

Measuring femicide in Slovakia

Femicide

Femicide can be understood as the extreme end of a continuum of violence against women that happens in all European Union Member States⁽¹⁾. There is no standard agreed definition of femicide among EU Member States or around the world. The lack of a uniform definition hampers the measurement of femicide, which becomes invisible among general homicide data⁽²⁾. The general concept of femicide refers to the killing of a woman or girl because of her gender. The United Nations Vienna Declaration on Femicide⁽³⁾ was the first to identify different types of femicide, including:

- murder of women as a result of intimate partner violence;
- torture and misogynistic slaying of women;
- killing of women and girls in the name of honour;
- targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict;
- dowry-related killing of women;
- killing of women and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex selection foeticide;
- genital mutilation-related deaths;
- accusations of witchcraft;
- other types of femicide connected with gangs, organised crime, drug dealers, human trafficking and the proliferation of small arms.

Femicide in Slovakia

There is no definition of femicide in the Slovak Criminal Code. However, this type of offence may fall under other provisions of Slovak criminal law. The relevant articles for identifying femicide cases are, inter alia, Sections 144, 145, 147 and 148⁽⁴⁾.

Section 144 – First-degree murder

(1) Any person who intentionally kills another person with premeditation shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of 20 to 25 years.

(2) The offender shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of 25 years or to a life imprisonment sentence if he commits the offence referred to in paragraph 1:

- and he was already convicted for murder,
- against two persons,
- acting in a more serious manner,
- against a protected person,
- by reason of specific motivation, or
- with the intention to obtain tangible profit.

Section 145 – Second-degree murder

(1) Any person who intentionally kills another person shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of 15 to 20 years.

(2) The offender shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of 25 years or to life imprisonment sentence if he commits the offence referred to in paragraph 1:

- against two persons,
- acting in a more serious manner,
- against a protected person,
- by reason of specific motivation, or
- with the intention to obtain tangible profit.

Sections 147 and 148 – Death as result of grievous bodily harm

Any person who, with the intention of causing grievous bodily harm to another person:

Section 147 – (1) causes his death by negligence shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of 7 to 10 years.

Section 148 – (1) causes his death by negligence shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of 3 to 8 years.

About the study

Data collection systems vary widely across EU Member States, as they draw on various sources. To improve the collection of administrative data on femicide, EIGE has been working to establish indicators that can harmonise data collection processes across Member States' jurisdictions.

EIGE has collected information from a wide variety of stakeholders through a questionnaire sent to official data providers and an online survey filled in by national experts. The ultimate goal is to identify a classification system of femicide with mutually agreed variables that can be used by all EU Member States.

Methodology for data collection

To address the lack of comparable data on violence against women, EIGE developed 13 indicators with uniform definitions of the multiple forms of intimate partner violence, femicide and rape⁽⁵⁾. A detailed report regarding the methodology for the collection, reporting and validation of data, along with detailed metadata per country, has been published⁽⁶⁾. The data presented in this factsheet refers to indicator 9 on intimate partner violence: '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'. The data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Database (https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/browse/genvio/genvio_int).

⁽¹⁾ This factsheet includes data collected before the United Kingdom left the EU, so the reference to EU Member States includes the United Kingdom.

⁽²⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Glossary of definitions of rape, femicide and intimate partner violence*, EIGE, Vilnius.

⁽³⁾ UN Economic and Social Council (2012), *Vienna Declaration on Femicide*, UN, New York (https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_22/E-CN15-2013-NGO1/E-CN15-2013-NGO1_E.pdf).

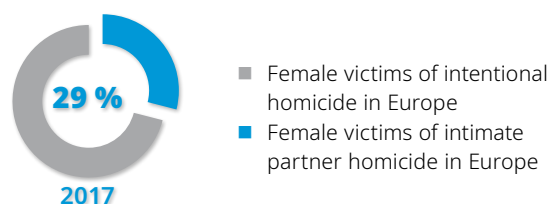
⁽⁴⁾ For more information, see indicator 9 of the Gender Statistics Database (https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio_int_adm_ipv__ipv_indic_9/metadata) and the Slovak Criminal Code (https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/3763/file/Slovakia_CC_2005_en.pdf).

⁽⁵⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Terminology and Indicators for Data Collection: Rape, femicide and intimate partner violence*, EIGE, Vilnius.

⁽⁶⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2020), *Intimate Partner Violence: Data collection methodology*, EIGE, Vilnius.

