



Why do we need administrative data on intimate partner violence?

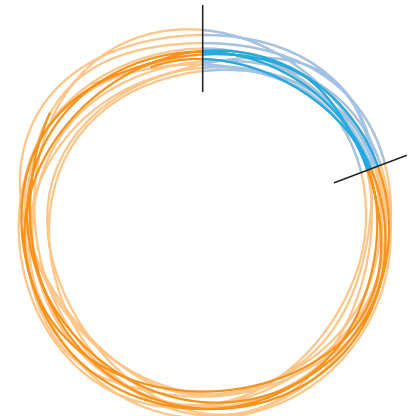
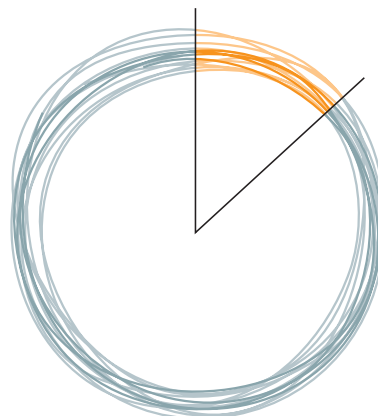
Many women victims of intimate partner violence in the EU Member States remain unprotected. Perpetrators often go unpunished due to inadequate law enforcement approaches, which do not align with international human rights treaties. A gender-neutral approach to the law, coupled with the unavailability 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.

In Croatia, 13 % of women have been victims of physical and/or sexual violence by a partner since the age of 15.

Only 18 % 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?

Domestic violence is criminalised as an offence in the Criminal Code (Article 179a) ⁽²⁾; however, intimate partner violence is not a distinctly criminalised offence. Domestic violence relationships include family members, current and former spouses and partners and cohabiting persons. Rape is a criminal offence in the Criminal Code (Article 152). A new version of the Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence ⁽³⁾ came into force on 1.1.2018 and transposed relevant provisions of the Istanbul Convention and the Victims' Rights Directive. Article 10 of the act defines the forms of domestic violence. Croatia ratified the Istanbul Convention in June 2018.

Process of administrative data collection by police and justice sectors



POLICE



- For domestic violence offences by male intimate partners, information is collected by breakdowns on the age and sex of the victim and the perpetrator and the relationship between them.
- Information is collected on violations (misdemeanour offences) and criminal offences (under articles in the Criminal Code).
- Data is not collected on economic intimate partner violence.
- In 2016, the police recorded 1 577 women victims of intimate partner violence committed by men ⁽⁴⁾.



- Police collect data via a standardised form and do not use specific code lists.
- The official counting unit is by offence; at the time of data input other units are available, including gender and number of victims.
- Data is collected after the offence is first reported but before an investigation is initiated.
- A unique internal system is used for data collection.
- The Ministry of Interior is the coordinating body of domestic violence data collection.



- Domestic violence data is published in an annual police statistical report ⁽⁶⁾. This does not specify intimate partner violence.
- The number of perpetrators and victims of domestic, sexual, physical and psychological violence is available on request.
- The Bureau of Statistics publishes data on homicide and rape.



JUSTICE

- For domestic violence offences by male intimate partners, information is collected by breakdowns on the age and the sex of the victim and the perpetrator and the relationship between them.
- This information is collected by the Ministry of Justice.
- Based on Ministry of Justice data, the Bureau of Statistics collates data on the age and the sex of perpetrators, and the sex of the victims.
- The Bureau of Statistics does not publish information on the relationship between victim and perpetrator nor specify the type of domestic violence offence someone has been prosecuted for.

- Misdemeanour courts collect data via a form and do not use specific code lists. This form is then sent to the Ministry of Justice.
- The counting units used by the Ministry of Justice for intimate partner violence are the number and gender of reported perpetrators and the number and gender of victims.
- The counting units used by the prosecution are the number of persons charged with an offence ⁽⁵⁾.
- Integrated internal systems operating at competent courts and prosecution offices are used for data collection

- The Bureau of Statistics is the coordinating body that oversees data publication.
- The bureau publishes data on adult perpetrators of crimes against 'marriage, family and children', and on adults accused of misdemeanour domestic violence.
- More specific data on intimate partner violence can be obtained upon request from the misdemeanour courts.

⁽²⁾ Croatian Government, Criminal Code (*Kazneni zakon*), *Narodne novine*, 125/11, 2000.

⁽³⁾ Croatian Government, Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence (*Zakon o zaštiti od nasilja u obitelji*), *Narodne novine*, 137/2009, 2000, Article 4; see also Section 1 in this factsheet.

⁽⁴⁾ Data provided by the Ministry of the Interior upon request.

⁽⁵⁾ Eurostat, *Crime and criminal justice statistics — Reference metadata at country level*, 2016, p. 4 (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/Annexes/crim_esms_an2.pdf).

⁽⁶⁾ Ministry of the Interior, statistics report, Zagreb, p. 72 (http://stari.mup.hr/UserDocsImages/statistika/2017/Statisticki%20pregled_2016_2.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).



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



Strengthen political commitment

Commitment to combat violence against women is already strong, and continued commitment from all sectors involved is crucial. In 2010, an interministerial agreement was signed to promote cooperation on violence against women. This is a positive step. However, coordination in this area could be further improved. To maintain and strengthen political commitment it is recommended to prioritise current initiatives that tackle violence against women — such as the 2010 interministerial agreement.



Establish guidelines to improve data collection methodology

Data collected by bodies across sectors is detailed, but is only published to a limited extent and often not comparable. At present, data is collected according to different classifications and definitions. The adoption of guidelines on data collection practices and responsibilities for the police and justice sectors could establish a more standardised data collection methodology and specific variables that need to be recorded. It is recommended that the police and justice sectors adopt guidelines that outline a unified data collection methodology.



Improve the data collection coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and make data publicly available

According to the new Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence, the Ministry of Justice is responsible for coordinating the data collection on domestic violence and making it publicly available. Article 21 of the legal act foresees the establishment, within the Ministry of Justice, of a committee for monitoring and improving the activity of police and judiciary sectors. It is recommended that the committee collect and make information publicly available on specific offences and on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator to specify intimate partners.

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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