

Measuring femicide in the United Kingdom

Femicide

Femicide can be understood as the extreme end of a continuum of violence against women that happens in all European Union Member States ⁽¹⁾. There is no standard agreed definition of femicide among EU Member States or around the world. The lack of a uniform definition hampers the measurement of femicide, which becomes invisible among general homicide data ⁽²⁾. The general concept of femicide refers to the killing of a woman or girl because of her gender. The United Nations Vienna Declaration on Femicide ⁽³⁾ was the first to identify different types of femicide, including:

- murder of women as a result of intimate partner violence;
- torture and misogynistic slaying of women;
- killing of women and girls in the name of honour;
- targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict;
- dowry-related killing of women;
- killing of women and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex selection foeticide;
- genital mutilation-related deaths;
- accusations of witchcraft;
- other types of femicide connected with gangs, organised crime, drug dealers, human trafficking and the proliferation of small arms.

Femicide in the United Kingdom

There is no definition of femicide in UK criminal law. However, this type of offence may fall under other provisions of the law, such as murder or manslaughter.

Murder and manslaughter are two of the offences that constitute homicide. They are both common law offences that have never been defined by statute, although they have been modified by statute ⁽⁴⁾.

Murder is the unlawful killing of a human being, under the Queen's Peace, with intent to kill or cause grievous bodily harm.

Manslaughter can be committed in one of three ways:

(1) killing with the intent for murder but where a partial defence applies, namely loss of control, diminished responsibility or killing pursuant to a suicide pact;

(2) conduct that was grossly negligent given the risk of death, and did kill ('gross negligence manslaughter'); and

(3) conduct taking the form of an unlawful act involving a danger of some harm that resulted in death ('unlawful and dangerous act manslaughter').

The term 'involuntary manslaughter' is commonly used to describe manslaughter falling within (2) and (3), while (1) is referred to as 'voluntary manslaughter' ⁽⁴⁾.

About the study

Data collection systems vary widely across EU Member States and the United Kingdom, as they draw on various sources. To improve the collection of administrative data on femicide, EIGE has been working to establish indicators that can harmonise data collection processes across Member States' and the United Kingdom's jurisdictions.

EIGE has collected information from a wide variety of stakeholders through a questionnaire sent to official data providers and an online survey filled in by national experts. The ultimate goal is to identify a classification system of femicide with mutually agreed variables that can be used by all EU Member States and the United Kingdom.

Methodology for data collection

To address the lack of comparable data on violence against women, EIGE developed 13 indicators with uniform definitions of the multiple forms of intimate partner violence, femicide and rape ⁽⁵⁾. A detailed report regarding the methodology for the collection, reporting and validation of data, along with detailed metadata per country, has been published ⁽⁶⁾. The data presented in this factsheet refers to indicator 9 on intimate partner violence: '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'. The data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Database (https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/browse/genvio/genvio_int).

⁽¹⁾ This factsheet includes data collected before the United Kingdom left the EU, so the reference to EU Member States includes the United Kingdom.

⁽²⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Glossary of definitions of rape, femicide and intimate partner violence*, EIGE, Vilnius.

⁽³⁾ UN Economic and Social Council (2012), *Vienna Declaration on Femicide*, UN, New York (https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_22/E-CN15-2013-NGO1/E-CN15-2013-NGO1_E.pdf).

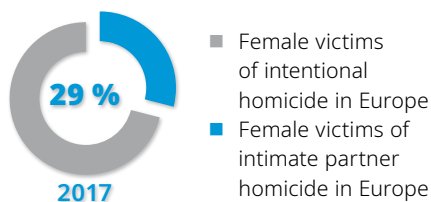
⁽⁴⁾ See the Office for National Statistics website (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/homicideinenglandandwales/yearendmarch2019#how-is-homicide-defined-and-measured>) and Crown Prosecution Service (2019), 'International homicide comparisons and homicide: murder and manslaughter', in *Legal Guidance, Violent Crime* (<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/homicide-murder-and-manslaughter>).

⁽⁵⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Terminology and Indicators for Data Collection: Rape, femicide and intimate partner violence*, EIGE, Vilnius.

⁽⁶⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2020), *Intimate Partner Violence: Data collection methodology*, EIGE, Vilnius.

