Introduction

Gender-based violence refers to systematic and massive violations of human rights that affect the life, physical, mental and social health, integrity, freedom and equality of the entire population, according to the United Nations (UN). Violence Against Women (VAW) is defined as “any act of gender-based violence that results, or may result in physical, sexual or psychological harm to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether they occur in public or private life.” Observing the behavior of Violence Against Women, and understanding the importance of recognizing and addressing its implications for the physical and mental health of women, who due to this are at greater risk of experiencing: “trauma, depression or disorders of anxiety, sexually transmitted infections, self-harm or suicide, unwanted pregnancies and problems related to the consumption of alcohol or tobacco.” Governmental figures worldwide have recognized their responsibility in developing actions towards the reduction and elimination of these types of violence, thus contributing to the restoration of the quality of life for women.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one in three women can be a victim of mental and physical assaults at least once in their lives. Globally, 30% of women will experience some type of physical or sexual violence from their romantic partner, resulting in trauma (42%) and even death (38%). In Colombia, figures from the National Institute of Health (INS) reveal that 87,699 suspected cases of VAW were reported in 2018, 14.64% more events than those reported to the Public Health Surveillance System (SIVIGILA) in 2017. (76,502 cases) and 21.9% more than those reported in 2016 (71,932 cases). Having a similar panorama, the department of Huila, observing an upward trend of the affection, with a percentage variation of 13.6% between the reports of the years 2016 (3,463 cases) and 2018 (3,934 cases). The interest in developing this investigative work was based on the fact that surveillance of gender-based violence began less than ten years ago, which has made it possible to demonstrate the increase in cases of violence that affect the female population, year after year.

Results: Non-sexual violence is the form of violence to which women are most exposed, with 76.81% of cases, being more than 3 times greater than the form of sexual violence. Women are more likely to endure physical violence, 8,432 cases and psychological violence, 4,066 cases. In 80.26% of cases of gender violence against women, the aggressor is a man, and it is probable that the victim has some kind of family relationship with the aggressor; possibly being his partner, 7,137 cases or ex-partner, 3,264 cases.

Conclusion: in the department of Huila, women between 10 to 39 years old are more likely to suffer physical, sexual and psychological violence; men being the main aggressors and in most cases the sentimental partners of the victims. The most used mechanisms to inflict damage by the aggressors are short-blunt and sharp objects.

Keywords: gender violence, woman
Methodological design

An observational, descriptive study was developed to describe the sociodemographic characteristics, data on the nature of violence, characteristics of the victim, the aggressor, the fact, and data on comprehensive health care in Violence Against Women events, reported to the public health surveillance system, in the department of Huila, during the period 2013 - 2018. The information collected through the XLS files for notification of the Gender Violence event, reported to SIVIGILA, during the period of investigation, by the Primary Data Generating Units (UPGD) of the department, was taken as input of its use by this entity. The study was carried out with the Public Health Surveillance reports, notified by the UPGD, of the 37 municipalities of the department of Huila. For the development of this investigation, 100% of the notification records of the database of events of Gender Violence, code SIVIGILA 875, which present in the variable “SEX” value “F” (female), were used notified to SIVIGILA, in the 2013-2018 periods, in the department of Huila.

Inclusion criteria: Databases that had the records of the variables object of this investigation, correctly filled out. Registries whose population object of the event were women, residents in the municipalities of the department of Huila.

Exclusion criteria: Duplicate data records. Data records that had discard adjustments due to typing error.

For the development of this investigation, the notification form of the event on Gender Violence, code 875, of the INS, was taken as an instrument, which is mandatory for all UPGDs in the country, and the information obtained from it is recognized as an officer. This information was managed through the Excel database, XLS file, and information related to names and identification documents was excluded from the reported events, respecting the principles of confidentiality and information protection, according to current regulations for the country. The database was tabulated, taking into account the notification sheet of basic and complementary data for the reporting of events of gender violence, and the values that were used were those stipulated in the SIVIGILA 2018 Software User Manual, from the INS, for the Gender Violence event. Taking into account that the protocols and notification sheets are updated every year, a variable value control matrix was developed, which allowed for uniformity in the data. For the analysis of statistical data, the STATA IC V14 software (Serial Number 301406325697-l33) and the Excel software will be used. The analysis of the variables was carried out through descriptive statistics, where measures of central tendency and dispersion were estimated for the ratio variables; and for the nominal or ordinal variables, relative proportions and frequency measurements were calculated.

