



# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## 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 violence
    - Sexual violence
    - Femicide
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# PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

## Concepts and Analytical Approach

### 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."

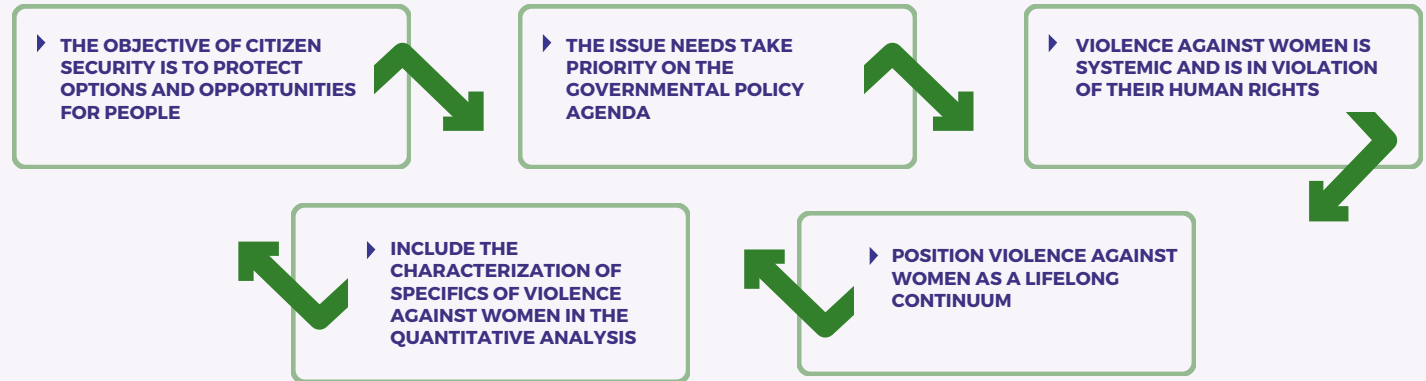
Source: Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women. (Belém do Pará), 1994.

### 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 lives 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 matter of citizen security and Human Rights**



**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

### Legal Framework Timeline

- 🕒 **2019**  
National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity 2020-2030 (PLANEG III).
- 🕒 **2011**  
Law that facilitates access to justice female victims of violence.
- 🕒 **2010**  
Constitutional Reform that stipulates that "Intrafamily and gender violence is condemned in any of its forms. The State will guarantee by law the adoption of measures necessary to prevent, sanction and eradicate violence against women".
- 🕒 **2006**  
Resolution 3869-2006 of the Supreme Court of Justice that recognizes the battered woman syndrome.
- 🕒 **2003**  
Law 137-03 on illegal migrant smuggling and human trafficking.  
Law 88-03, which institutes Safe Houses or Shelters throughout the country to serve as a temporary safe haven for women, children and adolescent victims of intrafamily or domestic violence
- 🕒 **1997**  
Law 24-97 with modifications introduced to the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Code for the Protection of Children and Adolescents.

**5 information gaps for the visibility of violence against women throughout the life cycle**

**1.**

**Lack of information on certain offenses (disappearance, trafficking migration of women)**

**2.**

**Unknown amount of unsolved cases**

**3.**

**Data inconsistencies (mismatched totals, age record errors, others.)**

**4.**

**Little disaggregation (sex, age, relation to perpetrator, etc.)**

**5.**

**Limited information on institutional performance ensuring justice for victims**

# THE CONTINUUM OF VIOLENCE

## A differentiated analysis of criminal violence

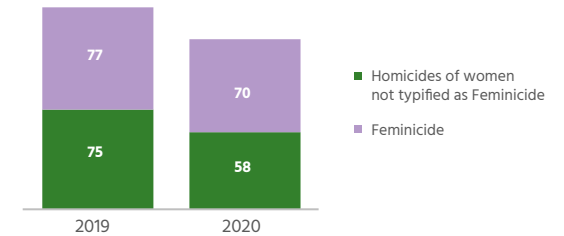
### Femicide/Feminicide

Femicide/feminicide is "[...] the violent death of women based on gender, whether within the family, domestic partnership, or in any other interpersonal relationship; in the community, by any person, or perpetrated or tolerated by the State or its agents, by action or omission."