Intimate partner femicide in Europe

From a statistical perspective, and based on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) highlights that intentional homicide of female victims perpetrated by intimate partners or family members is the most prevalent form of femicide (7). UNODC estimates that, in Europe (8), about 29 % of female victims of homicide (9) are killed intentionally by an intimate partner.

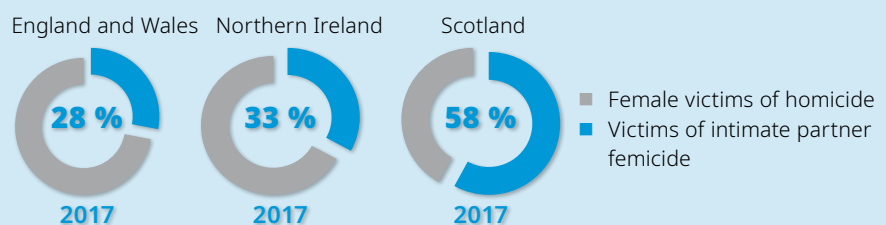


Intimate partner femicide in the United Kingdom

From a statistical perspective, the working definition that the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) uses for femicide is 'killing of a woman by an intimate partner and the death of a woman as a consequence of a practice that is harmful to women. Intimate partner is understood as a former or current spouse or partner, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim' (2). In the United Kingdom, most femicides would be covered by the crimes identified above.

As the UK devolved administrations (England and Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland) are the lawful authorities in the policy area of law and order, data for the United Kingdom was collected across the three jurisdictions.

According to data from the Office for National Statistics in England and Wales, in 2017 there were 227 homicides with female (10) victims (11), 28 % (12) of which were cases of intimate partner femicide (n = 63). According to data from the Police Service of Northern Ireland, in 2017 there were 9 homicides with female victims, 33 % of which were cases of intimate partner femicide (n = 3). Finally, according to data from the Scottish Government, in 2017 there were 12 female victims of homicide, of whom 58 % were victims of intimate partner femicide (n = 7) (13).



Female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide in the United Kingdom

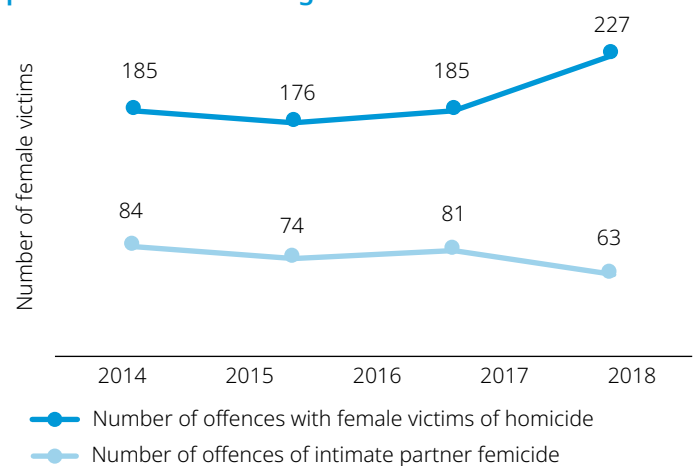
EIGE has gathered data on homicide and intimate partner femicide for 2014 to 2018.

The official administrative data used in Figure 1 on the number of homicides with female victims and intimate partner femicides is collected by the Office for National Statistics. Data is collected per financial year and includes only female victims aged above 16 years. Figure 1 shows that, between 2016 and 2017, the number of homicides with female victims increased, whereas the number of intimate partner femicides decreased.

Type of relationship between the victim and the perpetrator

Homicides are recorded as 'domestic' when the relationship between a victim aged 16 years and over and the perpetrator falls into one of the following categories: spouse; common-law spouse; cohabiting partner; boyfriend or girlfriend; ex-spouse, ex-cohabiting partner, ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend; adulterous relationship; son or daughter (including relationships through marriage or adoption); parent (including relationships through marriage or adoption); brother or sister; and other relative.

Figure 1: Female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide in England and Wales



Source: EIGE's Gender Statistics Database.

(7) UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2019), *Global Study on Homicide – Gender-related killing of women and girls*, UNODC, Vienna.

(8) Data from UNODC includes European jurisdictions other than the EU Member States. There is no estimation of the percentage of female victims of homicide who were victims of intimate partner femicide limited to EU Member States.

(9) The term 'homicide' is used when reporting UNODC data given that it is the term used in the original source (p. 17). The gender-related motivation is not recorded, because of the lack of a standardised definition. However, it is clear from the report that this data quantifies a significant share of all gender-related killings of women and girls.