Ethical considerations

According to resolution 08430 of 1993 (35), article 11, the investigation was classified “without risk”, because it uses retrospective documentary investigation techniques and methods, which do not require any intervention or intentional modification of biological, physiological variables, psychological or social of individuals.

Results

During the study period, a total of N: 24,707 events associated with Gender Violence were reported in the department of Huila, of which 77.12% (n: 19,050 cases) directly affected female persons, population that was the object of this research, meeting the inclusion criteria. As evidenced in Table 1, the behavior of the events associated with Violence Against Women, during the study period, according to the life course, it is observed that the highest percentage representation occurs in adult women (32.45%: 6,183 cases), that is, in women between the ages of 29 and 59. It is important to recognize the impact on the behavior of VAW, the Early Childhood life course (0 to 5 years), where 2,141 girls victims of any type of violence are registered. Table 2 shows that women are more likely to be victims of physical violence (44.26%: 8,432 cases) and psychological (21.03%: 4,006 cases).

Table 1 Sociodemographic characteristics Violence Against Women. According to Life Course. Huila, 2013-2018

| Variable / Ali* | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | Total |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Age             |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| No. Observations / Life courses | n:2702 | % | n:2239 | % | n:2698 | % | n:3463 | % | n:3999 | % | n:3952 | 7. | n:19053 | % |
| Early childhood | 168   | 6.22  | 253   | 11.30 | 327   | 12.12 | 359   | 10.37 | 520   | 13.00 | 514   | 13.01 | 2141  | 11.24 |
| Childhood       | 180   | 6.66  | 188   | 8.40  | 253   | 9.38  | 253   | 7.31  | 329   | 8.23  | 407   | 10.30 | 1610  | 8.45  |
| Adolescence     | 516   | 19.10 | 518   | 23.14 | 524   | 19.42 | 600   | 17.33 | 698   | 17.45 | 706   | 17.86 | 3562  | 18.70 |
| Youth           | 748   | 27.68 | 542   | 24.21 | 684   | 25.35 | 928   | 26.80 | 1012  | 25.31 | 1050  | 26.57 | 4964  | 26.05 |
| Adulthood       | 1008  | 37.31 | 677   | 30.24 | 843   | 31.25 | 1190  | 34.36 | 1316  | 32.91 | 1149  | 29.07 | 6183  | 32.45 |
| Aido Mayor      | 82    | 3.02  | 61    | 2.72  | 67    | 2.48  | 133   | 3.84  | 124   | 3.10  | 126   | 3.19  | 593   | 3.11  |

Source: SIVIGILA database. Department of Huila 2013 - 2018

It is important to point out that in the women who reported having been victims of Sexual Violence (23.19%: 4,418 cases), the highest proportion of affection is given in the Sexual Abuse violence modality, with a percentage representation of 18.95% (3,611 cases), modality that, according to the operational definition established in the Protocol of Notification of the event, of the INS, refers to sexual acts without penetration of the penis or other part of the body or element, with or without direct contact, performed by force, cheating, bribery, threats, seduction, manipulation. It includes handling, masturbating, exhibitionist practices and others (38). In this category it is also
important to observe the behavior of the Violation modality, which records 528 events (2.77%) during the study period. According to the information of events reported by Violence Against Women, in the department of Huila during the years 2013 to 2018, it can be seen that in 83% of cases (15,824) there was an identifiable relationship of familiarity between the victim and the aggressor, being the conjugal figures, current and past, those who in a greater proportion are seen as aggressors (54.59%; 10,401 cases), as evidenced in Table 3. It can also be seen that in 13.55% (2,581 cases) of the records, the victims reported not having any family relationship with their aggressor, agreeing with the data of the variable “Non-Family Relationship”, where it is identified that they are acquaintances without any treatment (2.45%: 466 cases), neighbors (2.42%: 461 cases), strangers (2.34%: 445 cases) and friends (1.83%; 348 cases), the aggressor figures with higher percentage representation.\textsuperscript{12,13}

