



# HONDURAS

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE LIFE CYCLE, 2020

- Preliminary considerations

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  - Progress and challenges

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  - The Continuum of violence:
    - Intrafamily and domestic violence
    - Sexual violence
    - Femicide
- 



# INTRODUCTION

Citizen security is a right, a common good that is provided for by integrated actions of the State in collaboration with citizens and other public organizations, and aims to protect the life, personal integrity and property of people from the conditions of insecurity that give rise to more victims of violence, as well as to ensure accessibility to opportunities under equal conditions.

The countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic face the challenge of guaranteeing people their human rights in a context of violence that affects women differently than men.

Official evidence available in the country needs to be used to design strategic guidelines for interinstitutional coordination to enforce the National Policy for Women, and Second Plan for Gender Equality and Equity in Honduras 2010-2022 (PIEGH II), with the primary needs and requirements of women as rights holders to reinforce the progress made, and move steadily forward toward equality.

## PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

### Concepts and Analytical Approach

#### What is Violence against women?

##### Belém do Pará (1994).

Violence against women is "[...] any act or conduct, based on gender, which causes death or physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, whether in the public or the private sphere."

##### Honduran Criminal Law

Offense Typology as per the nation's criminal law: Femicide, Violence against Women, family abuse, injuries, rape, aggression, incest, statutory rape, harassment, sexual exploitation, trafficking.

#### Continuum of violence

This refers to an inertia and continuity of violence in the lives of women, in which there seems to be a continuum in their histories where the norm and the constant is violence directed toward them, always and everywhere.

Source: UNDP and USAID, 2016.

The Continuum of Violence Against Women: a citizen security and human rights issue



#### Why is it urgent to generate robust evidence of Violence against Women?

**1.**

It is the result of a system based on **unequal power relations** between men and women.

**2.**

Exposure to a series of **specific risks** and other forms of **discrimination and social exclusion** leads to high and multiple vulnerability.

**3.**

There is urgent need for **gender-sensitive indicators**, in order to characterize this situation, and design effective **public policies**.

# PROGRESS Y CHALLENGES

## Legal framework, information management y victimization

### Regulatory framework

<p><b>1982</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW Ratified</li> </ul>	<p><b>1983</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Penal code</li> </ul>	<p><b>1992</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shelter / Victim Services</li> </ul>	<p><b>1994</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ratified Belém do Pará</li> </ul>	<p><b>1997</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Law against domestic violence</li> </ul>	<p><b>1998</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● INAM Law</li> <li>● Special Prosecutor's Office for Women</li> <li>● INAM created</li> </ul>
<p><b>2000</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Law for equal opportunities for Women</li> </ul>	<p><b>2006</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reform of law against domestic violence</li> <li>● Law for equal opportunities for Women</li> <li>● National plan to prevent &amp; respond to VAW 2006-2010</li> </ul>	<p><b>2010</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Technical Unit for Gender Issues in the judiciary.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2011</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MAI adopted by the Public Ministry</li> </ul>	<p><b>2014</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan: Equality &amp; Gender Equity</li> </ul>	<p><b>2016</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bill for the Special Comprehensive Law Ciudad Mujer</li> </ul>
<p>● International legal frameworks   ● National frameworks   ● Political-Institutional Progress   ● Institutional strengthening   ● Public Policies</p>					

### Regulatory Framework: Current legislation in Honduras

<p><b>1993</b></p> <p>Family Counselling 9 June 1993. Executive Resolution No 0079-93. Established as a mechanism for human rights oversight and guarantee, to prevent, assist, protect and support survivors of intrafamily, physical, psych. or sexual violence.</p>	<p><b>1994</b></p> <p>Special Prosecutor's Office for Women created.</p>	<p><b>1997</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Law against Domestic Violence.</li> <li>● Penal code reform to include sexual violence.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1999</b></p> <p>INAM Law (National Women's Institute).</p>	<p><b>2002</b></p> <p>First National Women's Policy 2002-2007.</p>	<p><b>2005</b></p> <p>Penal code reform to include crimes against people's liberty &amp; physical, psych. and sexual integrity.</p>	<p><b>2006</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reform to Law against Domestic Violence. Once the reforms were approved, significant changes in the law included sanction for the incident that leads to a report of domestic violence, introduction of mechanisms for coordinating and monitoring, longer period of sanctions, and others.</li> <li>● First National Plan against Violence Toward Women 2006 – 2010 (approved in executive decree PCM-11-97).</li> <li>● Institutional Gender Policy the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON).</li> </ul>
<p><b>2010</b></p> <p>Second Plan for Gender Equality and Equity in Honduras (PIEGH II) 2010-2022.</p>	<p><b>2012</b></p> <p>Law against human trafficking. La Gaceta No 32865. 6 July, 2012. Decree 59-2012.</p>	<p><b>2014</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reform to article 118-A in the Penal code on the offense of femicide.</li> <li>● Second National Plan against Violence against women 2014-2022.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2015</b></p> <p>Reform Organic budget law to include gender in general budget provisions. Chapter 2 Includes 5% transfer for municipal women's offices to combat VAW.</p>	<p><b>2016</b></p> <p>Reform to Public Ministry Law article 44-A creating Violent Deaths of Women and Femicide Investigation Unit under the Technical Criminal Investigation Agency (ATIC), and article 2 creating the Interinstitutional Commission for Monitoring Investigations of Violent Deaths of Women and Femicides.</p>	<p><b>2020</b></p> <p>New 2020 Criminal Code of Honduras becomes effective.</p>	

