



Crimes against Women in time of Pandemics

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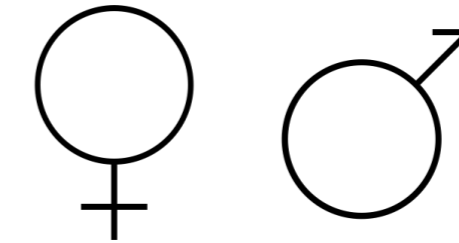
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Gender Based Violence



Intimate partner violence

Physical, Sexual, Psychological, Economical violence etc.

Rurality, LGBTQI+

Honour based violence

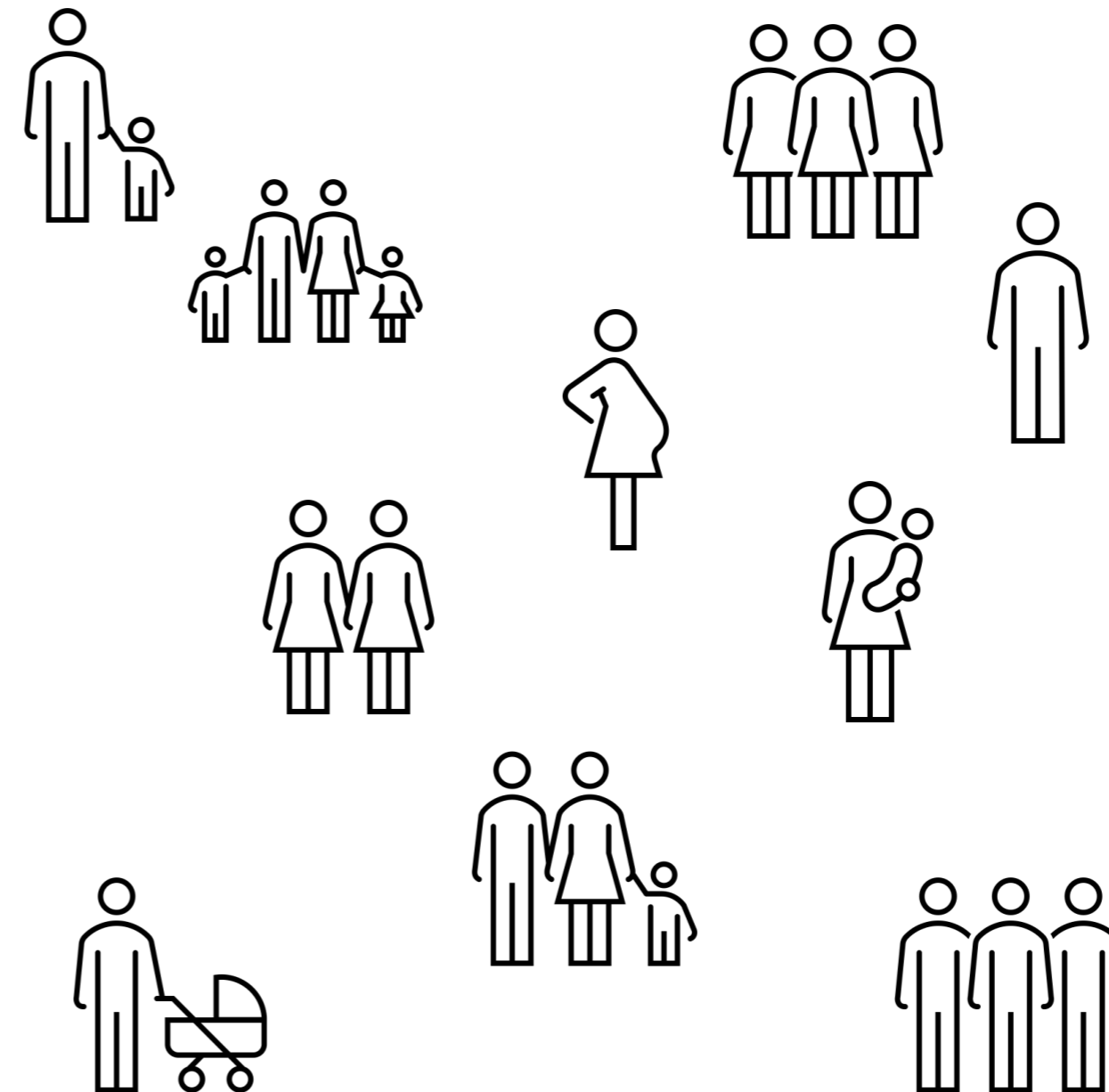
Forced marriages, Genital mutilation, honour killings

