



Why do we need administrative data on intimate partner violence?

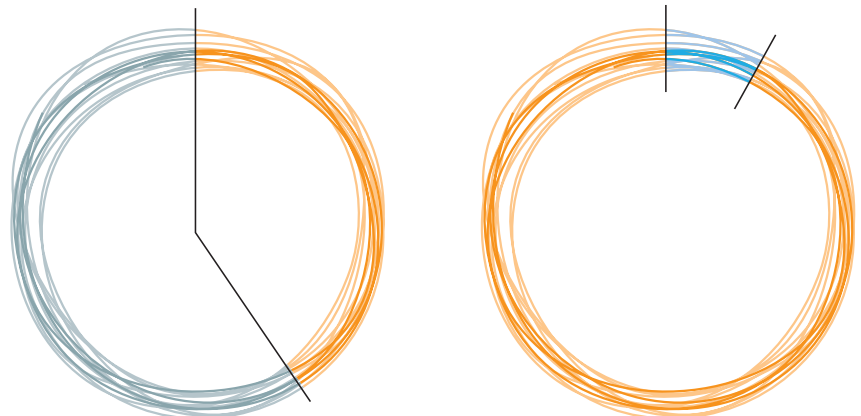
Many women victims of intimate partner violence in the EU Member States remain unprotected. Perpetrators often go unpunished due to inadequate law enforcement approaches, which do not align with international human rights treaties. A gender-neutral approach to the law, coupled with the unavailability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

40 % of women have at some point been victims of domestic violence by their partners since the age of 18.

Only 10 % of those women reported it to 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?

Intimate partner violence is not recognised as a specific offence. The law on protection against domestic violence, Act No 135/2006 Coll, criminalises intimate partner violence when the victim and the perpetrator live in a common dwelling. This law applies not only to cases between partners, but also to cases of intergenerational violence. Domestic violence is defined as 'cruelty/abuse of a person living in a common dwelling' ⁽²⁾.

Process of administrative data collection by police and justice sectors



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- Data on intimate partner violence is collected within the scope of the law on protection against domestic violence, Act No 135/2006 Coll, but there is no specific legal definition of this term.
- Data is collected on incidents of violence between persons living in a common dwelling, with disaggregation enabling the type of victim-perpetrator relationship to be identified.
- In 2016, the police recorded 320 women victims of domestic violence ⁽³⁾.
- Available variables include the age and sex of the victim and the perpetrator, the citizenship of the perpetrator, and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.
- Only some offences are included in the categories of psychological violence.
- Information on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is not collected when recording offences related to economic violence (e.g. theft or damage to personal property).



- Data is recorded by the police using a specific code list corresponding to the general classification of offences in the Criminal Code. The list includes physical violence and sexual violence.



- The Police Presidium publishes data in its statistical reports ⁽⁴⁾ and provides data to the Czech Statistical Office for publication ⁽⁵⁾.



JUSTICE

- Data on offences processed by the judiciary and on perpetrators prosecuted and sentenced for incidents of violence against partners living in a common dwelling are recorded.
- Detailed data on sex, age, sentencing, etc. is published about perpetrators, but data on the victims is not published.
- The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is not collected systematically and does not correspond to the categories used by the police.
- Data is collected at the moment of prosecution and conviction.

- Data is recorded by the justice system using the same code list as the police.

- Systematic or mandatory training on intimate partner violence that could increase awareness of the scale and importance of data collection is not provided.

- The Ministry of Justice publishes data in its statistical report ⁽⁶⁾. Data collected by the justice sector is included in the Statistical Yearbook of Criminality, which is published by the Ministry of Justice.

⁽²⁾ § 199 of the Criminal Code, Act No 135/2006 on domestic violence; available at <http://www.trestni-rizeni.com/dokumenty/trestne-ciny-paragrafy/tyrani-osoby-zijici-ve-spolecnem-obydli>

⁽³⁾ Data provided by the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic.

⁽⁴⁾ <http://www.policie.cz/statistiky-kriminalita.aspx>

⁽⁵⁾ Labour Market and Equal Opportunities Statistics Department, *Focus on women and men*, Czech Statistical Office, Prague, 2016 (<https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/focus-on-women-and-men>).

⁽⁶⁾ Publication of the Czech Statistical Office focusing on differences between women and men in various areas of life (<http://cslav.justice.cz/InfoData/prehledy-statisticky-listu.html>)

Indicators on intimate partner violence

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



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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).



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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 Czech Republic's signature of the Istanbul Convention in May 2016, the convention should now be ratified. This would oblige the Czech Republic to meet minimum data collection requirements, which would enable EU data comparison on intimate partner violence. Having comparable data as a result of ratifying the convention would assist policymakers and practitioners in their efforts to counter intimate partner violence.

Amend the definition of intimate partner violence according to the Istanbul Convention

The definition of intimate partner violence should be amended to cover violence that occurs between both cohabiting and non-cohabiting current and former partners. Although domestic violence is criminalised, the legislation (Act No 135/2006 Coll) encompasses a broad definition which should be revised to cover specific offences involving violence between people in an intimate relationship.



Recognise specific forms of intimate partner violence

Psychological, physical, and sexual violence are already recognised types of intimate partner violence, but economic violence is not. This recognition would allow for the collection of specific and comparable data. Legal experts and statisticians in the police and justice sectors should discuss the recognition of economic violence in intimate partnership and aim to understand the importance of clear, specific, disaggregated, and EU comparable data.

Systematically collect disaggregated data on victims

The Ministry of Justice focuses on perpetrators rather than victims in its data collection. The sex of the victim is not systematically recorded and published, however, information on the specific relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is collected, enabling cases of intimate partner violence to be identified. The sex of the victim should always be collected and reported. It is important to have data on the sex of the victim and to follow the Istanbul Convention's definition of intimate partner violence.



Coordinate data collection on intimate partner violence at country level

An institution should be identified to coordinate data collection and publication based on international standards, commitments, and classifications. This coordinating body should clearly stress the importance of having relevant, reliable and comparable national data over time to comply with European and international requirements and to assess the effectiveness of policies implemented to eradicate intimate partner violence. This includes policies implemented both by policymakers and by practitioners who are taking action against intimate partner violence.

Introduce a transparent system of data controls

The police and justice sectors should introduce a system of data controls at various stages of the data collection process. This would help ensure the quality of the data collected by police officers, municipal officers (in civil court cases), courts, and all other bodies and individuals dealing with cases of intimate partner violence.

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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