Executive Summary

REPORTING AND REGISTERING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SÃO PAULO AND BOGOTÁ:

A Data-Driven Model

November 2021

Unidas

DATA-POP ALLIANCE

Unidas is a network of women from Latin America, the Caribbean and Germany fighting for equal opportunities for women and men as part of the Latin America and Caribbean Initiative of the Federal Foreign Office under the patronage of Foreign Minister Heiko Maas. Founded on May 28th, 2019, the network's mission is to support women's rights and equality movements as a driving force in tackling discrimination. Unidas wants to strengthen women's participation in politics, culture, the media, society, business and academia. The role of women as peacekeepers who strive to counter violence and foster peaceful coexistence is an additional important element of the network.

Website: www.unidas.world.

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Data-Pop Alliance (DPA) is a collaborative laboratory created by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, MIT Connection Science, and Overseas Development Institute. We bring together researchers, experts, practitioners, and activists to change the world with data through three pillars of work: **diagnosing** local realities and human problems with data and AI; **mobilizing** capacities, communities, and ideas towards more data literate societies; and **transforming** the systems and processes that underpin our societies and countries. In 2016, Flowminder Foundation joined as the fourth Core Member.

Through an intersectional, feminist and LGBTQI+ inclusive approach, **Data-Pop Alliance** advocates for gender equality through institutional and national gender diagnosis; gender data trainings; and advanced gender-based violence data modelling. In recent years, Data-Pop Alliance has developed several projects with international actors and stakeholders that aim to strengthen data ecosystems and insight to fight gender inequalities and disparities globally.

Website: https://datapopalliance.org

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1.1. Violence Against Women and Girls: What Does the Data Say?

Despite growing concern for and progress toward achieving gender equality and protection of women's right to live free from violence, statistics on violence against women and girls (VAWG) are ever more alarming. Around 30% of women worldwide have been subjected to intimate partner violence (IPV) or sexual violence.[1] Strikingly, a large share of abuses and murders are perpetrated by intimate partners or family members. Specifically, about 27% of women aged 15-49 years who have been in a relationship report having been subjected to some form of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner, while an estimated 38% of women's murders worldwide are perpetrated by an intimate partner.[2] In light of these startling figures and far-reaching consequences of this public health and human rights crisis, eradicating VAWG is high on the agenda of policymakers, practitioners, feminists, and human rights groups.

The situation in Latin America is particularly acute; the region has the world's highest rate of sexual violence by non-partners and the second-highest rate of violence by partners or ex-partners.[3] Moreover, Latin America has a devastatingly high rate of femicide, with 4,640 cases registered by the Gender Equality Observatory in 2019 across 24 countries in the region.[4] Despite significant advances toward the establishment of norms to combat VAWG and femicide at the national level, this deadly phenomenon remains a problem of regional magnitude.

Compared with their neighbors, Colombia and Brazil stand out as having two of the most advanced legislative frameworks for combating domestic and intrafamilial violence, including femicide. However, the staggering number of cases of VAWG persists; policies and assistance mechanisms are not adequately implemented and are unarticulated between institutions, remaining unfamiliar to many victims.[5] In 2018, Brazil registered 263,067 domestic violence injuries and 1,206 cases of femicide, making it the country with the highest total number of femicides and fourth per 1,000 habitants in the region.[6] Furthermore, vulnerability to GBV is much more pronounced and prevalent among Black women, who not only suffer from higher rates of GBV, but also face greater obstacles to reporting such violence and accessing legal resources, in comparison with White women.[7]

While Colombia's gender-based violence (GBV) situation is very similar to that of Brazil, the country faces other aggravating factors. The decades-long armed conflict that the country has endured disproportionately affects women, whose bodies have been utilized as weapons of war.[8] According to the National Institute of Legal Medicine, 1,001 women were murdered in 2019 and, in four out of every 10 of these cases, the crime was committed by someone the victim knew. Moreover, in 39.2% of cases, the murder took place in the victim's home. It is estimated that seven out of 10 cases of intrafamilial violence in Colombia are carried out by an intimate partner (44.5%) or an ex-intimate partner (32.5%).[9]

1.2. The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated an already worrisome situation for women's and girls' safety and wellbeing. Among the additional challenges are social isolation, restricted autonomy regarding reproductive and sexual health, increased burden of household chores, unavailability of services, economic shocks leading to financial dependence, and other obstacles to escaping situations of domestic violence.[10] The increased impact on women has led the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to issue an alert that the pandemic may undo nearly a decade of progress with regard to women's participation in the workforce.[11] Additionally, women are overrepresented as frontline health workers, thus facing higher risk of COVID-19 infection. Brazilian and Colombian women represent 75.7% and 78.3% of the health workforce, respectively[12]—higher than the 70% global average.[13]

Since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic in early March 2020, international agencies, researchers and grassroots women's organizations have expressed deep concerns regarding a potential rise in VAWG.[14] Time has shown that these concerns were not misplaced; in several countries, the demand for certain emergency services has soared since the onset of the pandemic. Using preliminary data, UN Women identified a 20% to 35% increase in helpline demand in countries with differing socioeconomic characteristics, such as Argentina, France, Cyprus, and Singapore.[15]

These increases can be partly explained by stay-at-home orders, which forced women and girls to be confined at home with potential aggressors. Perpetrators were able to exert further control over their victims, restricting their access to monetary resources, executing greater surveillance of their daily activities, and cutting them off from formal and informal support networks. UN Women and other international organizations have highlighted that "mobility restrictions are expected to increase women's vulnerability to abuse and their need for protection services."[16] However, due to the suspension or reduction of key social protection services—both for resource diversion to attend to other issues of the pandemic and as result of mobility and social distancing measures—women's access to support, protection, and emergency assistance was significantly jeopardized.[17] In this context, the United Nations Population Fund estimated that the COVID-19 pandemic will likely reduce by one-third the advances made toward ending GBV.[18]

2. PROJECT PRESENTATION:

A DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH

In view of the alarming situation outlined above, this project seeks to address violence against women and girls in the domestic setting, particularly in Latin America, through the lens of two case studies: the cities of São Paulo and Bogotá. Currently, data on VAWG can be obtained from several sources, mainly via national surveys or from administrative institutions and civil society organizations that provide services allowing victims to report GBV (e.g. the police, the justice system, health services, women's shelters, etc.).[19] While the former are often considered the closest proxy to real prevalence rates, the latter have a lower cost in terms of data collection—for example, through free, open data portals—and can provide more temporal and spatial granularity than do surveys. In this sense, the importance of using data to map the incidence of phenomena such as VAWG is undeniable.

