

VIOLENCE AND ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY

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OVERVIEW

- I. Background: violence and SRH**
- II. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Teen Pregnancy**
- III. Reproductive Coercion and Teen Pregnancy**
- IV: Conclusions**



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VIOLENCE AND SRH

- **Physical, emotional and sexual violence affect SRH and increase risk and vulnerability for undesired SRH outcomes (*unintended pregnancy, abortion, STI, etc.*)**
- **The violence can be random, occur in specific contexts (war, emergency, rape), or take place in the context of family and other close relationships**
- ***The most consistent form of violence affecting women (in LAC region): intimate partner violence (IPV)***



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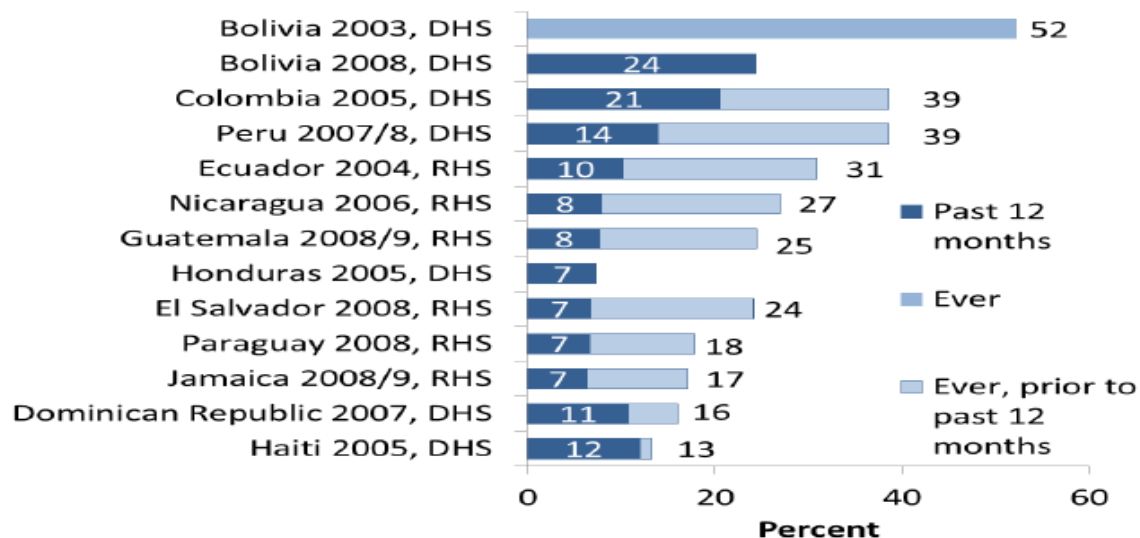
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VIOLENCE AND SRH (cont'd)

- *Intimate partner violence* : violence or abuse by one partner against another in an intimate relationship

Physical partner violence against women, ever and past 12 months (DHS: current /most recent partner only)



Source: Bott s., Guedes A., Goodwin M., Mendoza J., Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean. A comparative analysis. PAHO, 2013



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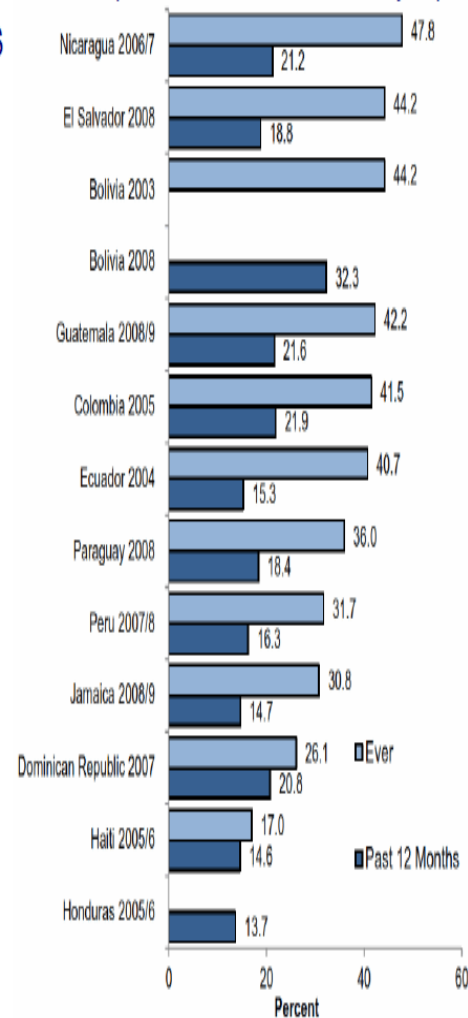
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Sexual violence by a partner and by any perpetrator, ever



Emotional abuse by a partner:

Percentage of women who reported emotional abuse by a partner ever and in the past 12 months



Source: Bott s., Guedes A., Goodwin M., Mendoza J., Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean. A comparative analysis. PAHO, 2013



