



Approaching sexual violence against people with disabilities from a mixed methodology

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Presented at 6th Global Symposium on Health Systems
Research, November 8-12, 2020

Introduction



- **Since 2012**, together with the Colombian Down's Syndrome Association, the Colombian Autism Association and the Action Program for Equality and Social Inclusion (Universidad de los Andes). Profamilia has been working to encourage understanding and to address the sexuality and reproduction of people with disabilities.
- As part of this process we conducted the **first research** about the social causes and determinants related with sexual and reproductive violence against this population in Barranquilla, Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Cali y Manizales.



- This research was aimed to generate new evidence for understanding vulnerabilities faced by **people with disabilities to sexual and reproductive violence**.

Mixed Methodology

Quantitative and qualitative methodologies to sociodemographic characterization and analysis of social determinants, and to identify perceptions and meanings surrounding sexual violence in people with disabilities.



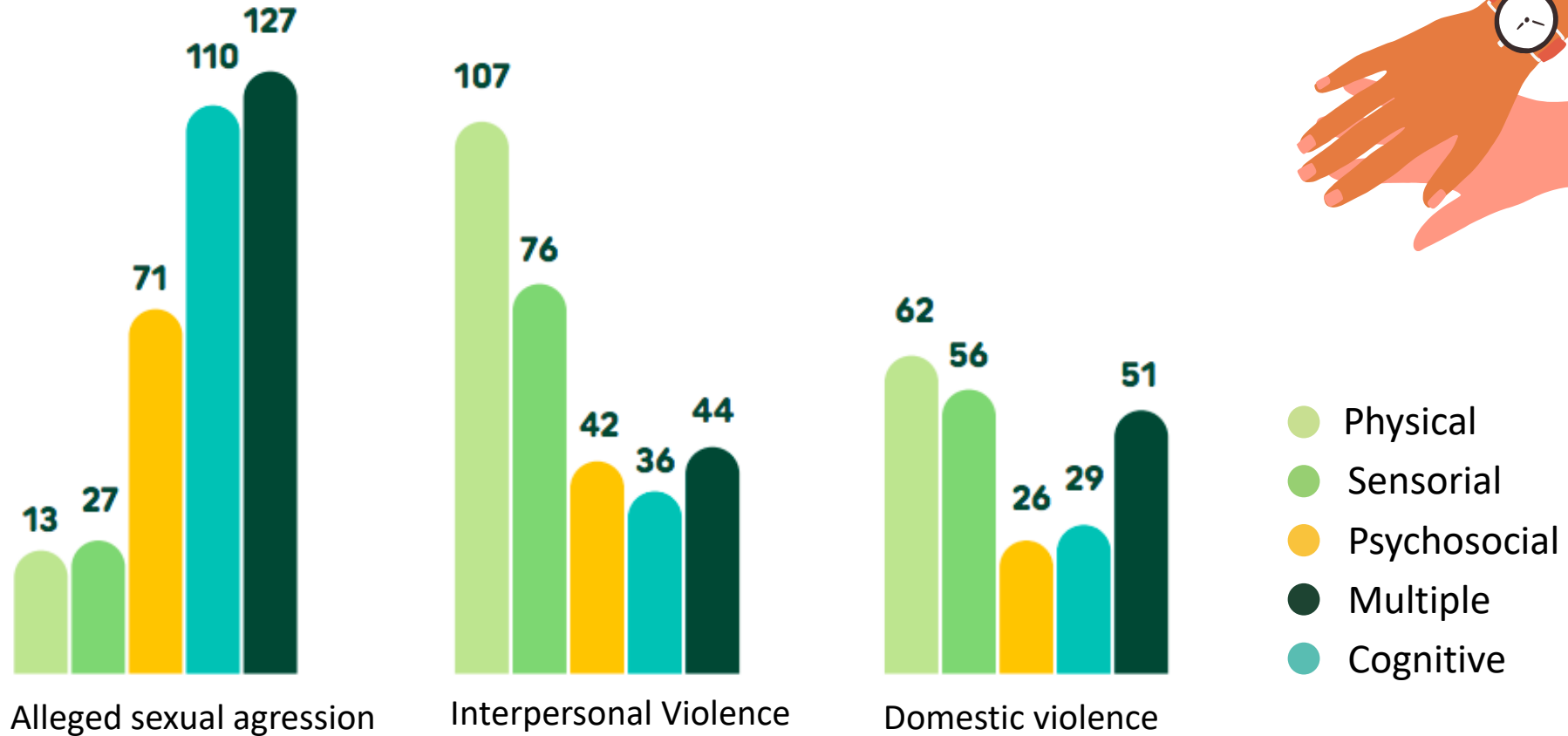
Qualitative

- 19** Interviews with people with disabilities
- 19** Key informants at Health, Justice, Education and Protection sectors
- 16** Interviews with family members of people with disabilities
- 6** Focus group with civil organization members, caregivers, and family members