However, one of the biggest challenges in carrying out research on VAWG is the different understandings and definitions of the concept; in other words, what each country understands on what actually constitutes violence against women and girls, specifically in terms of indicators and variables used for data cataloguing (as opposed to legal definitions). Furthermore, the lack of good evidence and regularly collected data—that is reliable, representative, free of biases, and that holds a good level of coverage, complexity, and comparability—is a persistent problem in the gender data landscape.[20] It is therefore paramount to leverage available gender-disaggregated data that can give us insight into how women experience violence and how these experiences have been affected by the pandemic.

In addition to the lack of standardized conceptualization of VAWG, one of the biggest challenges in statistically understanding and evaluating the scope of VAWG in a specific context is the broad underreporting of cases. Some authors argue that reports of VAWG represent only the tip of the iceberg, as most instances of GBV go unreported. Government authorities have lamented the aggravation of underreporting parallel to the enactment of social isolation measures.

Against this backdrop, Data-Pop Alliance joined forces with the network Unidas of women from Latin America, the Caribbean and Germany, to find a data-driven solution to this deep-rooted problem. The aim was to develop an innovative approach offering actionable insights to mitigate and reduce VAWG—particularly in the domestic setting—permitting a better grasp of the problem than previously possible when relying solely on traditionally collected data such as national surveys and administrative records. To achieve this goal, the organizations decided to develop an analytical model using both traditional and non-traditional data to identify the multidimensional capabilities to report and register domestic VAWG at the locality level in Bogotá and São Paulo.

This study identified and analyzed who reports and which factors enable reporting and registering domestic violence, including COVID-19-related and other factors (personal, relational, community, institutional, and transversal). It is important to note that this project employs the term capabilities according to the concept elaborated by Amartya Sen in his homonymous capability approach framework. Sen defines capabilities as the real freedoms or opportunities, in pursuit of a worthy life, that allow individuals to be what they would like to be and to do what they would like to do.[21]

3. METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted for the creation of the analytical model is based on an iterative and mixed-methods approach. Under the quantitative component, an analytical model was developed through a two-stage process to identify the factors that influence the probability that a woman or girl who experienced domestic violence will report the case. During the first stage, administrative databases were used to measure the reported prevalence—that is, the capability to report this type of violence[22]—to gain a perspective of the total number of reported cases in each city, as well as by locality. This allowed for a comparative analysis of areas with more or fewer reports (not to be conflated with actual prevalence of VAWG). The second stage sought to measure the relationship between contextual and personal factors that increase a women's vulnerability to violence (e.g., low socio-economic status, geographic isolation etc.), taking into account underreporting, to assess the influence such factors exert on the capability to report VAWG estimated in the first stage. Other traditional data sets (e.g., national surveys) and non-traditional data sets, including Google mobility reports, were used at this stage to gather information about the risk factors associated with the capability to report and register domestic violence.

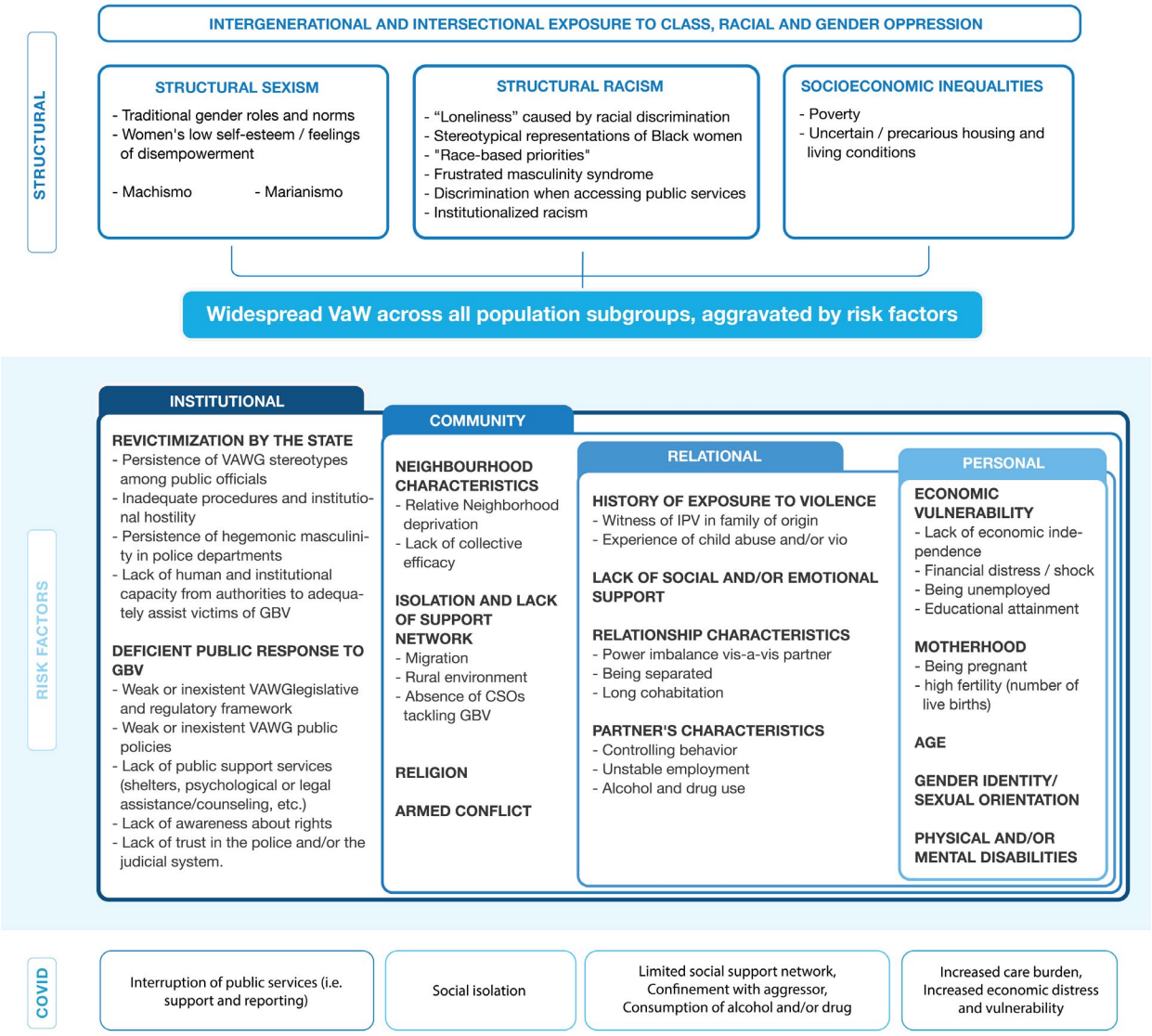
Under the qualitative component of the study, a literature review of 147 articles in English, Spanish, and Portuguese was conducted to identify risk factors that increase a women's vulnerability to domestic abuse. Given the vastness of the literature on the subject, a comprehensive model was used to ascertain and categorize the factors that affect women at different levels, and the likelihood of suffering and/or reporting VAWG. The authors used the ecological model framework to map and analyze the factors, using six categories: personal, relational, community, institutional, transversal, and COVID-19 related (see Figure 1). The ecological model was selected by virtue of its holistic approach to understanding the etiology of VAWG through an integrated, multifaceted process.

