

# **EL SALVADOR**

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE LIFE CYCLE, 2020

- Findings
- Progress and challenges
- The Continuum of violence:
  - Sexual Violence
  - Forced disappearance
  - Feminicidal Violence

# **VIOLENCE AGAINST** WOMEN

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."

Source: Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women. (Belém do Pará), 1994.

# **FINDINGS**

1. 2020 was an atypical year due to COVID-19 and restrictions on mobility that were enforced to stem the pandemic.

2. Although numerous administrative records suggest there was a downturn in crime as it affect women. survey-generated evidence suggests a general rise in household conflicts during the forced lockdown period.

3. It is estimated that measures taken to respond to the pandemic led to atypical behavior in certain crimes. Over the course of these 85 days, estimates show significant reductions in reports of female disappearances, female suicide, non-consensual dissemination of pornography, and a variety of expressions of violence against women.

4. At the closing of 2020, there is a noticeable reduction in principal sexual crimes committed against women. In addition, homicide involving females and feminicides register the lowest records since 2013.

**5.** Given that reporting channels were affected by the quarantine period, institutions need to strengthen capacity to innovate and provide the population with access to effective services in future emergencies.

#### PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES Changes in the legal framework over time

① 1981 1992 ① 1995 **(1996)** 1997 ① 1998 2009 2011 CEDAW ISDEMU Peace Belém do Pará Penal Criminal Law for the Law for Equality, Equity and Eradication of Discrimination against Women Ratified Accords Ratified Beijing Created code Procedure Integral Creation of CPM, Gender Commission and Gender Unit in Congress. Signed Declaration and Code Protection of ISDEMU becomes the governing body. Platform for Children and 2a. National Policy on Women. Action Adolescents Ciudad Mujer in Colon. UNIMUJER created at the PNC 2012 **2013 2016** 2017 2020 2014 2018 Special Comprehensive Law Ciudad Mujer in Special Law against Human Created Specialized Courts for a Statutory National Office for Women, Creation of for a Life Free from Violence Trafficking. Life Free from Violence and prohibition Children, Adolescents, **Second Courts** Santa Ana, for Women becomes San Martín. Special Unit for Women Victims of Child LGBTI Population and other of Instruction in Discrimination for Women. effective. of Violence created at the PDDH. San Salvador, Protocol to address Gender-Based Marriage groups in conditions of Cojutepeque. Creation of the Unit for Morazán and Violence and Discrimination vulnerability created at the Specialized Assistance for San Miguel against Women inside the PNC. Women at the FGR. Strategy for the prevention Ciudad Muier in Usulutan. of feminicide and sexual violence ISDEMU. Institutional strengthening International legal frameworks National frameworks Political and Institutional Progress Intervening factors Public Policies

Source: Prepared by InfoSegura, based on international instruments and national law on violence against women, 2020

# Timeline of important events in 2020





Closing of borders, ports airports and posts set at border blind







End of quarantine mandatory lockdown

**Tropical Storms** 

Amanda and Cristobal



**Economic Reopening** Phase I



Reactivation of public transport

March 11











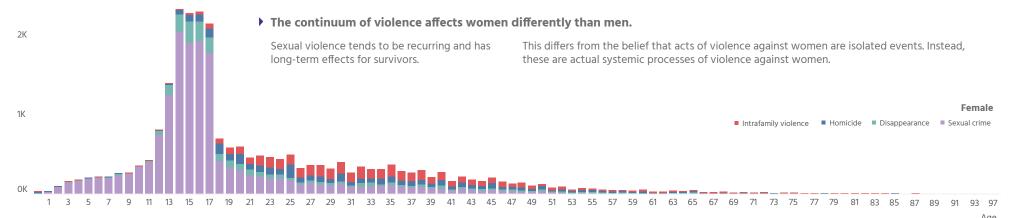
August 20

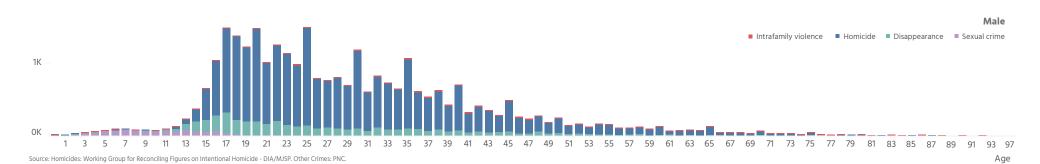
# THE CONTINUUM OF VIOLENCE

2K

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 at them, always and everywhere.