(10) The term 'female' is used instead of 'woman', as it is not always possible to disaggregate data by the victim's age, meaning that the victim could be either a woman or a girl aged under 18 years.

(11) The term 'homicide' is used given that the gender-related motivation for the intentional homicides is not recorded, and therefore it is not possible to classify all the killings as femicides.

(12) In 2017, the lowest percentage of victims of intimate partner femicide out of the total number of female homicides was recorded (28 %), with the average of the previous 4 years being 39 %.

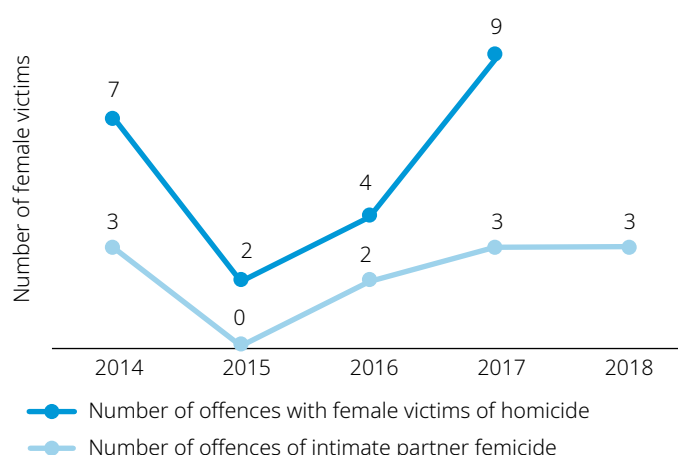
(13) For more information, see indicator 9 of the Gender Statistics Database (https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio_int_adm_ipv__ipv_indic_9/metadata).

The official administrative data used in Figure 2 on the number of homicides with female victims and intimate partner femicides is collected by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Data collected for the total number of homicides includes female victims aged over 18 years. Figure 2 shows that, between 2015 and 2017, the numbers of offences registered as female homicides and intimate partner femicides increased, with the total number of female homicides more than doubling between 2016 and 2017.

Type of relationship between the victim and the perpetrator

For intimate partner femicide, the data collected covers all ages and includes the number of domestic abuse homicides of female victims, in which the victim's relationship to the offender is partner or ex-partner.

Figure 2: Female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide in Northern Ireland



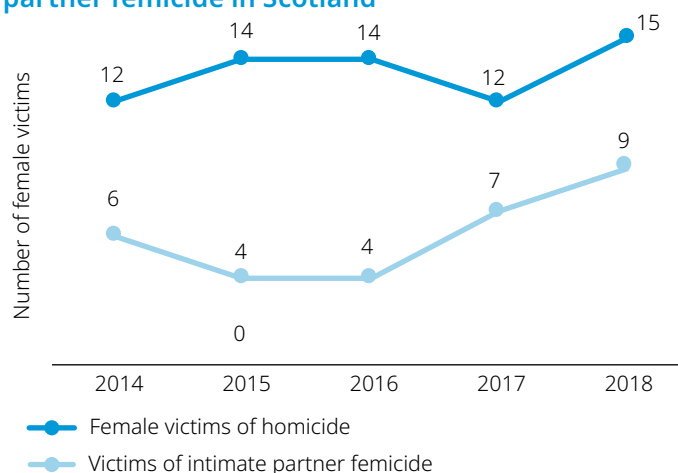
Source: EIGE's Gender Statistics Database.

The official administrative data used in Figure 3 on female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide is collected by the Scottish Government. Data is collected per financial year and includes only female victims aged over 18 years. Figure 3 shows that, between 2015 and 2016, the numbers of female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide were stable. Although in 2017 the number of female victims of homicide decreased slightly, the number of victims of intimate partner femicide almost doubled compared with the previous year. In 2018, 15 female victims of homicide were recorded, and 9 of them were killed by a partner or ex-partner.

Type of relationship between the victim and the perpetrator

The Scottish Government collects data on the type of relationship between the victim and the perpetrator according to the following classifications: (i) partner or ex-partner, (ii) relative, (iii) acquaintance, (iv) stranger and (v) not known.

Figure 3: Female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide in Scotland



Source: EIGE's Gender Statistics Database.