Of the identified factors, several were also classified as barriers to reporting and registering violence: the fear of being re-victimized (i.e., shame and stigma), distrust of authorities, financial co-dependence on the abusive partner, lack of awareness of and/or access to support services, mobility restrictions, the digital divide, and cultural beliefs (including normalization of violence). Subsequently, the factors were

validated through the completion of 12 semi-structured interviews with key informants from academia, government, and civil society organizations based both in Colombia and Brazil. The interviews provided insights into the presence and relative importance of the factors in the context of each city, how VAWG is being addressed by different actors in society, and the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the services provided to victims in each context.

Both components of the project were developed under the supervision of an advisory group: the Council for the Orientation of Development and Ethics (CODE — please see section 5.2.), composed of 12 experts from civil society, government, and academia in each city. Participating on a voluntary basis, the members offered recommendations on ethical principles of investigation and data management and participated in three virtual group sessions that took place over the course of the six months of the project.

Figure 1. VAWG risk factors exacerbating women's vulnerability



Source: Prepared by the authors

4. ANALYTICAL MODEL OF REPORTING AND REGISTERING CAPABILITIES

The analytical model was developed in two stages:

1. **Stage 1:** Mapping the reported prevalence of VAWG
2. **Stage 2:** Measuring the impact of risk factors

A platform was developed to convey the most important aspects and findings of the model, allowing users to visualize and interact with the results at a desired level of spatial granularity and over time. This data visualization tool allows users of the platform to examine the results of the model in an interactive environment.

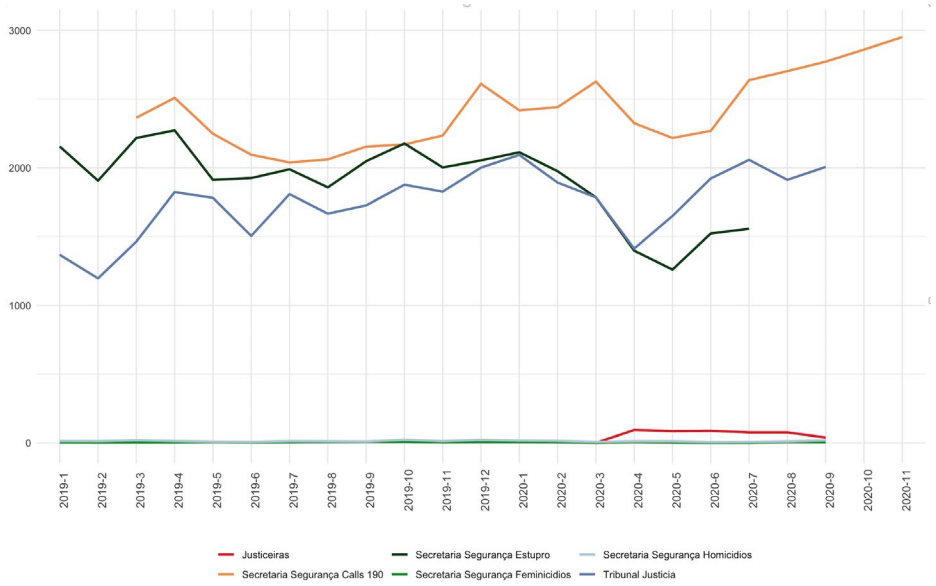
4.1. Stage 1 [Key Results]: Mapping the Reported Prevalence of VAWG

To better understand and capture what enables and what limits women's and girls' ability to report domestic violence, this project sought to map the reported prevalence of VAWG across different geographical areas of São Paulo and Bogotá, at the lowest level of ethically possible spatial granularity. Locality was level of spatial granularity analyzed, deemed to be the most adequate political subdivisions of the cities both in terms of data availability and meaningful contextual units. In São Paulo, these are known as subprefeituras, and in Bogotá localidades. For purposes of this study, subprefeituras and localidades are both referred to as localities.

The prevalence reported by different databases (total number of complaints, aggregated by month) portrays a rather complex situation for São Paulo (see Graph 1). Line 190 presents the most salient trend, with an 18% increase in calls received between 2019 and 2020.[23] On the other hand, reports of rape (and rape of a vulnerable person), personal injury, and threat registered in the Secretariat of Public Security of the State of São Paulo (SSP-SP) [Secretaria de Segurança Pública do Estado de São Paulo] database show the opposite trend, at least in the short term. Complaints made from March to July decreased starkly—by 27%—between 2019 and 2020. In contrast, when comparing January and February for both years—prior to the onset of the pandemic—these records presented similar behavior (less than 1% variation), hinting at a disrupting effect of the COVID-19 crisis on the reported prevalence of this type of violence.

Results from the other data sources, however, are more ambiguous. No clear trend is evident for either the homicide of women or the femicides records. Moreover, the emergency protective orders database from São Paulo's Court of Justice shows an upward trend in reports throughout 2019 that is interrupted by a decrease from January to April 2020. Despite this change in trends, when comparing both years by month to account for potential seasonality, only April and May present lower reported prevalence in 2020 than in 2019 (-22.7% and -5.9%, respectively). This suggests a fleeting impact of the COVID-19 related measures on the reporting behavior of this type of incident, but data is too scarce to extrapolate any sound takeaway.[24]

Graph 1. [São Paulo] Reported prevalence through different data sources
(Total number of records from different databases)