### Regulatory Framework: International Conventions ratified by Honduras

<p><b>1993</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, UN.</li> <li>● Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, World Conference on Human Rights.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1995</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.</li> <li>● Inter-American Convention Prevention, Punishment &amp; Eradication of Violence against Women.</li> <li>● Belem do Para Convention 68, Honduras ratified 7 April 1995.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2000</b></p> <p>Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.</p>	<p><b>2011</b></p> <p>Regional rules for comprehensive care for women victims of gender-based violence with emphasis on sexual violence 74: the Central American Court of Justice and the Supreme Courts of Justice of Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic approved the implementation of regional rules for comprehensive care for women victims of sexual violence, directly binding those responsible for the implementation and evaluation of public policies and justice operators to ensure minimum and maximum standards for comprehensive care for women victims of sexual abuse.</p>	<p><b>2006</b></p> <p>2030 Sustainable Development Agenda Honduras ratified and adopted at 70 UN General Assembly in September 2015. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). SDG 5 on gender equality, with 9 targets that aim to eradicate discrimination and violence, and generate access and opportunity for women. SDGs all have numerous gender-sensitive indicators.</p>
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## Challenges in promoting visibility of violence against women throughout the life cycle

1. Non-accessibility information on offense typology by gender, example, femicide and disappearance of women, domestic/intrafamily violence, etc.
2. Scarce information disaggregated by sex and intersectionality.
3. Scarce information on characteristics of neighborhoods/settlements and the most neglected groups.
4. Failure to match data and records as per sources, and in updates.
5. Time incomplete.
6. Lack of mechanisms to assess criminal justice system efficiency as to impunity and delayed justice.
7. Lack of road map to identify sources of data on violence against women available in country.
8. Lack of methodology to compare among countries in Northern Central America.

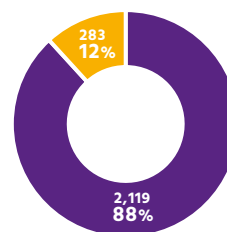
### Women affected by a spiral of crimes against their wellbeing and lives. This is compounded by crisis scenarios, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, 88 out of 100 victims of reported sexual crime were women.  
560 women lost their lives to acts of violence in 2020.

Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration. National Registry of Persons. Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute. IUDPAS/UNAH. Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs. Public Ministry, Dir. Strategic Planning and Quality Management (DIPEGEC).

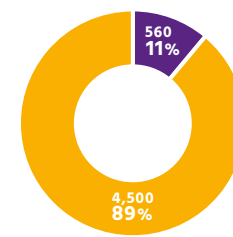
Percentage of sexual crimes reported, by sex

Men Women



Percentage of violent deaths,\* by sex

Men Women



\* Violent Deaths refers to homicides, suicide and traffic fatalities.

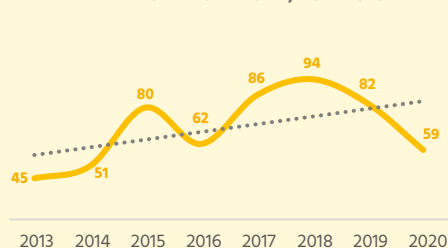
### Suicide had been on the rise since 2013. 2020 saw a 28% decline compared to 2019.

Recent studies by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) show an increase in anguish, anxiety and depression which, added to violence, unemployment, alcohol use disorders, substance abuse and feelings of loss, are important factors that can increase the risk of a person deciding to commit suicide.

Source: retrieved from: <https://www.paho.org/es/noticias/10-9-2020-pandemia-por-covid-19-exacerba-factores-riesgo-suicidio> Washington, DC, 10 de septiembre de 2020 (OPS)- La Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) Pandemia por COVID-19 exacerba los factores de riesgo de suicidio 10 Sep. 2020.

