

Femicidal Violence in Figures

Latin America and the Caribbean

Towards substantive gender equality and the care society: acting with urgency to ensure women's and girls' right to a life free from violence



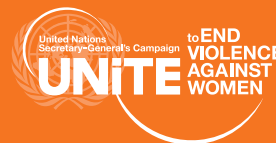
UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



Gender Equality
Observatory

for Latin America and the Caribbean



A. Prevention and elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls within the framework of a decade of action to achieve substantive gender equality and the care society

The member States and associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), meeting at the sixteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Mexico City from 12 to 15 August 2025, adopted the Tlatelolco Commitment (ECLAC, 2025b), which established a decade of action, 2025–2035, in Latin America and the Caribbean to accelerate achievement of substantive gender equality and the care society. Under this regional agreement, which is part of the Regional Gender Agenda of compacts adopted by ECLAC member States since 1977, governments committed to “advance the adoption and implementation of laws and policies, comprehensive and multisectoral action plans ... at the different levels of the State to prevent, address, punish and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity, in all forms and spheres, including ... the most extreme expression of violence, i.e. femicide, femicide or gender-related violent deaths of women, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage and early unions” (ECLAC, 2025b, para. 14). Within this framework, the availability of comprehensive services to prevent and address all forms of violence against women is indispensable to the creation of enabling conditions for the autonomy of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity (ECLAC, 2025b, para. 12).

Acting with urgency to address the pandemic of violence against women, adolescents and girls is fundamental. The prevalence of this grave and persistent violation of human rights remains high: national surveys conducted across 12 countries in recent years show that between 63% and 76% of women have experienced some form of gender-based violence (ECLAC, 2025a). According to 2018 estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO), one in four women in the region has experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner at least once in her lifetime, while one in eight women has suffered sexual violence at the hands of someone who was not their partner (WHO, 2018). Women and girls experience gender-based violence throughout their lifetimes. It takes many forms and occurs in all spheres, “whether public or private,

including in the contexts of the family, the community, public spaces, the workplace, leisure, politics, sport, health services and educational settings", as well as "online and in other digital environments" (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 2017).

In response, the region has made significant regulatory progress towards honouring the commitments made by the States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994) and international agreements such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in synergy with the Regional Gender Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean.

To date, all Latin American and Caribbean countries and territories have passed laws aimed at preventing and eradicating violence against women. While some of these are focused on domestic violence, 14 countries have passed comprehensive laws that address violence in various spheres (see diagram 1).¹ Regulatory frameworks to address specific forms of gender-based violence have also been adopted in the region, thus ensuring that there are better tools to eliminate it in its various forms. In Latin America, the crime of femicide, femicide or gender-related killing of women has been incorporated into the legal systems of 20 countries.² In some cases it has been criminalized (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay). In others, for example in Argentina, Cuba and Puerto Rico, it is an aggravating circumstance of homicide (ECLAC, 2025a). The criminalization of femicide establishes a legal framework that allows justice systems to investigate, prosecute and punish these crimes with a gender perspective and thus more effectively, in addition to encouraging the creation of prevention and education programmes that address the structural causes of such violence. Meanwhile, 16 countries have adopted regulations to eliminate the harmful practice of child marriage (ECLAC, 2024).

Diagram 1

Latin America and the Caribbean: regulatory progress in eliminating gender-based violence against women and girls



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of the repository of laws.

¹ The 14 countries that have passed comprehensive laws to combat violence against women and girls are: Argentina (2009), Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2007), Chile (2024), Colombia (2008), Ecuador (2018), El Salvador (2010), Guatemala (2008), Mexico (2007), Nicaragua (2012), Panama (2013), Paraguay (2016), Peru (2015), Plurinational State of Bolivia (2013) and Uruguay (2018).

² The 20 countries and territories that have incorporated femicide or femicide into legislation through modifications to the penal code or specific laws are: Argentina (2012), Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2014), Brazil (2015), Chile (2010), Colombia (2015), Costa Rica (2007), Cuba (2021), Dominican Republic (2025), Ecuador (2014), El Salvador (2012), Guatemala (2008), Honduras (2013), Mexico (2012), Nicaragua (2012), Panama (2013), Paraguay (2016), Peru (2013), Plurinational State of Bolivia (2013), Puerto Rico (2021) and Uruguay (2017).

This Bulletin No. 4 on femicidal violence presents the official statistics submitted by the region's governments to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean on femicides, feminicides and gender-related killings of women reported in 2024. It is part of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, aimed at preventing and eliminating gender-based violence against women and girls worldwide. The campaign calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire United Nations system to join forces to tackle the global pandemic of violence against women and girls. The slogan for 2025 is "End digital violence against all women and girls".³

Within this framework, it is important to highlight progress in the region in addressing online violence against women and girls, which is defined as "any act of gender-based violence against women that is committed, assisted or aggravated in part or fully by the use of information and communications technologies, ... against a woman because she is a woman, or affects women disproportionately" (United Nations, 2018).⁴ It is expressed in various forms and hampers women's full autonomy and participation in society. Some groups of women are more vulnerable owing to their activities, identity or participation in the public sphere. Gender-based online violence includes a broad spectrum of behaviours, from cyberbullying, the unauthorized disclosure of intimate images and illegal access to personal information, to political violence and harassment targeting, in particular, women in leadership roles and public office (such as human rights defenders, journalists and activists) (ECLAC, 2023).

Some legislative measures adopted in recent years reflect these advances. Brazil has passed a law on the responsibility of its federal police to investigate cybercrime (2019). In Ecuador, the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code was amended in 2021 to criminalize online harassment and unauthorized dissemination of sexual or intimate images and to establish specific penalties for such acts. This regulatory framework also addresses sexual crimes perpetrated against children and adolescents on digital platforms, including online grooming. In Mexico, Olimpia's Law of 2021, which established a set of reforms to the General Act on Women's Access to a Violence-free Life and the Federal Criminal Code, recognizes online violence and penalties for crimes that violate people's sexual privacy online. To date, 29 federal entities in Mexico have adopted regulations under this framework. In 2023, that country also passed the Ingrid Act, which establishes penalties for public servants who disclose images of victims and survivors of violence, with a view to protecting the dignity and integrity of these victims and survivors. This law also included an amendment to the Criminal Code to broaden the penalties for corruption and harassment of minors through electronic media. In 2020, Guatemala issued decrees against school bullying, while in Nicaragua, the Special Act on Cybercrime was adopted, which establishes specific penalties for crimes committed in the digital environment.

Online gender-based violence against women is linked to other forms of violence and to the most extreme expression of gender-based violence, femicide (the subject of this Bulletin), as it often reflects a continuum of discrimination and violence that begins online and leads to violence offline and vice versa. It also includes the use of technology itself to carry out violent acts against women and girls (for example, to locate victims or control their lives). Often, the different forms of online violence are an extension of coercive control and allow an acceleration in the progression of risk in abusive relationships, with technology and digital spaces allowing violence to continue even when perpetrators are not in physical proximity to survivors (United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA], 2021).

A survey conducted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) notes the high levels of online violence against women journalists, with 20% of women respondents in that sector saying that they had been attacked or abused offline in connection with online violence they had experienced. As a direct result, 13% of journalists surveyed had increased their physical security in response

³ See 16 Days of Activism 2025: End digital violence against all women and girls. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/unite/theme>.

⁴ The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences "uses the term 'women' in an inclusive manner, which includes girls whenever applicable, while recognizing that girls are a frequent target of this form of violence" (United Nations, 2018).

to online violence (Posetti et al, 2020). Similarly, a case study carried out by the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the region (Ibero-American General Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme and the Ibero-American Initiative to Prevent and Eliminate Violence Against Women, 2025) refers to groups of women who are particularly vulnerable to online violence owing to their participation in the public sphere. Violence occurs in different phases based on its intensity. It generally begins with constant harassment, then worsens with insults, disinformation and dissemination of false information, disclosure of personal data, threats and, lastly, verbal and physical violence.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) underscores that online violence has a real impact online and offline, can worsen forms of violence, such as sexual harassment, and must be factored into risk assessment and protection plans (Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI], 2024).

