





Overview of gender inequality in Colombia

Panorama de la desigualdad de género en Colombia

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ABSTRACT

This article presents an investigation on the fulfillment and status of the indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 5 “Gender Equality” in Colombia. DANE (National Administrative Department of Statistics) documents were reviewed, where data from 2000 to approximately 2020 were found; a survey of 103 women was conducted to obtain updated data and thus be able to make a comparison with the data presented by government agencies. The results are not encouraging for Colombian women; therefore, greater security measures must be implemented to protect the lives and rights of all women.

RESUMEN

Este artículo presenta una investigación sobre el cumplimiento y el estado de los indicadores del Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible número 5 "Igualdad de género" en Colombia. Se revisaron los documentos del DANE (Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística) donde se hallaron datos desde el 2000 hasta el año 2020 aproximadamente; se realizó una encuesta a 103 mujeres para obtener datos actualizados y así poder realizar una comparación con los datos que presentan los entes gubernamentales. Los resultados no son alentadores para las colombianas por lo que se deben implementar mayores medidas de seguridad y velar por la vida y los derechos de todas las mujeres.

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1. Introduction

In Colombia, gender inequality is a very marked phenomenon, and as in the rest of the world, the outlook is not encouraging, becoming normalized in the labor, academic, social, cultural and economic fields. For example, in Colombia, women with formal jobs had 6.3% lower salaries compared to men doing the same work in 2021 [1], despite constant efforts, especially in recent years, to reduce this high figure; another example of the difficult situation for Colombian women is the femicide rate, according to the Attorney General's Office, in 2022 there were 614 cases of femicide and by February this year this figure is 28 victims [2]. Gender equality indicators do not present a good picture, inequality figures are high [3]; there is no security for Colombian women.

This is not a country foreign to gender inequality, the data given by the government are proof of this [3]; the regulations that exist around the world are not designed so that women can feel equal, in countries such as Africa the implementation of the regulations establishes the increase of women in the labor field in general [4]. Currently these laws are created by the influence of the SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) number 5 "Gender Equality", which should be contemplated for the 2030 agenda of the countries and has as its main goal to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; this is one of the most important goals, since the other 16 goals depend on its fulfillment [5].

The objective of this article is to verify compliance with SDG 5 in Colombia, analyzing each of its indicators and observing how the current situation of Colombian women really is.

2. Methodology

Initially, a review and statistical analysis of the SDG 5 indicators at the national level is carried out

with the information presented by DANE [3], where the measurements of these indicators are made from 2000 to 2020; then a comparison is made with the data collected thanks to a survey of women in different parts of the country to analyze the contrast of information with the current situation (Annex 1).

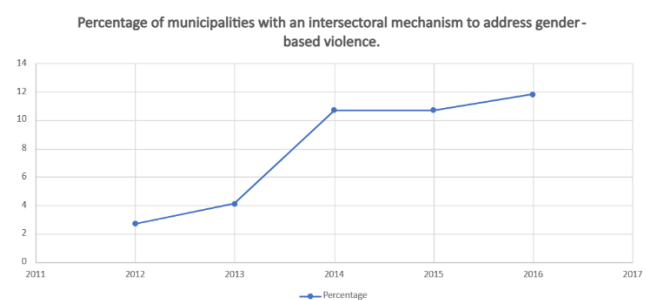
3. Results

The information collected from DANE and from the survey conducted for each of the SDG 5 indicators is shown.

3.1 Percentage of municipalities with an intersectoral mechanism to address gender-based violence (5.1.1.C)

Over the years the number of mechanisms for addressing gender-based violence in the different municipalities has grown; the most recent data found is from 2016, for this year, only 11.8% of the municipalities have some mechanism, this means that there are only 16 of the 132 municipalities, information that can be seen in Figure 1. In addition, there is the line #155 at the national level, arranged especially to address cases of gender violence [6], but the lack of access to information means that many women, especially in isolated municipalities, cannot access this service.

Figure 1. Percentage of municipalities with an intersectoral mechanism to address gender-based violence.

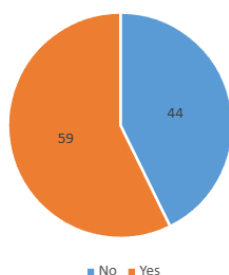


Source: own.

Based on the surveys conducted for 2023, as shown in Figure 2, 57.28% of the women, in other words 59 of those surveyed, indicated that they are aware of some of the different mechanisms to address gender-based violence; the remaining 42.72% indicated that they were not aware of them, which could indicate that they are not being disseminated sufficiently to reach all those women who need them.

Figure 2. Number of women who are aware of any mechanism to address gender-based violence

Number of women who are aware of any mechanism to address genderbased violence

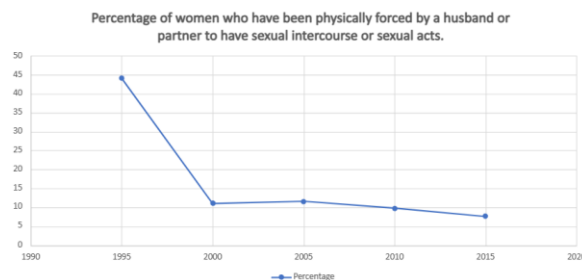


Source: own.

3.2 Percentage of women who have been physically forced by a spouse or partner to have sex or engage in sexual acts (5.2.1.P)

The information in Figure 3 contains records for every 5 years, showing a notable decrease in reports of women forced to have sex by their intimate partner. The first data found from 1995, is 44.2%, a reduction of 36.6 points is observed up to 2015 with 7.9% of reports. This data may present inconsistencies since the main sectors where these cases occur is where fewer reports are generated.