Table 2 Categories Violence Against Women. Modality of Violence. Huila, 2013-2018

| Variable / All* | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | Total |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| No. Observations | n=2702 | % | n=2239 | % | n=2698 | % | n=3463 | % | n=3999 | % | n=3952 | % | n=19053 | % |
| Violence | 1246 | 46.11 | 986 | 44.04 | 1177 | 43.62 | 1404 | 40.54 | 1743 | 43.59 | 1876 | 47.47 | 8432 | 44.26 |
| Psychological violence | 706 | 26.13 | 374 | 16.70 | 497 | 18.42 | 955 | 27.58 | 874 | 21.86 | 600 | 15.18 | 4006 | 21.03 |
| Non-sexual | 179 | 6.62 | 219 | 9.78 | 339 | 12.56 | 375 | 10.83 | 519 | 12.98 | 566 | 14.32 | 2197 | 11.53 |
| Neglect / abandon | 4 | 0.15 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 0.03 | 1 | 0.03 | 1 | 0.03 | 1 | 0.03 | 4 | 0.02 |
| Sexual abuse sexual harassment | 203 | 7.56 | 139 | 6.22 | 282 | 10.45 | 348 | 9.63 | 506 | 13.00 | 540 | 13.85 | 2702 | 14.49 |
| Violent | 14 | 0.52 | 13 | 0.57 | 23 | 0.86 | 35 | 0.95 | 56 | 1.47 | 63 | 1.64 | 375 | 1.97 |
| Ex partner | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 0.03 | 1 | 0.03 | 1 | 0.03 | 1 | 0.03 | 4 | 0.02 |
| Family | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 0.03 | 1 | 0.03 | 1 | 0.03 | 1 | 0.03 | 4 | 0.02 |
| None | 179 | 6.62 | 219 | 9.78 | 339 | 12.56 | 375 | 10.83 | 519 | 12.98 | 566 | 14.32 | 2197 | 11.53 |

Source: SIVIGILA database. Department of Huila 2013 - 2018

Table 3 Characteristics of the aggressor in Violence Against Women. Relationship with the Victim. Huila, 2013-2018

| Variable / All* | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | Total |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| No. Observations | n=2702 | % | n=2239 | % | n=2698 | % | n=3463 | % | n=3999 | % | n=3952 | % | n=19053 | % |
| Family Relationship with the Victim | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Father | 22 | 0.81 | 95 | 4.24 | 130 | 4.82 | 93 | 2.69 | 159 | 3.98 | 184 | 4.655 | 683 | 3.58 |
| Mother | 138 | 5.11 | 219 | 9.78 | 299 | 11.08 | 376 | 10.86 | 521 | 13.03 | 531 | 13.436 | 2084 | 10.94 |
| Couple | 1373 | 50.81 | 984 | 43.95 | 981 | 36.36 | 1338 | 38.64 | 1300 | 32.51 | 1161 | 29.378 | 7137 | 37.46 |
| Ex partner | 356 | 13.18 | 311 | 13.89 | 465 | 17.23 | 697 | 20.13 | 774 | 19.35 | 661 | 16.726 | 3264 | 17.13 |
| Family | 451 | 16.69 | 334 | 14.92 | 413 | 15.31 | 442 | 12.76 | 481 | 12.03 | 535 | 13.537 | 2656 | 13.94 |
| None | 8 | 0.30 | 104 | 4.64 | 359 | 13.31 | 483 | 13.95 | 755 | 18.88 | 872 | 22.065 | 2581 | 13.55 |
| No information | 354 | 13.10 | 192 | 8.58 | 51 | 1.89 | 34 | 0.98 | 9 | 0.23 | 8 | 0.2024 | 648 | 3.401 |
| Total | 2702 | 100.00 | 2239 | 100.00 | 2698 | 100.00 | 3463 | 100.00 | 3999 | 100.00 | 3952 | 100.00 | 19053 | 100.00 |

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Violencia contra las mujeres. HUILA, 2013 - 2018

Table Continued

| Variable | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | Total |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Neighbour | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0     |
| Known without any deal | 2    | 0.07 | 10   | 0.45 | 83   | 3.08 | 78    |
| Without Information | 2    | 0.07 | 21   | 0.94 | 61   | 2.26 | 74    |
| Others | 0    | 0.00 | 17   | 0.76 | 73   | 2.71 | 91    |
| Boss | 1    | 0.04 | 7    | 0.31 | 0    | 0.00 | 0     |
| Priest / Shepherd | 0    | 0.00 | 16   | 0.71 | 50   | 1.85 | 131   |
| Public server | 0    | 0.00 | 0    | 0.00 | 12   | 0.44 | 18    |
| Workmate | 0    | 0.00 | 0    | 0    | 0.00 | 0    | 0     |
| Study Companion | 0    | 0.00 | 0    | 0    | 3    | 0.11 | 0     |
| Total | 8    | 0.30 | 104  | 4.64 | 359  | 13.31 | 483   |

Source: SIVIGILA database. Department of Huila 2013 – 2018

Discussion

The panorama of Violence Against Women shows that the most vulnerable population in the department is between 10 and 39 years old (56.40% = 12,834 cases), with age groups between 10 and 14 years old and 20 to 24 years the most affected, a situation consistent with the latest National figures reported by the National Institute of Health (INS) and international. It is pertinent to mention that the behavior of the event in Huilense women varies according to the type of violence, observing that for physical violence the age range most affected is that of 20 to 24 years (20.10% =1,695 cases), for psychological violence is between 30 and 34 years (14.43% =578 cases), for cases of negligence that of children under 5 years (61.13% =1,343 cases) and for sexual violence events , the group of 10 to 14 years (49.95% =2,207 cases).