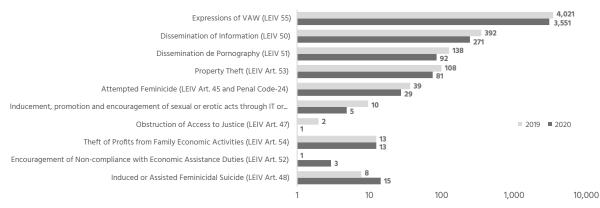
Source: UNDP and USAID, 2016.





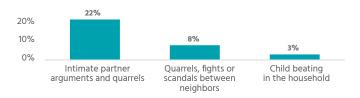
▶ A 14% reduction in the aggregate of LEIV crimes (VAW) in 2020. Feminicidal suicide and failure to provide economic support on the rise.

## Number of reports of VAW-related crimes under LEIV, by year, 2019 and 2020

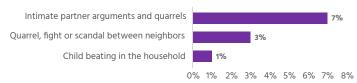


In 2020, conflict in the household on the rise due to lockdown, but administrative records point to the opposite.

#### Conflict you have heard during lockdown



#### Conflicts that occur more frequently than previously



Sudden drops in some LEIV (VAW) crimes are noted starting at the household lockdown period in 2020.



Homicide of women Illegal

Dissemination of informationAttempted Feminicide

Induced feminicidal suicide

LEIV Crimes (VAW)

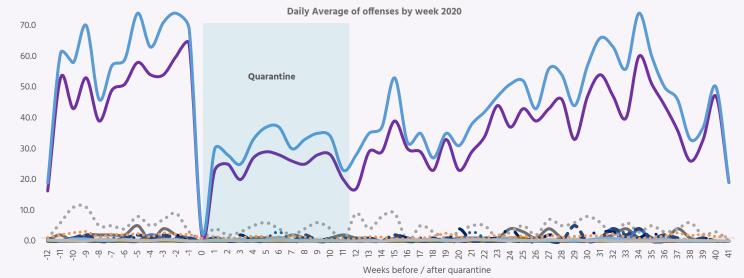
Disappearances of women

Expressions of VAW

• • • Aggravated attempted feminicide

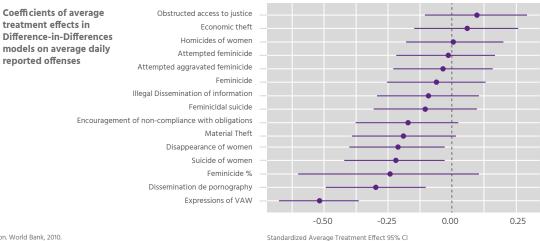
Economic theft
Feminicide

Female Suicide



Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on FGR.

 During the quarantine period, reports of Dissemination de Pornography (LEIV Art. 51) and Expressions of VAW (LEIV Art. 55) and Disappearances (Cr. Code 148)



Source: Prepared by the UNDP through InfoSegura based on FGR and CSJ-IML.

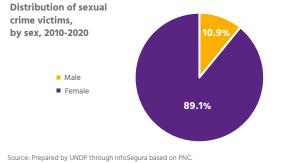
Note: For theory and applications of the Difference-in-Differences method refer to Handbook on impact evaluation. World Bank, 2010.

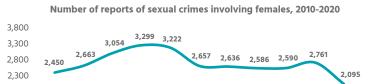
# Sexual violence

decreased.

This is any behavior that threatens or violates a woman's right to voluntarily choose sexual life, including not only sexual intercourse, but any form of contact or sexual access, genital or non-genital, regardless of the aggressor being or not in a marital relationship, a partner, social, job, emotional or family ties with the female victim.

In 2020, a sexual crime was reported every 4 hours. Nine in 10 victims were women.





In 2020, reports of sexual crimes against women exhibited a 24% decline compared to the previous year.

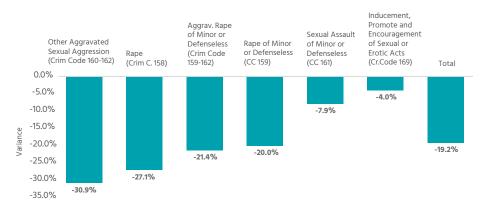
1.800

1,300

800

▶ A 19.2% reduction in reported sexual crime in 2020.