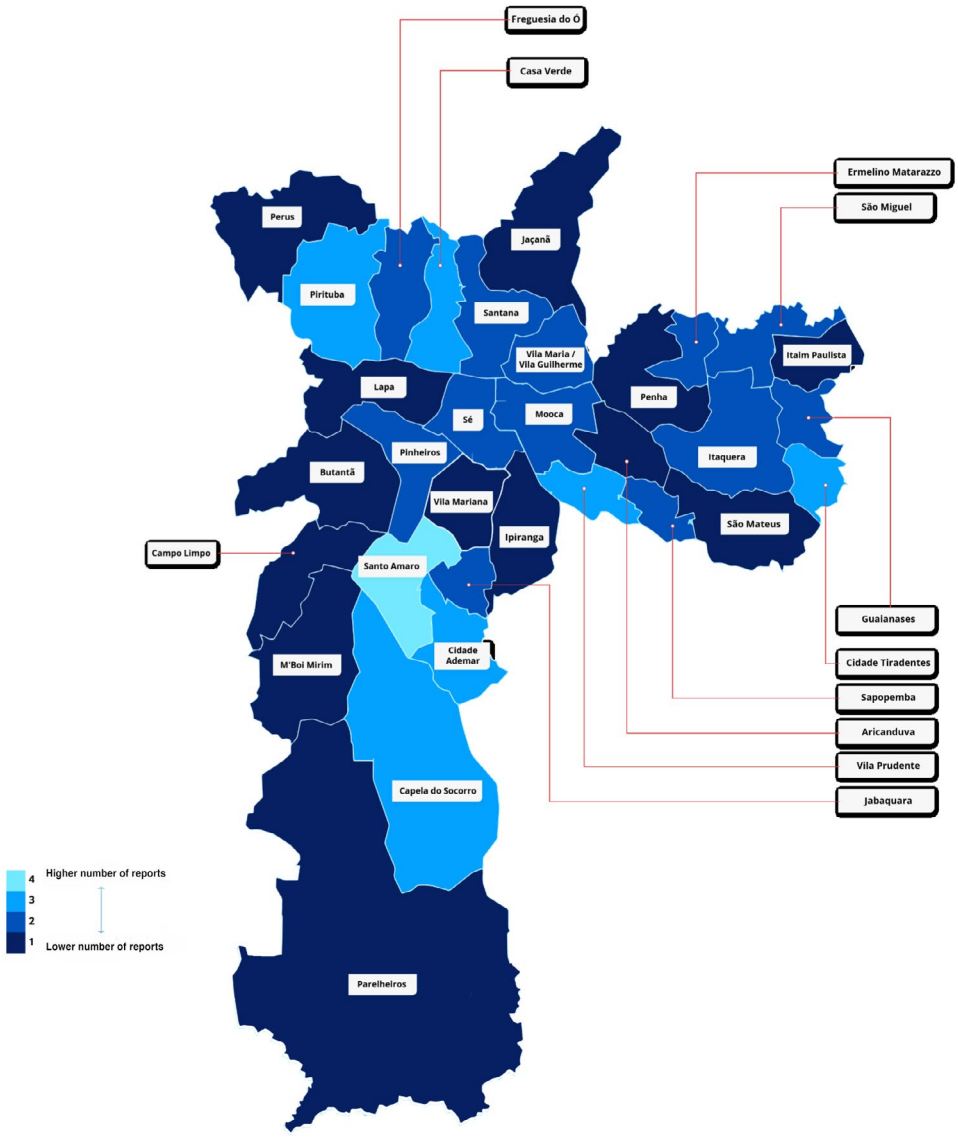
Source: Prepared by the authors with data from Justiceiras, the Secretariat of Public Security of the State of São Paulo, and the Court of Justice of São Paulo
Notes: Temporal granularity: monthly; spatial granularity: locality

Disaggregated reported prevalence also provided unique insights into VAWG trends in São Paulo. Map 1 illustrates the reported prevalence by locality at week 13, when social distancing began. Interestingly, Santo Amaro—the locality with the highest reported prevalence—is located between Campo Limpo and Vila Mariana, the two localities with the lowest reported prevalence rates in the city. This raises questions about the capabilities that influence and determine the level of reporting in each locality.

In contrast with the complex situation illustrated by the different data sources for São Paulo, Bogotá generally exhibits clearer, more straightforward trends. Once databases were filtered to determine which variables were most pertinent, the model showed that records from the helpline Línea Púrpura25 [Purple Line]—aggregated by week—increased in the beginning of the lockdown (March 20) and maintained the same trend throughout the year. The national helpline, Línea 155, follows the same pattern. These trends are illustrated in Graph 2.

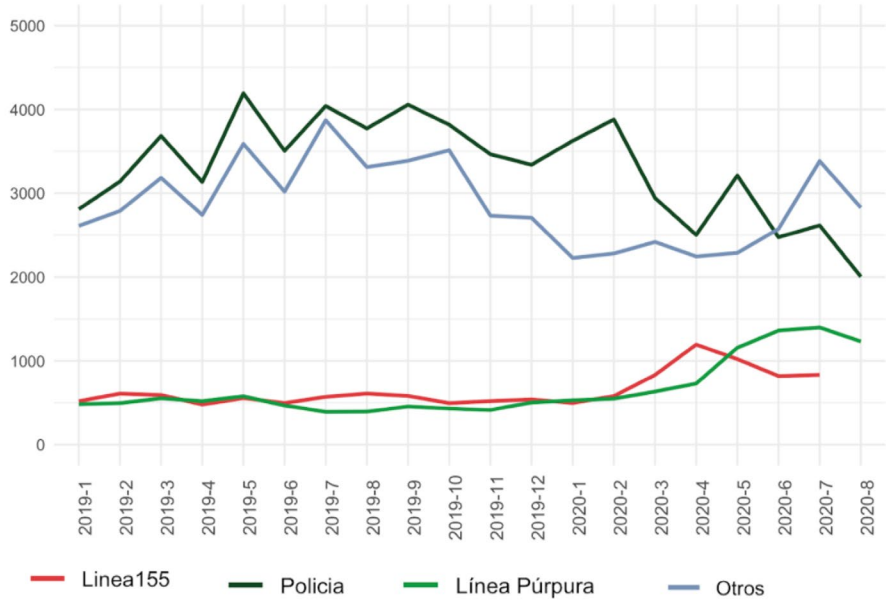
Conversely, the same analysis on the National Police database shows that the number of reports decreased over the same period. This behavior could be due to both the impossibility of leaving home to report a crime (given social distancing measures), and the reduction of assistance services at police stations. Other databases analyzed for Bogotá portrayed more ambiguous behavior, decreasing in the last trimester of 2019, remaining stable throughout 2020, and finally surging in June-July.