Suicide in women rose 31% over the last 8 years.

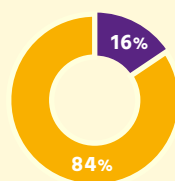
Female victims of suicide, 2013-2020



In 2020, 16 in 100 suicide victims were women.

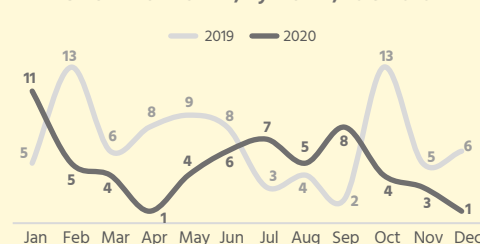
Suicides by sex

Men Women



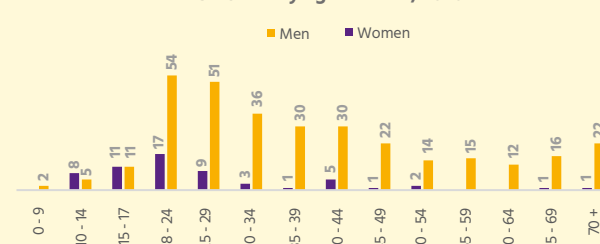
Only 4 months report figures higher than 2019: Jan, Jul, Aug and Sep.

Suicides of women, by month, 2019-2020



Three in four women victims of suicide under age of 30.

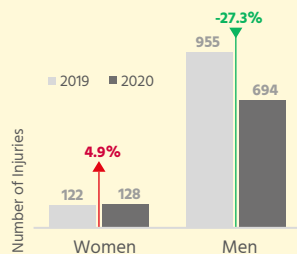
Suicides by age and sex, 2020



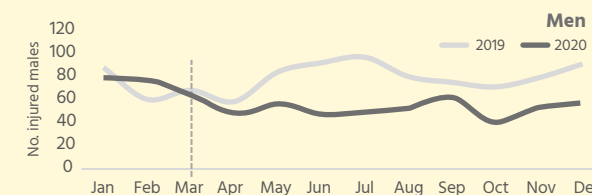
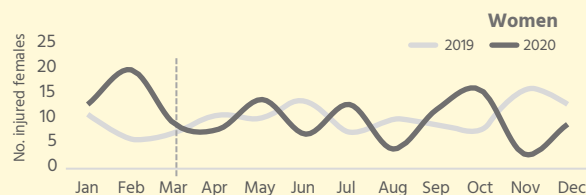
Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration. National Registry of Persons. Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute. IUDPAS/UNAH. Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs. Public Ministry, Dir. Strategic Planning and Quality Management (DIPEGEC).

### In 2020, female injuries rose 4.9% (+6) this is the second consecutive year with no decline.\*

\*In 2019, injuries in females rose slightly by 0.8%, one case more than 2018.



Injuries in females did not decline during the months the COVID-19 related lockdown measures were in place, whereas the number of injuries in males did drop.

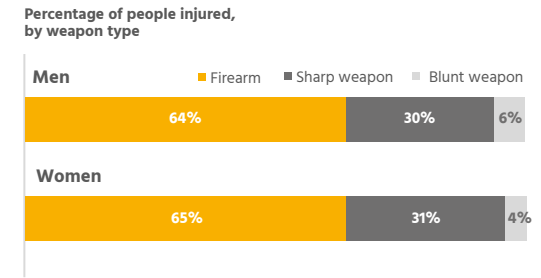
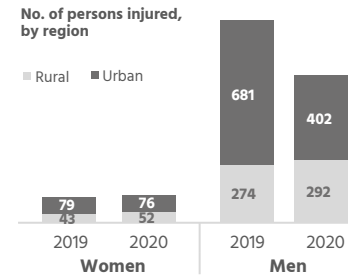
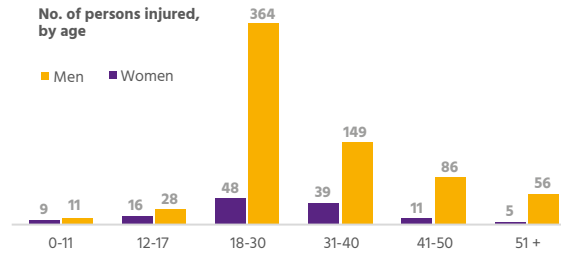


Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration. National Registry of Persons. Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute. IUDPAS/UNAH. Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs.

► **In 2020, female injuries rose primarily in rural areas.**

The reduction in male injuries was primarily in the urban area.

Firearms were involved in most injuries.



Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration, National Registry of Persons, Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute, IUDPAS/UNAH, Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTEIC)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs.

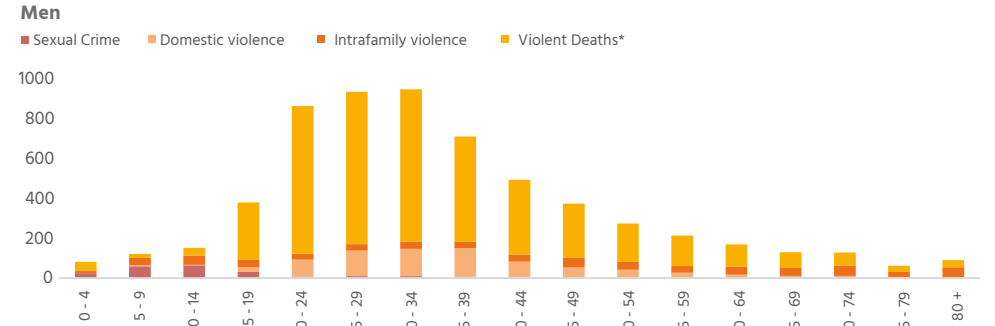
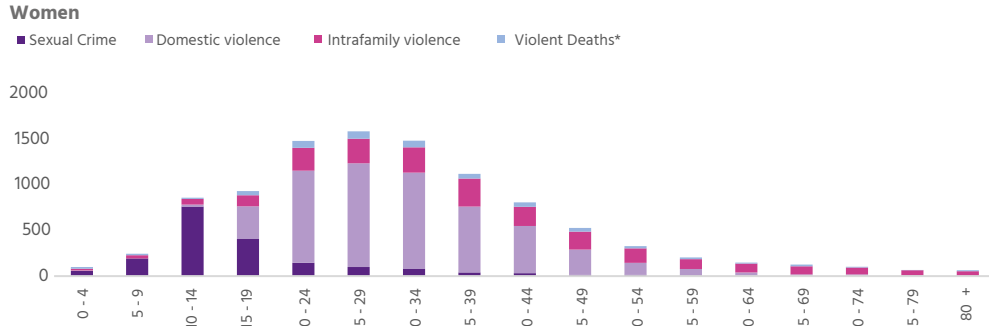
## THE CONTINUUM OF VIOLENCE

### A differentiated analysis of incidence of crime

► **The Continuum of Violence affects women differently than men as per age.**

Reports by women are primarily regarding sexual crime, domestic violence e intrafamily violence.

Younger girls and women are more likely to report sexual offenses. As age increases, there are more reports of domestic and intrafamily violence.



Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths, Public Ministry, Dir. Strategic Planning and Quality Management (DIPEGEC).

## How does the continuum of violence against women manifest?

### Domestic violence

Any pattern of behavior in a situation of unequal exercise of power that manifests itself in the use of physical force, psychological, patrimonial or sexual violence, intimidation or persecution. against women; and, 2) Unequal Power: Any conduct aimed at affecting, compromising or limiting the free personal development of a woman for reasons of gender.

Source: Domestic Violence Law, Honduras

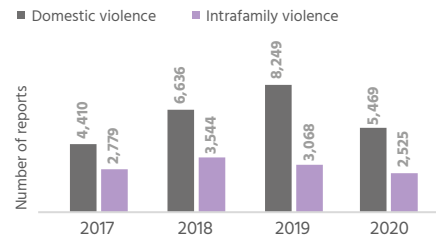
**Intrafamily violence:** Any action, behavior or emotion one or more family members provoke towards others, harming them, causing suffering or destruction of their property.

(Previous Penal Code of Honduras)

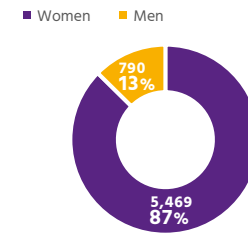
► **From 2017 to 2020, reports of domestic violence with female victims rose 24%, while reports of intrafamily violence involving females dropped 9%.**

A higher percentage females were victims of intrafamily violence (78%) and domestic violence (87%), according to cases reported (78%).