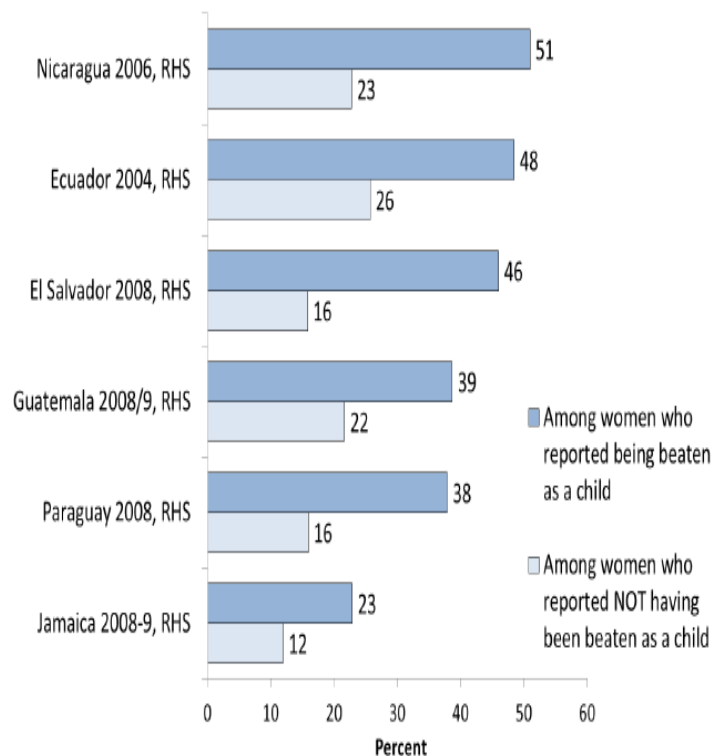
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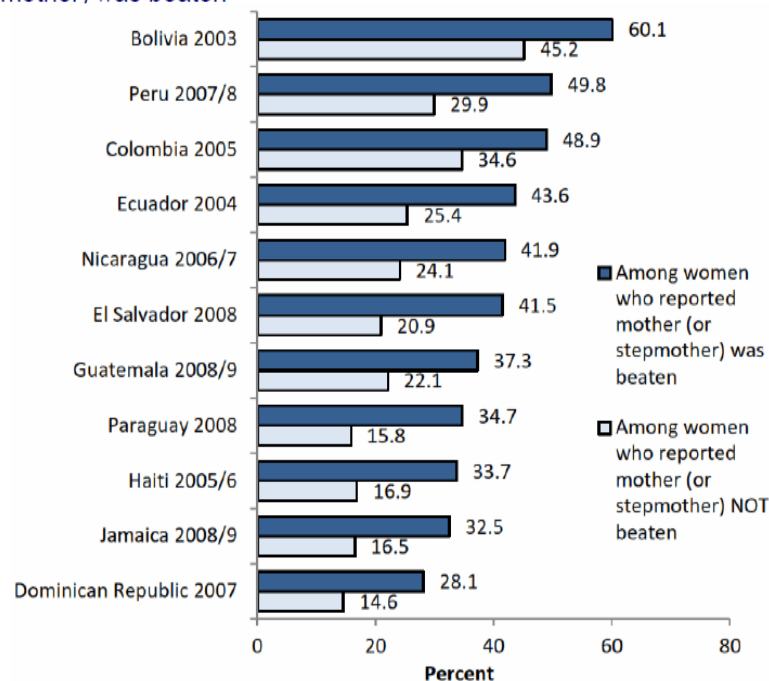
The cycle of IPF: previous abuse and witnessing abuse

Prevalence of partner violence against women aged 15-49 according to history of being beaten in childhood



Prevalence of IPV against women aged 15-49 according to history of abuse against mother

Percentage of women aged 15-49 who reported physical or sexual violence by a partner ever, according to whether or not they reported that their mother (or stepmother) was beaten



Source: Bott s., Guedes A., Goodwin M., Mendoza J., Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean. A comparative analysis. PAHO, 2013



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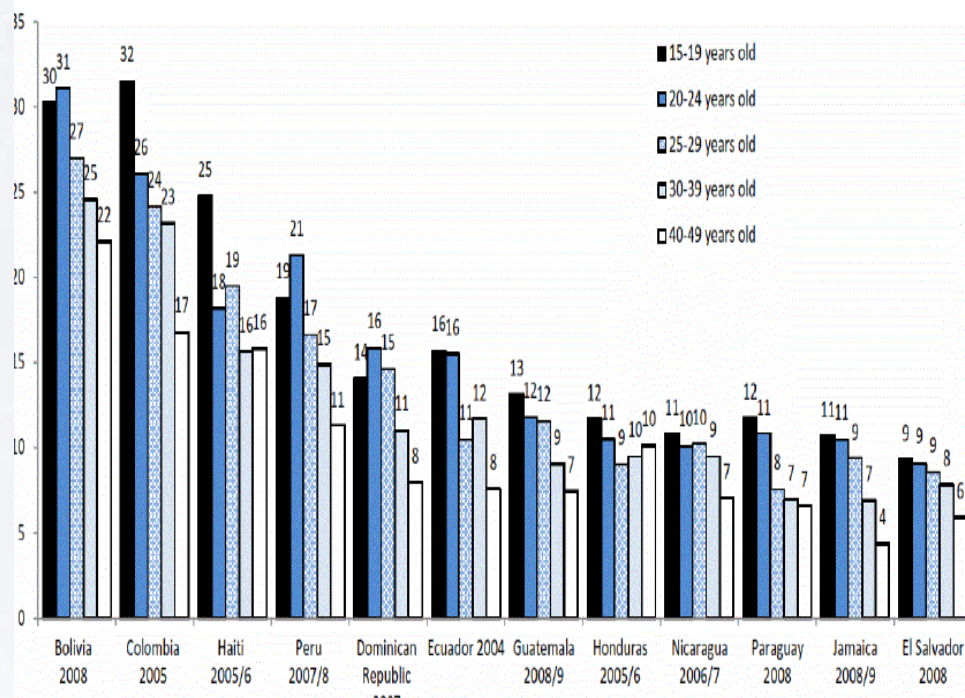
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The vulnerability of adolescent girls