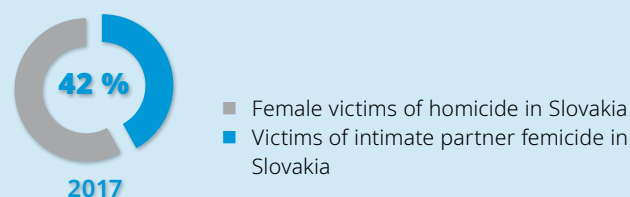
Intimate partner femicide in Europe

From a statistical perspective, and based on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) highlights that intentional homicide of female victims perpetrated by intimate partners or family members is the most prevalent form of femicide (7). UNODC estimates that, in Europe (8), about 29 % of female victims of homicide (9) are killed intentionally by an intimate partner.



Intimate partner femicide in Slovakia

From a statistical perspective, the working definition that the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) uses for femicide is 'killing of a woman by an intimate partner and the death of a woman as a consequence of a practice that is harmful to women. Intimate partner is understood as a former or current spouse or partner, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim'. In Slovakia, most femicides would be covered by the sections of the Criminal Code identified above. According to data from the Presidium of the Police Corps, in 2017 there were 26 female (10) victims of homicide (11), of whom 42 % were victims of intimate partner femicide (n = 11) (12).



Female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide in Slovakia

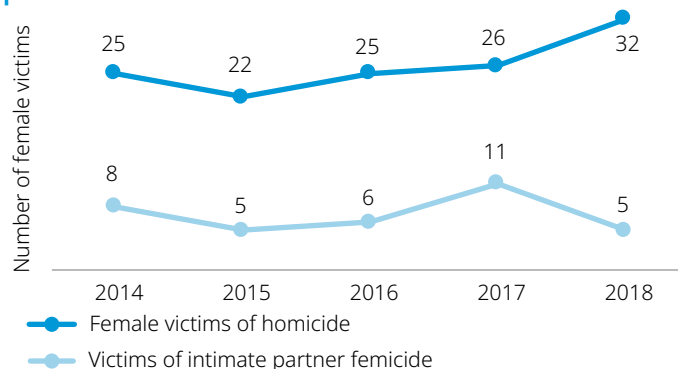
The official administrative data used in Figure 1 is collected by the Presidium of the Police Corps. EIGE has gathered data on homicide and intimate partner femicide for 2014 to 2018.

Figure 1 includes data regarding female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide. The numbers for homicide and intimate partner femicide increased between 2015 and 2017, but between 2017 and 2018 there was a decrease of about 50 % in the number of cases of intimate partner femicide, contradicting the growing trend in homicide.

Type of relationship between the victim and the perpetrator

The Presidium of the Police Corps collects data on the type of relationship between the victim and the perpetrator according to the following classifications: intimately related (husband, cohabitee, ex-husband or ex-cohabitee), parent, child, sibling, brother/sister, grandparent, grandchild, foster parent, carer and child in foster care.

Figure 1: Female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide in Slovakia



Source: EIGE's Gender Statistics Database.

Collecting administrative data on femicide



What is administrative data? Administrative data is collected for recording, organising and monitoring purposes (13). Administrative data on femicide can be obtained from different institutions, namely those that are involved in criminal investigations, prosecutions, the punishment of perpetrators and victim support – that is, institutions in the **police and justice sectors**. Administrative data might include information about the prevalence and types of femicide, the characteristics of the victim, the perpetrator and their relationship, the characteristics of and motive for the crime, and data about the criminal process.

(7) UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2019), *Global Study on Homicide – Gender-related killing of women and girls*, UNODC, Vienna.

(8) Data from UNODC includes European jurisdictions other than the EU Member States. There is no estimation of the percentage of female victims of homicide who were victims of intimate partner femicide limited to EU Member States.

(9) The term 'homicide' is used when reporting UNODC data given that it is the term used in the original source (p. 17). The gender-related motivation is not recorded, because of the lack of a standardised definition. However, it is clear from the report that this data quantifies a significant share of all gender-related killings of women and girls.

(10) The term 'female' is used instead of 'woman', as it is not always possible to disaggregate data by the victim's age, meaning that the victim could be either a woman or a girl aged under 18 years.

(11) The term 'homicide' is used given that the gender-related motivation for the intentional homicides is not recorded, and therefore it is not possible to classify all the killings as femicides.

(12) Data is available at: https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio_int_adm_ipv_ipv_indic_9/metadata

(13) UN Women (2020), *A synthesis of evidence on the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women*, UN Women, New York.

In order to help policymakers design effective policies to combat femicide, it is necessary to understand the nature and prevalence of the issue. The collection of comparable administrative data on femicide across Member States is key to gaining this understanding⁽¹⁴⁾. It is particularly important that the motive for the killing is established by the police or judiciary and that this is then translated into standardised statistical data. The ICCS is a standardised tool for obtaining comparable

administrative data. However, it lacks a gender-related motive variable. This means that the concept of femicide cannot be properly operationalised, which prevents the collection of data that fully captures the phenomenon. The collection of data on femicide would make the issue more visible, which would strengthen the political will to eradicate it. Administrative data on femicide also enables countries to monitor trends over time and evaluate the effectiveness of measures.