Map 1. [São Paulo] Heatmap of the reported prevalence rate by locality
(2020, week 13: beginning of the lockdown period)



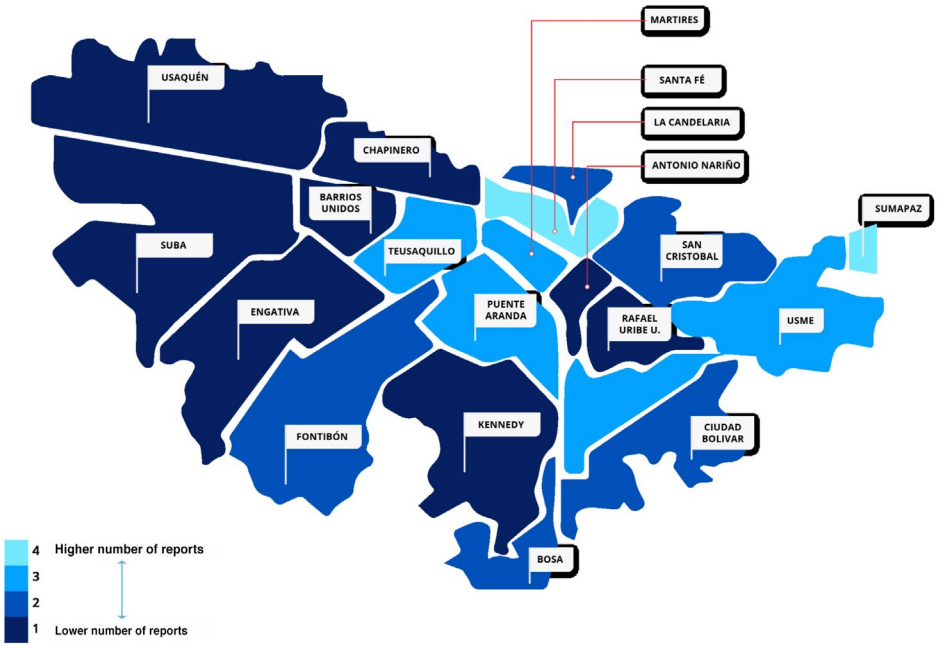
Source: Prepared by the authors with data from Justiceiras, the Secretariat of Public Security of the State of São Paulo, and the Court of Justice of São Paulo

Graph 2. [Bogotá] Reported prevalence through different data sources
(Total number of records from different databases)



Source: Prepared by the authors with data from Línea 155, Police, Simisional
Notes: Temporal granularity: monthly; spatial granularity: locality

Map 2. [Bogotá] Heatmap of the reported prevalence rate by locality
(2020, week 13: start of the lockdown period)



Source: Prepared by the authors

Map 2 depicts the reported prevalence by locality in Bogotá at week 13 of 2020—the week the lockdown period began.[26] Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been a significant increase in reports made via digital means (e.g., helplines) and a decrease in those requiring physical presence (e.g., formal complaints to the police).

4.2. Stage 2 [Key Results]: Measuring the Impact of Risk Factors

To further understand the reported prevalence, a multidimensional indicator was constructed to represent the complex interaction of factors (personal, relational, community, institutional, and COVID-19 related) that enable or hinder women's and girls' capability to report violence in the domestic setting, as well as the state's ability to register those cases. Members of the CODE believe that insights derived from the percentage and geographic distribution of women who are able to report violence would encourage authorities leading municipalities or states to find solutions and ameliorate suboptimal VAWG service provision (e.g., improve digital infrastructure or guarantee free access to services). By mapping areas where women and girls are more easily able to report violence—versus those where this is more challenging (comparable response)—the project aims to produce an alarm system for policy analysis and evaluation, allowing for effective prevention and mitigation strategies to be deployed by national and subnational government bodies.

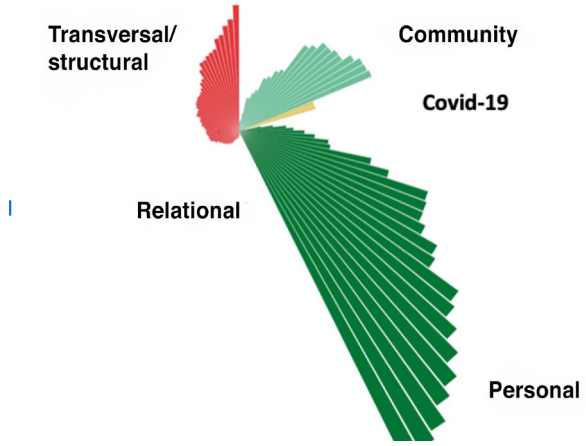
The reporting capacity indicator can further be used to illustrate the complex dynamics involved in making a report or a call for support, both during and before crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of social structures on the levels of underreporting, which influence and are influenced by personal, relational, community, and institutional factors, is also brought to light with this new approach. In this way, this methodological approach reduces the potential for stigmatization of certain areas and communities, as the focus is not on identifying hotspots, but on revealing the complex contextual factors that encourage or dissuade women from action.

It is important to recall that the reported prevalence is the result of the capabilities enabled by the State and other contextual factors that facilitate or hinder women's and girl's ability to report and/or seek help when faced with violence. These capabilities are constituted by various risk factors of institutional, communal, relational, or personal nature, and their incidence varies in time and space. In terms of analyzing risk factors' impact on reporting capabilities, three important caveats are worth mentioning. First, risk factors are analyzed under the assumption that violence occurs equally among all subgroups of the population. Second, the impact of different factors is discussed in terms of their statistical significance rather than in terms of cause and effect, due to data limitations and availability. Finally, the probability of reporting conditioned to the victim's characteristics/sub-group is based on the obtained reported prevalence; results are thus neither exhaustive nor representative of the entire population.

