



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.

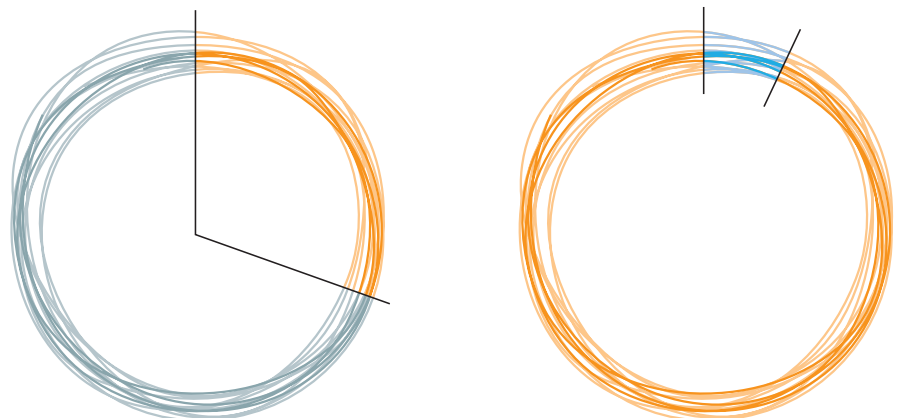
Improving data collection and providing comprehensive and reliable administrative data is crucial to monitor the police and justice sectors' response to violence against women. It also shows a state's willingness to monitor the effectiveness of its law. High-quality administrative data is in line with 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.

30 % of women have been victims of physical and/or sexual violence by a partner since the age of 15.

Only 7 % of those women contacted 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?

There is no specific offence for intimate partner violence. Instead, intimate partner violence is criminalised under several of the offence(s) of the Criminal Code such as homicide, attempted homicide, assault and rape. Psychological and economic violence is also criminalised under specific offences such as menace, stalking, theft and criminal damage. No definition of intimate partner violence exists within the Criminal Code, as applicable to all offences.

The Istanbul Convention entered into force in 2015.

Process of administrative data collection by police and justice sectors



POLICE



- Data is available on female victims of intimate partner violence. However, in some instances, complainant/plaintiff data is not the same as the victim data.
- For offences classified as involving domestic violence, the following breakdowns are collected by the police: the victim or complainant's and the suspect's sex and age.
- The relationship between the complainant and the suspect is not recorded.
- Statistics Finland (StatFin) produces relationship data for cases of intimate partner violence on the basis of register data. However, this data does not presently include economic violence.
- In 2015 the reported offences of intimate partner violence committed by men against women amounted to 4 307, including physical, sexual and psychological violence offences ^(?).



- The data is recorded in the *Poliisiasiantietojärjestelmä* or Data System for Police Matters (PATJA) using specific codes that are based on the 6-digit criminal code.



- StatFin coordinates data collection and publication, also in the area of intimate partner violence.
- The police independently publishes statistics on different forms of criminality and safety.



JUSTICE

- The data collection application allows for the collection of data on the victims, but this is not a compulsory field.
- This information is not usually collected.
- The following breakdowns are collected by the justice sector: crime nomenclature, date of the crime, birth date and sex of the suspect/convicted person.
- No data is collected on the victim–perpetrator relationship.

- The prosecutor, district courts, courts of appeal and the Supreme Court record data in various databases including Sakari (Case Management System of Criminal Matters) and Riku (Decisions in Criminal Matters Application).
- The Sakari database uses the same specific codes as the police in PATJA to record data.

- Data is published by StatFin.
- The courts do not publish statistics independently from StatFin.

^(?) Milieu calculations based on public data provided by StatFin.

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?



POLICE

- 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).



JUSTICE

- 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



Adopt a statistical definition of intimate partner violence

There is no common official definition or understanding of what constitutes intimate partner violence in the context of criminal law. Several different definitions are used at national level, depending on the context. The lack of a common definition, particularly with regard to the types of relationship covered, is considered as the most important cross-cutting issue affecting the collection of administrative data on intimate partner violence in Finland.



Improve collection of data on victims within the justice sector

In the justice sector, the collection of victim data is not compulsory. As a result, it is currently not possible to produce court or prosecution statistics on intimate partner violence. It is recommended that the collection of victim data be made compulsory and subject to a common definition for both the justice and the police sectors.

Accurate recording of the victim–perpetrator relationship

It is recommended that the necessary changes be made to the data recording systems in both the police and the justice sectors in order to ensure the systematic recording of the victim–perpetrator relationship. The recording of this information should be compulsory rather than left to the personal discretion of the officer recording the incident. Rather than including the information in the general text of the case description, it should be specifically noted in a manner that allows for its easy extraction, along with other defined variables such as age and sex.



Full integration of the data collection across the police and justice sectors

In order to provide a more reliable picture of the phenomenon of intimate partner violence from the stage of police reporting to prosecution and criminal court judgments, data collection should aim at being integrated across the police and justice services. In the long term, this could be achieved through the introduction of an identification system for each case and victim/offender. It is recommended that integration of data collection across police and justice services be taken into account in the ongoing reform of the data system for officials.

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.



European Institute for Gender Equality
Gedimino pr. 16
LT-01103 Vilnius
LITHUANIA

Contact details

<http://eige.europa.eu/> 
[facebook.com/eige.europa.eu](https://www.facebook.com/eige.europa.eu) 
twitter.com/eurogender 
[youtube.com/user/eurogender](https://www.youtube.com/user/eurogender) 
eurogender.eige.europa.eu 
eige.sec@eige.europa.eu 
 +370 52157444 

Print 978-92-9470-351-4 10.2839/77011 MH-06-17-369-EN-C
 PDF 978-92-9470-350-7 10.2839/505442 MH-06-17-369-EN-N

Images: Steve Debenport (iStockphoto), belenox (iStockphoto)