Figure 3. Percentage of women who have been physically forced by a husband or partner to have sexual intercourse or sexual acts.

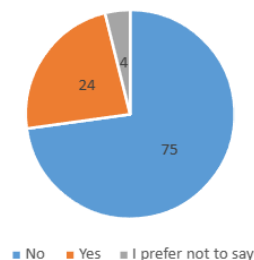


Source: own.

23.3% of the respondents were ever forced by their partners to engage in sexual acts, although the percentage of those who have not been forced is higher, as shown in Figure 4, the number is still high; likewise, the 3.88% who responded "I prefer not to say" shows that there is still a great deal of reserve regarding these issues.

Figure 4. Number of women who have been physically forced by a husband or partner to have sexual intercourse or sexual acts

Percentage of women who have been physically forced by a husband or partner to have sexual intercourse or sexual acts.

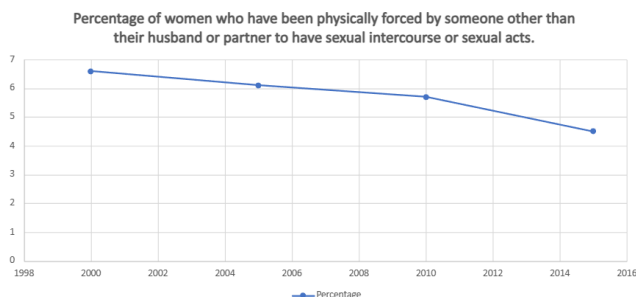


Source: own.

3.3 Percentage of women who have been physically forced by someone other than their husband or partner to have sexual relations or acts (5.2.2.2.P)

Figure 5 presents information for every 5 years, from 2000 to 2015; this percentage has decreased, from 6.6% in 2000, to 4.5% in 2015. From 2011 to 2020, 807 cases of sexual violence were registered, 62% were cases of sexual violence against persons under 18 years of age, 82.3% of these victims were young women beaten by family members with men being 99.1% of the aggressors with an average age of 26 years. Sexual violence is a growing problem, especially in 2020 due to Covid-19 by confinement that rates rose among women, young children, adolescents and young adults [7]. "The report of medicolegal examinations for alleged sexual offense in women increased by 3,650 cases in 2022, compared to what was reported in 2021.... So far in 2023, 1,516 medicolegal examinations for alleged sexual offense have been recorded" [2].

Figure 5. Percentage of women who have been physically forced by someone other than their husband or partner to have sexual intercourse or sexual acts.

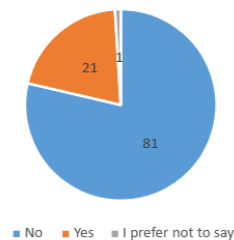


Source: own.

The number of women who, even in the year 2023, continue to be forced to have sexual relations or acts by a man either at home, at school or simply in the street is still quite high and Figure 6 with the results of the survey shows that this continues to happen for 20.39% of them, currently the measures to avoid this type of situation are very limited.

Figure 6. Number of women who have been physically forced by someone other than their husband or partner to have sexual intercourse or sexual acts.

Percentage of women who have been physically forced by someone other than their husband or partner to have sexual intercourse or sexual acts.



Source: own.

3.4 Percentage of ever-partnered women who have experienced physical violence by a spouse or partner (5.2.3.P)

The information in Figure 7 presents data from 2000 to 2015, during 2000-2005 there was a notable decrease in this percentage, but from 2015 onwards there was an increase of 31%. One in five women (20%) reported an increase in family conflict during the pandemic, and two in five (43%) believed that domestic violence had become more common [8]. "In 2022, 47,771 cases of women victims of domestic violence were recorded, a figure that, compared to 2021, presented an increase of 7,713 cases.... So far in 2023, 3,483 cases of domestic violence have been registered" [7].

Figure 7. Percentage of ever-partnered women who have experienced physical violence from a husband or partner



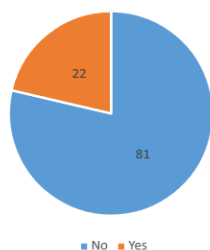
Source: own.

Figure 8 shows how 21.36%, that is, 22 of the women surveyed, have been abused by their intimate

partners. Although most responses were for "No" with 78.46%, it is not enough because these cases continue to occur, and the survey sample does not accurately reflect the reality.

Figure 8. Number of women who have experienced physical violence by husband or partner

Number of women who have experienced physical violence by husband or partner.

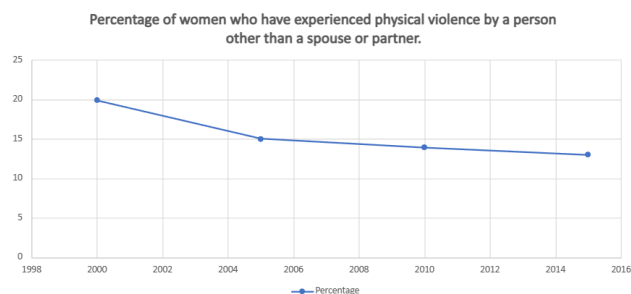


Source: own.

3.5 Percentage of women who have experienced physical violence by a person other than a spouse or partner (5.2.4.P)

With only 5 data for this indicator, Figure 9 shows a decrease in the percentage, although it is still high. During this period, the percentage of women who were physically assaulted decreased from 19.9% to 13%.

