

Situations like the coronavirus pandemic can quickly become a catalyst for social conflict due to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we've seen in the past. Every day we continue to see more false information shared throughout communities, confusing citizens and leaving them unsure as to who can answer their questions.

The **Pakistan Coronavirus CivicActs Campaign (CCC)** captures rumors and perceptions among communities to eliminate information gaps between the government, media, humanitarian agencies and citizens. By providing the public with facts, these coronavirus bulletins aim to create a better understanding of needs regarding coronavirus and to debunk rumors before they can do more harm.

## Current Situation of COVID-19 in Pakistan

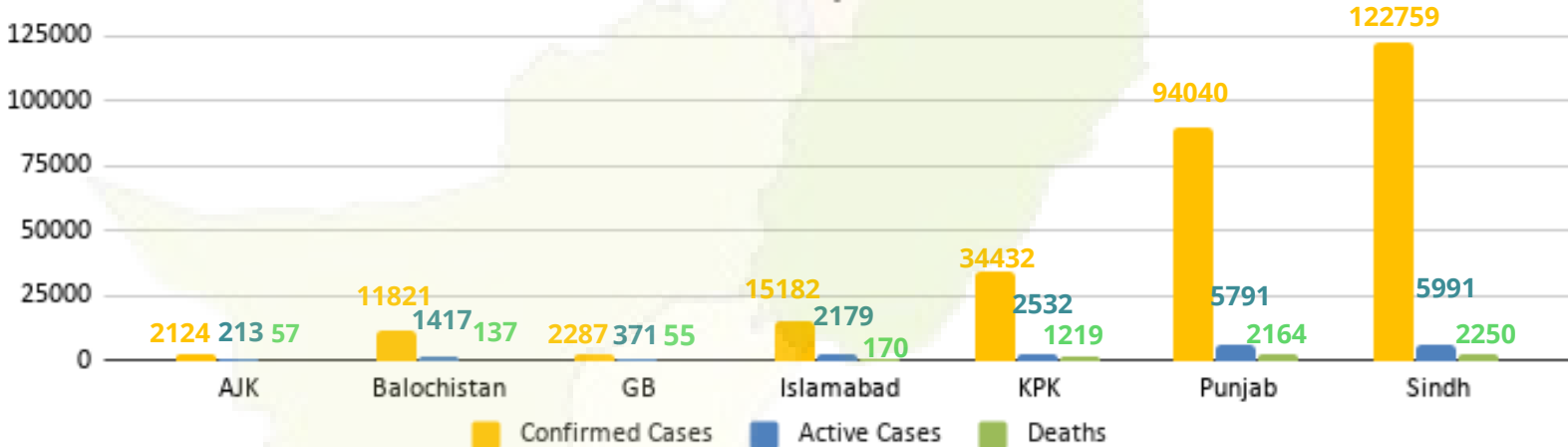
**Total Confirmed Cases**  
282,645

**Total Active Cases**  
18,494

**Total Deaths**  
6,052

**Total Recoveries**  
258,099

### COVID-19 Cases status in provinces of Pakistan



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2. Send the word "Pakistan" as a message on WhatsApp.



# Violence against Women during COVID-19

## Highlights from Research and Surveys:

As per International Growth Research Center's (IGC) research, two-thirds of coronavirus patients in Pakistan are male, while one third of them are female. Given that women are care-givers of the family, with many of them working full time even during the outbreak, why is it so that COVID-19 infections among women are reported less?

IGC says that it is because women's health is generally not taken seriously in Pakistan, and because of cultural issues, affordability problems, or other reasons. Even if women have symptoms, they are less likely to get tested unless their condition gets severe.



In a conversation with the Executive Director of [Initiative for Sustainable Development \(ISD\)](#), Mr. Gul Hassan Abbas, he shared details from his comprehensive research with Punjab police and Human Rights. The research showed that the number of cases of violence against women increased since the weeks of March to April 2020 as compared to previous years' data of the same period.

Many believe that after COVID-19, the next looming crisis will be mental health. In many ways this may be considered an outcome of violence against women. In Pakistan, speaking against violence is considered taboo, and the same goes with mental health issues. It is important to address this belief at an early stage to avoid or better manage the complexities the person struggling with these issues and his/her family have to go through. "There is a need to conduct awareness campaigns regarding this and work together with authorities to assess and take action in areas that are impacted by this issue greatly," explains Dr. Zabish Mehmood, PGR Surgery, [Sir Ganga Raam Hospital](#).

