data management (Sechrist et al., 2016), to allow the police to be informed at all times of their priorities but also of the results of their operations with the purpose of continuous learning and improvement. Monitoring should also include feedback from survivors as the beneficiaries of the protection services.

In El Salvador, urban and rural police teams have the authority to carry out visits to aggressors immediately after the protection measure is served and its receipt is recorded. This power contributes to the deterrence approach.

C. Manage cases efficiently until their resolution

1. Strengthen interinstitutional coordination mechanisms. The goal is to better articulate efforts between institutions, reduce the duplication of work among these same institutions, and increase the overall quality of the process, especially in those things that fatigue victims and survivors, and to shorten response times.
2. Strengthen communication mechanisms with survivors on the progress of their case. Justice processes have set procedural times that must be followed, any effort by the authorities to allow survivors to know where they are in the process and the next steps is valuable to the survivors. Thus, communication is crucial to foster clarity and certainty in the process and with it, maximize satisfaction and the possibilities of collaboration and permanence in the justice processes.

D. Survivor dignification

1. Implement and monitor trauma-informed and restoration care for survivors. Providing direct care services can and must have the common goal of reducing the vulnerability to re-experiencing violence. This means implementing a methodology to help determine the level of vulnerability to violence of an individual and, based on this, plan the services each individual requires to function in a society with a low risk of experiencing violence again.

Measuring this vulnerability can be a shared objective to allow its reduction by different institutions, referral networks, and communities. Another common goal could be to ensure victims receive quality and attentive care in the Justice System, which implies the official must implement a trauma-informed approach to trauma.

E. Approach and communication with the population to change the narrative

1. Approach the population to change cultural narratives. Communication and proximity with the population can allow the Justice System to convey the message that it values the life of women and adolescents; that the laws that protect them are real, and that the State wants to address the acts of violence against them. Because survivors have a credible and influential voice, it is strategic to link them to organized survivor movements to change cultural narratives and strengthen real reliance on the justice system. Thus, 5 out of 10 adult survivors are interested in being in an advocacy movement to eradicate violence in the communities and, also, for the Justice System to dignify survivors by prioritizing their needs.

2. Communicate performance effectively. Drawing attention to the performance of the Justice System sends a deterrence message, as it tells the community (as well as the potential criminals) that there is a cost for those who transgress the law. It is strategic to join with the media and social networks, because it can change the perception of trust of key stakeholders, especially those related to the effectiveness of the system to deter violence and reduce prevalence. Additionally, if communication on performance is accompanied by information and practical tools to report, it can improve the real reliance indicators on the Justice System.

Opportunities for Community Engagement

The community is the first to learn about violence reports. At least 9 in 10 of those that have reported physical or sexual violence to the Justice System have also spoken to someone in their community about the violence situation. Given this reality, the community has the opportunity of equipping itself to overcome the obstacles faced by women and adolescents, especially when the perpetrator is known and close to the victim (as is often the case). However, there are few persons in the municipalities to accompany the victims.

Access to the Justice System, legal protection and safe places, dignified care and financial security are, among others, the services that survivors look for in their path to the Justice System. Communities also have the opportunity of changing the cultural narrative to make violence not normal.

They can identify early on the risk behaviors against women and adolescents and ensure there are connections with Justice System institutions responsible for taking complaints, to educate them on how to address these behaviors, and prevent them from scaling.

Opportunities for Survivor Leadership

Communities and Justice System institutions can create safe spaces where women and adolescents can express their opinions and concerns and create networks. These spaces can contribute to the reduction of stigmatization, the normalization of violence, gender inequality and the perpetuation of silence and impunity.

Women advocacy groups can change social norms and lead to reforms that contribute to the reduction of violence (Ellsberg et al., 2020). Survivor voices can, with the proper accompaniment, influence government strategies and make a call to action in the Government and key organizations to generate change and to improve the Justice System's performance.