The study found that non-sexual violence, which includes physical violence (44.26%; 8,432 cases) and psychological violence (21.03%; 4006 cases), is the most reported form of violence by women in the Huila, sexual violence registered an important percentage behavior (23.19%; 4,418 cases); results comparable to those found by Alsaleh, A., in their study “Violence against women in the Middle East”, where 29% of cases were of physical violence and 18% of psychological violence.

It is important to note that, in the department of Huila, the reports of Psychological Violence reach a significant representation, which shows that physical, psychological and sexual abuse are the main patterns of violence and the findings described in the document on “Prevention of sexual violence and intimate partner violence against women”, carried out by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), highlighting these types of violence as significant representation, which shows that through the actions and strategies that have been advanced from the different sectors, it has been possible to make visible what would be considered the invisible violence, which is necessarily immersed in the other types of violence.

Likewise, the departmental administration intends to support the ethnic groups established in the territory, through the implementation of a program that “provides support, care and accompaniment to the indigenous and Afro-descendant population settled in the department of Huila”, a program that can serve so that the 68 cases of indigenous women and 30 of women belonging to the Afro-Colombian community, affected by Gender Violence, can find alternatives for their personal development and for the attention of their priority needs.

According to the records of this investigation, 82 women reported belonging to the ROM-Gitano, Raizal and Palenquero groups, groups that do not have representation in the department, according to the recognition of the Huila Government and the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, which shows possible errors in the quality of the data, at the time of registering the notification form. In the observations of this investigation it is related that the main aggressor of women affected by Gender Violence are men in 80.26% of cases, that the victim lived with the aggressor in 53% of cases and that possibly it was his partner of support (37.46%). The foregoing is consistent with the fact that the main scenario for the attack is the house (78.88%; 15,029 cases). Similar data was found by Sanz-Barbero, where 39.9% of the women were married and 52.2% lived with their spouse.

These findings could be better explained, understanding that although today there is talk of gender equality and the empowerment of women, men still struggle to play a dominant role in their home and over their romantic partner, regardless of whether or not they should use violence, including physical and sexual violence. However, it is possible that this percentage is even higher, as a result of the woman hiding this problem, due to her submission, low self-esteem or due to being faithful to her home, marriage and / or her children, financial dependence, fear or shame to report and seek help or lack of protection measures. In addition to this, we have several groups that are producers of gender stereotypes, such as institutions, the media and hierarchy in Huilense society, which generates the naturalization of VAW, even reaching the point of the victim thinking of the same way: “... my husband beats me, forces me to have sex with him and I have to accept it ... Before this interview I had not even reflected on it ... I thought it was natural, that it was the normal behavior of a husband... “.

It is notable that, both in Colombia, and in the department of Huila,
there are advances in terms of notification systems for the event and the recognition of women’s rights, however, inequalities still persist in different areas of daily life (labor, economic, and political). Therefore, women are in a constant fight for their recognition, which makes it necessary to apply policies and give legal guarantees to those who are victims of Gender Violence, in such a way that the restoration of their rights and confidence is achieved. The department of Huila has a Gender Equality Policy for Huila women, therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the applicability and fulfillment of the proposed objectives towards mainstreaming actions into plans, programs and projects to eradicate all kinds of discrimination and violence.\(^{2,3}\) Finally, the main limitation of the study is the quality of the data, as a consequence of the underreporting and the inadequate recording of the data in the SIVIGILA, evidenced in the incomplete data in some of the variables studied.

**Conclusion**

During the period 2013-2018, in the department of Huila, the public health surveillance system (SIVIGILA) was notified of 19,050 events associated with Gender Violence Against Women, highlighting an increasing trend each year, registering a percentage variation of 46, 26% between the events reported during 2013 and those reported in 2018.

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None.

**Contributions**

Each author actively participated in the planning, execution, and conduct of this study. The authors wrote the None of the authors has a financial or any other conflict of interest.

**Conflicts of interest**

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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