Figure 9. Percentage of women who have experienced physical violence by a person other than a spouse or partner

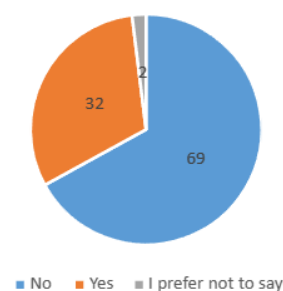


Source: own.

A total of 22 of the women surveyed, that is, 31.07% indicated that they have suffered physical violence by a man, as in the previous indicator, Figure 10 shows a high number of victims; women are constantly at risk.

Figure 10. Number of women who have experienced physical violence by a person other than a spouse or partner

Number of women who have experienced physical violence by a person other than a spouse or partner



Source: own.

3.6 Percentage of ever-partnered women reporting psychological violence by a partner (5.2.5.P)

The DANE presents information every 5 years, although according to Figure 11 cases of psychological violence have decreased, still by 2015 were more than 60% of women who had been victims, which is still an alarming number for all cases that then escalate to physical aggressions.

Figure 11. Percentage of ever-partnered women reporting psychological violence by a partner

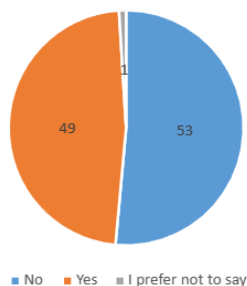


Source: own.

Psychological violence by intimate partners has high numbers, of the 103 surveys conducted, 47.57% (49 women), as shown in Figure 12, indicated that they had suffered this type of violence at some point and in most cases, it was accompanied by physical violence.

Figure 12. Number of ever-partnered women who reported psychological violence by a partner

Number of ever-partnered women who reported psychological violence by a partner

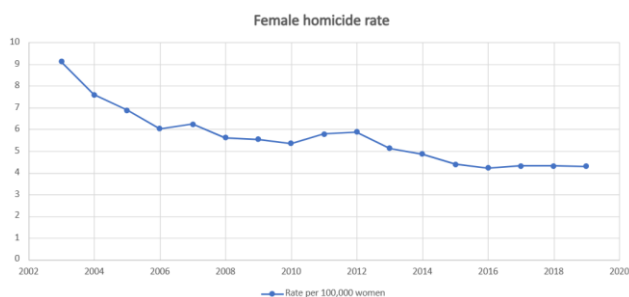


Source: own.

3.7 Female Homicide Rate (5.2.6.C)

Presented in rate per 100,000 women, Figure 13 shows data from 2003 to 2019 on a continuous form. Overall, there is a reduction from a figure of 9.12 to 4.3. This number is still remarkably high, considering that every day we hear testimonies about women murdered by their intimate partners, ex-partners, study or work partners and stalkers. "614 cases of femicide were registered in Colombia during 2022" so far in 2023 more than 28 cases of femicide have been registered [2]. In 2022 there were 2,460 cases involving women, only 20% of which reappeared [9].

Figure 13. Female homicide rate



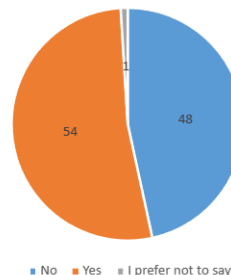
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An approach to the data of this indicator is presented in Figure 14 with the results to the question "Do you know of cases of women whose lives have been taken?", the number of women who responded

affirmatively, that is, 52.43%, is concerning because it shows us that the number of femicides is still high.

Figure 14. Perception of female homicides

Perception of female homicides

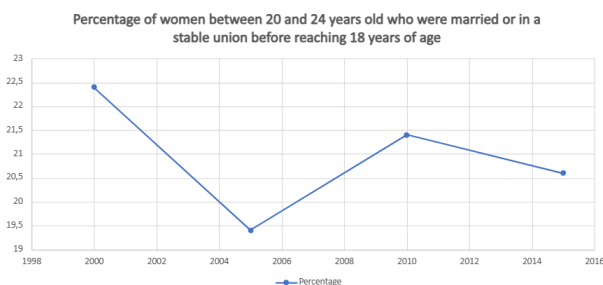


Source: own.

3.8 Percentage of women between the ages of 20 and 24 who were married or in a stable union before the age of 18 (5.3.2.P)

The data in Figure 15 show different peaks; these cases are more frequent in low-income and isolated municipalities. In the period 2000-2005 it went from 22.4% to 19%, in 2005-2010 it increased to 21.4% and by 2015 it dropped to 20.6%. "The permission for minors under 18 years of age and over 14 years of age to contract nuptials is not predicable of the de facto marital union. This constitutes one of its exclusions," said the Court with the report of Justice Luis Armando Tolosa." [10], is allowed since August 2021.

Figure 15. Percentage of women between 20 and 24 years old who were married or in a stable union before reaching 18 years of age

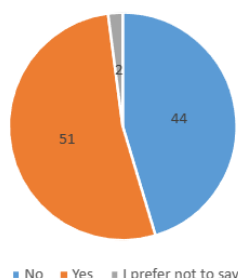


Source: own.

For this indicator, an equivalent question was formulated to show us an approach to the information, so only women of legal age were taken and 52.58% of them are in a stable relationship, 45.36% are not and 2 of them preferred not to mention it, the exact figures are shown in Figure 16.