B. Femicidal violence remains a violation of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean

According to the most recent data provided by official bodies to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2024, at least 3,828 women were victims of femicide, feminicide or gender-related killings⁵ in 26 countries and territories of the region (3,814 in 17 countries of Latin America⁶ and 14 in 9 countries and territories of the Caribbean). This represents at least 11 gender-related killings of women each day and a cumulative total of at least 19,254 feminicides recorded in the past five years in the region.⁷

Comparing regional data is not possible as each year reports are received from a different number of countries and territories. However, a comparative review in each country shows that femicidal violence persists in the region and affects the lives of thousands of women and girls, as well as communities, and limits development, equality and peace in the countries.

1. Femicides, feminicides and gender-related killings of women in Latin America

In 2024, 12 of the 17 countries and territories that provided information on feminicide and femicide or gender-related killings of women recorded at least 1 victim per 100,000 women (see figure 1). Although the production of these data is subject to the criminalization of this offence in each country or territory and the different methodologies used for compilation, which limit comparability across countries and territories, the highest levels were recorded in Honduras (4.3 cases per 100,000 women), Guatemala (1.9 cases per 100,000 women) and the Dominican Republic (1.5 cases per 100,000 women), followed by Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (all with a rate of 1.4 cases per 100,000 women). Meanwhile, the lowest rate was recorded in Chile (0.4 cases per 100,000 women).

⁵ These terms refer to the different legal definitions given to this offence in the countries of the region.

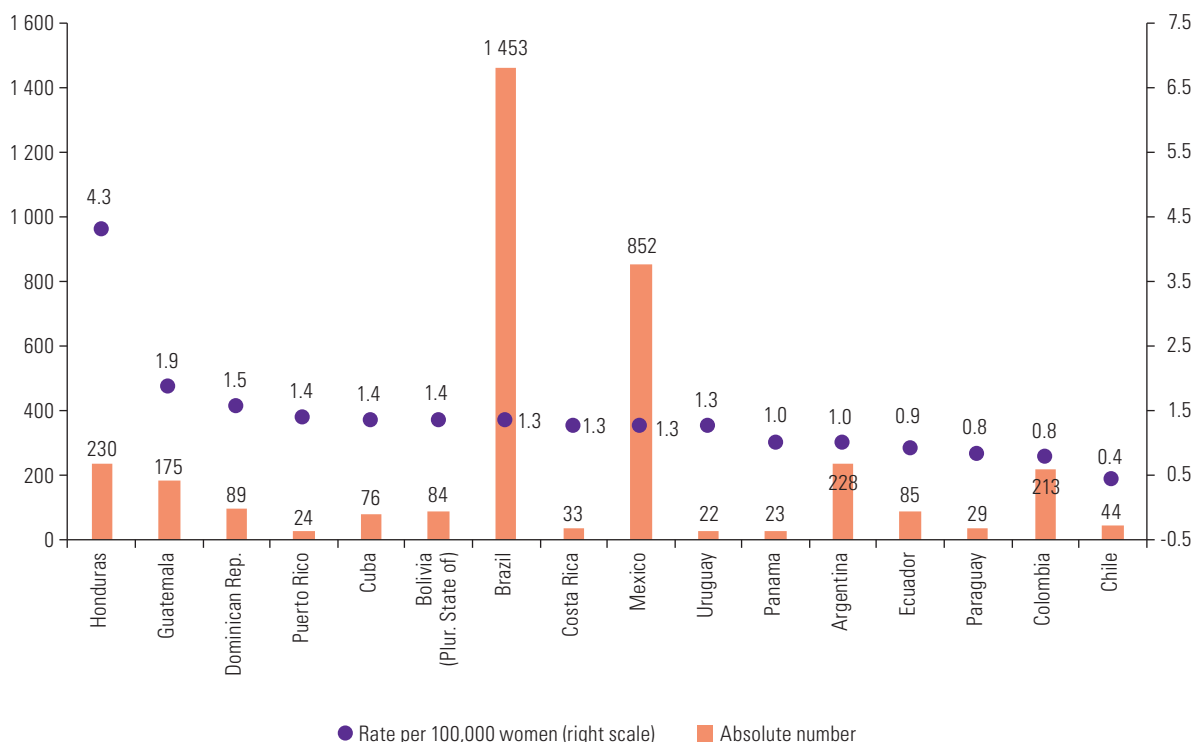
⁶ The regional total of femicides, feminicides and gender-related killings of women includes 154 cases (0.9 per 100,000 women) that were reported by Peru when this Bulletin was being finalized and are therefore not incorporated into the corresponding charts.

⁷ The countries and territories that present reports on this indicator vary each year. In 2020 and 2021, these were: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. Data for 2022 refer to: Anguilla, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. Lastly, 2023 data refer to: Anguilla, Argentina, Bahamas (The), Barbados, Belize, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Uruguay.

Figure 1

Latin America (16 countries and territories): femicides, feminicides or gender-related killings of women, 2024

(Absolute numbers and rates per 100,000 women)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of records provided by official authorities of each country or territory.

Note: The rate reflects the total number of cases of femicide or feminicide during the period observed per 100,000 women in each country or territory, in accordance with national legislation. Estimates were based on population projections of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, World Population Prospects, 2024. <https://population.un.org/wpp/>.

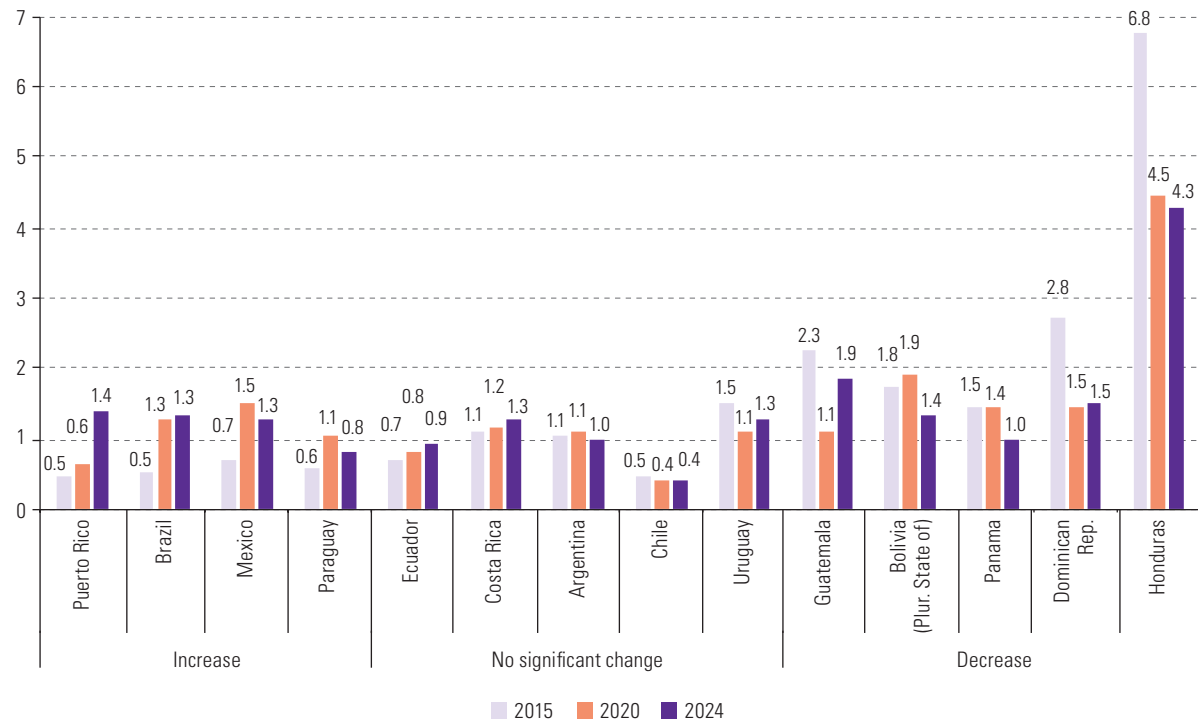
The absolute number of gender-related killings of women and feminicides in Honduras was taken from <https://iudpas.unah.edu.hn/dmsdocument/18199-infografia-muerte-violenta-mujeres-ene-dic-2024-ed18>. That number was used to calculate the rate per 100,000 women.