In fact, 5 in 10 adult survivors are interested in being a part of a movement that works for advocacy to eradicate violence in the communities and, also, for the Justice System to dignify survivors by prioritizing their needs. These movements can shift perceptions to help communities connect with the Justice System and vice versa, to change the cultural narrative, and to strengthen local trust in the Justice System.

Opportunities for Data and Technology to Improve

Accountability, Drive Decision-making and Sustain Policy Reforms and Procedures

The study has verified that survivors have reasons to not file complaints and these can be seen as opportunities to improve the Justice System. The following opportunities stand out:

- Expand availability of channels to file complaints to facilitate access to the population. These channels can be expanded virtually.
- Strengthen the flow of information for protection measures, especially between the Justice System and the police until they are served and the aggressor is contained; this will streamline the process and provide a swifter response.
- Reinforce the flow of communication with the population using the proper processes.



REFERENCES AND ANNEXES

Section 05

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Annexes

ANNEX 1. ELEMENTS IN THE STUDY METHODOLOGY

1.1. LQAS TABLES

<https://internationaljusticem.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/LatinAmerica/MERL%20%20LATAM/L.%20DASHBOARDS%20Y%20PAQUETES%20DE%20INFORMACION/Paquete%20de%20informaci%C3%B3n%20linea%20base%20ESA/1.%20Tablas%20LQAS?csf=1&web=1&e=BSJdrf>

1.2. POPULATION INDEXES

<https://internationaljusticem.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/LatinAmerica/MERL%20%20LATAM/L.%20DASHBOARDS%20Y%20PAQUETES%20DE%20INFORMACION/Paquete%20de%20informaci%C3%B3n%20linea%20base%20ESA/2.%20Estimaciones%20poblacionales?csf=1&web=1&e=BmfyNE>

1.3. MUNICIPAL INDICATORS

<https://internationaljusticem.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/LatinAmerica/MERL%20%20LATAM/L.%20DASHBOARDS%20Y%20PAQUETES%20DE%20INFORMACION/Paquete%20de%20informaci%C3%B3n%20linea%20base%20ESA/3.%20Estimaciones%20Puntuales?csf=1&web=1&e=7suHyu>

1.4. QUESTIONNAIRES

<https://internationaljusticem.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/LatinAmerica/MERL%20%20LATAM/L.%20DASHBOARDS%20Y%20PAQUETES%20DE%20INFORMACION/Paquete%20de%20informaci%C3%B3n%20linea%20base%20ESA/4.%20Cuestionarios?csf=1&web=1&e=BVit8U>

1.5. INFORMED CONSENTS

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1.6. STATISTICAL TESTS

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1.7. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF VARIABLES

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ANNEX 2. SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES

Zone	Municipality	Population of women 18 years of age or older ¹	BGA Population aged 13-17 ¹	Poverty % (2015) ²	Victims of violence (2021) ³
Western	Ahuachapán	35,493	12,203	52.7%	360
Western	Juayúa	7,882	2,747	41.5%	33
Western	Santa Ana	84,905	24,636	35.4%	685
Central	Tejutla	4,039	1,825	33.2%	17
Central	Cojutepeque	17,158	5,559	44.7%	158
Central	Cuscatancingo	23,284	6,728	18.6%	93
Central	Ilobasco	17,827	8,528	44.1%	170
Central	La Libertad	10,837	4,289	33.5%	113
Central	Mejicanos	53,439	13,085	18.6%	273
Central	Sacacoyo	3,861	1,337	33.5%	22
Central	Santa Tecla	47,052	11,700	33.5%	427
Central	Tepecoyo	4,209	1,645	33.5%	8
Eastern	Chapeltique	3,437	1,361	38.3%	25
Eastern	Chinameca	7,379	2,302	38.3%	35
Eastern	San Miguel	75,611	22,722	38.3%	779
Total		396,413	120,667	34.90%	3,198