Figure 16. Number of women who are married or in a stable union after reaching 18 years of age

Number of women who are married or in a stable union after reaching 18 years of age

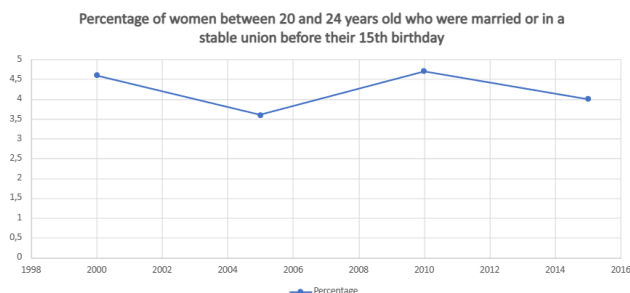


Source: own.

3.9 Percentage of women between 20 and 24 years old who were married or in a stable union before the age of 15 (5.3.2.C)

Figure 17 does not contain much information, so it can barely be stated that since 2000 with 4.6% it went to 4% in 2015.

Figure 17. Percentage of women between 20 and 24 years old who were married or in a stable union before their 15th birthday



Source: own.

The survey obtained responses from 6 underage women, according to Figure 18, only one of them is in a stable relationship, one more prefers not to answer the question and the rest mention that they are not currently in a relationship.

Figure 18. Number of women who are married or in a stable union before reaching 18 years of age

Number of women who are married or in a stable union before reaching 18 years of age

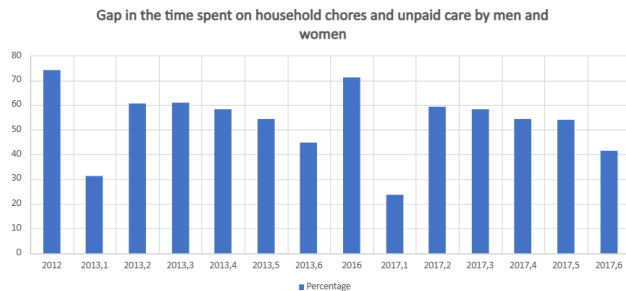


Source: own.

3.10 Gap in time spent on household chores and unpaid care by men and women (5.4.1.P)

The culture of our country shows that domestic chores are almost entirely women's work; in most of the reported cases of men who perform these tasks, it is more for "help" than out of obligation. The Figure 19 registry presents lack of information in some years, even so, it is noted that from 2012 to 2017 this gap dropped from 74.1% to 41.3%. The data show that between January and April 2021, only 28.9% of women were able to devote time to paid work compared to 52.6% of men who were able to devote most of their time to economically stimulating work; during this same period, 90.8% of women participated in unpaid work, compared to 63.8% of men [11].

Figure 19. Gap in the time spent on household chores and unpaid care by men and women

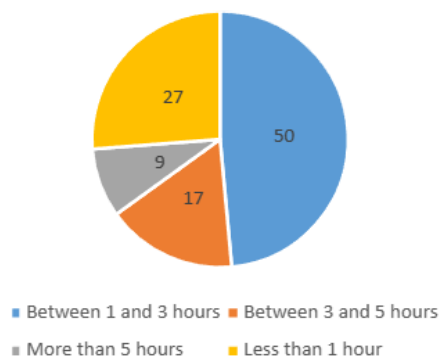


Source: own.

For the purposes of the research, women were asked about the amount of time they spend daily on household chores, the answers were ordered in Figure 20, 48.54%, that is 50 women, spend between 1 to 3 hours a day on household chores, the next number of answers with 27 women resulting in 26.21% spend less than an hour on these tasks, 17 of them with 16.50% mentioned between 3 and 5 hours and finally 9 women corresponding to 8.74% spend more than 9 hours on household chores.

Figure 20. Average time spent by women on household chores and caregiving

Average time spent by women on household chores and caregiving

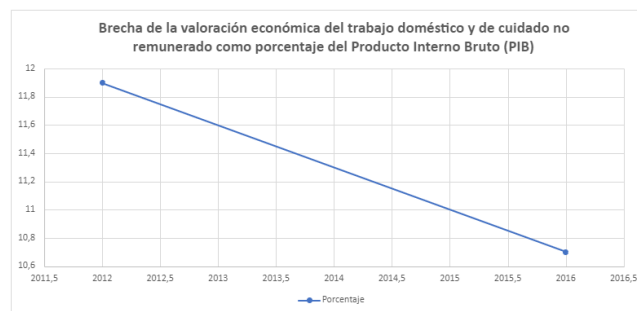


Source: own.

3.11 Gap in the economic valuation of unpaid domestic and care work as a percentage of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) (5.4.2.C).

Figure 21 only presents data for the years 2012 with 11.9% and 2016 with 10.7%. The figures are remarkably similar, with a reduction of only 1.2%, so an in-depth analysis is not possible.

Figure 21. Gap in the economic valuation of unpaid domestic and care work as a percentage of GDP

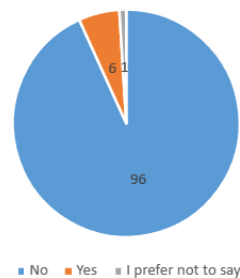


Source: own.

Only 6 of the 103 women interviewed mentioned that they receive some type of economic remuneration for household chores, 93.20% do not receive any payment for household work, is the great weight of this data in Figure 22.