The rates of femicides or feminicides vary across the countries for which data are available since 2015 (see figure 2). The comparison with that year shows that the indicator remained stable in five countries (Ecuador, Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay), which recorded the smallest variations. Meanwhile, rates rose in four other countries and territories (Puerto Rico, Brazil, Mexico and Paraguay), with Puerto Rico registering the sharpest increase (0.9 percentage points). In Mexico, the rate in 2020 climbed compared with 2015, then declined in 2024, though not to the level seen in 2015. Lastly, femicide or feminicide rates fell in five countries (Guatemala, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Panama, Dominican Republic and Honduras). The biggest drop, from 6.8 cases per 100,000 women in 2015 to 4.3 cases per 100,000 women in 2024, was recorded in Honduras. Despite the 2.5-percentage-point decline in that indicator in the period under review, femicide rates in that country remain alarmingly high.

Figure 2

Latin America (14 countries and territories): femicides, feminicides or gender-related killings of women, 2015, 2020 and 2024

(Rates per 100,000 women)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of records provided by official authorities of each country or territory.

Note: The rate reflects the total number of cases of femicide or feminicide during the period observed per 100,000 women in each country or territory, in accordance with national legislation. Estimates were based on population projections of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, World Population Prospects, 2024. <https://population.un.org/wpp/>.

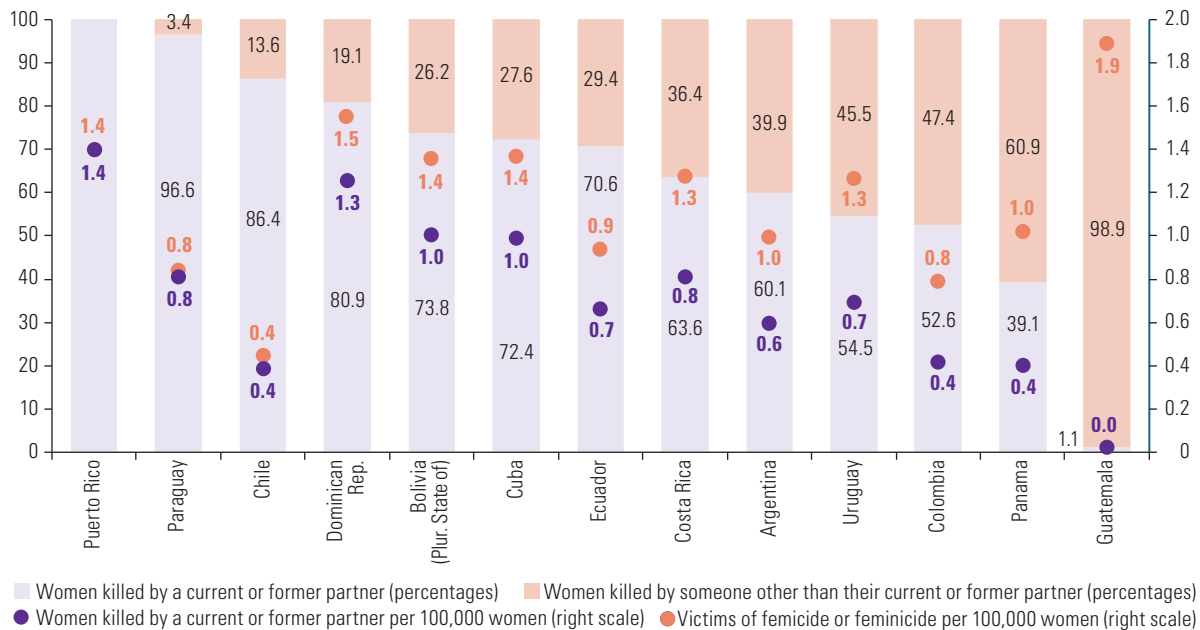
As in previous years, 2024 data show that the biggest threat to women's lives comes from men with whom they have the closest ties. In the region, most gender-related killings of women are perpetrated by current or former intimate partners of the victims (see figure 3). In 9 of the 13 countries and territories of Latin America that provide information on the relationship between victim and perpetrator, more than 60% of feminicides were committed by current or former intimate partners. With regard to reported feminicides committed by a current or former partner, this figure was 100% in Puerto Rico, which was followed by Paraguay (96.6%), Chile (86.4%) and the Dominican Republic (80.9%). Panama and Guatemala, meanwhile, bucked the regional trend, with a larger proportion of women killed by someone who was not their current or former intimate partner.

According to information on the age of the victims provided in 2024 by eight countries and territories (Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico and Uruguay), most victims of feminicide were women between the ages of 30 and 44 (401 cases, representing 29.2%), followed by women and adolescents aged 15–29, who accounted for 28% of victims (385 feminicides), and women aged 45–59 (279 feminicides, representing 20.3%) (see figure 4). However, feminicide affects women of all ages and alarmingly, girls, adolescents and older women. In 2024 in the countries analysed, 78 victims of feminicide were girls under the age of 14 and 89 were women over the age of 60.

Figure 3

Latin America (13 countries and territories): femicides, feminicides or gender-related killings of women and killings of women by their current or former intimate partner, 2024

(Percentages and rates per 100,000 women)



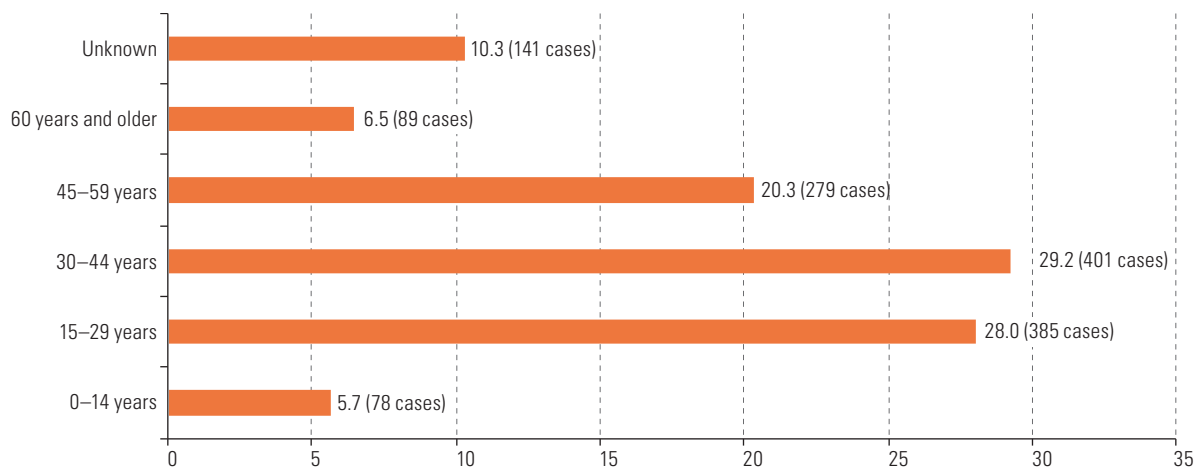
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of records provided by official authorities of each country or territory.

Note: The rate reflects the total number of cases of femicide or feminicide and killings of women by their current or former intimate partner during the period observed per 100,000 women in each country or territory, in accordance with national legislation. Estimates were based on population projections of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, World Population Prospects, 2024. <https://population.un.org/wpp/>.

Figure 4

Latin America (8 countries and territories): femicides, feminicides or gender-related killings of women, by age group, 2024

(Percentages and absolute numbers)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of records provided by official authorities of each country or territory.

Note: The eight countries and territories that provided information disaggregated by age group in line with that requested by ECLAC are Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico and Uruguay.

The trend was similar in countries that presented data disaggregated by age different from that requested by ECLAC. In Chile, 36% of victims were women between the ages of 18 and 29, followed by those aged 30–44, who accounted for 34%. In Cuba, 65% of victims were women aged 20–44. In Argentina, most gender-related killings involved women between the ages of 25 and 59 (21% of victims were aged 25–34, 18% aged 35–44 and 20% aged 45–59). In the Dominican Republic, 54% of victims were women aged 18–34, while in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 53.6% were between the ages of 21 and 30. For this group as well, femicidal violence affects girls and older women, as victims include at least 25 girls and adolescents under the age of 18 in four of these countries and aged 13–20 in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and 49 older women aged 60 and over in four countries and aged 68 and over in the Dominican Republic.

