



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.

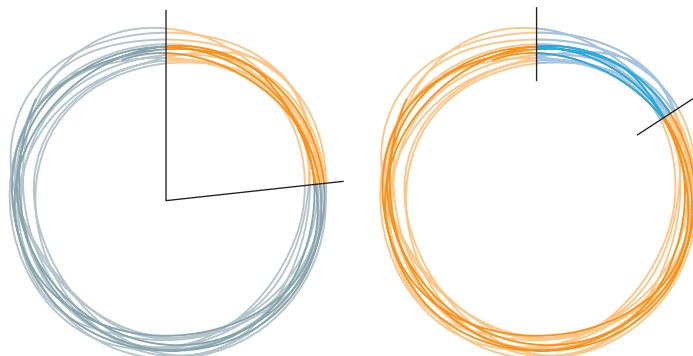
Improving data collection and providing comprehensive and reliable administrative data is crucial to monitor the police and justice sectors' response to violence against women. It also shows a state's willingness to monitor the effectiveness of its law. High-quality administrative data is in line with 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.

23.6 % of women ever having a partner experienced at least one act of violence committed by the partner.

15 % of women who have repeatedly experienced psychological, social and/or economic violence and controlling behaviour and/or at least one-time physical and sexual violence by the partner have 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 not recognised as a specific offence; instead it is criminalised under several provisions of the Criminal Code ⁽²⁾. Section 208 punishes *Battering a close person and a person entrusted into one's care*, which covers a wider range of relations between the people who live or have lived in the same household.

Slovakia signed the Istanbul Convention in 2011 but has not ratified it yet.

Process of administrative data collection by police and justice sectors



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- Data on offences related to intimate partner violence is collected within the general system of data collection.
- Available variables include age and sex of the victim and the perpetrator, relationship between the two, caused damage, region and location of crime.
- Since January 2017, the police collects data on offences related to domestic violence in a separate sheet.
- In 2016, the police recorded 886 women victims of intimate partner violence ⁽³⁾.



- Data is recorded through the Registration Statistical System of Criminality using a specific code list that corresponds to sections of the Criminal Code.



- The Ministry of the Interior publishes data in statistics on criminality ⁽⁴⁾.



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- Prosecution and courts services have separate data collection systems.
- The Ministry of Justice received statistical data from courts through completed statistical sheets.
- Quality of information provided in the statistical sheet is questionable. The statistical sheet might not be filled accurately due to lack of guidance and definitions.

- The General Prosecutors Office uses an information system on prosecutors' criminal and civil agenda called 'Patricia'.
- The Ministry of Justice collects data on the results of court proceedings through statistical sheets that are completed by a judicial officer immediately after the court's decision has become effective (by hand and then information is entered into a central system).

- The Ministry of Justice and the General Prosecutors Office annually publish statistical yearbooks ⁽⁵⁾. In addition, the Ministry of Justice proceeds with ongoing testing of a new online information system of judicial statistics ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽²⁾ Act No. 300/2005 Coll.

⁽³⁾ Number of victims of all offences committed by husband and cohabitee. Table 'Victims of offences 2016' provided by the Presidium of Police Force under the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.

⁽⁴⁾ The Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, statistics on criminality (<http://www.minv.sk/?statistika-kriminality-v-slovenskej-republike-xml>).

⁽⁵⁾ The Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, statistical yearbooks (<http://www.justice.gov.sk/stat/statr.htm>).

⁽⁶⁾ The Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, providing information from courts' and judicial statistics (<http://obcan.justice.sk/statistika>); General Prosecutors Office of the Slovak Republic, statistics (<http://www.genpro.gov.sk/statistiky-12c1.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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- 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).



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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

Slovakia signed the Istanbul Convention on 11 May 2011; however, the ratification has not yet taken place. In order to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the protection of victims, the Ministry of Justice should implement all necessary measures for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. Furthermore, specific steps to improve administrative data collection on intimate partner violence has to be included in the national action plan.

Adopt the definition of intimate partner violence and its forms

The Ministry of Justice should adopt a legal definition on intimate partner violence and its four forms, either by adding a new section in the Criminal Code listing all offences that fall within the scope of intimate partner violence or by introducing the definition in a draft act on domestic violence.



Determine what offences fall under each form of violence and to provide separate data on them

The Coordinating Methodical Centre (CMC), together with the representatives of institutions collecting data, should discuss what offences fall under each of the forms of violence, provide this information to the Ministry of Justice and incorporate this information in guidelines for police and justice officers so that it can be integrated into their classification systems.

Train police and court personnel to better recognise and recode intimate partner violence cases

It is recommended to create and implement systematic training for police and court personnel, provided by experts on intimate partner violence and data collection.



Improve interinstitutional cooperation among authorities

A specific platform for interinstitutional cooperation should be established to evaluate the existing system of data reporting and collection on intimate partner violence, and to identify possible gaps and inefficiencies to be addressed. This should involve regular meetings of representatives of the CMC, the Ministry of Interior (police), the Ministry of Justice, the General Prosecutors Office and the Statistical Office (e.g. twice a year), implementation of the agreed steps towards better data collection, and evaluation of the collaboration.

Take steps to fully integrate data collection across the police and justice services

The CMC should ensure that the interinstitutional meeting discusses, among others, the best use of the 'electronic investigation file' to track cases of intimate partner violence, as it may serve in the future as an important source of statistical information.

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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