

VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED BY WOMEN IN STREET SITUATIONS: A SCOPE REVIEW

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Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: violence against women is a serious public health issue and a violation of human rights. One in three women faces physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, and 14% of these are women in street situations, often subjected to such violence. **Objective:** To analyze data in the literature addressing forms of violence experienced by women in street situations. **Methods:** The scope review was conducted based on the PRISMA Guidelines for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses, using a six-step method. Data collection was carried out on the PubMed platform, covering the period from January 2015 to January 2025, with the search terms "Women," "Ill-Housed Persons," and "Violence," along with their variations in English. The eligibility criteria were: women in street situations aged over 18 years; violence (sexual, physical, and psychological) experienced by women in street situations; studies published between January 2015 and January 2025; available in Portuguese, English, and/or Spanish; and that are original and included in the database used by the researchers.

INTRODUCTION

According to the Cadastro Único, the number of people in street situations in Brazil increased from 116,799 in 2018 to 292,144 in July 2024. This figure is 211% higher than estimated in 2012. The distribution by sex reveals that among the registered homeless population, 86% are men and 14% are women¹, with these women representing 40% of reported cases of violence in 2022².

According to Presidential Decree No. 7,053, issued on December 23, 2009, the homeless population is defined as a heterogeneous group in extreme poverty with disrupted or weakened family ties and no regular conventional housing. This population is characterized by suffering damages and losses in terms of housing, employment, relationships, and loss of their own subjectivity. There is a high prevalence of mental disorders and substance use, clinical comorbidities, and experiences of various forms of violence within this group.³

The most frequently cited reasons for individuals being in street situations include: family problems (44%), unemployment (38%), and alcoholism and/or use of other psychoactive substances (28%). Regarding women, the main reasons are: history of violence, childhood trauma and neglect, young age, low socioeconomic status, early substance use, and mental disorders.^{2,4,5}

As highlighted by the World Health Organization, violence against women represents not only a public health crisis but also a serious violation of human rights. Global studies indicate that approximately one in three women faces some form of abuse in their lifetime, whether physical, sexual, or psychological, predominantly perpetrated by intimate partners, followed by third parties. It is known that 27% of women aged 15 to 49 who have been in relationships report

having experienced physical, psychological, and/or sexual violence from their partners. The repercussions of this violence negatively affect the physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health of victims, as well as increase the risk of sexually transmitted infections.⁶

In light of this context, the present study aims to analyze what is available in the literature regarding the forms of violence suffered by women in street situations. Through a scope review, the intention is to identify the main types of violence reported by this population, their consequences, and possible specific support needs for these women. By contributing to the understanding of the dynamics of violence within this group, it is hoped to provide insights that can guide more effective public policies and social interventions aimed at protecting and empowering women in street situations.

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted through a scope review aimed at analyzing the forms of violence experienced by women in street situations as reported in the literature. The study was designed following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines and utilized a six-step method, as described by Arksey and O'Malley, for conducting scope reviews.

Data collection took place between March and May 2025. To identify relevant studies, publications from the last 10 years, between January 2015 and January 2025, were evaluated in the PubMed database. The search terms used were: "Women," "Ill-Housed Persons," and "Violence." Additionally, variations in English were included, such as: "Woman," "Women," "Homeless Persons," "Homeless women," "Women experiencing homelessness," "Intimate Partner Violence," "Domestic Violence," "Sex Offenses," "Abuse," "Gender-Based Violence," "Physical Violence," "Sexual Violence," and "Psychological Violence."

To assess eligibility, titles and abstracts were screened, followed by a full-text reading of articles according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria. It is worth noting that there were no conflicts regarding the inclusion of studies, and this decision was made through discussions among the authors.

The inclusion criteria used in this study were: women in street situations aged over 18 years; studies assessing the violence (sexual, physical, and psychological) experienced by women in street situations; studies published between January 2015 and January 2025; studies available in Portuguese, English, and/or Spanish; original studies included in the database used by the researchers.

Regarding exclusion criteria, the following can be cited: dissertations, theses, and conference abstracts; studies addressing girls under 18 years old; studies that focus on individuals experiencing homelessness due to war or conflict.

The methodology of this study included the publication of the results on the Open Science Framework (OSF), a platform that promotes transparency and accessibility in scientific research. By making the article available on the OSF, the aim was to ensure that the data and analyses were widely accessible to the academic community and the public, while also providing additional support for the research. This approach allows other researchers to verify and build upon the findings, fostering a collaborative environment. Thus, the publication on the OSF reinforces the study's commitment to scientific integrity and knowledge dissemination.

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