The information provided by the 11 countries that indicated the nationality of victims in 2024 shows that a greater number of femicide victims were nationals of the countries where the crime was committed (80.7%). The 6% of cases involving victims of other nationalities were linked to the specific migration contexts of each country, limiting the possibilities for comparative analysis. In that regard, the Dominican Republic, Chile and Costa Rica, where 19.1%, 18.2% and 15.1% of victims, respectively, were of other nationalities, stand out.

The available data on the ethnicity and race of femicide victims are insufficient for regional comparative analysis, which underscores the challenge of recording these characteristics in national data systems and of incorporating an intersectional perspective to design robust public policies.⁸ Among the countries that provided such data, in Ecuador, 88% of victims were neither Indigenous nor Afrodescendent, while in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 23.8% of victims were Indigenous women farmers.

Another factor to consider is that femicide has consequences that not only affect the direct victims but also seriously impact other persons, including their children and other dependants, who are considered indirect victims. According to data from the 10 countries that reported the number of indirect victims of femicide or femicide, there were 587 indirect victims of 648 feminicides in 2024 (see table 1).

Table 1

Latin America (10 countries and territories): indirect victims of feminicides, femicides or gender-related killings of women, 2024

(Absolute numbers)

Country	Feminicides, femicides or gender-related killings of women	Indirect victims
Argentina	228	215
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	84	79
Chile	44	49
Costa Rica	33	37
Cuba	76	70
Ecuador	85	14
Panama	23	8
Paraguay	29	65
Puerto Rico	24	40
Uruguay	22	10
Total	648	587

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of records provided by official authorities of each country or territory.

Note: Indirect victims refer to children and other dependants of victims of femicide, femicide or gender-related killings of women.

⁸ Disaggregation of feminicides by ethnicity and race presents limitations owing both to the small number of countries that provide these data and to the inadequacy of existing information. In 2024, Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia provided some femicide data disaggregated by ethnicity and race of the victims, while almost all the data provided by Ecuador were disaggregated.

In recognition of the severity of the consequences of this extreme violence and the need for reparation, eight countries of Latin America have adopted regulations to protect its indirect victims, in other words, the children and dependants of femicide victims (see table 2). These laws focus on protection through State-provided care services and economic reparations through compensation. Other countries have established alternative mechanisms, such as the National Protocol for Comprehensive Care for Children and Adolescents Orphaned by Femicide in Mexico (Ministry of Health and National System for Comprehensive Family Development of Mexico, 2021).

Table 2
Latin America (9 countries): regulations on State reparations to indirect victims of femicide, femicide or gender-related killing, latest available year

Country	Regulation
Argentina	Act No. 27452 (2018), known as the Brisa Act, provides for a monthly allowance and healthcare coverage to children and adolescents who are victims of family or gender-related violence.
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Act No. 348 (2013), article 36, provides for a system of protection for children and other family members who are victims of femicide committed by a spouse or partner.
Brazil	Decree No. 12636 (2025) regulates Act No. 14717 (2023) establishing a special pension for children and dependants under the age of 18 who have been orphaned by femicide.
Chile	Act No. 21565 (2023) established a system of protection and comprehensive reparation for femicide and femicidal suicide victims and their families.
Colombia	The Children Orphaned by Femicide Act (2025) protects children and young people up to age 25, includes economic support, preferential access to programmes for education, culture, health, psychosocial support, sports, employment and specialized legal assistance, and prevents perpetrators of feminicides from managing or accessing entitlements of victims' children.
Costa Rica	Act No. 10263 for Comprehensive Reparations for Survivors of Femicide (2022) established a comprehensive reparation scheme and fund for survivors of femicide.
Ecuador	Decree No. 696 (2018) provides an allowance for minors under the age of 18 who are indirect victims of femicide or femicide, through the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion.
Peru	Emergency Decree No. 005–2020 guarantees basic economic assistance for children, adolescents and persons with disabilities who are indirect victims of femicide (since 2020).
Uruguay	Act No. 18850 (2011) established that the children of persons who have died as a result of domestic violence are entitled to reparation benefits.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. Regulation <https://oig.cepal.org/en/regulations>. <https://oig.cepal.org/es/normativas>.

2. Gender-related killings of women in the Caribbean

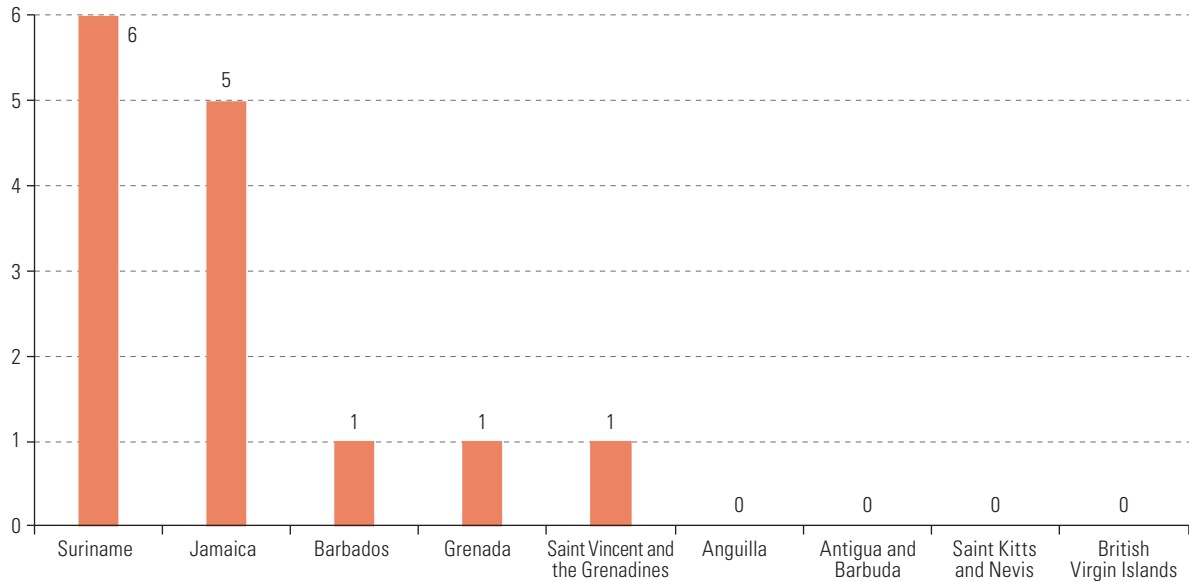
According to information provided by nine Caribbean countries and territories on gender-related killings of women, at least 14 women were victims of lethal gender-based violence in the subregion in 2024. Cases were recorded in Suriname, Jamaica, Barbados, Belize, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines that year (see figure 5). In all the cases reported, the perpetrators were current or former partners of the victims. Given that the population of women is less than 100,000 in some of the countries that submitted information, calculating rates per 100,000 women is impracticable and the data are therefore presented as absolute numbers.

Trends in the number of femicides or feminicides in these countries and territories between 2015 and 2024 show a decline in the number of cases recorded, from 26 to 14 (see figure 6). However, the current figures reflect the persistence of gender-based violence in the subregion. Jamaica, the country with the highest number of cases, reported a decrease in feminicides or femicides from 9 cases in 2015 to 5 cases in 2024. Given the duration of legal proceedings, not all gender-related killings of women may have been recorded in recent years and these figures may be revised upward in future reports.