Figure 22. Number of women receiving financial remuneration for housework and care work

Number of women receiving financial remuneration for housework and care work

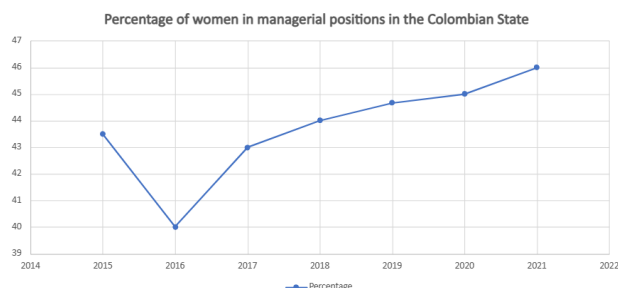


Source: own.

3.12 Percentage of women in managerial positions in the Colombian State (5.5.1.C)

Generally speaking, Figure 23 shows an increase in this percentage in recent years, in 2016 there was a peak drop (from 43.5% in 2015 to 40% in 2016), but for the 2016-2021 period it increases to 46%. In 2021 a total of 9,389 women occupies senior positions and other decision-making bodies in the State: out of 20,877 positions in 2,581 public institutions. In the PDET municipalities (Development Program with a Territorial Approach), women are in the majority and make up 55% of those working in these areas. Women lead 60.3% of the contacts in youth labor insertion programs [12]. In the year 2022, Francia Márquez, the second woman in the history of Colombia to hold this position, was appointed vice-president.

Figure 23. Percentage of women in managerial positions in the Colombian State

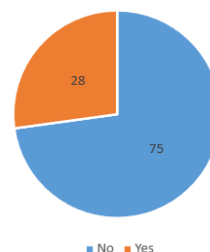


Source: own.

The survey asks the question "Do you know anyone or work in the government?" from which the results in Figure 24 are obtained. 72.82% of the responses were negative, the remaining responses show that progress has been made on this indicator.

Figure 24. Number of women who work or know a woman in government positions

Number of women who work or know a woman in government positions

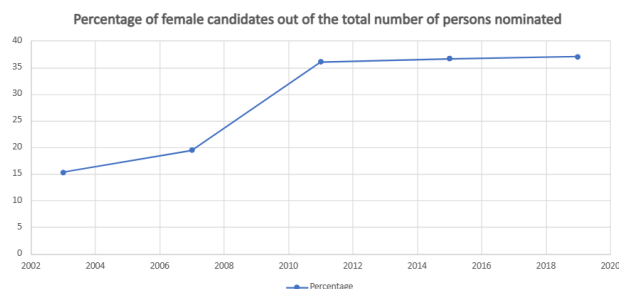


Source: own.

3.13 Percentage of female candidates of the total number of candidates (5.5.1.P)

Figure 25 generally shows an increase, from the first data in 2003 with a number of 15.3% to 2019 with 37%. More and more women are running for important positions.

Figure 25. Percentage of female candidates out of the total number of persons nominated

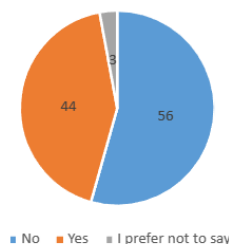


Source: own.

Not being able to perform a better approach for this indicator, Figure 26 shows the results on whether or not women know about women candidates for government positions in their respective territories.

Figure 26. Number of women recognized by women candidates in their territory for governmental office

Number of women recognized by women candidates in their territory for governmental office

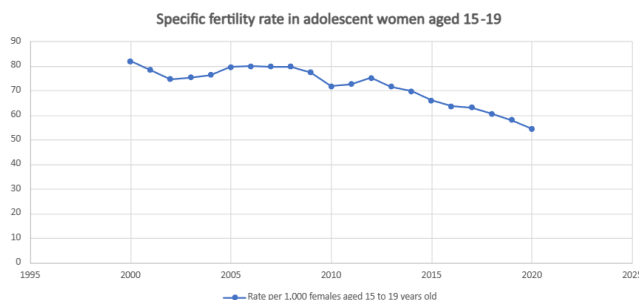


Source: own.

3.14 Specific fertility rate in adolescent women aged 15-19 (5.6.1.P)

Figure 27, with data from 2000 to 2020, notes a drop in this rate per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 years; the first data is a really high number, 81.9%. The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co operation and Development) (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) report, notes that, according to the teenage pregnancy data for the year 2021, it can be said that 290 teenagers give birth every day, with 106,695 teenage mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 becoming mothers; in 2020 there was a total of 90,661 pregnancies among people in this age group [13].

Figure 27. Specific fertility rate in adolescent women aged 15-19



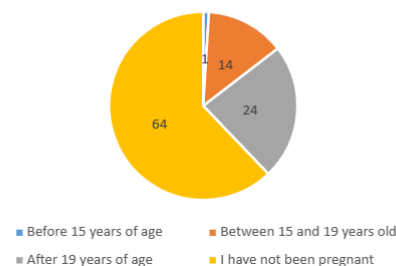
Source: own.

62.14% of the respondents have not been pregnant, 23.30% have been mothers after the age of 19, 13.59% had their first child between the ages of 15 and 19 and

finally only one was a mother before the age of 15. Of the 103 respondents, the exact numbers for each age range are shown in Figure 28.

Figure 28. Age range at which women were pregnant with their first child

Age range at which women were pregnant with their first child

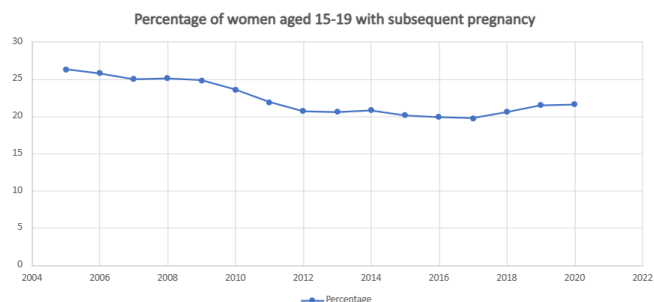


Source: own.