Quantitative

- The Registration for the Location and Characterization of Persons with Disabilities
- Data Collection Group of National Reference Centers on Violence of the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences
- The National Survey of Demography and Health (ENDS, 2015)

Results



36%
Of all
violence

21%
Of alleged sexual
agressions

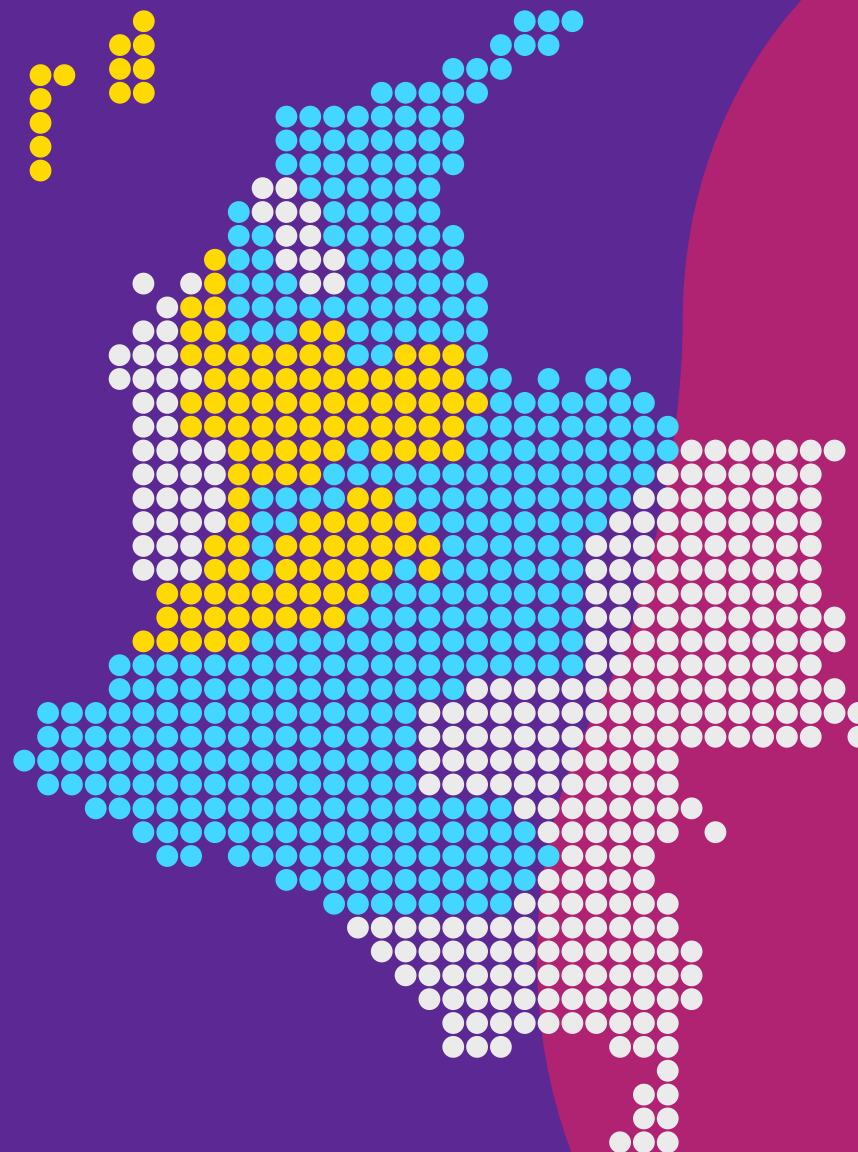
52%
Of all sexual
agressions



Were against people
with **cognitive and
psychosocial disabilities**

Results

The imaginaries around the sexuality of people with disabilities revolve around their hypersexuality or their absence of sexuality. They are perceived as angels or eternal kids. These stereotypes are a risk factor for sexual violence against them and are affecting their self-esteem and self-perceptions.



The highest number of affected people are concentrated in the departments of the Andean Region of the country: **Antioquia, Risaralda, Tolima, Cundinamarca, Bogotá D.C. and in San Andrés y Providencia.**

Discussion and conclusions

People with disabilities in Colombia are subject of serious forms of discrimination and violence in the exercise of their Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SRR). This includes the denial of their sexuality, their infantilization, humiliation or rejection of their bodies, sexual violence, forced sterilization treatments, among other forms of stigmatization about their sexuality.

More information can be found at Profamilia's official website:

- Full research report (Spanish)
- Policy Brief (English and Spanish)





Thanks

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