Figure 5

The Caribbean (9 countries and territories): femicides, feminicides or gender-related killings of women, 2024

(Absolute numbers)

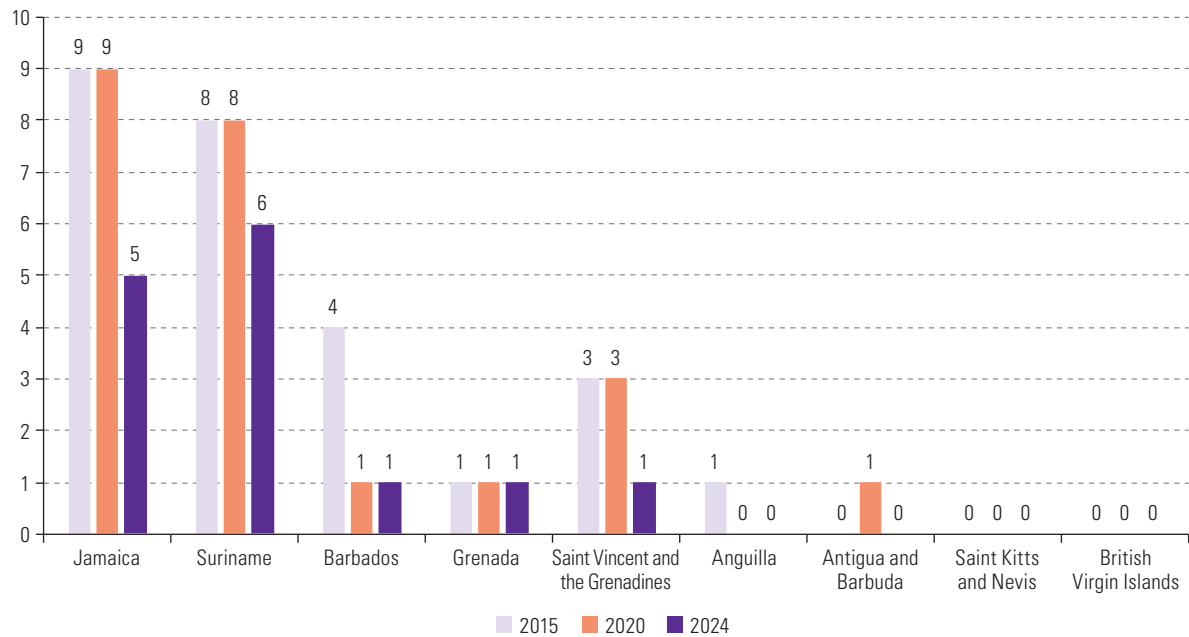


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of records provided by official authorities of each country or territory.

Figure 6

The Caribbean (9 countries and territories): femicides, feminicides or gender-related killings of women, 2015, 2020 and 2024

(Absolute numbers)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of records provided by official authorities of each country or territory.

Although no Caribbean country has laws criminalizing femicide, feminicide or gender-related killings of women, domestic violence laws have undergone significant reforms to ensure that they are more comprehensive (ECLAC, 2025a). The concept of sexual violence has been expanded, particularly within marriage and in cases of early pregnancy as a result of sexual violence. In Jamaica, a 2023 amendment to the Domestic Violence Act strengthened protection and support for victims of gender-based violence, broadening the categories of people who may be subject to a protection order beyond partners. In 2022, Saint Lucia passed a new domestic violence law that expands the definition of violence and strengthens protection measures (ECLAC, 2025a).

C. Effective access to justice for victims of gender-based violence, as part of States' duty of care and a condition for the prevention of femicidal violence, still presents considerable limitations in the countries of the region

General recommendation No. 33 on women's access to justice, of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, establishes that women's and girls' effective access to justice is fundamental to prevent gender-based violence in all its forms, including the most extreme: gender-related killing or femicide. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women warns that the lack of efficient responses with a gender perspective—given delays in investigations, the enforcement of discriminatory evidentiary rules, revictimization or the lack of protection measures—results in impunity and continued violence that can lead to femicide. As a result, the Committee recommends that States adopt regulatory frameworks and procedures that eliminate discrimination, strengthen institutional capacity and ensure accessible, effective and timely resources, recognizing that guaranteeing access to justice is an international obligation and an essential public policy strategy to protect women's lives and safety (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 2015).

Against this backdrop, cases of femicide, feminicide and gender-related killing of women account for a large percentage of intentional homicides of women in the countries and territories that report on both types of crime (see table 3). In three countries, they represent 100% or figures close to that total (Cuba, Grenada and Panama), while in seven countries and territories, the proportion ranges from 40% to 90% (Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Suriname and Uruguay), and in five others, the figure was less than 35% (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Colombia, Mexico and Jamaica). Anguilla recorded no homicides of women in 2024.

Table 3

Latin America (17 countries and territories): femicides, feminicides or gender-related killings and homicides of women, 2024

(Absolute numbers and percentages)

Country	Number of homicides of women	Number of feminicides	Femicides as a percentage of homicides of women
Anguilla	0	0	-
Antigua and Barbuda	2	0	0
Barbados	3	1	33.3
Brazil	2 424	1 453	59.9
Colombia	767	213	27.8
Costa Rica	79	33	41.8
Cuba	76	76	100
Dominican Republic	130	89	68.5
Grenada	1	1	100

Country	Number of homicides of women	Number of feminicides	Feminicides as a percentage of homicides of women
Guatemala	200	175	87.5
Jamaica	82	5	6.1
Mexico	3 739	852	22.8
Panama	25	23	92
Puerto Rico	56	24	42.9
Saint Kitts and Nevis	3	0	0
Suriname	7	6	85.7
Uruguay	45	22	48.9

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of records provided by official authorities of each country or territory.

It is particularly important to consider cases in which previous reports of gender-based violence had been filed or precautionary protection measures for women who were victims of feminicide or femicide had been taken. In 2024, eight countries and territories of Latin America reported on such cases: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Puerto Rico and Uruguay. The highest percentages of feminicides with a previous history of gender-based violence are seen in Puerto Rico (37.5%), Chile (36.4%) and Uruguay (31.8%). Overall, in the eight countries and territories examined, there were 79 cases of feminicides in which there were prior reports filed or protection measures. These cases underscore the need for stronger measures to prevent the deaths of women. The existence of prior reports of gender-based violence shows the importance of strengthening protective measures, assessing the risk of feminicide and implementing protection protocols when it is determined that a woman is at risk of being killed. Taking preventive action against the risk of feminicide and strengthening women's and girls' access to justice can save lives.

Furthermore, it is critical to recognize that femicide, feminicide or the gender-related killing of women is a progression of violent behaviours expressed in a continuum of manifestations of gender-based violence that can culminate in the murder of women and girls, which is defined as femicidal violence (ECLAC, 2021). Recognizing this continuity is essential to understanding that feminicides are not isolated incidents, but rather the product of an escalation of violence that is sustained over time and tolerated in contexts of inequality and structural discrimination. In this context, the analysis of data on attempted femicides or feminicides is essential for the formulation of comprehensive public policies to eradicate violence against women. Although they do not lead to death, these acts reflect the same intent to dominate, control and take women's lives because of their gender, representing an extreme form of violence against women. Recognition of these acts in the design and implementation of State strategies is key for strengthening prevention, timely protection and effective access to justice.

The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), 1994, establishes the duty of States to apply due diligence to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women. According to article 7(d), States Parties agree to adopt legal measures requiring perpetrators to refrain from harassing, intimidating or threatening a woman, or using any method that harms or endangers her life or integrity. Similarly, general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, underscores the need for comprehensive and preventive State responses to gender-based violence—which is a form of structural discrimination—beyond the legislative measures to criminalize it (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 2017).

In the same vein, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has consolidated jurisprudence recognizing the structural nature of femicidal violence. In *González et al. ("Cotton Field") v. Mexico* (2009) and in *Velásquez Paiz and others v. Guatemala* (2015), the court held that lethal violence against women must be examined in the framework of a continuum that includes threats, attempted murder and other serious forms of violence, which imposes on States a reinforced obligation to prevent and to protect before the perpetration of murder.

