

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



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Bulgaria

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 that 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 respect the effectiveness of its law. High-quality administrative data is in line with the international commitments of Member States to combat violence against women outlined 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.

With definition of intimate partner violence in line with the definition of intimate violence of the Istanbul Convention.

22% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence since the age of 15.

Only 14% of those women contacted the police.

1. EIGE, 2018. *Violence against women in the EU*. Luxembourg: EIGE. <https://www.eige.europa.eu/observatory/publications/2018-01-01-violence-against-women-in-the-eu>

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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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