



# Data availability



*The quality and robustness of data sources are of central importance to ensure that the cost of domestic violence estimates are not underestimated, overestimated or inaccurate. Costing errors could undermine the prevention of violence against women and gender equality policy and programmes, as well as potentially reduce the appropriate prioritization and allocation of resources. Additionally, a concise and recognized definition of domestic violence is necessary for the proposed costing exercise, firstly, so it is clear what is included and excluded in the study and, secondly, to inform the range of data necessary to fulfill cost estimations.*

*Which items to cover in the costing exercise is dependent on the availability of robust data on both the extent of the violence and its direct impact for women individually. Compiling a checklist of the administrative data that could be used (such as age, sex, national patient registry, number of days in jail) is an important first step. If robust, high-quality data is not available, an alternative approach would be to draw on estimates from other reputable costing studies. Such an approach would entail adopting item cost estimates produced in similar contexts. To give an example, in a situation in which States have similar health-care systems (service provision, funding and access): State A has high-quality data available to produce a reasonable unit cost estimate but other States in the region with similar contexts do not. State A's robust unit cost data could be justifiably used by the other States. If contextually similar States have insufficient high-quality data to produce an item cost estimate, the next step would be to draw on item cost estimates undertaken in other regions and appraising whether it would be reasonable to employ them in respect of contextual similarities and differences. If not possible, rather than producing error-laden estimates, it is advisable not to include the item while clearly indicating that it is missing from the overall cost estimation.*

*One of the challenges for costing domestic violence across several states within a region, such as the Arab region, is the issue of comparability. If data sources are not equivalent or comparable, the estimates of costs cannot be compared. For costs to be comparable across a region, differences between States must represent something measurable about the extent of the violence and/or its impacts rather than a difference in accuracy or quality of underpinning data sources. Though not robust, the gender based violence Information Management System data available in some countries are a good place to begin and this tool could be employed in countries that do not have statistics on gender based violence.*