Collecting administrative data on femicide



What is administrative data? Administrative data is collected for recording, organising and monitoring purposes⁽¹⁴⁾. Administrative data on femicide can be obtained from different institutions, namely those that are involved in criminal investigations, prosecutions, the punishment of perpetrators and victim support – that is, institutions in the **police and justice sectors**. Administrative data might include information about the prevalence and types of femicide, the characteristics of the victim, the perpetrator and their relationship, the characteristics of and motive for the crime, and data about the criminal process.

⁽¹⁴⁾ UN Women (2020), *A synthesis of evidence on the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women*, UN Women, New York.

In order to help policymakers design effective policies to combat femicide, it is necessary to understand the nature and prevalence of the issue. The collection of comparable administrative data on femicide across Member States and the United Kingdom is key to gaining this understanding⁽¹⁵⁾. It is particularly important that the motive for the killing is established by the police or judiciary and that this is then translated into standardised statistical data. The ICCS is a standardised tool for obtain-

ing comparable administrative data. However, it lacks a gender-related motive variable. This means that the concept of femicide cannot be properly operationalised, which prevents the collection of data that fully captures the phenomenon. The collection of data on femicide would make the issue more visible, which would strengthen the political will to eradicate it. Administrative data on femicide also enables countries to monitor trends over time and evaluate the effectiveness of measures.

What administrative data on femicide is available in the United Kingdom?

Definition of femicide and availability of data

Definition of femicide used for statistical purposes	No	
Collection of data on femicide	Yes, official data	Yes, non-official data

Five institutions collect or analyse data on femicide in the United Kingdom: the Home Office⁽¹⁶⁾, the Office for National Statistics (England and Wales)⁽¹⁷⁾, the Police Service of Northern Ireland⁽¹⁸⁾, the Scottish Government⁽¹⁹⁾ and the Femicide Census (UK data)⁽²⁰⁾. Where data

on femicide in this factsheet is drawn from these institutions, this is indicated by (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), respectively. There may be other institutions or researchers who collect and analyse data on femicide in the United Kingdom.

	Institution (a) Home Office (England and Wales)	Institution (b) Office for National Statistics (England and Wales)	Institution (c) Police Service of Northern Ireland	Institution (d) Scottish Govern- ment	Institution (e) Femicide Census (UK data)
Type of data collec- tion	Official	Official	Official	Official	Non-official
Sources of data	Police and courts	Police and courts	Police crime investi- gations	Police Scotland – Vulnerable Persons Database	Police reports, media reports, court records, judges’ sentencing remarks
Stage at which the homicide is estab- lished as a femicide	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Not established	During the (criminal or court) investiga- tion
Stage at which the homicide is regis- tered as a femicide	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	During the (criminal or court) investiga- tion
Parameters for estab- lishing the killing as a femicide	Information not available	Not established	Information not available	Gender, relationship between victim and perpetrator, motive	Killings in which the victim was a woman and the charged or known perpetrator was a man
Regularity of data col- lection	Quarterly reports	Quarterly reports	Annual	Information not available	Occasional
Availability of data to the public	Data publicly avail- able	Data publicly avail- able	Data publicly avail- able	Data publicly avail- able	Data publicly avail- able

⁽¹⁵⁾ It is important to note that data and statistics should be produced, developed and disseminated in compliance with the principles in the *European Statistics Code of Practice*: Eurostat (2018), *European Statistics Code of Practice*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/4031688/8971242/KS-02-18-142-EN-N.pdf/e7f85f07-91db-4312-8118-f729c75878c7?t=1528447068000>).

⁽¹⁶⁾ The Home Office uses the Home Office Homicide Index, which is held centrally and updated by data from police and the courts, as a source. Data collected by the Homicide Index covers murder, manslaughter and infanticide (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/trends-and-drivers-of-homicide-main-findings>).

⁽¹⁷⁾ The Office for National Statistics statistical bulletins based on the Homicide Index analysis present age, sex and the victim–perpetrator relationship (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/appendixtableshomicideinenglandandwales>).

