



Regional Study on Violence and Women living with HIV in Latin America

Economic autonomy of women living with HIV in Latin America: the intersection of multiple discriminations

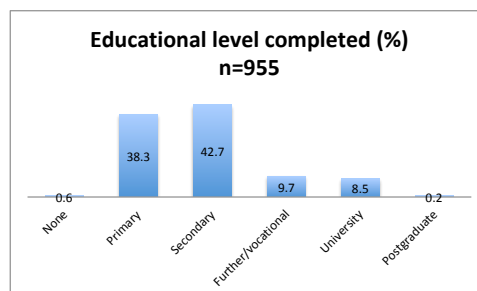
Gender equality, poverty eradication, and health and well-being, are key objectives of Agenda 2030, and are reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically in SDG1 (End Poverty), SDG2 (Zero Hunger), SDG3 (Health and Well-being), SDG5 (Gender Equality) and SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Development). The evidence shows that these are closely inter-related, and require an integrated approach to promote women’s economic, physical and decision-making autonomy.

The regional study on violence and women living with HIV in Latin America is the first investigation to present a comparative analysis across seven countries. 955 women were interviewed with questions about different dimensions of the economic autonomy of women living with HIV, socioeconomic data, and barriers to access associated with HIV status. The data show that different forms of discrimination are interlinked, and exacerbate the inequality and social exclusion experienced by women living with HIV in the region.

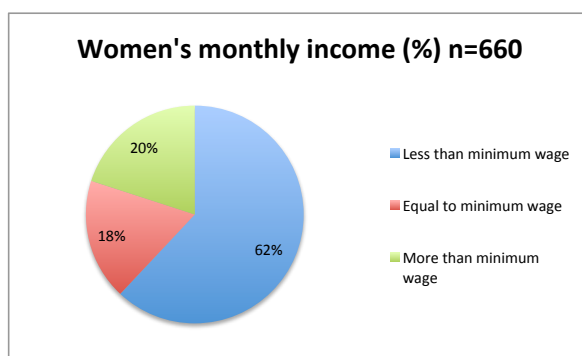
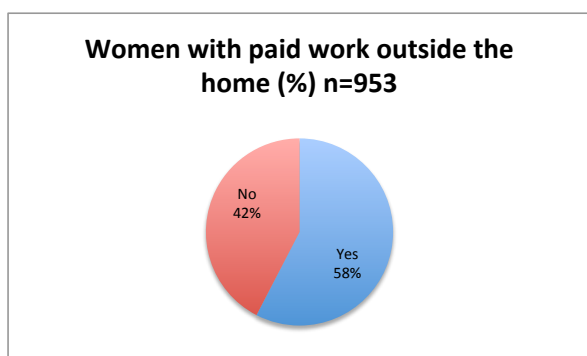
In 2018, ICW Latina and Hivos carried out a regional study on violence and women living with HIV in Latin America developed by Development Connections and Salamander Trust with, by and for women living with HIV from seven countries in the region. The research focused particularly on including young women, Indigenous women, Afrodescendent women and Garifuna women. National research teams obtained information from surveys of 955 women and focus groups with 64 women from 19 locations in Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru and Dominican Republic, from a range of socio-demographic, economic and cultural backgrounds.

Education

Around 4 in 10 women completed primary education, and 42.7% completed secondary school. Approximately 2 in 10 (18.3%) had further or higher education.



Access to work and income



Around 6 of every 10 women had a paid job outside the home at the time of the survey. Of these, 62% reported that their income was less than the national minimum wage of their country. Only 20% of the women surveyed said their income was higher than the minimum wage.

The percentage of women with an average monthly income below the national minimum wage varied from 84.6% in Honduras to 34.5% in Paraguay.

Women with paid jobs in the last 12 months by income, country and total (%) n=660			
Country	Income level		
	Less than minimum wage	Minimum wage	More than minimum wage
Bolivia	76.5	17.6	5.9
Colombia	69.4	19.4	11.2
Guatemala	69.0	23.8	7.1
Honduras	84.6	7.7	7.7
Paraguay	34.5	15.5	50.0
Peru	37.6	23.8	38.6
Dom Rep	71.4	21.4	7.1
Total	61.6	18.2	20.2

Food insecurity

Poverty levels were not measured specifically in the study, though data was gathered on food insecurity, using 'not enough food, or missing at least one of the basic three daily meals in the last month'. Three in ten women (30.9%) reported food insecurity in the last month for themselves and/or their families. Of the

women who reported a lack of sufficient food, 8.5% had faced a lack of food for themselves, while 2.4% reported that a family member did not have enough food, and 20% said that neither they nor another family member had enough food in the previous month. The country with most food insecurity was Dominican Republic (69%), followed by Peru (32.8%) and Colombia (32.6%). There was least food insecurity in Paraguay where only 9.7% of women reported a lack of food for themselves or their families.

Women reporting a lack of food for themselves or a family member in the previous month, by country and total (%) n=955

Country	Total women reporting food insecurity	Only themselves	Only a family member	Themselves and a family member	No food insecurity	Total
Bolivia	23.9	3.6	1.4	18.8	76.1	100
Colombia	32.6	16.3	1.7	14.5	67.4	100
Guatemala	24.5	12.7	0	11.8	75.5	100
Honduras	30.3	7.7	4.9	17.6	69.7	100
Paraguay	9.7	3.2	1.9	4.5	90.3	100
Peru	32.8	7.6	3.8	21.4	67.2	100
Dom Rep	69.0	7.8	2.6	58.6	31.0	100
Total	30.9	8.5	2.4	20.0	69.1	100

Violence and discrimination in the home and workplace, by country and total (%)

Work	Housing
17.5% decided against applying for a job because of their HIV status, with 37.4% in Dominican Republic, 32.6% in Bolivia and 23.4% in Colombia.	12.8% have been forced to move home or have been unable to rent a place to live, with 23.2% in Bolivia, 23.0% in Paraguay, and 12.4% in Colombia.

Type of Violence	Bolivia	Colombia	Guatemala	Honduras	Paraguay	Peru	Dom Rep	Total
Housing								
Forced to change place of residence, or unable to rent a home	23.2	12.4	9.8	4.9	23.0	4.6	9.5	12.8
Work								
Has lost a job or source of income	18.1	10.5	4.0	4.3	9.0	6.1	15.7	9.8
Had a job description or job changed, or been moved to a different role, or denied promotion	15.9	6.5	2.0	1.4	4.8	1.5	13.2	6.5
Not applied for a job because of HIV status	32.6	23.4	2.0	8.5	9.4	6.9	37.4	17.5

Source: Luciano, D., Negrete, M., Vázquez, M., Hale, F., Salas, J., Álvarez-Rudin, M., Arends, M., Cano, A., Iacono, M., Sánchez, M., Cabezas, M., Chete, B., Flores, G., García, F., Herreira, M., López, L., Ramírez, B., Soto, M. (2019) Regional Study on Violence and Women living with HIV in Latin America. ICW Latina, Hivos, Development Connections, Salamander Trust. Managua, Nicaragua. December 2019.

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