Source: Committee of Experts on the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belem do Pará Convention (MESECVI), 2008.

▶ In 2020, there were 128 female homicides, 55% of them (70) classified as feminicide.

Both years, the proportion of homicides typified as feminicides has been around 50%.

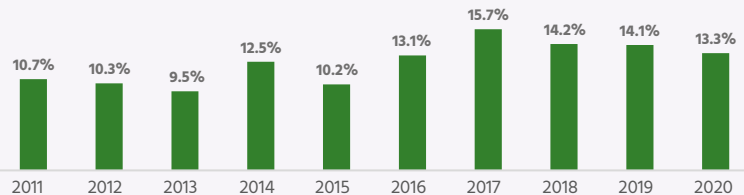


Source: Data provided by the Citizen Security Observatory (OSC-RD).

▶ The percentage of female homicide exhibited a slight decline in 2020 compared to 2019.

Of 961 homicides in 2020, 833 involved males (87%) and 128 females (13%).

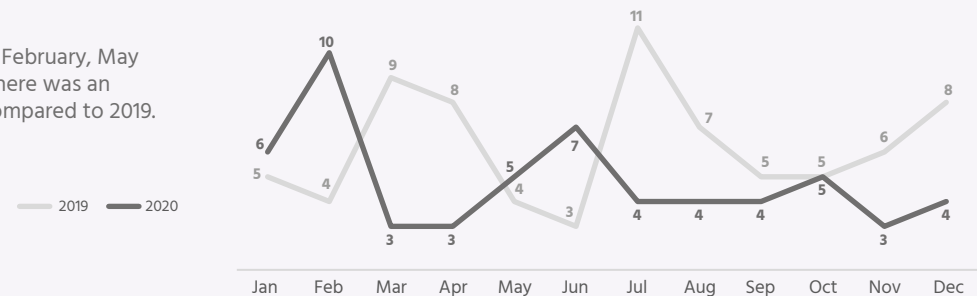
Both male and female homicides dropped compared to 2019, but the decline was greater in females (-12% and -5%).



Note: This includes people charged as per Ministry of Public Security.

▶ 58 women victims of intentional homicide during 2020. This is 23% lower compared to 2019 (17 fewer victims).

In January, February, May and June there was an increase compared to 2019.

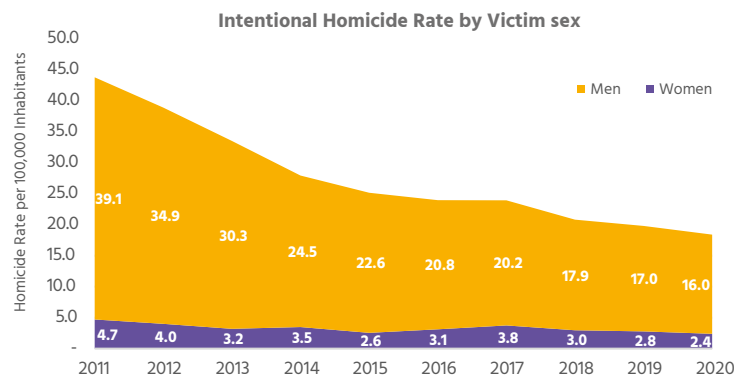


Source: Data provided by the Citizen Security Observatory (OSC-RD).

▶ Violent death in both males and females dropped between 2019 and 2020; but the reduction was greater in females.

Nine years ago, the rate of female intentional homicides and feminicide in The Dominican Republic was 4.9 per 100,000 females.

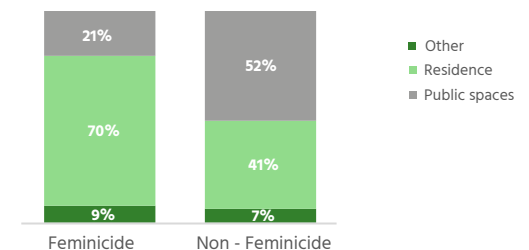
By 2020, the rate dropped 50% compared to 2011, to 2.4.



Fuente: Datos obtenidos del Observatorio de Seguridad Ciudadana (OSC-RD).