With a means to curb the increase of gender-based violence during COVID-19, Mr. Kashif Ali, Deputy Director, [Ministry of Human Rights Punjab](#), shared the role of the Ministry of Human Rights and provided recommendations on the matter. "We are working to ensure that service providers remain operational during any future pandemics for victims of violence. Furthermore, we aim to increase the response rate for those who want to report cases, making the mechanism more effective for them," he added. Mr. Kashif further highlighted



that the ministry's helpline 1099 number can be used to report any cases of violence against women and girls throughout the country, and that the affected people will be provided assistance until addressal of the grievance.

## Domestic Abuse Survival Stories

### Referred to as a Burden

~ Anonymous- Housewife- Gujranwala

"It was approximately one month after the lockdown had been imposed: I was in the kitchen preparing for dinner while the children were watching cartoons in the living room when my husband came home. I went to greet him but as soon as I looked at him I knew something was wrong, his face was red with anger and he seemed frustrated. I asked what was wrong, to which he threw his bag and the keys to the floor and yelled out that he had been fired. I then asked why this happened and if it was just temporary due to the pandemic. He pushed me aside, went and shouted at the kids for watching TV, and then slammed the door to his room. His behavior began to worsen after that to an extent that he ordered us to skip one meal which he thought would reduce expenses.

My husband didn't earn a handsome salary, but we had worked together to ensure that the money was spent efficiently. A few weeks later I realized that I had run out of sanitary napkins and needed them. When I told my husband, he slapped me and pushed me so hard that I fell to the floor. He shouted at me saying that I was wasting his money and was a burden to him."

### Because I am a Female

~ Rifat- Housewife- Hyderabad

"I am a 40-year-old housewife with four daughters, out of which one is an infant. I live with my in-laws, and am treated like a maid. Even before this pandemic, I was overburdened by domestic work which included cleaning the house, cooking, washing, and excessive caring for my mother and father in-law who are both nonagenarian. With everyone at home now, especially my kids the work has multiplied. Every child demands attention of their own along with my husband.

A few days before Eid, I was cleaning the washrooms when I abruptly slipped and fell on the hard tiled floor. I believe I broke a bone in my left leg and bruised my arm very badly. I asked my husband to take me to the hospital as I was worried about my injury and the swelling it was developing. To my surprise, my husband said that it wasn't such a big deal and that he knew the basic first-aid. After wrapping the bandage around my leg and arm, he said that I had tired him out and wanted me to make tea. Even with the injury and pain, I was expected to work with the exact same burden because I am female."

### Repeated Abuse

~ Samreen - Cleaing Lady- Rawalpindi

"I work as a maid while my husband works as a painter. I used to face emotional abuse before COVID-19 but since the outbreak I have been facing physical abuse as well. As work has come to a halt with the lockdowns and closure of businesses, my husband has not been able to earn any money since the month of March. My work has also been impacted as I have lost 3 houses but still work regularly at 3 other houses who pay my salary on a timely basis.

Having the breadwinner role being changed has somehow made my husband aggressive. He thinks that this makes a woman feel empowered and superior. Whatever earnings I make he snatches from me, spends it on his pack of cigarettes and gives the remaining to my sister-in-law. I am left with nothing. This further leads to us starving at home with nothing to eat. He forces me to ask my employers to provide me with food as well. And this is how I get scolded and even fired by them and when I don't bring in any money, he beats me up and repeatedly says that he will continue to break my bones until I put money in his hands."

## Coronavirus symptoms Include:

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Tiredness

Contact your doctor or the coronavirus helpline at



**1166**



## Where can I get tested?

### Karachi

#### Aga Khan University Hospital

Stadium Road, Karachi

#### Civil Hospital

DOW University Campus  
Mission Road, Karachi

#### Dow Medical Hospital

Ojha Campus  
Suparco Road, Karachi

#### Indus Hospital

Opposite Darussalam Society, Korangi  
Crossing, Karachi

### Lahore

#### Punjab AIDS Lab

PACP Complex  
6 - Birdwood Road, Lahore

#### Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital

7A Block R-3 M.A. Johar Town, Lahore

### Islamabad

#### National Institute of Health

Park Road  
Chak Shahzad, Islamabad

### Rawalpindi

#### Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

Range Road  
CMH Complex, Rawalpindi

### Multan

#### Nishtar Hospital

Nishtar Road,  
Justice Hamid Colony, Multan

For more cities visit the

[COVID-19 Health Advisory Platform](#)

Coronavirus CivActs Campaign is brought to you by  
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