Artículo de investigación

EVALUATION OF GENDER VIOLENCE IN THE MILITARY CENTRAL HOSPITAL OF MEXICO

EVALUACIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA DE GÉNERO EN EL HOSPITAL CENTRAL MILITAR DE MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Gender violence is a public health problem. The Ministry of National Defense has decisively engaged in educating their personnel on the topic and further assessment of the problem is needed.

Objectives: Evaluate the frequency of thoughts that favor the exercise of gender violence and the experience of people who have suffered it.

Material and methods: Staff of the Military Central Hospital was assessed by means of the digital application of two clinimetrical instruments over the platform SurveyMonkey®. The scale Inventory of Distorted Thoughts against Women was applied to 1,128 individuals, while the Gender and Use of Violence Screening Revised Scale was applied to 1,488.

Results: The Distorted Thoughts against Women Inventory results were 84.8% (956) non-violent and 15.2% (172) possibly violent; while for Gender and Use of Violence Screening Revised Test, 98.2% (1,462) is at low risk, 1.3% (20) at moderate risk, and 0.5% (7) at high risk of having suffered or experiencing gender violence.

Conclusions: In the Military Central Hospital there is a low percentage of personnel prone to generate or suffer gender violence, nevertheless, it is required to continue educating all the personnel about the importance of preventing and reporting any gender-based violent behavior.

Key Words: gender violence, digital surveys

RESUMEN

Introducción: La violencia de género es un problema de salud pública. La Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional se ha esforzado en educar a su personal acerca del tema y se requieren más evaluaciones del problema. Objetivos: Evaluar la frecuencia de pensamientos que favorecen el ejercicio de la violencia de género, así como la experiencia de personas que la han sufrido.

Materiales y métodos: Personal del Hospital Central Militar fue evaluado por medio de la aplicación digital de dos instrumentos clinimétricos a través de la plataforma SurveyMonkey®. La escala Inventario de Pensamientos Distorsionados Contra la Mujer se aplicó a 1 128 individuos, mientras que el Examen de Valoración de Género y Uso de Violencia Revisado se aplicó a 1 488.

Resultados: Los resultados del Inventario de Pensamientos Distorsionados contra la Mujer fueron 84.8% (956) no violentos y 15.2% (172) posiblemente violentos. Para el Examen de Valoración de Género y Uso de Violencia Revisado, 98.2% (1,462) están en riesgo, 1.3% (20) en riesgo moderado y 0.5% (7) en alto riesgo de sufrir o haber sufrido violencia de género.

Conclusiones: En el Hospital Central Militar hay un porcentaje bajo de personal proclive a generar o experimentar violencia de género, no obstante, es necesario continuar educando a todo el personal acerca de la importancia de prevenir y reportar cualquier comportamiento de violencia de género.

Palabras clave: violencia de género, encuestas digitales

INTRODUCTION

Gender equality is a fundamental pillar for any society. In this way, gender violence is a public health problem that significantly affects community development and well-being. The Mexican Constitutional Act, in its 4th article states that men and women are equal before the law; it declares the protection and development of families and defines equal opportunities for men and women, the establishment of conditions for the development and performance of individuals, families, communities and indigenous peoples.(1)

The National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico refers that out of the 46.5 million women in the country over the age of 15, at least 30.7 million (66.1%) have experienced violence of any kind at some point in their lives.(2)

Gender violence is a social phenomenon that affects all people with no discrimination, this issue has been of great relevance for several years and is of the utmost importance for the Ministry of National Defense of Mexico.(3)

There is great concern in the armed institute as regards the incidence of gender-based violence and the stereotypes about it. For this reason, surveys have been applied all over the country and this article presents an important sample from a health-care environment.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This is a qualitative, cross-sectional, exploratory study that was conducted on 1,522 staff members (military and civilian personnel) of the Military Central Hospital of legal age (excluding personnel who did not answer the survey in full or if irregularities in the data provided were detected), who digitally authorized the informed consent, over the platform SurveyMonkey®. This study was authorized by the Research Committee of the Military Central Hospital and adhered to the Declaration of Helsinki.