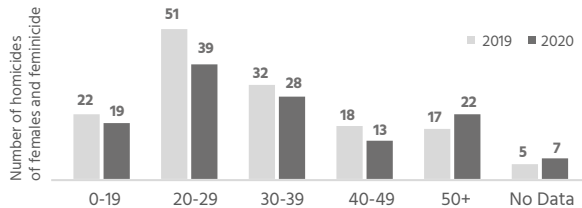
▶ Most of the feminicides were committed in residences, while the majority of non-feminicides occurred on public spaces.

Percentage of femicides and non-femicides by place of occurrence



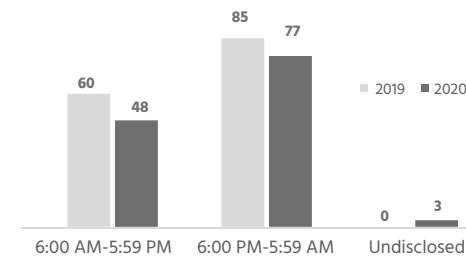
Source: Data provided by the Citizen Security Observatory (OSC-RD).

▶ Young females ages 20 to 39 are still the primary victims of homicide, and feminicide, accounting for 52% of the victims. However, this age group registered a reduction compared to 2019 (-19%, 16 fewer victims).



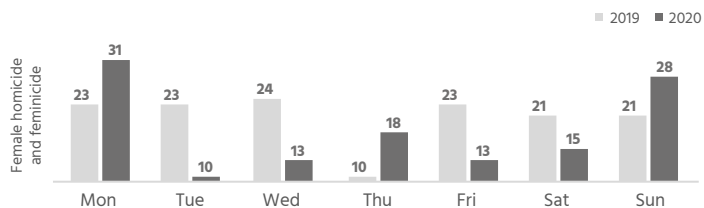
Source: Data provided by the Citizen Security Observatory (OSC-RD).

▶ Some 60% of female homicides in 2020 took place at night and before dawn (6am to 6pm).



Source: Data provided by the Citizen Security Observatory (OSC-RD).

▶ The greatest number of homicides involving a female in 2020 were on Mondays, Sundays and Thursdays, accounting for 60% of victims.



Source: Data provided by the Citizen Security Observatory (OSC-RD).

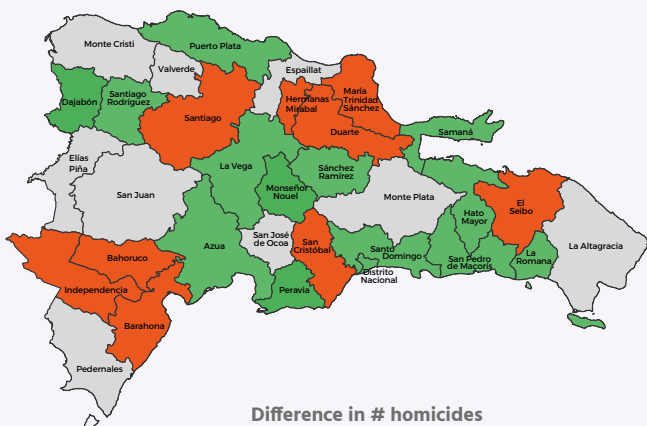
▶ In 2020, a large number of female homicides and feminicides took place on Sundays and at night.

Saturdays and Sundays account for almost 3 in 5 female homicides and feminicides. Some 60% of homicides took place at night and before dawn (6:00pm to 5:59am).

8 homicides show no record of the time of the incident  
Source: Data provided by the Citizen Security Observatory (OSC-RD).



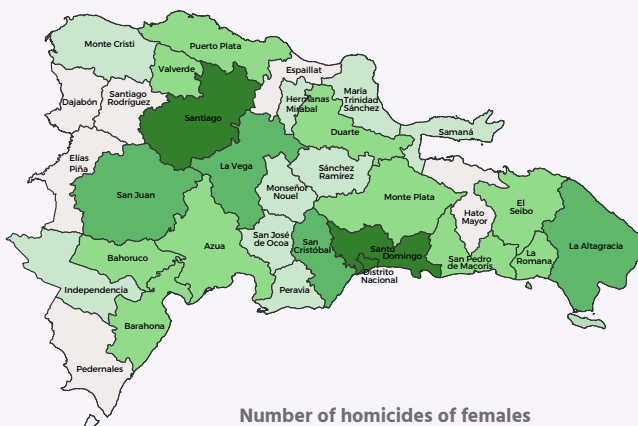
▶ From 2019 to 2020, female homicides and feminicide increased in 9 of 32 provinces.