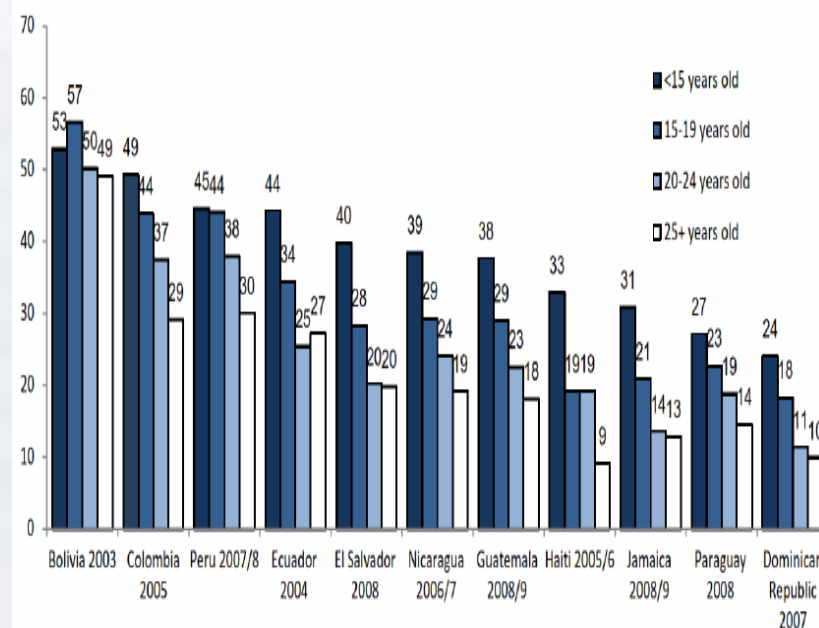
Prevalence of IPV, by age of woman:

Percentage of women who reported physical violence by a partner in the past 12 months, by age



Prevalence of IPV, by age at first union

Percentage of women who reported physical or sexual violence by a partner ever, by age at first marriage or union



Source: Bott s., Guedes A., Goodwin M., Mendoza J., Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean. A comparative analysis. 2013



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IPF and adolescent pregnancy

Mechanisms include:

- **Compromised sexual decision-making**
- **Inconsistent condom use**
- **Fear of condom negotiation**
- **Limited ability to enact contraceptive use**



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WHO Recommendations

Addressing IPV/GBV:

- **Recognize GBV/IPV as a public health problem**
- **Put women's safety first and ensure confidentiality of information**
- **Do no harm: monitor unintended consequences, promote women's safety, mitigate backlash**
- **Promote gender equality: gender transformative interventions**
- **Facilitate meaningful participation of women and men in design of interventions**
- **Referral to specialized and community services networks**



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Reproductive coercion (RC): linked with IPV but not the same

- **Pregnancy coercion:**
 - verbal pressure to get pregnant or control pregnancy outcome; threats; acts of violence
- **Birth control sabotage:**
 - Condom manipulation & Interfering with other contraceptive methods

- Recent studies demonstrate a robust and independent association of recent RC with unintended pregnancy, even in the absence of exposure to IPV;
- A striking finding is how many more young women report recent RC compared to older women

(Miller et al. j. Contraception, 2013)

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Committee on Health Care for Underserved Women – 2013 recommendation:

- Health care providers should include reproductive and sexual coercion and IPV as part of the differential diagnosis when patients are seen for pregnancy testing, STI testing, emergency contraception, or with unplanned pregnancies
- Interventions can include educating patients about **safety planning and support services**, offering **harm reduction strategies**, providing **discreet and confidential methods of contraception** such as IUDs, implants, creating a **safe environment for disclosure**



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Conclusions

- **Adolescent girls are at greater risk to experience IPV**
- **IPV is multidimensional & intergenerational**
- **IPV must be taken into account in interventions addressing adolescent pregnancy**
- **Reproductive coercion includes pregnancy coercion and birth control sabotage**
- **IPV interventions will not necessarily identify women/girls experiencing RC**
- **Providers can help women experiencing RC through counseling about contraceptives less susceptible to partner influence and violence support services**



THANK YOU!!



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