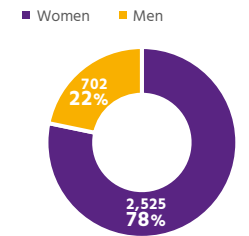
#### Reports by women domestic & intrafamily violence



#### Reports of Domestic Violence by sex in 2020



#### Reports of Intrafamily Violence by sex, 2020



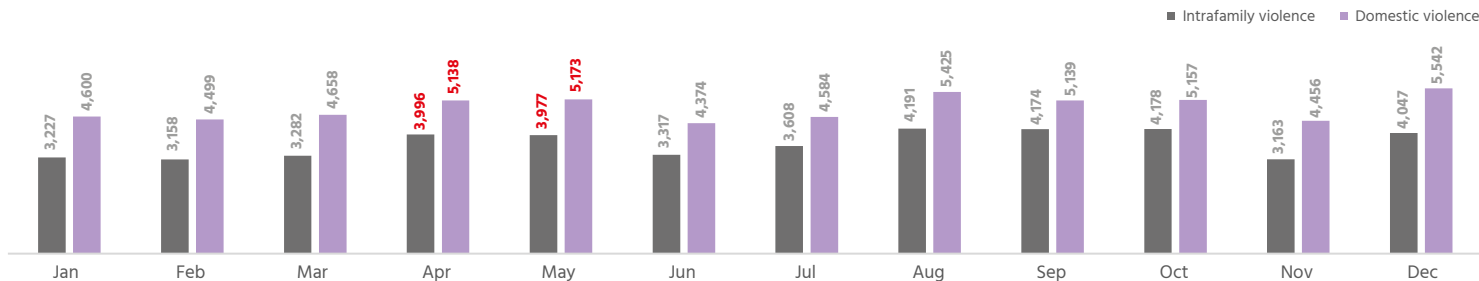
Source: Public Ministry, Dir. Strategic Planning and Quality Management (DIPEGEC).

► **In 2020, the 911 hotline system received over 100 thou. calls for domestic (57%) and intrafamily violence (43%).**

Spike recorded in April and May was possibly due to COVID-19 related lockdown measures. After stabilizing in June and July, they rose again the last 2 months of the year.

Source: Data provided by 911 hotline system

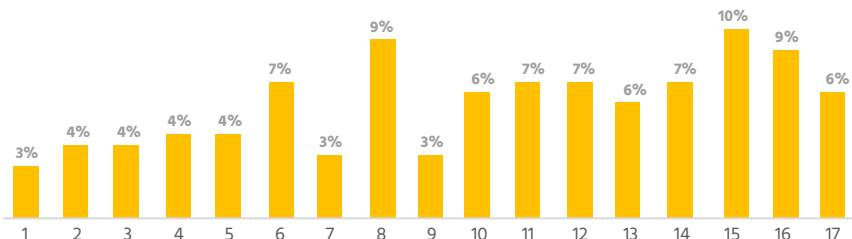
Number of 911 hotline calls for domestic and intrafamily violence, 2020



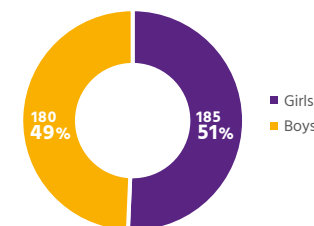
► **Violence against Women starts at home, early in the life cycle.**

- Available data shows girls risk of abuse increases as they enter adolescence.
- In 2020, the proportion of reports of abuse were primarily by girls.

Percentage of reports of child abuse in girls by age, 2020



Percentage of reports of child abuse, by sex, 2020



Source: Public Ministry, Dir. Strategic Planning and Quality Management (DIPEGEC).

## Sexual violence

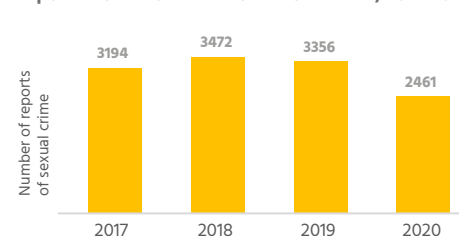
"Any conduct involving threat or intimidation that affects the integrity or sexual self-determination of women, such as unwanted sexual relations, denial of contraception and protection, among others, provided that such actions are not typified as a crime in the Penal Code."

Source: Law against Domestic Violence, Judicial Branch, 2006.

► **On average, 7 fewer sexual crimes reported per day during 2020 in Honduras.**

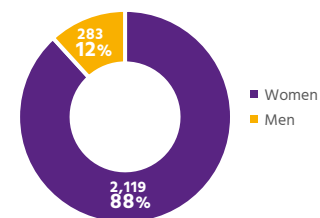
- In 2020, there were 2,461 reports, one of the lowest figures registered during the period under review. This may be the result of difficulties reporting due to measures restricting mobility in response to COVID-19.
- 88 in 100 victims of reported sexual crime were female.