⁽¹⁸⁾ <https://www.psnipolice.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/>

⁽¹⁹⁾ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/homicide-scotland-2017-18/pages/1/>

⁽²⁰⁾ <https://www.femicidecensus.org/>

Official and non-official sources inform administrative data collection in the United Kingdom. In line with EIGE's data collection, official administrative data on the total number of female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide is displayed for 2014 to 2019. However, data is available in the United Kingdom for 2008 onwards. According to the data from the Office for National Statistics, the number of female victims of homicide in England and Wales increased from 220 to 241 (up 10 %) in the year ending March 2019; this was the second consecutive annual increase and the highest number since the year ending March 2006. The same source identifies that female victims

aged over 16 years are more likely than men to be killed by an intimate partner or ex-partner. As for Scotland, the latest data from the Scottish Government indicates that there were 19 female victims of homicide between 2019 and 2020, of whom 37 % were killed by a partner or ex-partner. Northern Ireland registered 5 murders with a domestic abuse motivation, 2 victims were women, both murdered during March 2020 under Covid-19 lockdown (21).

In addition to public institutions, there are other organisations that collect non-official data, such as the Femicide Census.

● Official data available ● Non-official data available ○ No data available

Data availability	2014 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)	2015 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)	2016 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)	2017 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)	2018 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)	2019 (a) (b) (c) (d)
Number of offences / female victims of homicide	●	●	●	●	●	●
Number of offences / victims of intimate partner femicide	●	●	●	●	●	●

Sources collect data on intimate partner femicide, but also on other types of femicide, such as family-related femicide, child femicide, prostitution-related femicide, robbery-related femicide and other types of femicide. The Femicide Census 10-year report with findings from 2009-2018 shows that there were 1425 women killed by men,

of which 888 (62%) were killed by a current or former partner. Other contexts of violence include 111 women killed by their sons (8%), 57 killed due to a sexual motivation (4%), 42 (3%) in the course of other crime, 20 (1%) in the context of prostitution/pornography. Other contexts were identified in the report.

Types of femicide	
Intimate partner femicide (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)	●
Family-related femicide (a) (b) (d) (e)	●
Child femicide (a) (b) (d) (e)	●
Prostitution-related femicide (a) (e)	●
Robbery-related femicide (e)	●
Other types of femicide (e)	●
Sexually motivated femicide (e); femicide in the course of other crime – robbery or burglary (e)	●

Characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator	Victim	Perpetrator
Age (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)	●	●
Sex (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)	●	●
Gender identity (a) (d) (e)	●	●
Sexual orientation (a) (d) (e)	●	●
Nationality (a) (b) (e)	●	●
Education (a) (b)	●	●
Occupation (a) (e)	●	●
Applied for protection order (a) (b)	●	n/a
Active protection order	n/a	○
Socioeconomic profile (a) (b)	●	●
Recidivist status (a) (b) (e)	n/a	●
Alcohol/drug abuse (a) (d) (e)	●	●
Victim–perpetrator relationship (a) (b) (d) (e)	●	●
Other (a)	●	●
	Ethnicity (a) (e); emigration status (e); children and pregnancy (e); health, disability (e)	Ethnicity (a) (e); race (d); sadistic sexual practices (e)

(21) <https://www.psnl.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psnl/our-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/2019-20/domestic-abuse-incidents-and-crimes-in-northern-ireland-2004-05-to-2019-20.pdf> and <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/SR/Femicide/2020/CSOs/womens-aid-northern-ireland.pdf>

Motive for femicide		Contextual variables	
Context of sexual violence ^(a) ^(b) ^(d) ^(e)	●	Method of killing ^(a) ^(d) ^(e)	●
Prior intimate partner violence ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Location ^(a) ^(d) ^(e)	●
Prior harassment and/or stalking by the perpetrator ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Suicide of the perpetrator ^(a)	●
Prior genital mutilation ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Killing of children ^(a)	●
Prior complaints or requests for protection measures ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Killing of other persons in the family ^(a)	●
Recent separation ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Children present ^(a)	●
'Shame or dishonour' brought on the family ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Other killings in connection with the femicide ^(a)	●
		Other	●
Dowry-related problems ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Women killed abroad ^(e)	●
Refusal to enter into an arranged marriage ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Investigating femicide	
Political role / feminism / activism of the woman who was killed ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Protocol for investigating femicide cases	○
Context of prostitution / pornography ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Analysing femicide	
Human trafficking context ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Homicide reviews / domestic homicide reviews ^(a)	●
Targeted killing of a woman in an armed conflict ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Analysis of court cases ^(d)	●
Sexual orientation and gender identity ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Administrative data from police ^(d)	●
Disfigurement of the body ^(a) ^(b) ^(e)	●	Administrative data on cause of death ^(a) ^(d)	●
Other ^(a) ^(e) Financial gain; in the course of other crime – robbery or burglary; mental health; 'mercy' killing; revenge against the victim's family member; assisted suicide or suicide pact; overkill ^(a) ; online social stalking ^(e)	●	Media information ^(e)	●
		Other	○

NB: n/a, not applicable.