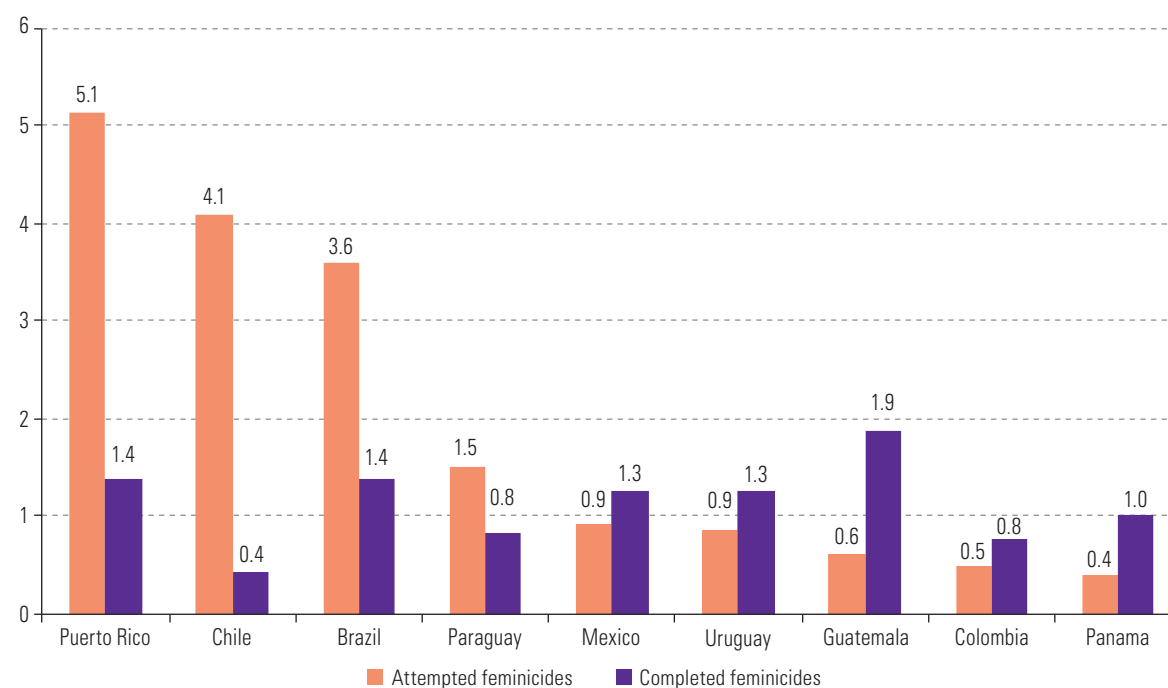
An attempted femicide occurs when the crime of intentional killing of a woman for gender-based reasons is not completed as there is a failure to cause death due to circumstances beyond the perpetrator's control. In these cases, there is intent to kill but the victim survives as a result of the intervention of third parties, medical assistance or fortuitous circumstances (Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Groups of Peru, 2018)

As a general rule, inchoate crimes are punished by lesser penalties than completed crimes, in accordance with the general provisions on attempted offences set forth in each country's criminal code or legislation. However, in its *Fourth Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. Latin America chapter*, the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention indicates that it is unclear whether all States have legislated femicide or feminicide in its attempted form. This represents a lacuna in compliance with respect to due diligence obligations in cases of extreme violence. In this regard, the Committee of Experts urged States to continue efforts to criminalize femicide or feminicide, including considerations for the motives or objectives behind the crime, aggravating circumstances, suicide resulting from gender-based violence, the removal of procedural restrictions, and attempted femicide/feminicide (MESECVI, 2025).

In 2024, 10 Latin American countries and territories provided information on the number of attempted feminicides (see figure 7).⁹ The rate of attempted femicide was higher than the femicide rate in four of these. Puerto Rico and Chile recorded a rate of attempted feminicide that was 3.7 points higher than that of completed feminicides. In the Caribbean, only four countries and territories provided information on attempted feminicide, namely: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Grenada and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Of these, only the British Virgin Islands recorded cases, with one attempted feminicide and zero completed feminicides (see table 4).

Figure 7

Latin America (9 countries and territories): completed and attempted feminicides or femicides, 2024
(Rates per 100,000 women)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of records provided by official authorities of each country or territory.

Note: The countries included are those that reported data on this variable. Requests for information were sent to all countries. Data for Brazil are from the Anuário Brasileiro de Segurança Pública 2025, published by Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública.

⁹ The total number of attempted feminicides includes those reported by Peru when this Bulletin was being finalized: 233 in 2024 and 258 in 2023.

In 2024, at least 5,502 attempted feminicides were recorded in 14 countries and territories of Latin America and the Caribbean. This number confirms that the problem is persistent in the region, given that at least 4,951 cases had been recorded in 2023 in 13 countries and territories, compared with 5,414 cases in 2024 in the same countries (see table 4).

Table 4

Latin America and the Caribbean (13 countries and territories): attempted feminicides or femicides, 2023 and 2024

(Absolute numbers)

Country	2023	2024
Brazil	3 238	3 870
Mexico	663	637
Chile	259	407
Colombia	440	133
Puerto Rico	-	88
Guatemala	12	57
Paraguay	42	52
Uruguay	17	15
Panama	19	9
British Virgin Islands	3	1
Grenada	0	0
Anguilla	0	0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	0

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of records provided by official authorities of each country or territory.

Note: Requests for information were sent to all countries. Data for Brazil are from the Anuário Brasileiro de Segurança Pública 2025, published by Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública. Data for Puerto Rico are for 2024 only.

Collecting and analysing such data would enable a more comprehensive understanding of the cycles of violence that can result in the violent death of women, which is a major step towards improving protocols and policies to prevent femicide or feminicide. Likewise, keeping records of such cases allows for the development of public policies, with a comprehensive approach, on protection and on reparations for women who have survived attempts and indirect victims. In this regard, Chile is a noteworthy example, where Act No. 21565 of 2023 established employment protection for a period of one year for victims of attempted femicide, thus ensuring that they cannot be dismissed from their jobs up to one year after the incident. Surviving victims may request temporary adjustments to their employment entitlements for the duration of the protection order, thus ensuring that they receive adequate redress and protection (Ministry of Women and Gender Equity of Chile, 2023).

From a public policy perspective, incorporating the analysis of attempted femicides helps to strengthen early warning systems, design effective protocols for assessing high-risk violence, adopt immediate protection measures for women at risk and increase the capacity of judicial and police systems to identify patterns of potential lethal violence and provide a gender-sensitive response. It also helps to combat impunity and ensure equal access to justice, in line with the international commitments assumed by States in the area of women's human rights.

D. Sexual violence: a precursor to, risk factor and component of femicides, feminicides or gender-based killings of women and girls

A key component of femicidal violence is sexual violence against women, a crime that sometimes precedes the lethal act and may even occur after the murder (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, National Institute for Women, and National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women, 2020). This type of violence also occurs in abusive intimate partner relationships, tends to intensify over time, and, in the absence of intervention, may escalate into more serious forms of violence, such as rape and femicide. Sexual violence emerges as a recurrent risk factor and, in certain cases, as an element of femicide. In the *Statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls (also referred to as “femicide/feminicide”)* prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-third session, held from 28 February to 2 March and 4 March 2022, (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC] and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women [UN-Women], 2022), sexual violence committed against the victim before and/or after the killing, a victim who was working in the sex industry, or a victim who was subjected to forms of illegal exploitation are some of the characteristics indicative of gender-related motivations of killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide). Sexual violence against girls and adolescents is a serious violation that can result in femicide. Early warning systems must therefore include specific indicators for this population and strengthen protection against the risk of femicide if there is a history of sexual violence, early pregnancy and early unions, enabling differentiated protection measures to be activated.

Furthermore, in recognition of the high incidence of sexual violence in contexts of gender-based violence, several countries of the region have included it as an explicit line of enquiry in risk assessment instruments for victims and survivors of gender-based violence, given that early detection makes it possible to activate urgent protection measures and coordinate appropriate inter-agency responses. As shown in table 5, some instruments include direct questions, assign a weighting to the indicator, and link the assessment to protection pathways and comprehensive care services. While these initiatives are a step towards structural and early-stage prevention, they require enhanced intersectoral and inter-agency coordination, sustained resources and training for justice officials to ensure systematic and effective implementation. It is essential that these instruments include specific variables for girls and adolescents, as their exposure to sexual violence in family, school or digital settings may pose a lethal risk. Adapting these protocols to different age groups is key to ensuring effective protection.

Women and girls may also be victims of sexual violence in public spaces, which increases the insecurity they may face in open areas. In this regard, consideration must also be given to analysing the locations where femicides —whether completed or attempted— occur, in order to develop preventive measures that can be used to promote actions to mainstream gender equality into public safety policies.

