



Why do we need administrative data on intimate partner violence?

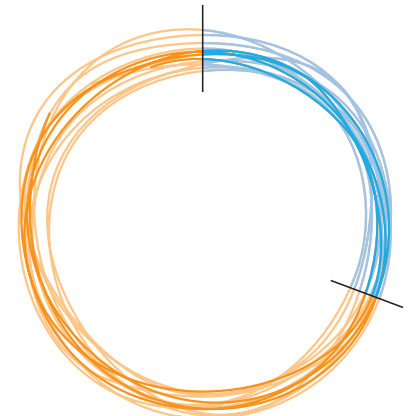
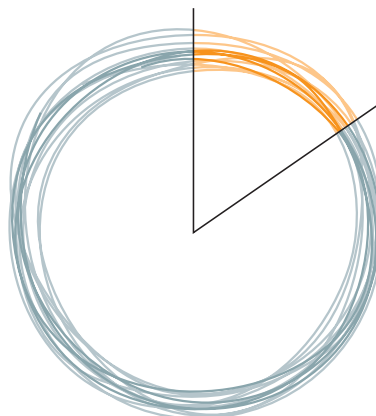
Many women victims of intimate partner violence in the EU Member States remain unprotected. Perpetrators often go unpunished due to inadequate law enforcement approaches, which do not align with international human rights treaties. A gender-neutral approach to the law, coupled with the unavailability 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 Ireland, 15 % of women have been victims of severe intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

Only 29 % 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?

The Domestic Violence Act provides the legal basis for persons living or having lived together. It also gives the Irish police powers to make an arrest in cases where there is a breach of a previously declared protection order. However, it does not constitute a legal offence per se. Domestic violence is criminalised under several offences of the Criminal Code. A new domestic violence bill is currently in the legislation process.

Ireland signed the Istanbul Convention in November 2015 but has not ratified it yet.

Process of administrative data collection by police and justice sectors



POLICE



- Currently, the following breakdowns are collected by the police: age and sex of the victim and the perpetrator. The domestic violence policy document requires that the police record the relationship between the alleged offender and the victim, but this is not systematically applied.
- The second national strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence puts forward 'gold standards' for data collection which cover the age and sex of the victim and the perpetrator and the relationship between the two. The aim of this is to improve data collection.



- Data is recorded by the police in the PULSE (incident recording system) using a specific code list to classify incidents.
- The offences are classified using a detailed code list based on articles of the Criminal Code. The Central Statistical Office (CSO) then applies the Irish Crime Classification System to the data recorded by the police in order to produce condensed crime statistics.



- The CSO publishes data on police-recorded crime.
- With the exception of numbers on breaches of domestic violence orders, crime statistics do not include details on cases of intimate partner violence.



JUSTICE

- The information on the victim and the perpetrator is available in the case files, but it is not transferred into a statistical database.
- The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is not recorded systematically.
- The following measuring units are available: number of proceedings, number of protection orders (barring orders, protection orders, safety orders and interim barring orders), number of accused persons, number of convictions, number of convicted persons.
- Data collection process from the different types of courts and across regions is not standardised. The Criminal Case Tracking System is not a tool for the collection of statistical information.

- Court Services' statistics do not provide statistical information on intimate partner violence cases.
- The only relevant statistical output concerns the total number of protection orders requested and granted without relevant disaggregation.

Indicators on intimate partner violence

To support Member States in reporting on intimate partner violence under the Victims' Rights Directive and the Istanbul 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



Ratify the Istanbul Convention

Following the signature of the Istanbul Convention in November 2015, the convention should be ratified in order to meet minimum data requirements. Among other benefits, one advantage of ratifying the Istanbul Convention in terms of data collection would be the availability of internationally comparable data. This would assist policymakers and practitioners in their efforts to combat intimate partner violence.



Improve data collection from the justice sector

The system currently used by the courts (the Criminal Case Tracking System) does not allow for the recording of information for statistical purposes. Currently, there is no other standardised system in place to record data from all courts.

Necessary steps should be taken to adapt the system to record data on the victim and the perpetrators and other essential information like the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. The system should be standardised throughout the country.

Systemic tagging of domestic violence incidents by the police

Incidents are recorded in the PULSE system by the police. The police officer may flag the incident as domestic violence if he/she is convinced that the incident has a domestic violence dimension. However, flagging only recently became compulsory. The results of this change should be monitored carefully and proper implementation should be ensured. If necessary, the staff should be trained to use the new system properly and effectively.



Improve links between the police and the justice sectors

Currently, there is limited integration of police and justice sectors in terms of data collection. The only inter-agency link is the one between the garda (Irish police) system PULSE and the courts' system, the Criminal Case Tracking System. The Ministry of Justice and Equality needs to take steps to foster inter-organisational ties when it comes to data collection and sharing

Coordinate data collection

The CSO would be a good choice for disseminating statistics from the courts and other institutions or the justice sector. Currently, the CSO publishes prison and probation statistics, but this could be extended to court statistics as well. This would require first improving data recording practices but can be considered as a second step.

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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