4.2.1. Results: São Paulo

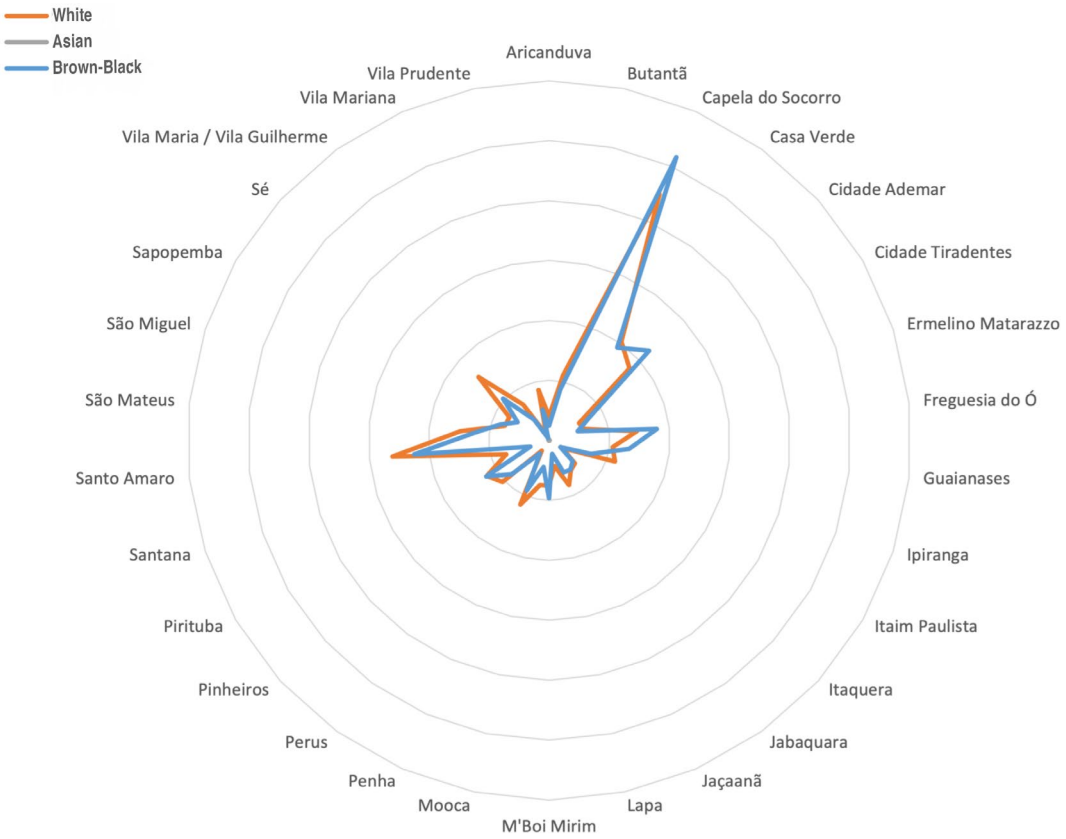
For São Paulo, Graph 3 illustrates the magnitude of the impact of the available and statistically significant risk factors, grouped by category. The most salient category was personal factors, with numerous indicators weighing over twice as much as any of the other individual risk factors. For the communal and transversal categories, a wide range of factors had an impact, but with a much lower degree of incidence than the personal factors. As for COVID-19, two related factors appear to influence the reporting capabilities: the number of COVID-19 cases and mobility. Institutional factors were also included, but none of them were found to be statistically significant.

Graph 3. [São Paulo] Impact of the risk factors on the reported prevalence, by category
(Total São Paulo)



Source: Prepared by the authors

Graph 4. [São Paulo] Number of records per locality, disaggregated by race



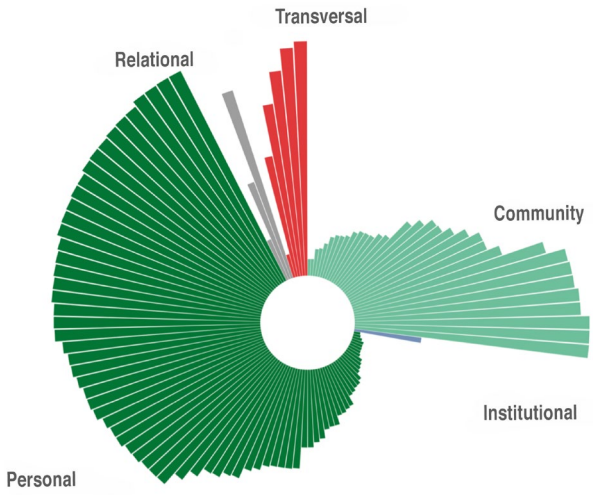
Source: Prepared by the authors

Among personal factors, the most relevant variables were age and race. The likelihood of reporting conditional to race was very similar between White and Black women. According to the Brazilian Public Security Forum [Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública] and Instituto Datafolha,[27] while Black women face more street violence in comparison to White women (+8.3%) the two groups experience similar levels of domestic violence. There are slight differences, however, when it comes to reporting capabilities, as illustrated by Graph 4. In contrast with the reporting probability conditional to White women, for localities with high reported prevalence (e.g., Capela do Socorro), the probability to report for Black women is higher, while in localities with low reported prevalence (e.g., Sé), the probability to report for Black women is lower.

4.2.2. Results: Bogotá

Bogotá's distribution of the available and statistically significant risk factors differs from that of São Paulo. While, like São Paulo, the personal risk factors category encompasses the most significant variables, in Bogotá, the communal, transversal, and relational categories present similar levels of magnitude (although the two latter ones present considerably fewer factors). The cities also differ in that, while no significant institutional factor was found for São Paulo (and only two for the COVID-19 related category), one significant institutional factor was found for Bogotá, with none for the COVID-19 related category.

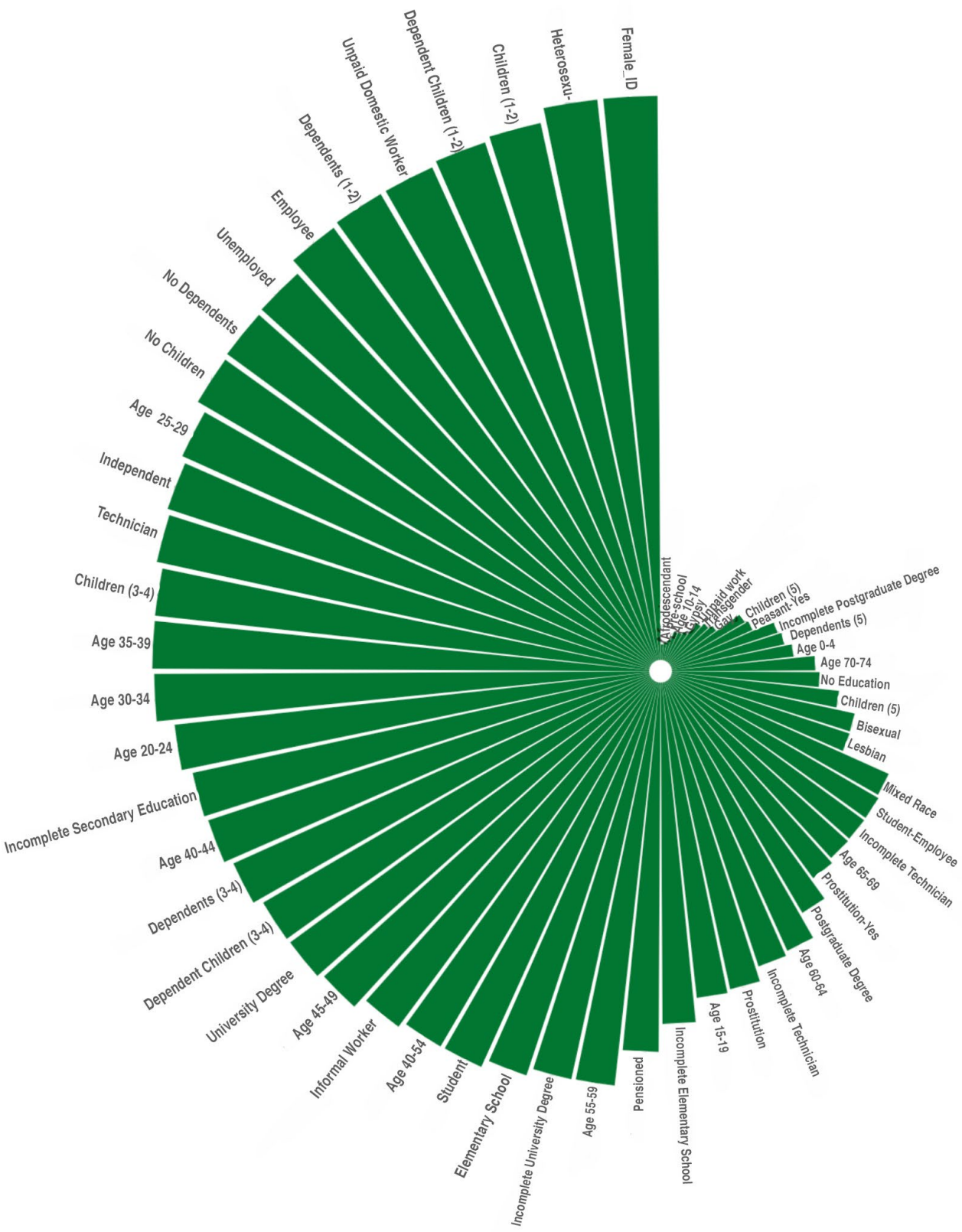
Graph 5. [Bogotá] Impact of the risk factors on the reported prevalence, by category
(Total Bogotá)



