

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



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Why do we need administrative data on intimate partner violence?

Many women victims of intimate partner violence in 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 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

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.

2021 definition of intimate partner violence is in line with the definition of domestic violence of the Istanbul Convention.

According to the latest national victimisation surveys in England and Wales (EWS), Northern Ireland (NI) and Scotland (SC):

Region	2019-2021 EWS	2019-2021 NI	2019-2021 SC
England and Wales	26.1% (2019), 24.4% (2021)	26.1% (2019), 24.4% (2021)	26.1% (2019), 24.4% (2021)
Northern Ireland	26.1% (2019), 24.4% (2021)	26.1% (2019), 24.4% (2021)	26.1% (2019), 24.4% (2021)
Scotland	26.1% (2019), 24.4% (2021)	26.1% (2019), 24.4% (2021)	26.1% (2019), 24.4% (2021)

1) EIGE (2021) *Violence against women: A European perspective*. Luxembourg: EIGE.

2) EIGE (2021) *Violence against women: A European perspective*. Luxembourg: EIGE.

3) EIGE (2021) *Violence against women: A European perspective*. Luxembourg: EIGE.

4) EIGE (2021) *Violence against women: A European perspective*. Luxembourg: EIGE.

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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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