

The role of the police in administrative data collection on intimate partner violence



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Why do we need administrative data on intimate partner violence?

Intimate partner violence is a recurrent form of violence affecting women in the European Union. Efforts to combat this form of violence require an understanding of its scale and nature through reliable, systematic and comparable data.

Data is necessary to measure the prevalence and consequences of such violence, to monitor state responses to it and to evaluate policies combating it.

The requirement for high quality administrative data is also in line with Member States' international commitments to fight violence against women, as defined in Directive 2012/29/EU (the Victim's Rights Directive) and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention).

What is the role of the police?

The police play a crucial role in collecting data in the early stages of the criminal justice process. Accurate police data is essential for grasping the total number of intimate partner violence incidents reported, even if some of these are not recognised as crimes.

Data from the justice sector tends to focus more on the perpetrator, while police data can also provide information on the victim. Police data reveals how many recorded crimes do not reach court and the effectiveness of policies meant to protect victims of violence.

Main challenges for data collection

- Lack of legal definitions for 'intimate partner violence' and 'partner'
- Lack of breakdown by the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator
- Limited recorded data on specific forms of intimate partner violence, in particular economic violence
- Potential bias when the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is recorded by hand

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Read more

[Indicators on intimate partner violence and rape for the police and justice sectors](#)



[EIGE's work on data collection on violence against women](#)



Downloads



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