Difference in # homicides of females and feminicide 2019 - 2020

Increased Same Declined

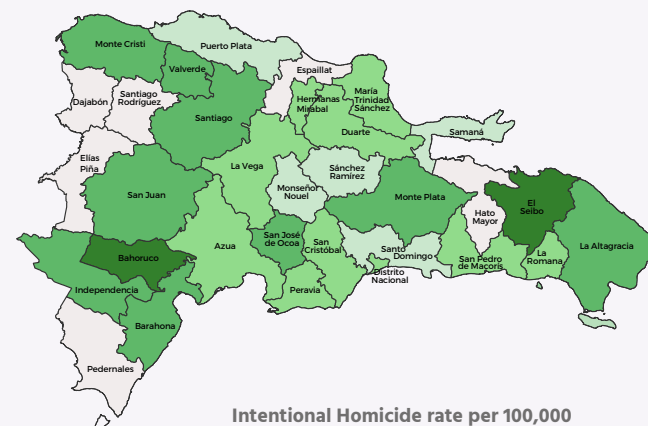
▶ Provinces with most female homicides in 2020 Santo Domingo, Santiago and Distrito Nacional, the same as in 2019.



Number of homicides of females and feminicides 2020

0 1-2 3-4 6-7 12-26

▶ The provinces with highest homicide rates in 2020 were El Seibo and Bahoruco.



Intentional Homicide rate per 100,000 population in 2020

0 0.6 - 0.9 1 - 1.5 1.7 - 2.7 4.0 - 4.3

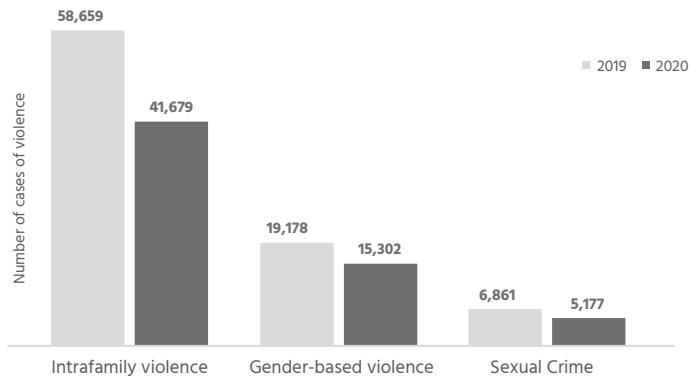
## Intrafamily violence

Domestic violence or intrafamily violence is abuse or physical, psychological, sexual or other aggression inflicted by individuals in the family, generally directed at more vulnerable members, such as: Girls, women and older women.

Source: WHO, 2002.

- ▶ **The total number of cases of intrafamily violence, GBV and sexual crime in 2020 was 62,158. This is a 27% annual reduction.**

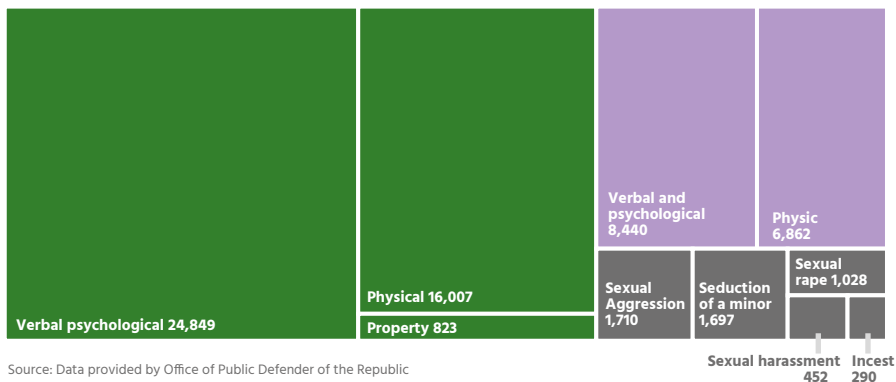
Cases whose reported number declined most were intrafamily violence (-29%).



