



Why do we need administrative data on intimate partner violence?

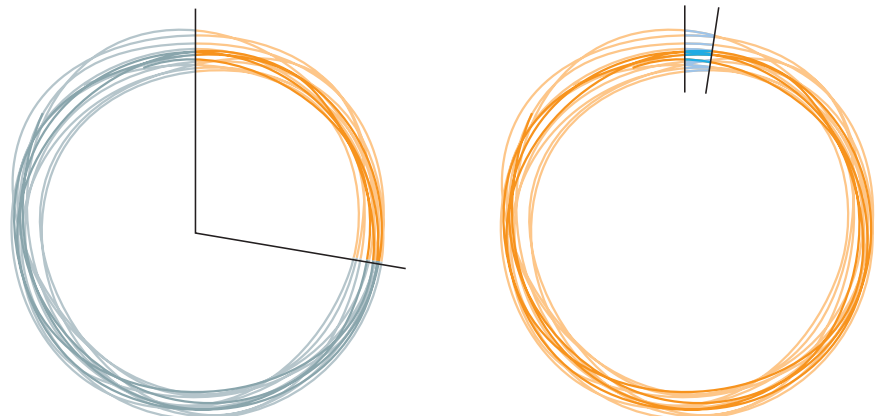
Many women victims of intimate partner violence in the EU Member States remain unprotected. Perpetrators often go unpunished due to inadequate law enforcement approaches, which do not align with international human rights treaties. A gender-neutral approach to the law, coupled with the unavailability of data and existing stereotypes result in the denial of violence against women and its tolerance or normalisation ⁽¹⁾. States must ensure that they carry out the due diligence principle to investigate and punish acts of violence and provide compensation to victims. Improving data collection and providing comprehensive and reliable administrative data is crucial to monitor the police and justice sectors' response to violence against women. It also shows a state's willingness to monitor the effectiveness of its law. High-quality administrative data is in line with the international commitments of Member States to combat violence against women as defined in Directive 2012/29/EU (the Victims' Rights Directive) and the Istanbul Convention.

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) defines intimate partner violence as all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim. It constitutes a form of violence which affects women disproportionately and which is therefore distinctly gendered.

EIGE's definition of intimate partner violence is in line with the definition of domestic violence of the Istanbul Convention.

28 % of women aged 18 and above have been victims of intimate partner violence by a partner or an ex-partner.

2 % of those women reported it to the police.



⁽¹⁾ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences*, 2017.

What does the law say?

Intimate partner violence is criminalised under Article 3 of the violence in the family (prevention and protection of victims) laws (Law No119(I) of 2000 and Law No212(I) of 2004) ^(?). It is recognised only within the context of violence in the family (domestic violence). Offences concerning intimate partner violence in the family are classified under the separate categories of sexual offences and offences against the person. The term ‘family member’ includes current and former partners, intergenerational family members and any other cohabitants. According to the Penal Code (Chapter 154), rape is considered a gendered crime and is defined as unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman. Rape is also recognised as being committed by one partner against the other. The Istanbul Convention was ratified in November 2017 and entered into force in March 2018.

Process of administrative data collection by police and justice sectors



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- Data collected includes the age and sex of both the victim and perpetrator and the relationship between them, the number of reported incidents of domestic violence and the number of male perpetrators.
- For intimate partner violence-related offences, information on the following is collected: homicide, intimate partner violence (domestic violence) and rape.
- Although information on the relationship is recorded, this data is not processed or made publicly available.
- Data is not collected on economic and psychological violence committed by an intimate partner.
- In 2015, the police recorded 924 reported incidents of domestic violence ^(?).



- The units of measurement for intimate partner violence are the number of reported incidents, number of victims, and number of accused.
- The units of measurement for homicide and rape are the number of reported and detected crimes.
- Recording is done immediately. Statistics on crime are made publicly available within 2 years of the incident in question.
- Data is gathered manually by the police in codified questionnaires.
- The national statistics office (Statistical Service of Cyprus — CYSTAT) receives data from the police in an electronic format.



- Police data is published by both the police and CYSTAT using the same coding system.



JUSTICE

- Data collection infrastructure within the justice sector is not unified and judicial authorities do not collect data on intimate partner violence.
- Courts collect data on other forms of violence (e.g. sexual violence); however the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is not recorded.
- Domestic violence is not recorded as a separate category of criminal offence in judicial data collection.
- Quality considerations have arisen regarding criminal data because the Court Secretariat does not always fill in and send all of the statistical returns.

- Data collection infrastructure in the justice sector is not harmonised and no judicial authority collects data on intimate partner violence.