Reported cases of sexual crime over time, 2017-2020



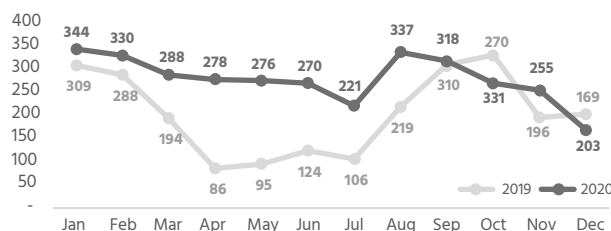
Source: Public Ministry, Dir. Strategic Planning and Quality Management (DIPEGEC).

Percentage of sexual crimes reported, by sex, 2020



► **Reports of sexual crime plummeted during the first half of the year, but rose back to 2019 levels once there was a relaxation of lockdown measures confinement**

In 2020, reports of sexual crimes declined 27% as compared to 2019. Lowest point was in April.

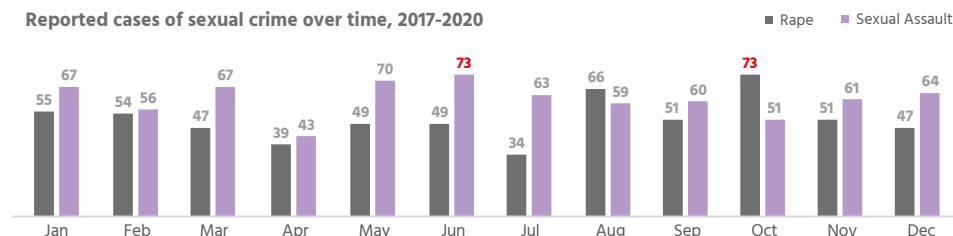


Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration, National Registry of Persons, Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute. IUDPAS/UNAH. Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs.

► **In 2020, the 911 hotline system received over 1,349 calls for rape (46%) and sexual harassment (54%)**

The greatest number of phone reports of rape was in October, and of sexual harassment in June.

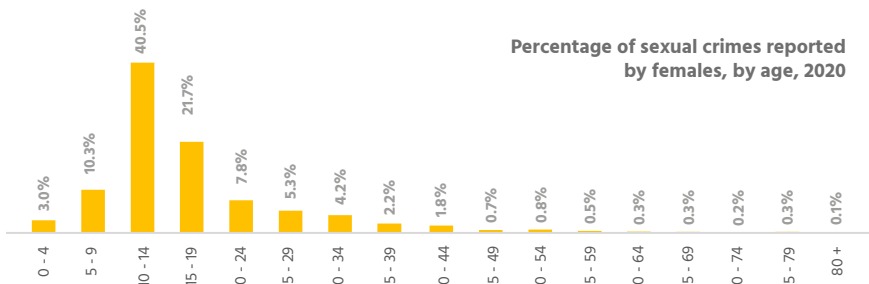
Reported cases of sexual crime over time, 2017-2020



Source: Data provided by 911 hotline system

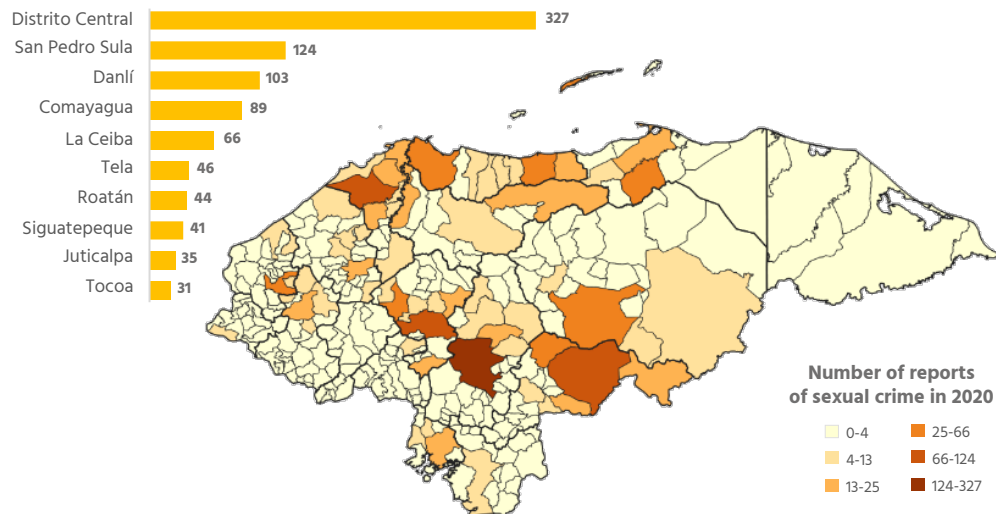
### ▶ 3 in 4 female victims of sexual crime were between 0 and 19 years of age.