Source: Data provided by Office of Public Defender of the Republic.

- ▶ **Reports of intrafamily violence account for 67% of all reported violence in 2020.**

■ Intrafamily violence ■ Gender-based violence ■ Sexual Crime



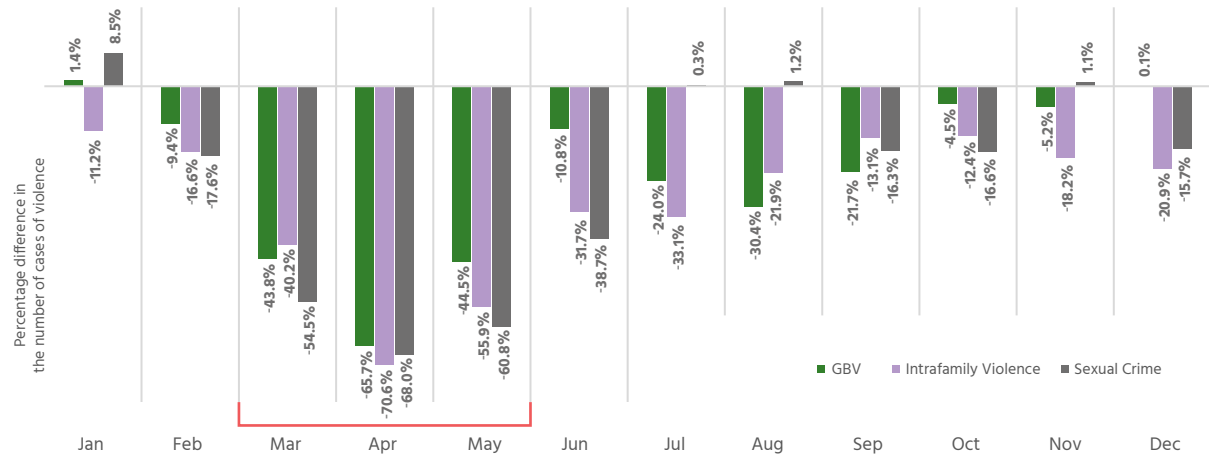
Source: Data provided by Office of Public Defender of the Republic

## Sexual violence

Sexual violence is defined as: "any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work."

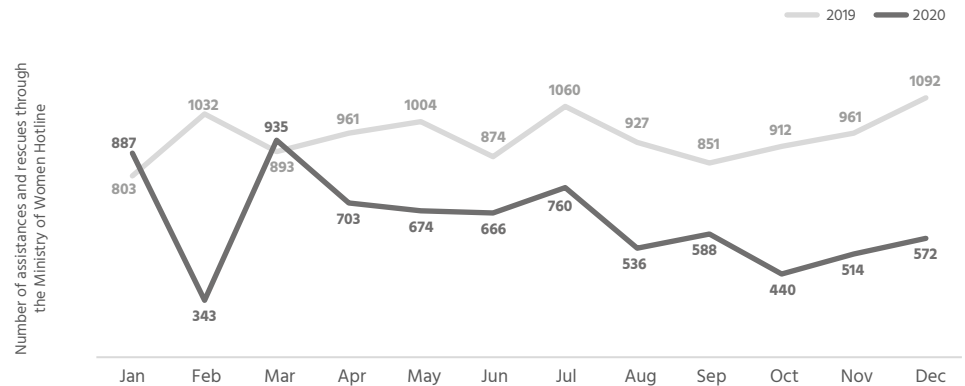
Source: WHO, 2013.

- ▶ **In March, April and May 2020 there were greater reductions in cases of violence compared to 2019, with a -56% average reduction.**



Fuente: Datos obtenidos de la Procuraduría General de la República.

- ▶ **There was an increase in March 2020 in the number of care services and rescues through the Ministry of Women hotline. However, the total care services provided in 2020 it was 33% lower than in 2019.**



Source: Data provided by Ministry of Women's Affairs