1. Estimates and forecasts for population - both sexes, by calendar year and simple age (DIGESTYC, 2021).

2. Multidimensional Poverty (UNICEF, 2015).

3. Data on victims of violence found in ISDEMU (2021).

ANNEX 3. SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

Characteristics	n	%	n	%
Sex		Women 18+ (N=1,350)		Adolescents (N=1,350)
Male	-	-	568	(42.07%)
Female	1,350	(100.00%)	782	(57.92%)
Age		Women 18+ (N=1,350)		Adolescents (N=1,350)
Women, 13-14 years old	-	-	360	(26.67%)
Women, 15-17 years old	-	-	422	(31.26%)
Women, 18-24 years old	256	(18.98%)	-	-
Women, 25-49 years old	730	(54.11%)	-	-
Women, 50 years old or older	363	(26.91%)	-	-
Hombres, 13-14 years old	-	-	276	(20.44%)
Hombres, 15-17 years old	-	-	292	(21.63%)
Migration: Have you lived abroad?		Women 18+ (N=1,530)		Adolescents (N=1,529)
Yes	98	(7.25%)	32	(2.37%)
No	1,252	(92.74%)	1,318	(97.62%)
Migration: Where have you lived abroad?		Women 18+ (N=98)		Adolescents (N=32)
In Canada	1	(1.03%)	1	(3.22%)
In El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras	36	(37.11%)	11	(35.48%)
In the United States of America	31	(31.95%)	6	(19.35%)
In Mexico	4	(4.12%)	8	(25.80%)
In other countries not included in the above	25	(25.77%)	5	(16.12%)
Does not know/Does not respond	1	(1.03%)	1	(3.22%)
Migration: What were the main reasons for going abroad?		Women 18+ (N=96)		Adolescents (N=28)
Due to violence	2	(2.08%)	1	(3.57%)
Due to financial reasons	35	(36.45%)	4	(14.28%)
Other	22	(61.45%)	22	(82.14%)

Characteristics	n	%	n	%
Literacy level		Women 18+ (N=1,346)		Adolescents (N=1,347)
Preschool/Kindergarten/Early Education	23	(1.70%)	2	(0.14%)
Elementary (1.º-6.º)	302	(22.43%)	225	(16.70%)
Middle School/Secondary (7.º-9.º)	288	(21.39%)	798	(59.24%)
High School/Vocational (10.º-3.º)	429	(31.87%)	304	(22.56%)
Technical	33	(2.45%)	11	(0.81%)
Higher education or University	164	(12.18%)	4	(0.29%)
Postgraduate/Masters	5	(0.37%)		
None	102	(7.57%)	3	(0.22%)
Are you currently studying?		Women 18+ (N=1,350)		Adolescents (N=1,350)
Yes	124	(9.18%)	1,194	(88.44%)
No	1,226	(90.81%)	156	(11.55%)
Reasons why you do not attend school		Women 18+ (N=1,226)		Adolescents (N=156)
Lack of money or support to attend	246	(20.06%)	17	(10.89%)
Need to prioritize work	228	(18.59%)	18	(11.53%)
Lack of motivation to study	130	(10.60%)	40	(25.64%)
Other reasons	622	(50.73%)	81	(51.92%)
Have you ever had a sentimental partner		Women 18+ (N=1,108)		Adolescents (N=170)
Women, 13-14 years old	-	-	11	(6.47%)
Women, 15-17 years old	-	-	74	(43.53%)
Women, 18-24 years old	156	(14.08%)	-	-
Women, 25-49 years old	633	(57.13%)	-	-
Women, 50 years old or older	319	(28.79%)	-	-
Men, 13-14 years old	-	-	22	(12.94%)
Men, 15-17 years old	-	-	63	(37.06%)