- Data show that victims of sexual crime in Honduras are predominantly girls and adolescents, ages 10 to 14.
- One of the most serious consequences of sexual violence is forced pregnancy in girls and adolescents, placing their lives at risk and limiting their opportunities for development.
- According to the World Bank, the adolescent fertility rate was 64 per 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 19 in 2015.



Source: Public Ministry, Dir. Strategic Planning and Quality Management (DIPEGEC).

### ▶ 4 in 10 reports of sexual crime took place in 10 municipalities.



Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration, National Registry of Persons, Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute, IUDPAS/UNAH, Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs.

## Femicide

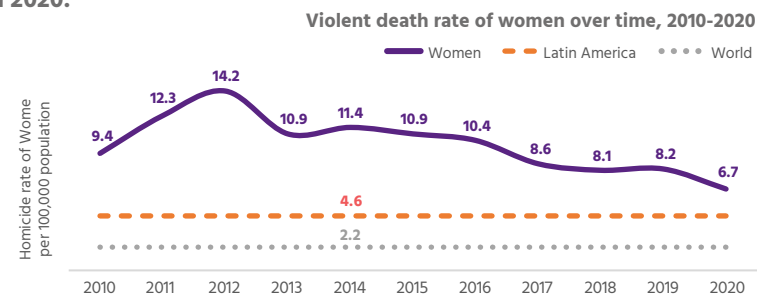
**ARTICLE 208. - FEMICIDE.**  
The offense of femicide is committed by a man who murders a woman, in the context of unequal power relations based on gender. The offense of femicide is punishable with twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) years of prison.

Source: New Penal code in Honduras.

### ▶ On average, 27 women were murdered per month in Honduras in 2020.

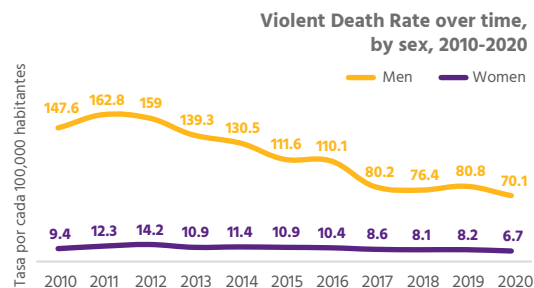
- In 2020, there was a significant 18.3% drop in female homicide. This can be seen as a result of the lockdown measures in response to the crisis due to COVID-19.
- In 2020, the violent death rate was 6.7 per 100,000 women.
- This is almost 50% greater than the rate for Latin America and double the world.

Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration, National Registry of Persons, Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute, IUDPAS/UNAH, Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs InfoSegura estimates based on UNODC 2013.



### ▶ Violent deaths of Women continue to exhibit a slower downturn to a lesser proportion as compared to the rate in men.

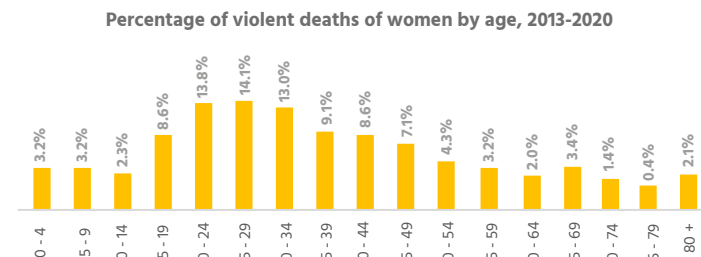
- While as of 2020, the violent death rate in men dropped 56.9% compared to 2011, in women it dropped 45.9%.
- The reduction in violent deaths of women has been the greatest in ten years.



Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration, National Registry of Persons, Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute, IUDPAS/UNAH, Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs.

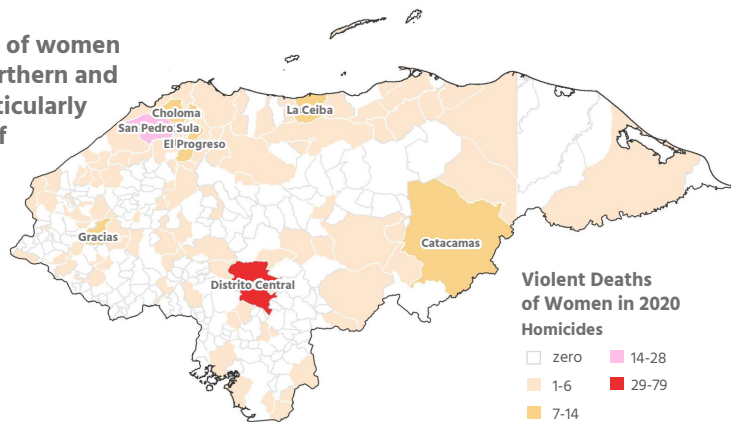
### ▶ Young women are the primary target of femicide violence in Honduras.