MATERIALS

Surveys were presented over the platform SurveyMonkey®; while Microsoft Excel 360 and SPSS Statistics V27 were used for the statistical analysis of the database.

CLINIMETRIC INSTRUMENTS

In order to evaluate the possible generators of gender violence, the scale Distorted Thoughts Against Women Inventory was applied, and to assess the risk of violence we resorted to Gender and Use of Violence Screening Revised Test.(3)

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Descriptive statistics were expressed in frequencies and percentages by SPSS Statistics V27.

RESULTS

A total of 1,522 surveys were applied at the Military Central Hospital. The Distorted thoughts Against Women Inventory evaluated 1,128 staff members. For its part, Gender and Use of Violence Screening Revised Test assessed 1,488 personnel.

Regarding the possible generator of violence, we found that 956 (84.8%) are nonviolent and 172 (15.2%) are possibly violent.

The possible generator of violence is similar for both sexes or between the military and civil population. As shown in Tables 1 and 2 with no statistical difference, $X2 = 0.079$ and $p\ 0.421$; $X2 = 0.045$ and $p\ 0.562$, respectively.

Table 1. Possible generator of violence by sex

	Male n(%)	Female n(%)
Violent	79 (15.6)	93 (15.0)
Nonviolent	428 (84.4)	528 (85.5)
Total	507 (44.9)	621 (55.1)

Table 2. Possible generator of violence by population

	Military n(%)	Civil n(%)
Violent	169 (15.3)	3 (13.6)
Nonviolent	937 (84.7)	19 (86.4)
Total	1106 (98)	22 (2)

While 1,461 (98.2%) are at low risk, 20 (1.3%) at moderate risk, and only 7 (0.5%) at high risk of having suffered or experiencing gender violence.

Women have lower risk than males, while man have more moderate and higher risk than women, $X2 = 16.0$ and $p = 0.0001$ (Table 3).

Table 3. Risk of gender violence by sex

	Male n(%)	Female n(%)
Low risk	503 (96.4)	958 (99.2)
Moderate risk	13 (2.5)	7 (0.7)
High risk	6 (1.1)	1 (0.1)
Total	522 (35.1)	966 (64.9)

Civilian people only have low risk, while non-civilian respondents have moderate or high risk, i.e., 1.4 % and 0.5 % of the military personnel have moderate and high risk, respectively. Table 4, no statistical difference, X2 = 0.604 and p = 0.739.

Table 4. Risk of gender violence by population

	Civil n(%)	Militar n(%)
Low risk	32 (100)	1429 (98.1)
Moderate risk	0 (0)	20 (1.4)
High risk	0 (0)	7 (0.5)
Total	32 (2.2)	1456 (97.8)

DISCUSSION

Gender violence can be understood as a public health problem because it occurs in up to 66% of the Mexican women's population and the consequences for the affected population range from anxiety and depression to physical violence and femicide.(4)

INEGI statistics show results on gender violence at the workplace, schools, communities, families and couples. In Mexico, several surveys have been carried out to find out the incidence of the propensity to experience and generate gender violence, such as the Distorted Thoughts Against Women Inventory and the Gender and Use of Violence Screening Revised Test. However, within the Mexican Army and Air Force there is no data on the incidence of the propensity to generate or experience gender violence.

It should be pointed out that only 76 (6.9%) possible generators of violence were found inside the Military Central Hospital. A clear example is the report by the Women's Institute of the state of San Luis Potosi, which conducted a survey in 2009 whose results were that 73% of women over 15 years of age reported having suffe-

red violence, all compared with the 2006 National Survey on the Dynamic of Relationships at Households (ENDIREH) at national level, which was 39%.(5)

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