Characteristics	n	%	n	%
Are you still with your sentimental partner		Women 18+ (N=747)		Adolescents (N=44)
Women, 13-14 years old	-	-	3	(6.82%)
Women, 15-17 years old	-	-	22	(50.00%)
Women, 18-24 years old	110	(14.73%)	-	-
Women, 25-49 years old	473	(63.32%)	-	-
Women, 50 years old or older	164	(21.95%)	-	-
Men, 13-14 years old	-	-	4	(9.09%)
Men, 15-17 years old	-	-	15	(34.09%)
Civil Status		Women 18+ (N=1,350)		Adolescents (N=1,350)
Single	482	(35.70%)	1,260	(93.33%)
Married	446	(33.03%)	2	(0.14%)
Common-law Marriage	336	(24.88%)	30	(2.22%)
Widow/Widower	47	(3.48%)	1	(0.07%)
Separated	14	(1.03%)	2	(0.14%)
Divorced	17	(1.25%)	-	-
Does not know/Does not respond	8	(0.59%)	55	(4.07%)
Initiated sexual relations		Women 18+ (N=1,211)		Adolescents (N=138)
Women, 13-14 years old	-	-	8	(5.80%)
Women, 15-17 years old	-	-	70	(50.72%)
Women, 18-24 years old	185	(14.73%)	-	-
Women, 25-49 years old	690	(63.32%)	-	-
Women, 50 years old or older	336	(21.95%)	-	-
Men, 13-14 years old	-	-	8	(5.80%)
Men, 15-17 years old	-	-	52	(37.68%)

Characteristics	n	%	n	%
Initiated consensual sexual relations			Women 18+ (N=1,145)	Adolescents (N=134)
Women, 13-14 years old	-	-	7	(5.22%)
Women, 15-17 years old	-	-	69	(51.49%)
Women, 18-24 years old	110	(14.73%)	-	-
Women, 25-49 years old	473	(63.32%)	-	-
Women, 50 years old or older	164	(21.95%)	-	-
Men, 13-14 years old	-	-	7	(5.22%)
Men, 15-17 years old	-	-	51	(38.06%)
Any disability			Women 18+ (N=1,346)	Adolescents (N=1,333)
Yes	135	(10.02%)	68	(5.10%)
No	1,211	(89.97%)	1,265	(94.89%)
With access to internet			Women 18+ (N=1,349)	Adolescents (N=1,348)
Yes	981	(72.72%)	1,102	(81.75%)
No	368	(27.27%)	246	(18.24%)

ANNEX 4. COMMUNITY RELIANCE BY STAKEHOLDER (2022)

Who did you confide in?	Physical Violence				Sexual Violence			
	n		%		n		%	
	Women	BGA	Women	BGA	Women	BGA	Women	BGA
Family members	30	42	79.0%	80.7%	7	12	53.8%	75.0%
Persons close to me (not family related)	4	8	10.5%	15.4%	3	2	23.1%	12.5%
Other	4	2	10.5%	3.9%	3	2	23.1%	12.5%
All	38	52	100.0%	100.0%	13	16	100.0%	100.0%

ANNEX 5. REASONS FOR NOT REPORTING THE VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED (2022)

Reasons for not reporting the violence experienced at one point in life	Physical Violence				Sexual Violence			
	n		%		n		%	
	Women	BGA	Women	BGA	Women	BGA	Women	BGA
Fear, pressure, threats	118	88	42.60%	36.36%	51	25	54.26%	55.56%
Did not believe it was a problem	64	109	23.10%	45.04%	14	11	14.89%	24.44%
Unaware of the process	38	11	13.72%	4.55%	12	2	12.77%	4.44%
Distrust in the institutions	8	4	2.89%	1.65%	2		2.13%	0.00%
Gaps including financial, access, time, health or legal status	9	8	3.25%	3.31%	4	1	4.26%	2.22%
Shame, either personal or for the family	16	14	5.78%	5.79%	6	4	6.38%	8.89%
Other reasons	24	8	8.66%	3.31%	5	2	5.32%	4.44%
Total	277	242	100.00%	100.00%	94	45	100.00%	100.00%



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