- Young women make up about a third (36%) of the victims of violent deaths of women between 2013 and 2020.
- Starting at age 15, the probability of becoming a victim is greater.



Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration, National Registry of Persons, Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute, IUDPAS/UNAH, Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs.

► **Most violent deaths of women take place in the northern and central regions, particularly the municipalities of Distrito Central San Pedro Sula and Choloma**



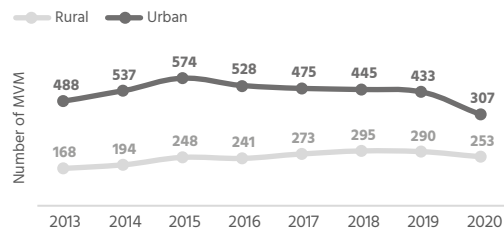
Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration, National Registry of Persons, Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute. IUDPAS/UNAH, Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs.

► **In 2020, almost the same proportion of violent deaths of women occurred in urban (55%) and rural (45%) areas.**

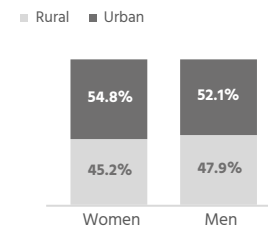
Violent deaths of women have declined 37.1% in urban areas; however, in rural areas they rose 50% in 2013- 2020.

The percentage of women murdered in urban areas is similar compared to men.

**Violent deaths of women by location, 2013-2020**



**Percentage of violent deaths, by sex and place of occurrence, 2020**

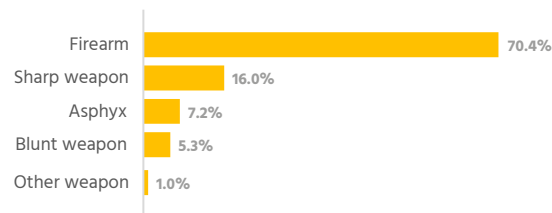


Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration, National Registry of Persons, Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute. IUDPAS/UNAH, Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs.

► **Violent deaths of women are characterized for being committed with more cruelty than those of men.**

- Firearms are predominant in violent deaths of women (70%).
- However, 30% involve other types of weapons.

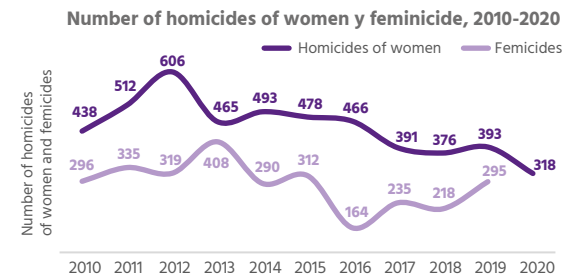
**Percentage of homicides of women by type of weapon, 2020**



Source: Provisional data by Working Group on Violent Deaths: Natl. Police, Public Ministry/Forensic Medicine Administration, National Registry of Persons, Coexistence and Citizen Security Obs. National Statistics Institute. IUDPAS/UNAH, Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs.

► **Between 2010 and 2020, 6 in 10 violent deaths of women were characterized as femicide according to IUDPAS/UNAH.**

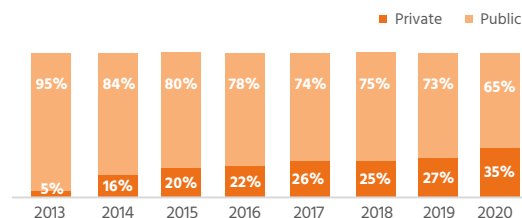
- 2013 remains the most violent in the last decade for Honduran women.
- In 2019, a total of 393 violent deaths of women were recorded, 295 of them were typified as femicide.



Source: University Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS), Universidad Autónoma de Honduras 2012-2019.

► **Victims of homicide are more vulnerable in private spaces.**

**Percentage of homicides of women by place of occurrence**



Source: University Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS), 2012-2018.

## Human mobility

Human mobility is the movement of people from one place to another exercising their right to freedom of movement. It is a complex process driven by various reasons (voluntary or forced), which is carried out with the intention of remaining in the place of destination for short or long periods, or even to develop circular mobility. This process involves crossing the boundaries of a geographic or political division, within a country or abroad".

Source: IOM 2012.

### Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is "[...] the recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring or, receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having authority over another, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

Source: Law against Human Trafficking Honduras

► **Human mobility may result from Human Trafficking.**

2017 has had the greatest number of reports of trafficking women and girls in the last five years.

