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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REPORTED TO A TOXICOLOGICAL AND ASSISTANCE CENTER IN SANTA CATARINA (2020–2025).

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RESUMO

Introduction: The United Nations defines violence against women as gender-based acts that cause physical, sexual, or emotional harm, representing a serious public health issue that may involve exposure to chemicals and drugs. **Objective:** To characterize the epidemiological profile and the substances used or suspected of being involved in violence and/or abuse against women from 2020 to 2025. **Method:** This is a retrospective, cross-sectional, and documentary study based on data collected from the Toxicological Information and Assistance Center of Santa Catarina (CIATox/SC) from 2020 to 2025, originating from DATATOX and BI-DATATOX. The variables evaluated included date of exposure, patient age, suspected or detected substance/species, route and location of exposure, signs and symptoms, severity, outcome, among others. The data were summarized and analyzed using Microsoft Excel®. **Results:** The sample included 62 cases, with the highest occurrence in the last two years (n = 13/year). The most affected age group was 30-39 years (20.97%), followed by 20-29 years (16.13%). The main substances involved were drugs of abuse (n = 12), such as cocaine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), and ethyl alcohol, followed by chemical and household cleaning products (n = 11), including sodium hypochlorite, ethyl alcohol, and pepper spray (capsaicin). Psychotropic drugs (n = 6) were also identified, such as benzodiazepines, antidepressants, and non-benzodiazepine sedative-hypnotics, among other substances. Immunochromatographic testing was performed in 12.90% of cases (n = 8). The predominant route of exposure was oral (69.35%), followed by respiratory/inhalation (11.29%), occurring mainly in homes (38.71%) and outdoor/public environments (17.74%). Most cases were classified as mild (70.97%), with a cure rate of 51.61%. **Final considerations:** The results reinforce the importance of drug surveillance in the context of violence against women, highlighting the need for integrated actions for the prevention, identification, and management of these cases.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Chemical exposure, Surveillance, Substance abuse, Psychotropic drugs, Violence against women

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