

Data collection on intimate partner violence by the police and justice sectors: Austria



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Austria

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. Some Member States that may carry out the due diligence principle to investigate and punish acts of violence and provide compensation to victims, improve data collection and administrative systems and make administrative data available 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 crucial to the international commitments of Member States to a 2016 violence against women as defined in Directive 2012/29/EU of 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.

2018 Definition of intimate partner violence is in line with the definition of domestic violence of the Istanbul Convention.

In Austria, 29% of women have been victims of physical intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

Only 16.5% of those women contacted the police.

Source: Austria: National Institute of Statistics, based on data from the European Survey on Women and Gender (ESWG) 2017.

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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.

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