- CYSTAT provides data collected by the Supreme Court and the prison system.
- Intimate partner violence and domestic violence are not statistically represented.

^(?) http://www.familyviolence.gov.cy/upload/legislation/laws_2000_and_2004_en.pdf.

^(?) This refers to the total number of reported incidents of domestic violence to the police and includes incidents of sexual violence, bodily harm and psychological violence ([http://www.police.gov.cy/police/police.nsf/All/49EC82226F885F18C2257F9300166ABD/\\$file/FamilyAbuse%20eng.pdf](http://www.police.gov.cy/police/police.nsf/All/49EC82226F885F18C2257F9300166ABD/$file/FamilyAbuse%20eng.pdf)).

Indicators on intimate partner violence

To support Member States in reporting on intimate partner violence under the Victims' Rights Directive and the Istanbul Convention, EIGE has developed 13 indicators based on uniform statistical definitions. These relate to administrative data from the police and justice sectors. By populating the indicators, Member States will be able to meet the minimum requirements for data provision outlined in the Victims' Rights Directive and the Istanbul Convention.

What data is available?



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- 1. Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police.
- 2. Annual number of reported offences related to intimate partner violence against women committed by men (aged 18 and over).
- 3. Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) perpetrators of intimate partner violence against women (and percentage of male population that are perpetrators).
- 4. Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of physical intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police.
- 5. Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of psychological intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police.
- 6. Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of sexual intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police.
- 7. Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of economic intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police.
- 8. Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims reporting rape committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police.
- 9. Women victims of intimate femicide (aged 18 and over) committed by a male intimate partner (aged 18 and over), as a share of the women victims of homicide (aged 18 and over).



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- 10. Annual number of protection orders applied for and granted in cases of intimate partner violence against women by type of court.
- 11. Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) prosecuted for intimate partner violence against women.
- 12. Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) sentenced for intimate partner violence against women.
- 13. Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) sentenced for intimate partner violence against women and held in prison or with a sanction involving a form of deprivation of liberty.

Low availability. No data is available or existing data is not sufficient to populate the indicator due to considerable lack of detail and necessary breakdowns, such as no information on the sex of the victim.

Medium availability. Some data is available but it lacks important breakdowns, such as the exact relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

High availability. Data is available with necessary breakdowns.

Key recommendations for improving data collection on intimate partner violence



Amend existing legislation and legal definitions

Recognising all forms of intimate partner violence is important to accurately obtain relevant data. The current legal definition of domestic violence does not include non-cohabiting former or current partners. The legal definition of domestic violence also excludes economic violence. It is recommended to include non-cohabiting former and current partners as constituting intimate partner violence. It is additionally recommended to recognise economic violence as a form of domestic violence under the violence in the family laws.

Enhance the legal regulatory framework

Developing a legal and policy framework to regulate data collection on intimate partner violence is useful to support the harmonisation of data collection between different institutions and government bodies. It is recommended that the relevant legal regulatory framework be enhanced to improve the administrative data collection on intimate partner violence.

Implement existing policy framework

The national action plan to combat domestic violence (2010-2013) provides the policy framework for the development of a standardised data collection system in Cyprus, while the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family plays a coordinating role. However, implementation has been slow. It is recommended that a set of guidelines on the implementation of the policy framework for data collection be formulated.



Improve recording at police level

The police has moved to using a standardised online form for collecting administrative data. However, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is still not recorded at police level. This is crucial in order to distinguish intimate partners from other relationships in the domestic sphere. It is recommended that the recording system used by the police require that the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator be systematically recorded as a separate variable.



Standardise data collection infrastructure in the judicial sector

In 1998, a system of mandatory reporting to the Attorney General's Office was introduced. This should provide a strong basis for data collection in the judiciary but has not yet been accompanied by a harmonised data collection mechanism. Data collection infrastructure within the justice sector is not unified and authorities do not collect data on intimate partner violence. It is recommended to take steps to implement this mechanism to ensure that the recording system used at judicial level becomes standardised.

Develop a unitary recording method

Both the police and justice sectors use Penal Code classification to collect data. However, as this is done through different database systems, the potential for data harmonisation between both sectors is limited. It is recommended that the two sectors use complementary systems to record data and ultimately develop a standardised, unitary system. This would be facilitated by the common classification code they share.

Establish a coordinating body

A body responsible for the compilation and dissemination of intimate partner violence data would improve data harmonisation at national level and promote good practices. In the absence of one, it is recommended to establish a coordinating body to compile and publicly share data on intimate partner violence. The Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family could extend its mandate and take on the role of coordinating authority.

European Institute for Gender Equality

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable data on gender equality in Europe.



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