**INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF VIOLENCE**

Testimonials from Prison

**Countries surveyed**
- Argentina
- Brasil
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Peru

**Data:** Survey of convicted prisoners

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

To understand the association between family violence during childhood and certain criminal conduct in adulthood.

---

### 1. FAMILY VIOLENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>MEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct family violence*</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect family violence**</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- *Child abuse, where the child is the direct victim.
- **Violence between parents in the home; even though the minor may not directly witness the abuse, he or she is immersed in a violent family environment.

**47%**

HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF DIRECT VIOLENCE

**32%**

HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF INDIRECT VIOLENCE

---

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

**General**

To what extent does growing up as the victim of direct or indirect violence at home influence certain criminal patterns of men and women who are incarcerated in Latin America?

Are there gender differences in this influence? In other words, does childhood victimization have a more detrimental effect on the criminal behavior of women and/or men?

**THIS STUDY FOCUSES SPECIFICALLY ON TWO TYPES OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR:**

- Recidivism
- Possession of firearms
CONCLUSION

INDIRECT VIOLENCE
Indirect violence during childhood has a greater effect on the criminal behavior of women (both their likelihood of being recidivists and of possessing firearms).

DIRECT VICTIMIZATION
Direct victimization during childhood affects the likelihood of recidivism for both women and men—but the possession of firearms affects men more.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

WOMEN
Women appear to be affected by both indirect and direct victimization. Intervention strategies for women should, therefore, be broader and more encompassing to address both types of violence (direct and indirect).

MEN
Men are affected primarily by direct violence and are less affected by being immersed in a violent family environment. Accordingly, interventions to prevent criminal conduct among men should focus on direct family violence.

Study conducted by: Ana Safranoff and Antonella Tiravassi

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Inter-American Development Bank, its Board of Directors, or the countries they represent.