

Facts Sheet 1

ENG

1. Sexual exploitation sexual violence on youth: national data (2 target groups 0-18 years old and 18-25 years old)

According to the collected data, from the "Public Prosecutor's Office", between 2016 and 2018 there was a growth in criminal complaints filed at police headquarters at national level, underpinned by the increase in the so-called "other sexual crimes" (that is, - simple sexual abuse, aggravated without carnal access, with attempted carnal access, corruption of minors, promotion or facilitation of the prostitution of others, as well as its exploitation, dissemination of pornographic images and shows of minors, obscene exhibitions, abduction of a person to undermine their sexual integrity and grooming).

While rapes (crimes of sexual abuse with carnal access and their aggravated figures consummated) show greater statistical stability, around 3,900 annual records, although they also exhibit their highest value in 2018, 9% higher than the figure for 2017.

Likewise, from the analysis of the information collected through calls received by the lines available for complaints from the Victims Against Violence National Program (0800-222-1717 and 137), received between October 2018 and September 2019, the largest number of victims of sexual violence are children and teenagers (59.2%). The number of child victims during this period amounts to 2,986. They increased by 50.4% (1,001) compared to the 2017-2018 period.

More than 75% of the calls received come from the Province of Buenos Aires and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, the latter concentrating 44.1% of them. It stands out that 77.9% of the victims are female.

46.8% of children victims of violence are between 12 and 17 years old, of which 40.2% correspond to female teenagers.

90.1% of the aggressors of children and adolescents are male.

In 76.8% of the cases, the aggressors were from the immediate environment of the victim (family or non-family). 57.4% were relatives of the victims. 19.4% they were non-family acquaintances. Only 11.4% of the victims did not know the aggressor.

Between 2017 and 2019, a significant increase is noted. The calls increased by 215.9%, the number of victims assisted increased by 195.7% and the number of youth victims increased by 133.3%.

The "Report on the situation of people convicted of crimes against sexual integrity" (study on perpetrators of sexual crimes with judicial conviction - effective and conditional) under the purview of the criminal jurisdiction of the National Justice, highlights that: Women represent 93% of the victims of acts of sexual violence with a conviction, while 40% of the victims were people under 13 years of age; rising to 56% if the range up to 18 years of age is considered.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, since there is still no system that collects all criminal complaints filed by all the channels authorized at the national level, this data does not reflect the current and real situation in Argentina regarding sexual exploitation and sexual violence on youth.

It is also important to take into account the number of cases that are not reported and therefore cannot be included in the statistics.

2. Background and profile of youth main affected

In Argentina, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, are a common problem in childhood and it occurs without distinction in all sociocultural strata. However, it is also true that the main affected youth are those in a situation of greater vulnerability, such as children who have a history of abandonment and neglect and those who come from poor and vulnerable communities. Another relevant factor is the territory and idiosyncrasy of the place where the youth grow up.

In some provinces of the country, the abuse and exploitation of minors is normalized and is accepted by all its inhabitants.

An example of this is the so-called "chineo", a word used to describe and denounce violations of women and girls in indigenous communities that have been perpetrated for centuries in the Argentine provinces.

The word "rameo" has also been used, which means to drag, to refer to the practice of "dragging indigenous girls", raping them and returning them to the communities. This also denotes racial hatred and the normalized masculine, cultural and ethnic superiority.

3. At the roots of sexual exploitation and sexual violence

The roots of sexual exploitation and sexual violence present different sources and/or factors (cultural, social, economic and political, among others). Within Argentina's large territory, there are different ethnic groups and races that make each case different, in each particular context.

Some spaces with less economic and/or natural resources than others, where the lack of work makes it impossible for families to keep their basic needs satisfied, added to the lack of access to education, makes sexual abuse invisible (in most cases, women and children cannot identify an abuse, and if they do, they don't know how or can't get help in their communities).

Sexual abuse and exploitation has a bigger impact on girls and teenagers.

Since the colonization of our territory, there are socio-cultural traces that still dominate social relations today, these cultural practices understand the sexual

abuse of minors as something established within society, which highlights our predominant patriarchal society and men's dominance.

It is common for the parents of the victims to hand over the child to the abusers, in exchange for an amount of money to help them survive.

The situation described above, also contributes to the migration of young people, who, unable to find a place within a family, flee their homes in search of a better future they certainly, most times, don't find. Other external factors come into play, such as addictions - drugs and alcohol -, that are getting more and more common among young people and very young children.-

Lastly, it is important to mention, that the technological revolution, the latest outstanding phenomenon after globalization have created new ways of sexual violence and sexual exploitation that increased the number of victims.

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4. Main public services operating at the national level and location

1. Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prosecutor 's Office (PROTEX) - Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires.
2. Rescue and Accompaniment Office dependent on the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.
3. Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity
4. General Directorate of Accompaniment, Guidance and Protection of Victims (DOVIC)

It is important to mention that although all these public offices are located in Buenos Aires, they operate at a national level through offices located in each province of the country.

5. Main organization operating at the national level and location

Organizations that directly help victims (providing housing, legal, psychological, medical and/or social assistance)

1. Madres Víctimas de Trata (Mothers Victims of Trafficking) - Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires
2. Mujeres por los Derechos (Women for Rights) - Provincia de Santa Fé
3. Asociación de Mujeres Argentinas por los Derechos Humanos (Argentinian Women Association for Human Rights). - Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires
4. Fundación Alika Kinan (Alika Kinan Foundation)

Organizations that promote awareness campaigns and raise visibility sexual exploitation, sexual violence and sex trafficking

1. Asociación Civil La Casa del Encuentro, espacio feminista social y cultural. ("La Casa del Encuentro" Civil Association - Social and Cultural Feminist space).
2. Fundación María de los Ángeles. (María de los Ángeles Foundation)

6. Relevant approaches / Methods / Best Practices

(about raising awareness - sensibilization and prevention! not accompaniment)

- Talks and seminars in schools
- Talks and seminars, in non-school settings for youth and adults
- Capacity building, training and sensibilization for public officials (that is, police, judges, prosecutors, judicial employees, anyone whose job involves taking part into cases of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and sex trafficking).
- Awareness campaigns
- Videos, publications, postcast, etc. through all social media available to raise awareness.
- Creation and dissemination of documentaries