

# Honduras 2017 VACS Data File

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## SUMMARY

The Sub-Secretariat of Security in Prevention, Secretariat of Security, led all aspects of the Honduras Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) with inputs from the Sectoral Cabinet of Prevention, Peace and Coexistence. The National Institute of Statistics of Honduras (INE), advised on survey design, provided the survey sample, and implemented fieldwork. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided technical assistance, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Honduras coordinated the study.

The purpose of Honduras VACS is to estimate (1) the prevalence of childhood violence (physical, sexual and emotional), defined as violence occurring before 18 years of age, and (2) the prevalence of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey among adolescents (ages 13-17) and young adults (ages 18-24). To achieve these purposes, the Honduras VACS assessed the experiences of females and males ages 13-24 via a nationally representative household survey. Individuals ages 13-24 were selected to better understand childhood violence. Moreover, the study selected an additional stratum that was representative of five cities. This stratum included urban areas of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choloma, Tela, and La Ceiba. This urban stratum represents a high priority for data because of high rates of community violence in urban areas.

In this report, significantly different findings in urban areas relative to national findings are reported only in the text. The participant questionnaire (with approximately 300 questions) covered the following topics: demographics; parental relationships, education, general connectedness to family, friends and community, gender beliefs; safety; witnessing violence in the home or community; sexual history and risk-taking behavior; experiences of physical and sexual and emotional violence; violence perpetration, pregnancy; health outcomes and risk behaviors; and violence disclosure, service-seeking and utilization of services. Additionally, the survey contained modules that were specific for Honduras and the region; these included questions about sexual orientation, remittances, migration, bullying, community violence, and carrying weapons. The questionnaire used in Honduras was an adaptation of a core VACS questionnaire that was structured in a way that facilitates international comparisons. The adaptation to Honduras considers local linguistic expressions as well as country-specific census classifications. The VACS use a standardized methodology for measuring physical, emotional, and sexual violence against children. A multi-stage, geographically clustered sample design was used to produce nationally representative data. The Honduras VACS was implemented in Honduras in 2017. The sampling frame was originally compiled by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) based on the 2013 national census. The master frame for the Honduras VACS included 11,119 enumeration areas (EAs) out of 24,779 from the census. The EAs in the master frame were selected to be representative of the country but excluded two departments of the country (Gracias a Dios and Islas de la Bahía) that have very sparse populations and are difficult to access. Furthermore, an additional stratum was selected including five large cities of the country. This stratum included urban areas of the following cities: Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choloma, Tela and La Ceiba.

The VACS utilized a three-stage stratified sample design. In the first stage, a total of 408 EAs were selected randomly from the master frame; 180 were assigned to be female EAs and 228 were assigned to be male EAs. During the original sample draw, an additional 50 EAs were selected, but no surveying was ever completed in those areas because the National Institute of Statistics reported they had too few households, therefore they were dropped from analysis and not considered further.

In the second stage, a fixed number of 21 households were selected using equal probability systematic sampling. In the last stage, one eligible participant (female or male depending on the selected EA) was randomly selected from the list of all eligible participants (females or males) 13-24 years of age in each household and administered the questionnaire. EAs with less than 50 households were excluded from the study to protect participants' confidentiality. To calculate separate male and female prevalence estimates for violence victimization, the Honduras VACS used a split sample approach. This means that the survey for females was conducted in different EAs than the survey for males. The split sample approach serves to protect the confidentiality of participants and eliminates the chance that a male perpetrator of a sexual assault and the female who was the victim of his sexual assault in the same community would both be interviewed. The design also eliminates the chance that a female perpetrator and a male victim of sexual violence from the same community would both be interviewed in the selected EA.

Due to the complex sample design, clustering, stratification and sample weights should be taken into account in the data analysis in order to obtain proper point estimates and variances. Users of the Honduras VACS 2017 Data Files should use statistical software packages such as SAS, SPSS, SUDAAN, or Stata that have specific analytic procedures for complex survey designs. The stratification, cluster, and sample weight variables are Department, Class, EA, and SurveyWeight, respectively.