Table 5

Latin America (9 countries): incorporation of sexual violence in risk assessment tools for women victims and survivors of gender-based violence

Country	Name of instrument	Incorporation of sexual violence into risk assessment tools	Lead agency	Year
Brazil	National Risk Assessment Form (FONAR) for domestic and family violence against women (CNJ/CNMP joint resolution No. 5/2020)	Includes a specific question on whether the aggressor subjected the victim to forced sexual intercourse or forced sexual acts to weigh the risk of femicide	National Council of Justice (CNJ) and National Council of the Public Prosecutor's Office (CNMP), enforced by the civilian police, Public Prosecutor's Office and judiciary	2020
Colombia	Protocol for assessing the risk of lethal violence to women at the hands of a partner or former partner	Considers a history of violence, including sexual violence, to be factors that increase lethal risk	National Institute of Forensic Medicine and Science (INMLCF)	2014
Dominican Republic	General protocol for the prevention of and comprehensive response to violence against women and domestic violence	Includes sexual violence in the scope of the protocol and establishes operational guidelines on assistance, protection and referral of cases of at-risk and vulnerable women	Ministry of Women's Affairs (with technical support from UNFPA) and coordination with the National Police Directorate for Attention to Women and Domestic Violence and the Office of the Attorney-General	2024
Ecuador	Technical regulation: Comprehensive care for victims of gender-based violence and serious human rights violations	Defines sexual violence within the framework of gender-based violence and includes risk assessment for protection and management of cases	Ministry of Public Health	2019
El Salvador	Risk assessment tools for women affected by violence	Includes items to determine risk levels for each scenario of sexual violence (e.g. forced sexual intercourse, pregnancy resulting from rape, sexual coercion)	Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU), with support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	2021
Guatemala	Protocol for assistance to victims of sexual violence	Classifies risk (high, moderate) using specific criteria such as penetration, ongoing violence and other variables related to sexual violence	Health and justice systems, with support from UNFPA Guatemala	2019
Panama	Protocol for investigating crimes of violence against women committed in intimate partner and family relationships	Includes guidelines for investigating crimes of violence against women, including sexual violence, and provides guidance on the adoption of protective measures in high-risk situations	Office of the Public Prosecutor of Panama	2018
Paraguay	Inter-agency prevention and comprehensive care protocol for women	Recognizes sexual violence as a form of violence and provides for the use of risk assessment forms by the police, the public prosecutor's office, magistrates' courts and public defenders. Protection measures aim to stop femicidal, physical, psychological and sexual violence	Ministry for Women's Affairs and Inter-agency Committee for the Prevention of Violence against Women, in which various public agencies participate (such as departmental and district governments)	2023
Peru	Updated inter-agency protocol for action against femicide, attempted femicide and high-risk intimate partner violence	Includes sexual violence as one of the forms of high-risk intimate partner violence and mandates the use of the risk assessment form (FVR) to manage protective measures	Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Groups and related sectors	2018

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender Equality Observatory on the basis of official documents published on the websites of the agencies responsible for implementing instruments for preventing and reducing the risks of serious violence.

1. Prevention and comprehensive response to gender-based sexual violence against girls and adolescents

Special attention must be paid to the sexual violence experienced by girls and adolescents, which is one of the most serious human rights violations in Latin America and the Caribbean. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 45 million girls and women in the region experienced sexual violence by age 18 (United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], 2024). A WHO study published in *The Lancet* (Sardinha, 2024) found that between 17% and 28% of adolescent girls aged 15–19 have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence during their lifetime and, in the region, between 10% and 17% have experienced it in the past year. At the national level, the figures are alarming, as in the case of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, where data for 2016 show that 48.2% of adolescent girls in early unions had experienced intimate partner violence in the previous 12 months (Ministry of Planning and Development of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 2023). In Mexico, 13% of women aged 18–29 reported having experienced sexual violence in childhood (ECLAC, 2025d), while in Grenada this figure stood at 25% in 2017. Child marriage and unions significantly increase the risk of sexual, physical and psychological violence (MESECVI, 2022; ECLAC, 2022).

State responses to this serious violation of the rights of girls and adolescents have been varied and include regulatory advances, assistance protocols and tools to prevent sexual violence in educational institutions and schools, comprehensive policies, the establishment of specialized services, the strengthening of institutions and the judiciary, educational campaigns and the partial decriminalization of abortion in cases of rape in several countries (although not specific to girls and adolescents, it does include them). This is reflected in the national reports submitted by countries to ECLAC as part of the review of progress in the fulfilment of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.¹⁰ However, significant challenges remain in terms of achieving full implementation and monitoring of results to ensure effective protection and prevent revictimization.

On the regulatory front, specific laws have been enacted that explicitly recognize sexual violence as a serious violation of human rights in several countries, such as the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, and Saint Lucia. Although these laws establish comprehensive legal frameworks for protection, their effectiveness depends on the allocation of resources and effective enforcement.

The protocols implemented in countries such as Honduras, Panama and Mexico are key tools for ensuring comprehensive care, minimizing health risks and preventing revictimization. Timely access to sexual and reproductive health services —such as access to emergency contraception, prophylaxis to prevent sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, and voluntary termination of pregnancy in countries where it is allowed on the grounds of sexual violence or without restrictions on the grounds— allows for more complete and comprehensive responses based on respect for the human rights of girls and adolescents. Although ministries of health have defined what constitutes essential health services in response to sexual assault, the implementation of these services remains a challenge (Pan American Health Organisation [PAHO], 2015).

Comprehensive policies and strategies, such as those in Guatemala, Panama, and Mexico, make it possible to develop an intersectoral framework for action that links multiple institutions and social actors. Although these types of measures aim to ensure the sustainability and consistency of action, they often run into difficulties related to territorial implementation and continuity over time.

¹⁰ Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/5 of 17 June 2022, ECLAC prepared the document *Action for equality, development and peace in Latin America and the Caribbean: regional report on the review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 30 years on, in synergy with the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda*. It drew on 25 reports prepared by countries and territories of the region as part of the comprehensive national-level reviews on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The reports are available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/work-areas/gender-affairs/thirtieth-anniversary-beijing-declaration-and-platform-action-latin>.

Specialized services and one-stop shop models, such as the emergency centres for women in Peru or community initiatives in Jamaica and Antigua and Barbuda, reflect the need to offer a differentiated response that is more accessible, culturally relevant and suited to the complexity of cases. These experiences show that progress has been made in adopting multidisciplinary approaches, although limitations in coverage and resources still persist.

At the institutional level, intersectoral committees established in Brazil, Panama and Mexico strengthen State coordination by recognizing sexual violence as a structural problem linked to gender, race and class. However, the effectiveness of these bodies depends on their ability to influence the formulation of broader public policies to address inequalities in different areas.

Specialized judicial services, such as the public prosecutor's offices in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela or the Gesell chambers in Peru, are major steps forward in ensuring respect for the rights of victims and survivors in court proceedings. However, there are still challenges regarding the training of justice operators and reducing impunity.

Educational and preventive campaigns conducted in Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Chile reflect a shift towards cultural prevention and the transformation of gender norms. These strategies are valuable, but they must be sustained over time and accompanied by policies addressing the structural causes of gender-based violence in its various forms and ensuring that States comply with their due diligence obligations.

Lastly, regulation of the legal termination of pregnancy in cases of rape (Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and provisions allowing termination within a specified period (Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Guyana, Mexico and Uruguay) reflect the recognition of the sexual and reproductive rights of girls and adolescents in relation to their right to a life free from violence.

Taken together, although the measures reflect significant regulatory and programmatic progress, implementation gaps and territorial inequalities persist, as does the need to strengthen intersectoral and inter-agency coordination to effectively ensure the rights of girls and adolescents.

An overview of the challenges that remain in this area shows that data on the magnitude of sexual violence experienced by women, girls and adolescents, as well as on the main variables of relevance for the analysis of any significant differences (disaggregation of data), remain scarce. It is also evident that prevention programmes and early warning systems for risks lack broad coverage and do not link sexual violence with other forms of violence, which limits the implementation of a comprehensive and effective approach enabling victims and survivors to effectively escape situations of violence and receive appropriate care for healing and reparation of the harm caused by the violation of their rights. Among the forms of femicidal violence, sexual violence experienced by girls and adolescents is the one that has the most deleterious effect. It paves the way for other, more brutal forms of violence, which can ultimately result in murder or other forms of violent death (Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights, 2021).