Analysing femicide

A domestic homicide review (DHR) 'is a multiagency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves. Since 13 April 2011 there has been a statutory requirement for local areas in England and Wales to conduct a DHR following a domestic homicide that meets the criteria' ⁽²²⁾. Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 requires Community Safety Partnerships (multiagency forums responsible at a local level for producing crime reduction strategies) to undertake a multi-agency review after a domestic homicide and produce a DHR ⁽²³⁾. DHRs are an additional source of administrative data, including age, sex of the victim and the perpetrator, ethnicity, relationship type, previous contact of the victim or the perpetrator with services (e.g. police, mental health), children present in the household and method of killing. A DHR also investigates the service history of both the victim and the perpetrator, and those carrying out the DHR talk to family, friends and colleagues if relevant. DHRs are publicly available, but currently there is no central repository for completed DHRs and they are often available only for limited periods. The proposed study addresses im-

portant gaps in existing knowledge of domestic homicide and aims to learn from the experiences of families who have lost a relative to domestic homicide, victims/survivors of domestic abuse; professionals and domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) to document, analyse, map, and influence policy and practice to prevent future domestic homicides. DHRs are not consistently collected, and some researchers advocate for wider definitions to include gender-related killings beyond the domestic context. The HALT project aims to address the gaps in existing knowledge of domestic homicide and to document, analyse and influence prevention policies and practices. Within the context of this project the project team will populate the repository of DHR divided in different typologies in April 2022 ⁽²⁴⁾.

At the end of 2020, Northern Ireland introduced DHRs with a primary focus on 'learning lessons and highlighting best practice in order to improve services and responses to victims of domestic abuse, their children and family, and to identify any ways that may help prevent future homicides' ⁽²⁵⁾.

The data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Database (<https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/browse/>).

⁽²²⁾ Home Office (2016), *Domestic Homicide Reviews: Key findings from analysis of domestic homicide reviews*, Home Office, London (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575232/HO-Domestic-Homicide-Review-Analysis-161206.pdf).

⁽²³⁾ Chantler, K., Robbins, R., Baker, V. and Stanley, N. (2019), 'Learning from domestic homicide reviews in England and Wales', *Health and Social Care in the Community*, Vol. 28, No 2, pp. 485–493.

⁽²⁴⁾ <https://domestichomicide-halt.co.uk/repository-landing/>

⁽²⁵⁾ Department of Justice (2020), 'Long introduces domestic homicide reviews and appoints panel chairs' (<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/news/long-introduces-domestic-homicide-reviews-and-appoints-panel-chairs>).

Female homicide in EU Member States and the United Kingdom (Eurostat)