3.15 Percentage of women aged 15-19 with subsequent pregnancy (5.6.2.C)

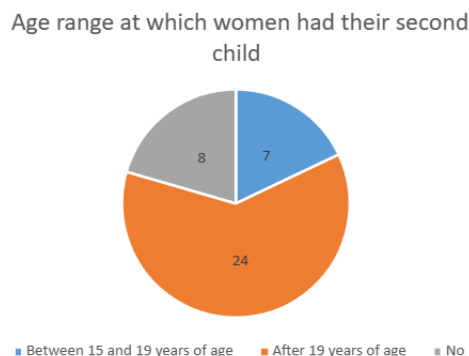
The first data in Figure 29 shows a decrease in the number of women with subsequent adolescent pregnancies; efforts have been made to stabilize the numbers for the following years.

Figure 29. Percentage of women aged 15-19 with subsequent pregnancy



Source: own.

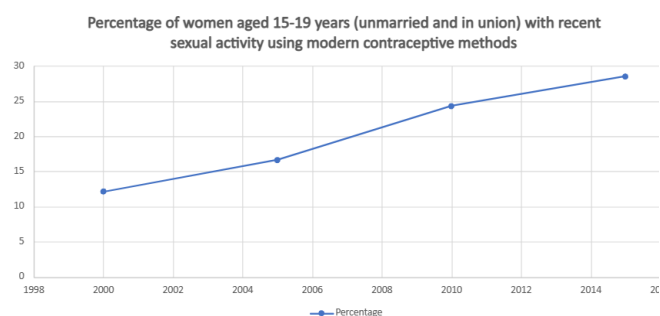
Of the total of 39 women who have had children shown in Figure 30, 24 of them had a subsequent pregnancy after the age of 19, 8 of them have only one child and finally 7 of them had their subsequent pregnancy between the ages of 15 and 19.

Figure 30. Age range at which women had their second child

Source: own.

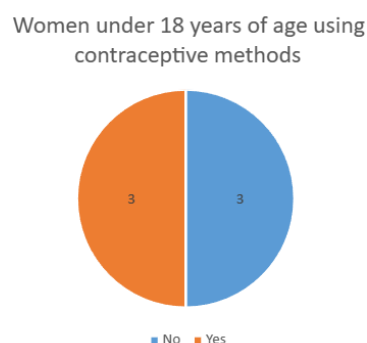
3.16 Percentage of women aged 15-19 years (unmarried and in union) with recent sexual activity using modern contraceptive methods (5.6.3.P)

In recent years, there is a little more access to sex education, so adolescent women are more aware of the different contraceptive methods and therefore there is greater use of them. The data are few, but in Figure 31 there is an increase from 12.1% in 2000 to 28.5% in 2015.

Figure 31. Percentage of women aged 15-19 years (unmarried and in union) with recent sexual activity using modern contraceptive methods

Source: own.

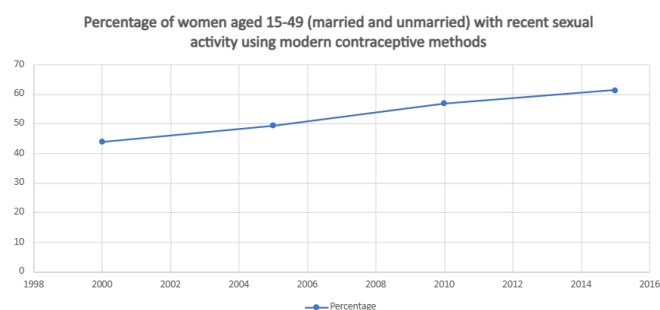
In the case of Figure 32, in which the 6 minors surveyed were considered, 3 use contraceptive methods and the remaining 3 do not.

Figure 32. Women under 18 years of age using contraceptive methods

Source: own.

3.17 Percentage of women aged 15-49 (married and unmarried) with recent sexual activity using modern contraceptive methods (5.6.4.P)

Although the data in Figure 33 are few, there is an increase in the use of modern contraceptive methods, as women now have greater access to information.

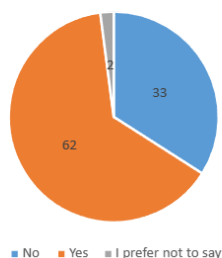
Figure 33. Percentage of women aged 15-49 (married and unmarried) with recent sexual activity using modern contraceptive methods

Source: own.

The 97 adult women in Figure 34 responded to the survey as follows: 63.92% used contraceptive methods and 34.02% did not use any contraceptive method.

Figure 34. Women over 18 years of age using contraceptive methods

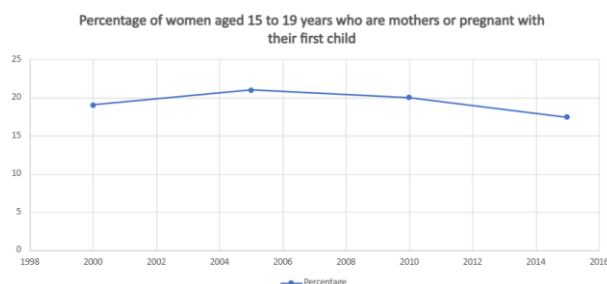
Women over 18 years of age using contraceptive methods



Source: own.

