



STATISTICAL USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS: THE SINGLE REGISTER OF CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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Abstract

Violence against women is, in its social dimension, a topic that demands official, reliable and timely information as an input for the design and screening of public policies destined to eradicate this problem.

This paper describes the challenges associated with the building of a Single Register of Cases of Violence against Women (“RUCVM”, according to its acronym in Spanish) based upon administrative records originated within different public organizations at national, regional and local levels.

The main goal of the RUCVM is to centralize all the available information on violence against women with the purpose of designing indicators conceptually and methodologically harmonized. They will provide a socio-demographic description of the victims and the aggressors, as well as features related to the violence exerted on women.

The RUCVM adds value to the following actions:

1. Optimizing the official resources used for providing statistical data on systematic and ongoing bases, and thus, contributing to the design of indicators that can account the magnitude of the phenomenon and its variation registered over time.
2. Understanding the path undertaken by women through various agencies in search for official assistance and for justice. The Record also helps to identify weak caring points for the victims and, therefore, strengthens the struggling against their re-victimization.
3. Visualizing and denaturing the phenomenon of violence against women by transforming the initial legal complaint in data that could be useful for analyzing and allowing the State and its institutions to take actions against the problem.

The statistical use of administrative records from external sources requires a sound institutional coordination among the data suppliers, as well as a methodological procedure for the formal and conceptual harmonization and the “optimization of the methods and processes related to the administrative data”.¹

The methodology applied within the RUCVM² has different steps such as: the regular data transfer to an authorized server, the data validation and the harmonization of variables, the processing and the estimation of indicators and the dissemination of results.

Until now, 18 formal agreements with different official organizations have been signed. Currently more than 18,000 records have been effectively received from the suppliers in connection with the period starting from January of 2013 to December of 2014. Also, several methodological reports have been written upon receiving each database.

Keywords: : integrate data collection, administrative register, violence against women, data harmonization.

¹ “Utilización de datos administrativos en Statistics Canada”, Eric Rancourt. Exposed at the 13th Executive Committee of the ECLAC-ASC, Santiago de Chile, Chile, August 12th-14th, 2014.

² Actions negotiated previously the official data suppliers.