



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.

In Denmark, 32 % of women have been victims of intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

Only 7 % of those women contacted 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 criminalised under a number of offences, including manslaughter, physical assault, rape and sexual assault. The Criminal Code does not differentiate between sexes therefore does not make specific reference to violence against women. This also applies to instances of intimate partner violence and includes the criminalisation of psychological, physical, sexual and economic violence. The provisions covering the offences established in the Istanbul Convention are general and the existence of an intimate partnership between the victim and the perpetrator does not constitute an aggravating circumstance.

The Istanbul Convention was ratified and entered into force in 2014. Denmark did not take part in the adoption of the Victims' Rights Directive and is not bound by it.

Process of administrative data collection by police and justice sectors



POLICE



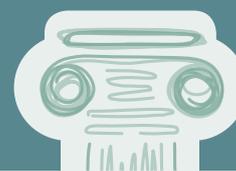
- Available variables include the age and the sex of the victim and perpetrator as well as the nationality of both.
- The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is not recorded, resulting in a lack of data on intimate partner violence cases.



- Data is recorded using a specific code list that reflects the offences of the Criminal Code.
- In some cases, the police journal might contain information about the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator in an open text format. This information cannot be easily extracted from the database, making it difficult to process.



- Data is published by both the police and by the National Statistics Office (NSO), *Danmarks Statistik*.
- The NSO collates and publishes data provided by Polsas (the police record system).



JUSTICE

- Data on intimate partner violence is not available from the justice services.
- Information on the victims is not available.
- However, the following breakdowns are collected by the courts: sex, age, residency and origin of the offender, type of crime, judgement result and judgement type.

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

- *Danmarks Statistik* publishes data on convictions, convicted persons, imprisonments and recidivism with breakdowns on the perpetrator and the offences.

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?



POLICE

- 1. Annual 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).



JUSTICE

- 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



TECHNICAL

Record victim–perpetrator relationship

Currently, the relationship between victim and perpetrator can be filled into a free text form but it is not collected in a systematic way, making statistical analysis challenging. The recording of this information should be systematic for all offences reported to the police and for all case files handled by the courts. Predefined lists to describe the relationship should be introduced. In this way, the relationship will be recorded along with other variables, like the age or sex of the victim and perpetrator.

Ensure well-defined relationship categories

The minimum categories to describe the relationship should be in line with the International Classification of Crime (ICCS) and include current and former spouses and current and former partners. Additional categories adapted to the national context should also be included, such as current and former cohabitants.

Flag incidents of intimate partner violence

A specific code should be created in the data collection process to flag incidents as intimate partner violence. This flagging would allow for systematic recording of this type of data and for the easy extraction, analysis and dissemination of intimate partner violence data.

Adopt a statistical definition of intimate partner violence

The absence of a legal framework to criminalise intimate partner violence also impacts data availability. Data recording systems lack a reference in order to identify intimate partner violence cases and record them as such. It is recommended to adopt a statistical definition of intimate partner violence. This definition should be in line with the Istanbul Convention, cover all dimensions of violence and be systematically applied by all agencies.



COOPERATION

Improve cooperation between the institutions collecting data

Denmark has the potential to be an example of best practice with regard to data collection on intimate partner violence, as the extent and manner in which data is collected is advanced. Improvements will require cross-sector cooperation between the different institutions of law enforcement, *Danmarks Statistik* and technical staff working with national databases.

This cooperation presents important opportunities to enhance data collection, especially in essential information such as the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

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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