3.18 Percentage of women aged 15 to 19 years who are mothers or pregnant with their first child (5.6.5.C)

In Figure 35 there is data from 2000 to 2015, from 2000-2005 there is an increase from 19% to 21%, from this point there is a decrease until 2015 reaching 17.4%. In 2022, 77,634 adolescents aged 15 to 19 gave birth; last year there were 88,217, according to DANE, Figure 36 [14].

Figure 35. Percentage of women aged 15 to 19 years who are mothers or pregnant with their first child

Source: own.

Figure 36. Number of births by five-year age group of the mother. National total. Year to date 2021 and 2022

Número de nacimientos según grupos de edad quinquenal de la madre
Total nacional
Año corrido 2021^{pr} y 2022^{pr}

Nacimientos según grupos de edad de la madre	Año corrido 2021 ^{pr}		Año corrido 2022 ^{pr}	
	Total	Porcentaje	Total	Porcentaje
Total Nacional	505.114	100,0%	472.289	100,0%
De 10-14 Años	3.884	0,8%	3.500	0,7%
De 15-19 Años	88.217	17,5%	77.634	16,4%
De 20-24 Años	144.469	28,6%	129.850	27,5%
De 25-29 Años	126.284	25,0%	120.389	25,5%
De 30-34 Años	84.662	16,8%	84.197	17,8%
De 35-39 Años	44.696	8,8%	43.937	9,3%
De 40-44 Años	11.947	2,4%	11.963	2,5%
De 45-49 Años	777	0,2%	729	0,2%
De 50-54 Años	109	0,0%	87	0,0%
Sin información	69	0,0%	3	0,0%

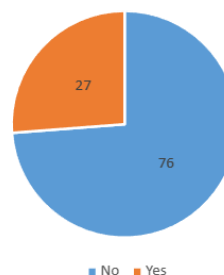
Número de nacimientos según grupos de edad quinquenal de la madre. Total, nacional. Año corrido 2021^{pr} y 2022^{pr} - Foto: DANE, Estadísticas Vitales.

Source: Semana [14].

Only 27 of the respondents in Figure 37 are mothers or are pregnant with their first child, which is equivalent to 26.21%; the remaining 73.79% are not mothers or have more than one child.

Figure 37. Number of women who are mothers or who are pregnant with their first child

Number of women who are mothers or who are pregnant with their first child



Source: own.

3.19 Gap in average monthly income between men and women (5.a.1.C)

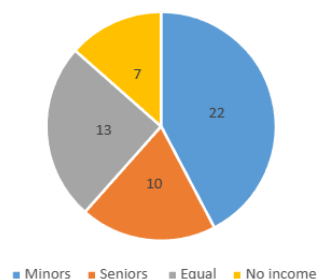
During the period 2002-2012, different peaks of increase and decrease were found in Figure 38, but in 2012 the maximum is seen with 23.3% and from this year a decrease is noted until 8.6% in 2020. So far this year, it is known that approximately 187,966 women earn less than men doing the same work [15].

Figure 38. Gap in average monthly income between men and women**Source:** own.

For Figure 39, only the 52 women who are in a stable relationship were considered, 22 of them, 42.31%, have lower incomes than those of their partner, 10 of them higher and finally 13 of them have incomes equal to those of their partners. In the middle of 2023, the wage gap between men and women is still very much present.

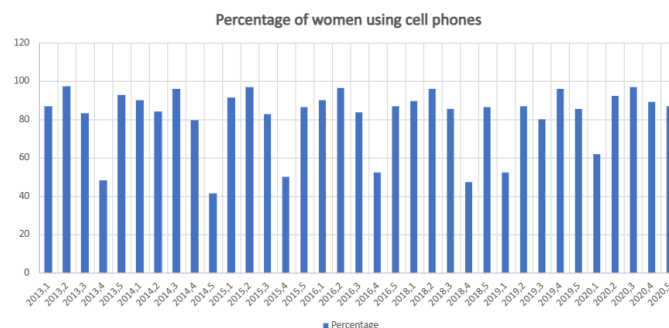
Figure 39. Women's income compared to that of their romantic partners

Women's income compared to that of their romantic partners

**Source:** own.

3.20 Percentage of women using cell phones (5.b.1.P)

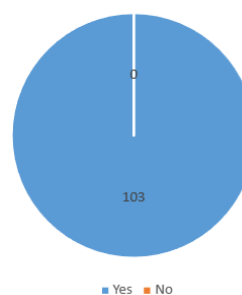
In Figure 40 DANE data was plotted for 5 periods in each year from 2013 to 2020, the data is quite fluctuating, but it can be noted that, for the latest data taken from 2020, the percentage of women using cell phone did not go below 80%.

Figure 40. Percentage of women using cell phones**Source:** own.

100% of the women surveyed in Figure 41 have their own cell phone.