#### Annual variance of reported sexual crime, 2019-2020

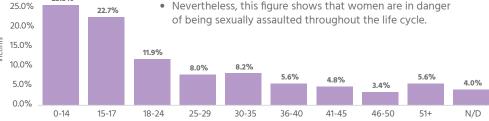


Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on FGR. Source: Prepared

# In 2020, 48.5% of sexual crimes involved girls and adolescents under the age of 18.

### Sexual crime by age of female victims, 2020

- Victims of sexual violence are predominantly adolescent women.
- Particularly, 48.5% of all victims of sexual crimes were girls ages 0 to 14.
- Nevertheless, this figure shows that women are in danger



Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on PNC.

30.0%

25.8%

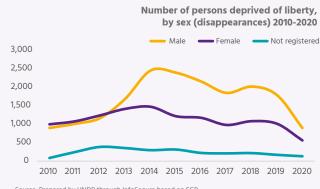
# Forced disappearance

"The arrest, detention, kidnapping or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge such deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, thus removing him from the protection of the law."

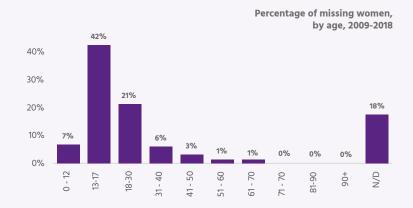
Source: Article 2, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

# Between 2010 and 2020, the FGR received over 12,000 reports of women deprived of liberty (disappearances).

Since 2015, there has been a reduction in reports of persons deprived of liberty. Little over half of missing persons on record were minors.



Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on FGR.



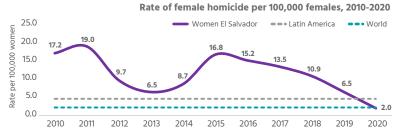
# Feminicidal violence

"It is the form of extreme gender-based violence against women, an outcome of the violation of their human rights in the public and private spheres, formed by the set of misogynous conducts that entails social or State impunity, where they culminate in feminicide and in other forms of violent death of women."

## Since 2016, indicators for homicides of women are on a noticeable downward trend. From 2016 to 2020, it declined 86.8%

During previous years, the feminicide rate was higher than Latin America and the World. To be specific, in 2019, it was 40% higher than Latin American rate, and 5 times that of the world.

In 2020, for the first time, the rates of homicides of women were lower than Latin America and Worldwide.



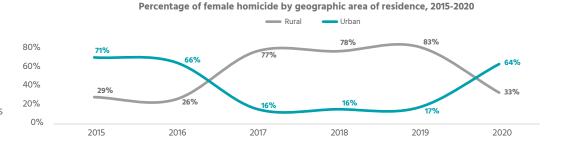
#### Homicides of women have fluctuated between urban and rural areas.

Approximately 52% of reports of murders of women came from the urban area, in the aggregate from 2010 and 2020.

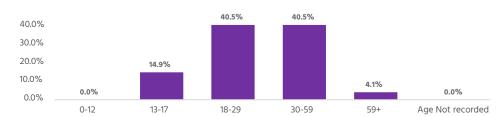
During the periods from 2012-2013 and 2016-2019, feminicidal violence was higher in rural areas. In 2020, however, it was predominantly in urban areas.

For a better understanding of this phenomenon, it is necessary to enhance the records of motives and types of aggressor

Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on PNC.



## Percentage of female homicides, by age, 2020



# In 2020, on average, 11 women were murdered per month. Over 50% were under the age of 31.

The danger of being murdered is present throughout a woman's life cycle, but it is much higher for those of reproductive age.

Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on PNC.

### ▶ Reduction in female homicides y feminicide since 2015.

Between 2019 and 2020, the reduction in the number of female homicides was 40.5%, while in feminicide it was approximately 61.0%.

# Number of female homicides and feminicides, 2013-2020



Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura with data provided by PNC, FGR, and the Working Group to Review Intentional homicide

# ▶ On average, 53% of female homicides were typified as feminicide, either simple or aggravated, between 2013 and 2020.

#### Rate of female homicide and feminicides, 2013-2020



Source: Prepared by the UNDP through InfoSegura based on FGR, PNC and DIGESTYC.

## Acts of violence against women are concentrated in certain territories.

In all, 44 out of 262 municipalities registered cases of feminicide. Only 15 of these municipalities accounted for over 60% of feminicide victims, and 43% of female victims of homicide.

#### Presence of female homicides and feminicides, per municipality, in 2020

