



Why do we need administrative data on intimate partner violence?

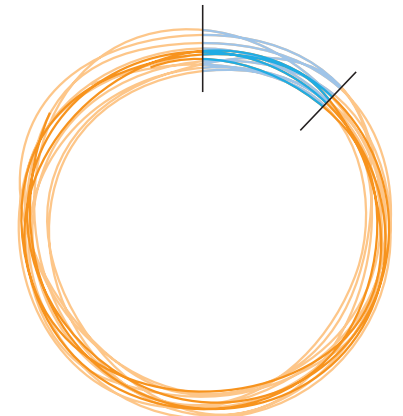
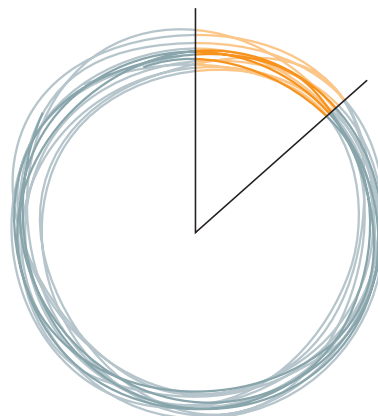
Many women victims of intimate partner violence in the EU Member States remain unprotected. Perpetrators often go unpunished due to inadequate law enforcement approaches, which do not align with international human rights treaties. A gender-neutral approach to the law, coupled with the unavailability 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 Italy 13.6 % of women have been victims of physical or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

Only 12.3 % 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 under a specific offence, which also covers intimate partner relationships (Article 572 of the Penal Code). The 2015 survey by the National Institute of Statistics uses a statistical definition following the definition of violence against women provided in the context of the 1993 World Conference of the United Nations.

Italy has signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention, which has been in force since 2014.

Process of administrative data collection by police and justice sectors



POLICE



- Data is available for domestic violence, which includes intimate partner violence. Information on the relationship between victim and perpetrator is statistically recorded only for the crimes of homicide and stalking.
- The following units are available: reported offences; number of offences to be prosecuted; and number of victims.
- In 2014, there were 13 226 incidents of domestic violence reported to the police.



- The data is recorded using a classification based on the Criminal Code.
- The data is transferred from the *Sistema di Indagine* (SDI) database into a data warehouse where it is aggregated, homogenised and preserved in anonymous form.



- The National Institute of Statistics publishes statistics and annual reports based on the data provided by the SDI database.
- The Department of Public Security of the Ministry of the Interior also publishes statistics.



JUSTICE

- Data focuses mostly on the criminal proceedings. Information on the victims and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is available in the files kept at the registries of the courts and prosecution offices. However, this data is not statistically processed.
- Data from the justice sector on intimate partner violence is limited to homicide and stalking.

- There is an integrated system used by the prosecution and courts.
- The following information is processed for statistical purposes: the pretrial phase is statistically processed by the Ministry of Justice; the beginning of the criminal prosecutions is statistically processed by the National Institute of Statistics.

- The data is published on the website of the National Institute of Statistics.

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 or legal definition of intimate partner violence

There is no specific statistical or legal definition of intimate partner violence. The latter is embedded within the definition of domestic violence. This makes it difficult to distinguish the cases of intimate partner violence from other cases of violence against women perpetrated within the family.

It is recommended that a statistical or legal definition of intimate partner violence be adopted, on the basis of which comparable and reliable data can be collected. The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator should be incorporated into the definition in order to include (at a minimum) current and former spouses and current and former partners, with or without cohabitation.



Ensure the recording of information on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator

Information on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is recorded for statistical purposes only for the crimes of homicide and stalking. Police officers collect information on victims and the relationship between victim and perpetrator; however it is not statistically processed as it is not used for the purposes of proceedings.

It is recommended that both the police and justice sectors should be obliged to record information on the victim–perpetrator relationship for statistical purposes. This information should be included in the central database and thus be available for analytical purposes.



Improve integration of the data collection across the police and justice services

Currently data collection varies between different sectors, which undermine data comparability.

It is recommended that all administrations cooperate on agreeing definitions and commit to adopting a uniform system of data collection. Some steps towards a uniform approach have been taken, such as the organisation of awareness-raising events on data collection on violence against women at national and international level. However, an integrated centralised database is of the utmost importance. The next step should thus ensure the creation and effective functioning of the central database on gender-based violence as set out in the 2015 extraordinary action plan on sexual and gender-based violence.

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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