Source: Prepared by the author

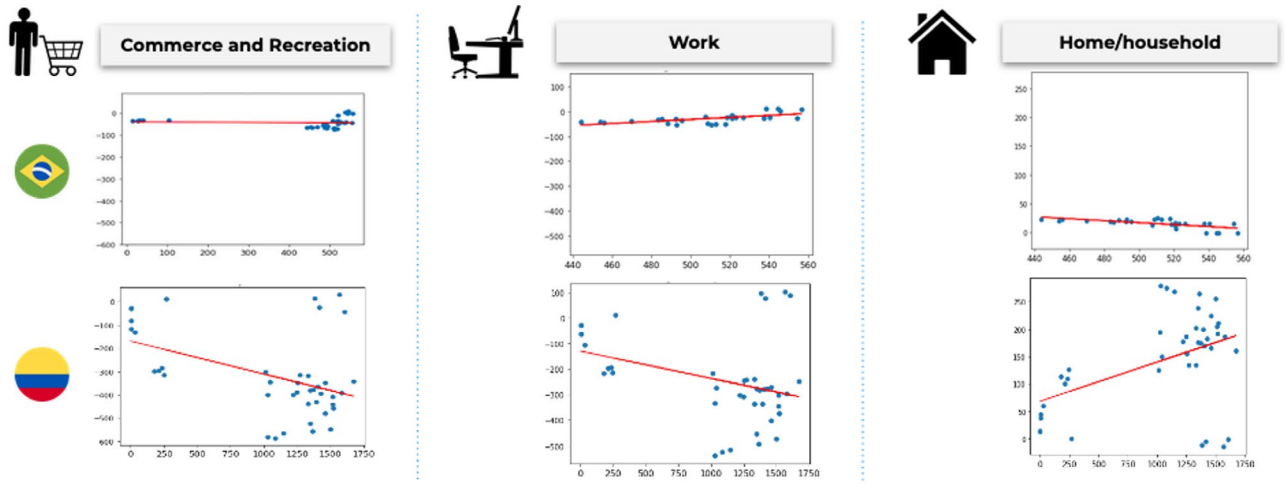
In terms of personal factors, since the Simisional database[28] used for the model was thorough, a wide range of risk factors were available, with many turning out to be significant. The most outstanding risk factors are female,[29] heterosexual, and having one or two children (see Graph 6).

Graph 6. [Bogotá] Impact of the risk factors on the reported prevalence, personal factors
(Total Bogotá)



Source: Prepared by the authors

Figure 2. Mobility changes in São Paulo and Bogotá
(Type of place vs. number of records)



Source: Prepared by the authors with data from Google (2020)

Finally, for COVID-19 related factors in both cities (see Figure 2), mobility changes in São Paulo by type of place do not correspond to a profound change in the number of reports. Although a linear relationship is observed, it is not as strong as in Bogotá; this is unsurprising, since behavior during lockdown in Brazil differed greatly from that of places with stricter measures in place; Bogotá, for example, applied more restrictive pandemic-related measures.

The linear relationship between mobility and reporting violence is stronger in Bogotá than in São Paulo when analyzed by type of place, although mobility was not a significant risk factor in reporting capabilities in the city as a whole. Since the beginning of Bogotá's five-month lockdown period, lower mobility in commercial and work areas corresponded to fewer reports. Analogously, as mobility increased in residential areas, reports increased.

5. THE WAY FORWARD:

PUBLIC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

High-quality and accessible data is central to bringing visibility to violence against women and girls. In light of the major challenges the authors encountered in developing this model to produce a robust and reliable analysis of domestic violence data, this chapter provides a set of policy recommendations on gender data governance. These recommendations are directed to public authorities working to prevent and mitigate—and collect data on—VAWG in Bogotá and São Paulo, including the Secretariat of Public Security of the State of São Paulo, the Brazilian Statistics and Geographics Institute (IBGE), the National Police of Colombia (in charge of SIEDCO statistical information system), and the Women's Secretariat of Bogotá.

The recommendations fall into four categories: i) data access; ii) coverage and data disaggregation; iii) quality of data, and iv) data governance (see Table 1). Access to high-quality, disaggregated data is indispensable to the eradication of VAWG and assistance to survivors, allowing for:

- Planning, monitoring, and evaluation of government programs;
- Identifying geographic regions where state capacities must be improved;
- Determining which populations are at greatest risk; and
- Visibilization of population diversity that will allow for the creation of tailored and appropriately targeted response measures.

Table 1. Four key areas of recommendations for improving the gender data landscape

1. Access to data and data disaggregation	**2. Coverage**
3. Quality of the data	**4. Data governance**

Source: Prepared by the authors

5.1. Data Access

Readily available and well-structured data—coupled with legal instruments and government programs—is needed to

curb violence against women. Colombia and Brazil should develop an integrated, centralized approach to reinforce the legal framework, make data on VAWG more readily available, and monitor public policies' effectiveness. Once high-quality data is collected, it must be properly catalogued and made accessible to the public.