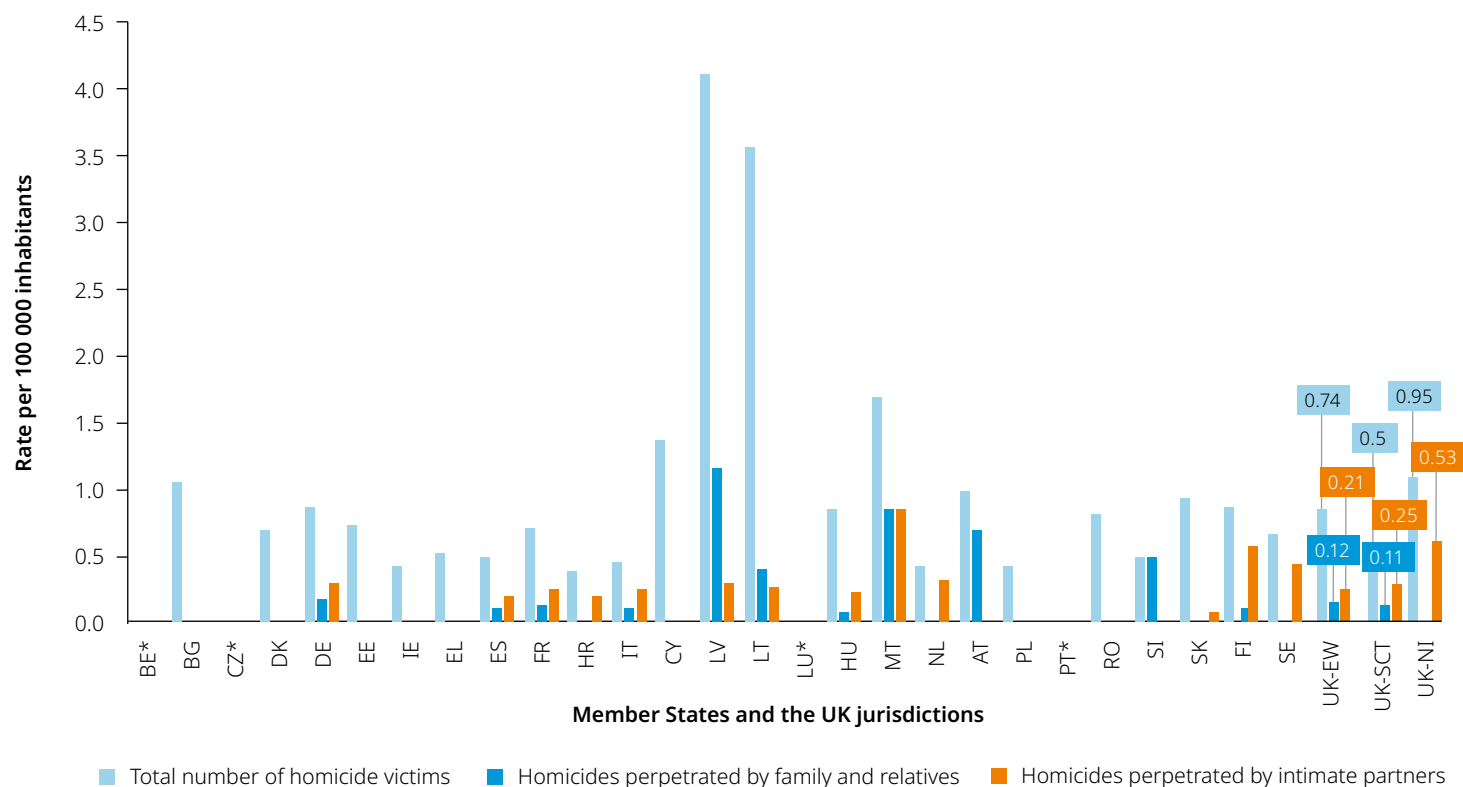
At the EU level, based on the ICCS, Eurostat compiles data on intentional female homicides, focusing on intimate partner and family-related homicides, disaggregated by age, gender and relationship with the perpetrator.

The data from Eurostat presented in Figure 4 reveals that, in 2017, the rate of female victims of homicide in England and Wales was 0.74 per 100 000 inhabitants, the 14th highest rate considering the 24 Member States for which information is available and the United Kingdom. The rate of female victims of homicide in Scotland was 0.5 (the sixth lowest rate, together with the Netherlands) and in Northern Ireland it was 0.95 (the sixth highest rate).

England and Wales have the sixth highest rate (0.12) of female victims of homicide perpetrated by family and relatives (out of 12 jurisdictions). Scotland has a rate of 0.11 (the fifth highest) and Northern Ireland did not provide information on female victims of homicide perpetrated by family and relatives in 2017.

England and Wales have the 10th highest rate (0.21) of homicide perpetrated by intimate partners, together with Hungary (out of 22 jurisdictions). Scotland has a rate of 0.25 (the ninth lowest) and Northern Ireland has a rate of 0.53 (the second highest).

Figure 4: Rate of female victims of intentional homicide in EU Member States and the United Kingdom (2017)



(*) No data available.

NB: UK-EW, England and Wales, United Kingdom; UK-NI, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom; UK-SCT, Scotland, United Kingdom.

Source: Eurostat.

Data information

Eurostat regularly publishes figures on crime and criminal justice. Intentional homicides are recorded by the police in each of the Member States and the United Kingdom. It is not possible to collect information about the gender-related motivation for homicide, the sex of the perpetrator or the age of the perpetrator using this database. Therefore, it is not possible to provide precise data on femicide.

Figures for 2008 onwards are based on the joint Eurostat–UNODC data collection. In this database, homicide is classified by the ICCS.