Sexual violence is not an isolated event, but rather part of a continuum of gender-based violence that can end in femicide and is often related to violence in other areas, including in the digital sphere. Its recognition in risk analyses and prevention policies is essential to saving lives and ensuring the rights of women and girls in the region. To this end, inter-agency coordination in the implementation of care and protection measures must be strengthened.

E. Preventing femicides, feminicides, or violent deaths of women and girls and ensuring women's access to justice are essential and urgent steps in the decade of action in Latin America and the Caribbean to advance the achievement of substantive gender equality and the care society

As noted in the position paper presented at the sixteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, *The Care Society: Governance, Political Economy and Social Dialogue for a Transformation with Gender Equality* (ECLAC, 2025c), most governments of the region have recognized the comprehensive rights of women, adolescents and girls and have adopted pro-equality regulatory frameworks, eliminated discriminatory laws and strengthened gender-related institutional architecture and gender information systems. However, substantive equality has yet to be achieved in any country in the region. In a context marked by complexity and uncertainty, significant gaps remain between the scale of gender inequalities and the institutions, capacities, resources and information available to States to address them. Thirty years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in synergy with the Regional Gender Agenda, there is a need to assess the effectiveness of public policies in preventing gender-based violence against women and girls in order to draw on lessons learned and introduce the necessary changes and innovations.

To advance the paradigm shift needed to achieve substantive gender equality and the care society—one that guarantees the autonomy of women and girls and their right to a life free from violence—bold and transformative actions must be implemented during this decade of action in the following areas:

(i) Normative framework, institutional architecture, participation and strengthening of State capacities

States must recognize that eliminating violence against women and girls should be a public policy priority and that fulfilling their due diligence obligations to prevent femicidal violence is essential for advancing towards substantive equality and a care society that prioritizes the sustainability of life and care for people and the planet. This should translate into the implementation of sustainable State policies, operationalizing comprehensive measures that take into account the complexity of the causes and consequences of this violation of the human rights of women and girls—not only for victims but for society as a whole. In this regard, the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence against women (which encompasses the protection of women at risk of femicide and comprehensive security), including digital violence, must be incorporated into national equality and security policies. Likewise, there is a need to align these commitments with decent employment, social protection and care services policies that strengthen the autonomy of victims and survivors, and to ensure intersectoral coordination between education, health, social protection and justice to prevent femicide and lethal violence against girls and adolescents.

Similarly, a solid institutional framework is essential to ensure the effectiveness of femicide and gender-based violence prevention policies. States must strengthen coordination between the national machineries for the advancement of women and justice, health, education and social protection systems, through comprehensive protocols. In this regard, it is vital to build institutional capacities across all branches and levels of government (national, subnational and local), securing technical, human and financial resources for the implementation of sustained and effective policies. In particular, early warning systems and mechanisms identifying and assessing the risk of feminicidal violence must be strengthened, systematically incorporating the various forms of violence (such as sexual or digital violence) to which survivors of gender-based violence may be subjected, and tailored

to the age and context of women and girls. It is also necessary to institutionalize spaces for participation and social dialogue that recognize civil society organizations, especially women's and feminist movements, as key actors in innovation, development, and monitoring of public policies to address gender-based violence against women and girls.

It is essential to develop tools for collaboration and for mainstreaming the gender perspective in security policies, ensuring coordination between State security entities that deal with organized crime and illicit trafficking and the mechanisms that monitor violence against women and girls.

It cannot be overstated that eliminating femicide requires a profound cultural shift to dismantle and eradicate patriarchal patterns that legitimize violence against women and girls and normalize and perpetuate their subordination. In this regard, the adoption and implementation of legislative measures and public policies that address the root causes of gender-based violence against women and girls —particularly patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes and inequalities in the family, the community and the public sphere— is recommended. This should be complemented by the development of sustained educational policies that integrate a gender equality perspective into the curriculum and teaching methodologies, promoting shared responsibility, respect, peaceful conflict resolution and non-discrimination. Educational campaigns, digital literacy and specialized services for boys, girls and adolescents should be designed with a rights- and development-based approach that recognizes the specific needs of this population.

In advisory opinion 31 of 2025 on the content and scope of care as a human right, and its interrelationship with other rights, issued on 12 June, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights recognized care as an autonomous human right that is interdependent with equality and non-discrimination, and anchors its implementation in the transformation of the sociocultural patterns that reinforce the sexual division of labour. It refers to the provisions of the Convention of Belém do Pará, “to modify social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, including the development of formal and informal educational programmes appropriate to every level of the educational process, to counteract prejudices, customs and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes or on the stereotyped roles for men and women which legitimize or exacerbate violence against women” (Inter-American Court of Human Rights, 2025). This places cultural change as a necessary condition for preventing violence against women and girls.

Similarly, priority must be given to working with men, young people, adolescents and children in order to counteract the normalization and social acceptance of violence and promote their shared responsibility in building peaceful societies. Transforming social imaginaries and gender stereotypes is a prerequisite for breaking the cycle of violence that ends in lethal violence against women and girls.

(ii) Financing and cooperation

Without sustained and progressive resources, there can be no guarantee of effective policies to prevent femicide. Public investment must be viewed as strategic, and priority must be given to expanding comprehensive services to protect against gender-based violence. This includes funding for shelters, economic empowerment programmes for survivors and services specializing in sexual and digital violence, as well as protocols for the prevention of femicide, including attempted femicide. The financing of violence prevention cannot be addressed piecemeal, but rather through national budgets that incorporate a gender perspective and provide sufficient resources and fiscal sustainability to ensure the continuity of comprehensive and high-quality preventive measures and reparations.

It is recommended that international, regional and South-South cooperation be strengthened to eradicate gender-based violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, through experience sharing, concessional finance and the establishment of joint reporting and accountability mechanisms. This will make it possible to expand investment, innovation and policy coordination aimed at prevention, protection, punishment and reparations, in line with the 2030 Agenda, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda.

(iii) Information systems, communication, technology, monitoring, evaluation and accountability

Breaking the statistical silence is a necessary condition for preventing lethal violence. General recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19 refers to the regular collection of disaggregated and comparable data on gender-based violence, including complaints, protection orders, prosecutions, convictions and judicial response times. Emphasis should be placed on the measurement of attempted femicides and on linking records of sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence, among other aspects, with data on completed femicides in order to understand lethal risk factors.

The consolidation and integration of administrative records on complaints and assistance to victims of gender-based violence, linking of these records to prevalence surveys, and the inclusion of information on complaints, protection orders, prosecutions, convictions, and judicial timelines in completed and attempted femicides are fundamental in managing individual cases and coordinating timely responses. The interoperability of information systems—including judicial, police and health systems—is essential to ensure a coordinated response, prevent revictimization and strengthen the capacity of States to comply with due diligence obligations in each case. Information, when used as an accountability tool, will make it possible to assess the implementation and progress of public policies, as well as their results in relation to States' compliance with due diligence obligations. To this end, it is essential to consolidate robust, sustainable and integrated information systems, with clear governance and strengthened technical capacities, that incorporate gender, intersectional and territorial perspectives in a cross-cutting manner.

In short, these recommendations underscore that preventing and eliminating femicide is not restricted to public safety, but is rather a structural and cross-cutting issue within the new development paradigm to which the countries of the region are committed: the care society. Comprehensive progress must be made in the three areas outlined above in order to fulfil regional and international commitments, achieve substantive gender equality, and ensure the right of women and girls to live free from violence.

The decade of action outlined in Tlatelolco calls for urgent, comprehensive, intersectoral and funded policies that address the continuum of violence—including sexual violence, violence in the digital sphere and harmful practices such as child marriage and forced unions—and reduce lethal risk. The adoption and strict enforcement of legislation, effective protection and reparations, the transformation of norms, and the measurement and recording of violence against women and girls are complementary pillars for guaranteeing their right to a life free from violence and building the care society in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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