Sexual violence

Rape, Sexual harassment, Grooming

Stalking

Coercive and Controlling behaviour



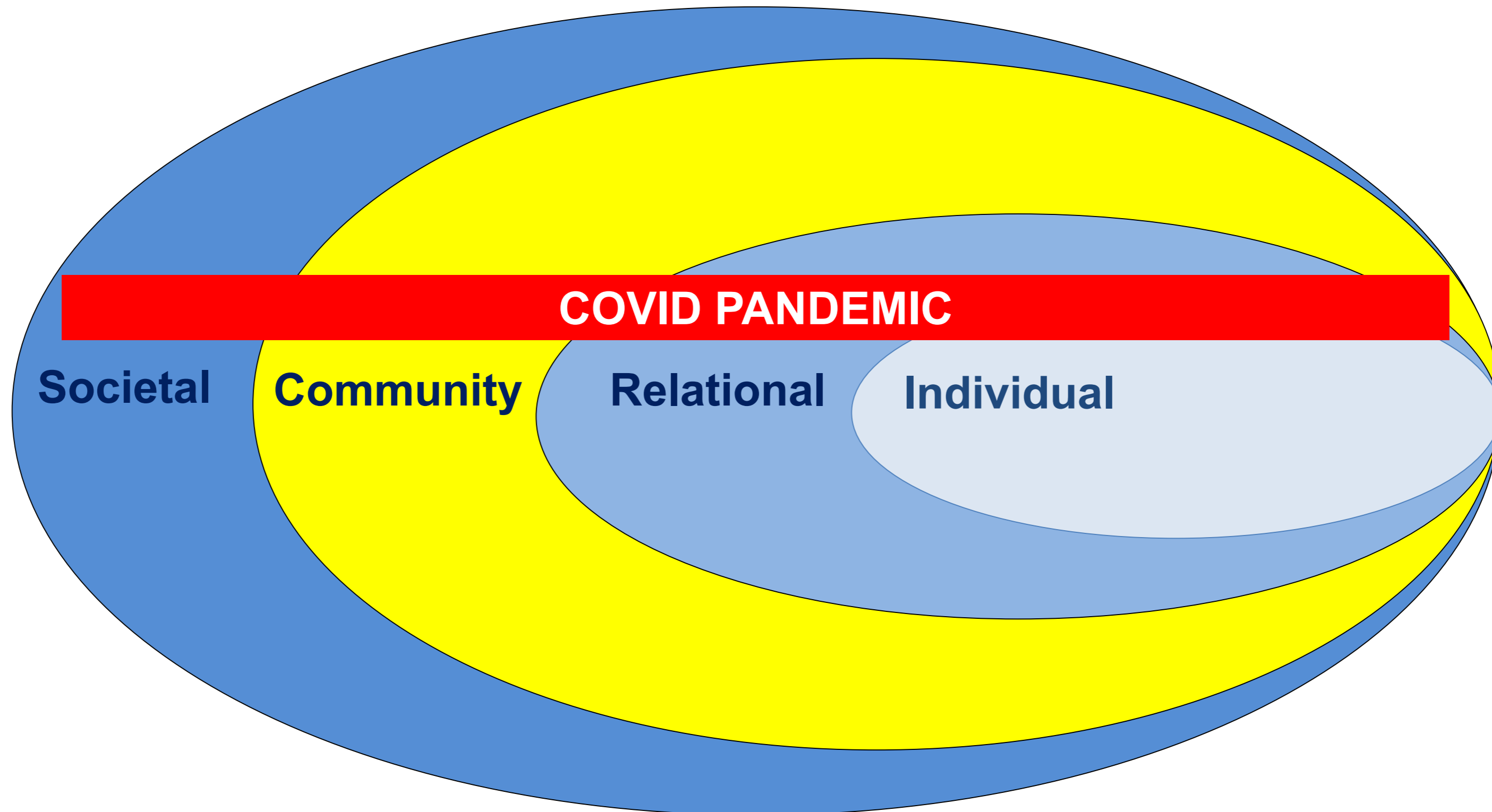
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- 1 of 3 women globally have been a victim of IPV (Devries et al., 2013; WHO 2020).
- Recidivism rates among IPV perpetrators range between 15% and 60% across studies (e.g., Belfrage & Strand, 2012; Hilton, Harris, Popham, & Lang, 2010; Klein & Tobin, 2008; Lin et al., 2009; Loinaz, 2014).
- IPV is as common in rural areas as in urban (DeKeseredy & Rennison, 2020; Edwards, 2015; Peek-Asa et al., 2011; Strand & Storey, 2019)
- In two Swedish police sample of reported stalking 57% and 75% was conducted by ex-partners respectively (Tayebi and Strand 2022; Belfrage & Strand, 2009).
- Increase of domestic violence have been found following natural disasters:
 - Reported increase after earthquake in Haiti 2010 (Weitzman & Behrman, 2016)
 - 47% increase after the eruption of Mount Saint Helena (Adams & Adams, 1984).
 - Psychological abuse was reported to increase from 33.6 to 45.2% after Hurricane Katrina in the southernmost counties of Mississippi (Schumacher et al., 2010).

