Breaking the Silence: Results and Impact of the IVAWS COSTA RICA

Montserrat Sagot*
National Coordinator

Universidad de Costa Rica

* The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.
VIOLANCE AGAINST WOMEN AND PUBLIC POLICY

1990, Congress passed the Real Equality Law
1990, Creation of the Women’s Delegation
- 1995, Congress ratified “The Belém do Pará Convention”
- 1995, Congress passed the Law Against Sexual Harrassment
- 1996, Congress passed the Law Against Domestic Violence
- 1997, approval of a national policy to deal with family violence
VIOLANCE AGAINST WOMEN AND PUBLIC POLICY

- 1997, Creation of the National System to Prevent and Confront Family Violence
- 2000, Submission to Congress of the Bill to Criminalize Violence Against Women
- 2001, Congress ratified CEDAW’s Facultative Protocol
- 2001, Congress passed the Responsible Paternity Law
- 2007, Congress passed the Law to criminalize violence against women
Some data on violence against women

Comparison Chart
2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calls to the hotlines:</td>
<td>65148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitions for protection measures (restraining orders):</td>
<td>43929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons receiving services at the Women’s Delegation:</td>
<td>5406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penal cases for sexual violence:</td>
<td>1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penal cases for domestic violence:</td>
<td>1362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judiciary System</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery and theft cases:</td>
<td>46717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restraining orders related to domestic violence:</td>
<td>47086</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Police Reports</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic and sexual violence:</td>
<td>7389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug related:</td>
<td>7554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property related:</td>
<td>6349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Some data on violence against women**

**Costa Rica: Femicides. 1998-2003**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Rate/ 100.000 w</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

67% of women murdered in the country have been killed by a partner, expartner, boyfriend, relative or an “interested man”

- Only 8% of the men are murdered for reasons associated with domestic or sexual violence
If women’s deaths caused by domestic or sexual violence were eradicated, women’s homicide rate would decline at least 58%.

If men’s deaths caused by domestic and sexual violence were eradicated, men’s homicide rates would only decline 10%.
IVAWS Methodology

- The survey was carried out in the 7 provinces of Costa Rica
- Fieldwork: July and August 2003
- Sample size: 908
- Strategy of Sample Selection: probability, stratified, three-staged sample, based on national census segments (sample was designed by the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos)
- Sample was stratified by geographical region and socio-economic level
Methodology

- Distribution of segments by areas: urban 51.1%, rural 48.9%
- Confidence level: 95%
- Method of interviewing: face-to-face
- Response rate relative to eligible contacts: 58%
Partnership

- Universidad de Costa Rica
- University of Western Ontario, Canada
- Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres
- Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
Main Results
Overall Violence

- 58% of the women surveyed reported experiencing at least one incident of physical or sexual violence over their lifetime after age 16.
- 45% of the women have experienced physical violence over their lifetime.
- 39% of the women have experienced some form of sexual violence over their lifetime.
- 49.6% of the women have experienced some form of psychological abuse by their partners, mainly showing an exercise of power and control.
- 49% of the women reported that they had experienced physical or sexual violence before age 15.
Overall Violence

- The incidence of violence was found to vary based on certain socio-demographic characteristics:
  - Women on the reproductive age (25-49) reported higher levels of sexual and physical violence (62% and above)
  - Women with higher educational levels reported higher levels of violence (secondary education 64.4% and university education 63.1%)
  - Women who are direct income recipients reported higher levels of violence (61.1%)
  - Women belonging to evangelical and pentecostal religious denominations reported higher levels of violence (68.1%)
  - 69.9% of the women who had experienced violence during childhood also experienced violence as adults
Women who reported the incident by perpetrator according to achievements in the process 2003 (valores absolutos)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Reported</th>
<th>Charges were brought against him</th>
<th>Charges lead to a conviction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abused by partners</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abused by non-partners</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IVAWS Usages and Impact

- Presentation of results was held at the Congress’ Auditorium (2004)
- A press release was produced by the Congress’ communication office
- Main results were sent to each Congress member by INAMU
- The results were used as important arguments by those in support of the Bill to Criminalize Violence Against Women
IVAWS Usages and Impact

- Results were used extensively in the National Human Development Report (2005), “Overcoming Fear: Citizen (In)security and Human Development in Costa Rica”
- Results were used in the official report presented by the Government of Costa Rica in compliance with the Convention of Belém do Pará (2006)
- Results were used in the official report presented to the OAS in compliance with the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights (special chapter named: Women’s Access to Justice)
- Results were used in several training activities for service providers in the Judiciary system and the Police (INAMU)
- Results were presented all over the country at the local networks to prevent and confront family and sexual violence as part of the awareness raising activities of PLANOVI
IVAWS Usages and Impact

- Extensive media coverage
  - Main newspapers, radio and tv
  - Press release by the Ministry of Health

  “Ministerio de Salud Promueve Acciones Integrales para Enfrentar Problemática de violencia Intrafamiliar en el País”
  (Ministry of Health promotes comprehensive actions to face family violence in the country)

- Editorial in the Journal *Acta Médica* signed by the Minister of Health (2007) (Official journal National Board of Medicine)
Encuesta de la UCR

Violencia golpea también a asalariadas

58 por ciento de 908 entrevistadas aseguró haber sido agredida

Jairo Villegas S.
jvillegas@nacion.com

Las mujeres que tienen un salario son también víctimas de agresión por parte de sus compañeros sentimentales, según una encuesta hecha por el Centro de Investigación en Estudios de la Mujer (CIEM), de la Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR), cuyos resultados se dieron a conocer ayer.
91 mujeres agredidas en Navidad

Servicio de emergencias 911 atendió casos

Mónica UMAÑA D.
monicau@alDia.co.cr

La noche del 24 de diciembre no fue de celebración para 91 mujeres. Por el contrario, fue de gritos, golpes y agresiones.

El servicio de emergencia 911 recibió, entre las 6:00 p.m. del 24 de diciembre, y las 6:00 a.m. del 25, un total de 91 llamadas de mujeres que pedían ayuda.

Para el jefe de operaciones del 911, Germán Güendell, estos datos son alarmantes.

Pocas
Sólo 16,6 por ciento de las mujeres que sufren violencia doméstica, reconoce haber denunciado las agresiones ante las autoridades.