Data is available on Eurostat’s website (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>).

Key findings

- The United Kingdom does not have a legal definition of femicide. However, the perpetrator may be liable for murder or manslaughter.
- There are four main institutions that collect or analyse data for the identification of femicide. Data on intimate partner femicide and other types of femicide is available.
- EIGE has gathered data on homicide and intimate partner femicide for 2014 to 2018; however, data is available in the United Kingdom for 2008 onwards. Available data includes information about the characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator, contextual variables, and motive.
- Femicide is analysed on the basis of official and non-official sources, such as DHRs, data from police, data from court cases, established causes of death and media information.
- An analysis of DHRs yields valuable information and potential opportunities to prevent future domestic homicide through the development and implementation of recommendations. Key findings from one study include mental health disorders among 49 % of perpetrators of domestic homicide, housing problems, language barriers in

services' responses and the importance of considering movement across borders and within countries when carrying out risk assessments. A higher risk of domestic homicide for older women was also highlighted ⁽²⁶⁾.

- The Femicide Census identified 1 425 women killed by men in the United Kingdom between 2009 and 2018, with 154 femicides in 2018 being the highest number since 2011, when 159 femicides were recorded ⁽²⁷⁾. The largest number of women were killed in the context of intimate partner violence, and the second largest number were killed in the context of son-mother domestic violence. This 10-year report includes recommendations highlighting the need for better training on and awareness of elder abuse for services working with older people. It also recommends that the scene of a death of a woman should be secured and treated as a crime scene, with robust and thorough interrogation of the relationship and dynamics of the parties and their histories, to establish whether or not there is any possibility of this having been a suspicious death in the context of a coercively controlling or abusive relationship.

Recommendations

The collection of accurate and comparable data on femicide by the police and justice sectors across Member States helps to increase knowledge and improve responses to prevent femicide ⁽²⁸⁾. It is therefore important to:

- develop a femicide definition for statistical data collection, in order to reflect the specific circumstances relating to the killing of women;
- implement a process of continuous data collection;
- establish comprehensive data collection, adding variables that are important for detecting key aspects of femicide, such as those describing the context and the circumstances of the killing, the gender-related motivation, and the victim and perpetrator characteristics, in order to systematise and harmonise the collection of data for statistical use;
- cross-reference the variables of the victim and those of the perpetrator, and analyse them through an intersectional approach;
- ensure that the gender dimension of homicide data is made visible.

Recommendations for data collection on femicide in England and Wales

To populate EIGE's indicator on femicide (indicator 9) and to improve understanding of intimate partner femicide, it is recommended that data disaggregated by age be collected ⁽²⁹⁾.

Recommendations for data collection on femicide in Northern Ireland

To populate EIGE's indicator on femicide (indicator 9) and to improve understanding of intimate partner femicide, it is recommended that 'victim' be the counting unit used and data on intimate partner femicide disaggregated by age be collected.

Recommendations for data collection on femicide in Scotland

No further recommendations are needed.

This factsheet is based on information from EIGE's study 'Advancing administrative data collection on intimate partner violence and gender-related killings of women' (2021) and has been prepared by the Alternative and Response Women's Association (UMAR). For more information, visit <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/femicide>.

- ⁽²⁶⁾ Chantler, K., Robbins, R., Baker, V. and Stanley, N. (2019), 'Learning from domestic homicide reviews in England and Wales', *Health and Social Care in the Community*, Vol. 28, No 2, pp. 485–493.
- ⁽²⁷⁾ Femicide Census (2020), *UK Femicides 2009–2018* (<https://www.femicidecensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Femicide-Census-10-year-report.pdf>). Core data from the Femicide Census is collected from UK police forces. However, this data is supplemented with information obtained from other publicly available sources, such as news reports, court records, judges' sentencing remarks, reviews and inquiries.
- ⁽²⁸⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2018), *Recommendations to improve data collection on intimate partner violence by the police and justice sectors – United Kingdom*, EIGE, Vilnius; European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Recommendations for the EU to improve data collection on violence against women*, EIGE, Vilnius; European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2021), *EIGE's indicators on intimate partner violence, rape and femicide: Recommendations to improve data quality, availability and comparability*, EIGE, Vilnius.
- ⁽²⁹⁾ Indicator 9 of the Gender Statistics Database (https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio_int_adm_ipv__ipv_indic_9/metadata).

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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