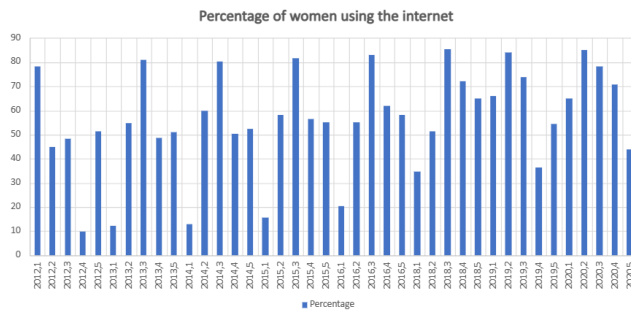
Figure 41. Number of women with cell phones

Number of women with cell phones

**Source:** own.

3.21 Percentage of women using the internet (5.b.2.P)

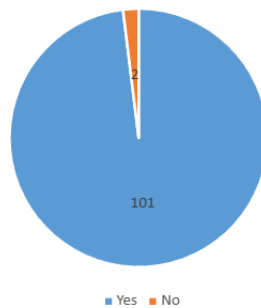
For this indicator, DANE takes data in 5 opportunities during each year from 2012 to 2020, for which the graph in Figure 42 could be made. Generally, in the first period is when there are fewer women with internet access and then the percentage is growing, but no further observations can be made about the behavior of this indicator.

Figure 42. Percentage of women using the internet**Source:** own.

For our survey, we obtained the results in Figure 43, where it can be seen that of the total of 103 women who responded, only 2 do not have access to the Internet.

Figure 43. Number of women with internet access

Number of women with internet access

**Source:** own.

4. Analysis

Reviewing the information, the main observation is that the country and its DANE entity are not fully committed to the implementation and collection of data corresponding to each of the SDG 5 indicators. Currently most of the information dates up to the year 2016 and only a couple of indicators contain information up to the year 2020, this shows a clear outdatedness in terms of the progress of this topic. As for the depth of the data, they are not all periodic nor were they taken on the same dates, so it is really

complicated to perform a deep analysis of the situation; in this case it is also important to emphasize that, if you want to make an observation by departments or municipalities, this is not possible either because for each of them at most there is information for 2 of the 14 indicators.

Continuing with the analysis, the information from DANE and the results obtained in the survey (Annex 1) are used to go deeper into each of the indicators and to have an unobstructed vision of the inequality panorama in Colombia.

The first indicator refers to the municipalities that have an intersectoral mechanism for addressing gender-based violence; in recent years, these mechanisms have been intensified and the results of the survey show that there has been an increase, but it should also be noted that many women are still unaware of their existence.

Physical and psychological violence by intimate partners has decreased, but these cases continue to occur, and the numbers are still alarming, and in the cases that are reported, the authorities do not intervene optimally in these cases [2]. From the results obtained, it can be observed that there is a higher incidence of psychological violence and that cases of sexual abuse by intimate partners still present high numbers.

Unfortunately, femicide continues to be present in the country, in a pandemic, cases have increased and continue to be present today [2]. There is no common cause, the perpetrators can be acquaintances, partners, work or study partners, ex-partners or complete strangers who continue to murder Colombian women every day.

Currently it is uncommon to see women under 18 years old married or in union, the results reflect that this number is minimal, although for official information, girls between 14 and 18 years old who are

married did it legally [10], and for this reason it is not considered a major problem.

One of the goals of SDG number 5 is to reduce the gap in time dedicated to housework, or at least that women who dedicate themselves to it receive some type of economic remuneration in exchange [5]; according to the results, in Colombia this time is decreasing and currently fewer women dedicate themselves full time to the home, and those who have to do so only dedicate between 1 and 3 hours a day, but without receiving money in return.

The presence of women in the State has increased and more and more women are running for more and more important positions; it is important to highlight that in the last electoral periods the vice-presidency has been held by women. Respondents also have a better perception of women in government; many stated that they are aware of women in government administrative positions or as candidates in their territories.

Of the minors surveyed, half use some form of contraception, the majority of those over 18 years of age do use contraception, sex education is becoming less of a taboo subject and access to information allows knowledge to reach more women. The rate of pregnancies in women between 15 and 19 years of age has also decreased according to the DANE and considering the survey conducted, most women indicated that they are not yet mothers, which may indicate that women currently have more goals other than being mothers.

Women who are professionally prepared have the courage to demand what is fair, the salary gap has decreased and although this situation should not occur the struggle of women to achieve equality has had an impact on this aspect.

5. Conclusions

It is important to emphasize that more efforts are needed to reduce gender inequality in Colombia, because although efforts have been made to reduce it, the outlook is still discouraging. Continuing with the above, gender violence, cases of physical and psychological violence and sexual abuse, regardless of whether it is by a current partner, ex-partner or strangers, continue to be a serious problem in the country, there is a lack of support from the authorities to prevent many of the cases that in turn lead to femicides, and although there are intersectoral mechanisms to address this violence, they are not well recognized by women or do not fulfill their task of ensuring their safety.

The study helped to show that even though there has been a decrease in the cases of pregnant minors or minors with children or in free union, there is a lack of implementation of norms, campaigns and other actions to help reduce this rate, since these girls and women are in the opportunity to develop fully and find their passions before assuming responsibilities that even for adults are a little difficult to carry. Likewise, access to sex education and the use of contraceptives has improved over the years, and it is important to continue this improvement in order to raise awareness of their use.

Although the wage gap has decreased, in many areas of knowledge it still exists and in great strength, however, it is important to highlight the country's efforts to reduce these gaps. Although the time dedicated to housework by women has also decreased, since their participation in the labor society has increased, even those who do housework on a permanent basis do not receive economic recognition for this work.

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the brave, courageous, strong and, above all, incredibly intelligent women warriors whose lives and experiences have allowed us to offer an authentic and enriching glimpse into what they face on a daily basis. Their trust in sharing their stories has been invaluable, and it is an honor to have been able to capture their experiences in this article.

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