Data access procedures should be straightforward and of public knowledge, and the use of data by civil society and non-governmental organizations should be encouraged. In brief, access to structured and high-quality open data needs to be expanded to promote public policy analysis and broader use of data by non-specialized users.

5.2. Coverage and Data Disaggregation

One of the main challenges in developing this analytical model was data disaggregation; we recommend that the governments of Bogotá and São Paulo increase the spatial and temporal granularity (including rural areas) in an aggregated manner while ensuring the safety of the victims involved.

The quality of data could be further improved by including additional sociodemographic indicators, especially disaggregated by gender, and by streamlining data collection parameters between institutions. To achieve this objective, it is necessary to promote coordinated training and capacity building in data collection for a standardized understanding of VAWG.

5.3. Quality of Data

High-quality data is vital to identifying the populations at greatest risk and to adequately address violence. In this sense, having a better conceptualization of the different types of gender-based violence would allow for a better diagnosis of the phenomenon's behavior by increasing the comparability of different databases.

Researcher Irene Casique Rodriguez points out that the conceptual discrepancy between databases tends to invisibilize violence that does not fit into the official interpretations—both legal and statistical—of what is or is not considered to be violence against women.30 A standardization or conceptual equivalence guide is thus essential so that different databases complement and enhance one another.

Moreover, the addition of identifiers should be carried out whenever possible, thus measuring the incidence of victims who use more than one service and avoiding duplication. Once again, it is essential that people's safety and data protection be at the core of this strategy.

5.4. Data Governance

Finally, good data governance—the organizing principle underpinning the other recommendations—would allow for:

1) Articulation and interoperability of data between public institutions and civil society organizations;

2) The establishment of ethical and data privacy guidelines (i.e., collection, sharing, use, interpretation, etc.) for working with VAWG data.

3) Promoting a culture of evidence used to inform public policies to fight VAWG (e.g., the elaboration of better assistance strategies based on the incidence of users/victims per service).

It is essential that a data culture be developed on both national and regional levels; this requires the creation of a National Open Data Strategy Plan with a gender perspective that prioritizes data collection in every area of cities. In this respect, a data monitor could liaise between those who use the data and government institutions to foster collaboration and feedback regarding data accessibility and quality.

5.5. Outlook for the Analytical Model: Potential Improvements

The development of the present model and findings permits a broad range of possibilities for future improvement and expansion. There are three fields in which contributions can be made:

5.5.1. Government Field

The present model makes evident the need to increasingly incorporate non-traditional data sources when evaluating and addressing GBV in Brazil and Colombia at the governmental level. Harnessing the potential of non-traditional data can reveal a more accurate picture of the national and regional situations, thus better guiding decision-makers. Moreover, non-traditional data may be used to monitor and evaluate governmental programs and policies.

5.5.2. Cooperative Field

Throughout the implementation of this project, it has become clear that cooperation between organized civil society actors and government authorities is vital. It is thus necessary to build bridges for the exchange of essential data between civil society, NGOs, and government authorities so that violence may be understood and reduced, guaranteeing respect for women's right to life, liberty and security of person.

Cooperative work between these actors would lead to exchanges of experiences, data, methods, ethical guidance, and lessons learned, translating into increased well-being for millions of women in Colombia and Brazil.

The benefits of such multi-sectoral cooperation should be presented in annual reports on GBV data quality and multi-actor forums that evaluate progress, setbacks, and challenges regarding VAWG in Bogotá and São Paulo.

5.5.3. Data Quality and Governance Field

One noteworthy result of the model is the assessment of the gender data gap and state of gender data governance in Bogotá and São Paulo and at the national level. Thanks to

the findings, this study paves the way for several fields of potential action:

- Annually evaluating the state of the gender data gap in both cities to assess progress and identify areas of opportunity.
- Reporting on and supporting the use of non-traditional data—allowing for the evaluation of other aspects of gender inequality, such as wage differences, participation in management positions, political participation, digital inclusion, entrepreneurship, etc.
- Raising awareness about the adverse effects of the gender data gap in evaluating and combating VAWG and other phenomena that impede the full development of women and girls, including inequalities in health, the economy, education, technological inclusion, etc.
- Highlighting the urgency to develop adequate data governance practices and tools both regionally and nationally.
- Performing data activism to obtain more and better data as input for promoting, evaluating, and monitoring public policies.

The developers of this model extend an open invitation for future collaboration and improvements of this or similar models with academia, government, and interested NGOs. This model could be replicated for other countries through cooperation with actors and institutions with VAWG experience, thus improving the quality of life of women and girls in Latin America.

Data-Pop Alliance and Unidas aspire to carry out a regional assessment of the potential roles of non-traditional data in eradicating VAWG and adopting a gender-sensitive data governance strategy across Latin America.

6. FINAL REMARKS

Unidas and Data-Pop Alliance produced this report to inform COVID-19 response efforts, preparedness measures for future crises, and actions to combat VAWG and support survivors more broadly. This model was developed to contribute to the fight to eradicate gender-based violence so that women can feel safe in their own homes, empowered to live their lives free from harm. We must double down on efforts to achieve this vital goal, collaborating across sectors to build a better—and safer—present and future for all women and girls.

Please address any questions or comments to research@datapopalliance.org.

NOTES

1. UN Women, 2020a
2. WHO, 2021
3. UNDP, 2017
4. ECLAC, 2020
5. Instituto Igarapé, 2018
6. Phillips, 2019
7. Gonçalves, 2017
8. Andrade, 2017
9. UN Women, 2020b
10. Chaparro & Alfonso, 2020
11. CEPAL, 2021
12. CEPAL, 2021
13. UNFPA, 2020a
14. UNTF, 2020
15. UN Women, 2020c
16. UN Women et al., 2020
17. Marques et al., 2020
18. UNFPA, 2020b
19. EIGE, 2019
20. Buvinic & Furst-Nichols, 2014; Data2x, 2020
21. Sen, 1999
22. Administrative records from government and civil society organizations offer information about VAWG in the domestic setting; data from both sources were used in this project.
23. Data available and compared between March and November of each year.
24. Data available from January 2019 until September 2020. Impact after September 2020 could not be assessed.
25. Until September 2020
26. Health intervention tracking for COVID-19, 2020
27. De Lima & Bueno, 2020
28. Simisional is the Women's Secretariat of Bogotá's database compiling data on VAWG from its various services.
29. The risk factor is gender; subcategory female.
30. Rodriguez, 2017

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A Data-Driven Model

November 2021

Unidas

DATA-POP ALLIANCE