Worries about COVID-19 impact on IPV

- UN Population Fund estimate 20% increase of IPV
- Pandemic worsened women's economics (Evans et al, 2020)
- Less access to shelter and hotels (Evans et al, 2020, Norman et al 2020)
- Job loss increases male frustration, which might lead to aggressive behaviour (Sifat 2020; Wanqing, 2020)
- Health care decrease possibility to admit help seeking victims (Evans et al, 2020)

INTEGRATED ECOLOGICAL MODEL



What happened?

- WHO report fivefold increase on calls for helplines April 2019 vs 2020
- Increase of violence in China, Italy, Spain, France and Brazil (Campbell 2020)
- Increase of femicide due to domestic violence (Bradbury-Jones & Isham, 2020).
- Abuser limit access to help and support for victims (Anuruduran et al, 2020)
- High anxiety by females increase abuse, having a job for men decrease abuse (Akel et al., 2020)
- Victims afraid of the virus, will not seek help outside the home (Barbara et al 2020)
- Most of the published data derives from (Viero et al 2021)
 - social media, the internet, anecdotal evidence and helplines reports
 - few studies concern casuistry from police reports

Increase or decrease of violence?

It depends...

- Increase of violence within abusive relationship?
- Decrease of violence due to less interaction with others?
- Isolation reduce the possibility of insight from others
- Less help seeking from older victims, more from younger victims
- Risk assessment and risk management were more challenging to do due to restrictions implemented to stop the pandemic

Reflections

” ‘stay home, save lives’ mantra, which protects the public from COVID-19 infection, becomes a paradox in the context of domestic violence ”

(Viero et al, 2021, p. 5)

”While quarantine is an effective infection control measure, it can lead to significant health, social, economic and psychological consequences. COVID-19 and violence against women are interrelated pandemics.”

(Viero et al, 2021, p. 6)

Violence against women is a complex problem for society to deal with and the pandemic has revealed more risk factors and vulnerabilities that we need to address in new arenas.

Thank you for your attention!

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