



# Gender Equality Observatory

## for Latin America and the Caribbean



### DEATH OF WOMEN AT THE HANDS OF THEIR PARTNERS PERSISTS IN THE REGION

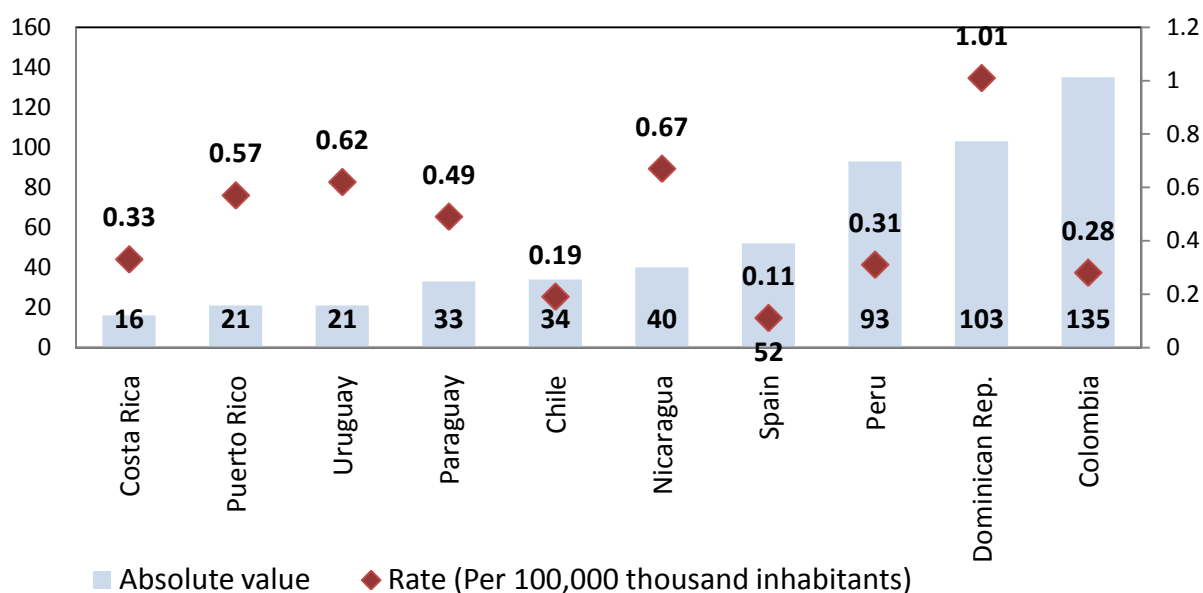
*“Gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men.” \**

#### Violence against women persists in all its forms despite various attempts to prevent, sanction and eradicate it

- During 2011, 422 deaths of women at the hands of their intimate partner or former partner were registered in nine Latin American Countries <sup>1</sup>. This represents a slight decrease in comparison with 2010, when 482 deaths were recorded.
- In the same year, 1,139 homicides on account of gender, or femicides, were recorded in eight countries in the region <sup>2</sup>, which shows that approximately one third of these homicides were committed in the sphere of intimate partnership.

#### Latin America (9 countries) and Spain: Death at the hands of an intimate partner or ex-partner, 2012

(In absolute values and rates per 100.000 inhabitants)



**Source:** Observatory for Gender Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean, CEPAL <http://www.eclac.cl/oig/afisica/>

<sup>1</sup>Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

<sup>2</sup>Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.



### Why improve the measurement of violence against women?

- There are many reasons, but the most important one is to **facilitate the access to justice**.
- The production of data provides a better knowledge of the problem in order to evaluate the responses offered by public policies, the health systems and the institutions of justice. There are two types of instruments to measure violence against women: administrative registers and surveys on violence against women, both of which are underdeveloped within the region.

#### The challenges of administrative registers

- Data production is heterogeneous and there is often a lack of inter-institutional coordination to collect, analyze and disseminate figures.
- The data remains partial and doesn't allow international comparisons.
- The data is not allowing an accurate information of the times women get have access to rights and justice nor when the public system responses are insufficient.

- Countries in the region are developing processes to apply methodologies to advance in the harmonization of gender violence data and to define which the official data are.
- Surveys on violence against women are essential to analyze trends, since they are the only instrument to measure unreported events or events that haven't been detected by the public service, the "dark figure". However, this instrument still lacks the systematic and regular application required by the region.

### How to make progress towards the eradication of violence against women?

- Promote the creation of a comprehensive system of intervention which provides internal consistency to sector responses, operating under a strong political leadership and counts with adequate and continuous funding.
- Improve **data production**, both on the basis of population surveys and through the systematization of administrative registers, unifying the registers.
- Strategies to transform culture and the conditions wherein social relations are established and consolidated are required.
- Improve the **interventions of the judicial power** through actions of training, monitoring and control actions, as well as integrating the interventions with public policies.
- Guarantee **access to justice** and provide support during the legal process for victims of violence, the latter through the implementation of social policies
- Articulate the actions of various organisms, bodies and follow-up mechanisms of the **universal and regional human rights protection systems**.
- Develop and strengthen the **judicial definition of femicide** in legislation.
- Support the realization and dissemination of **empirical investigations** regarding access to justice for women victims of violence.