What administrative data on femicide is available in Slovakia?

Definition of femicide and availability of data

Definition of femicide used for statistical purposes	No	
Collection of data on femicide	Yes, official data	Yes, non-official data

Four public institutions collect or analyse data on femicide in Slovakia: the Presidium of the Police Corps⁽¹⁵⁾, the General Prosecutor's Office⁽¹⁶⁾, the Ministry of Justice⁽¹⁷⁾ and the Statistical Office⁽¹⁸⁾; Fenestra⁽¹⁹⁾, a non-governmental organisation, collects non-official data. Where data on femicide in this

factsheet is drawn from these institutions, this is indicated by (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), respectively. There may be other institutions or researchers who collect and analyse data on femicide in Slovakia.

	Institution (a) Presidium of the Police Corps	Institution (b) General Prosecu- tor's Office	Institution (c) Ministry of Justice	Institution (d) Statistical Office	Non-governmental organisation (e) Fenestra
Type of data collec- tion	Official	Official	Official	Official	Non-official
Sources of data	Police crime investi- gations	Number of persons prosecuted and number of persons charged	Court data on the number of persons sentenced and convicted	Police, prosecutor's office and court data	Media reports and police press releases
Stage at which the homicide is estab- lished as a femicide	During the initial data collection	During the (criminal or court) investiga- tion	Not established	During the initial data collection	During the initial data collection
Stage at which the homicide is regis- tered as a femicide	Not registered	Not registered	Not registered	Not registered	During the initial data analysis
Regularity of data col- lection	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Occasional
Network(s) with which information is shared	Available on request	Not shared	Not shared	All institutions have access to the <i>Gender Equality</i> annual report	All institutions can access the infor- mation
Availability of data to the public	Data available on request	Data not publicly available	Data not publicly available	Data publicly available	Information not available

⁽¹⁴⁾ It is important to note that data and statistics should be produced, developed and disseminated in compliance with the principles in the *European Statistics Code of Practice*: Eurostat (2018), *European Statistics Code of Practice*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/4031688/8971242/KS-02-18-142-EN-N.pdf/e7f85f07-91db-4312-8118-f729c75878c7?t=1528447068000>).

⁽¹⁵⁾ https://www.minv.sk/?struktura_PPZ

⁽¹⁶⁾ <https://www.genpro.gov.sk/statistiky-12c1.html>

⁽¹⁷⁾ Data is available on request (<https://web.ac-mssr.sk/statisticka-rocenka-2020/>).

⁽¹⁸⁾ Statistical Office (2020), *Gender Equality 2020*, Statistical Office, Košice (https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/lut/p/z1/tVFNb8IwDP01HEPcJDTjsQxUyt-g0YB00lyk7CigH7AOxr9fO-2wD4G0w3ywbOvZes8PK7zEqtAH96RrVxZ62_Sj8h-nPBL9vhcA8N4AonE8mIZz6QEDvPgOELzIUT3wV04G7MG0MPq8v4D-VljZoq7qNU5K86LXKC1Q9W060KSt22jr0g4cTmavixR9nVFpmWCZQZyTDDerODIra5HHrcgk-DSlstr1eWbfcCmylceNqJoiZjUFmnnDU0SkFIYLX0vm_VTzm26rBs5E-0H5DfUCuwmDE-ARATMleRMEonskppRDQT8CFG0nDgZ_lce3w4uDSI46Lcp83Ds3_KHEEelyVM3n3aPMudD0iuM-Ix4QktKlby93zbqeCxpeyqNO3Gi_wZgqj3N-BT2iT3QwpU8k71GzVaw!!/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh).

⁽¹⁹⁾ <https://fenestra.sk/>

Official and non-official sources inform administrative data collection in Slovakia. In line with EIGE's data collection, official administrative data on the total number of female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide is displayed for 2014

to 2019 ^(a). Official data from the Presidium of the Police Corps shows that, in 2019, there were 21 female victims of homicide and 7 victims of intimate partner femicide ^(e).

● Official data available ● Non-official data available ○ No data available

Data availability	2014 ^(a)	2015 ^(a)	2016 ^(a) ^(d)	2017 ^(a) ^(d)	2018 ^(a) ^(d)	2019 ^(a) ^(d)
Female victims of homicide	●	●	●	●	●	●
Victims of intimate partner femicide	●	●	●	●	●	●

Official and non-official sources collect data on intimate partner femicide, but also on other types of femicide, namely robbery-related femicide and femicide in the context of sexual violence. The latest official data available on robbery-related

femicide is for 2018, when 1 femicide was registered. In the same year, there was another femicide in the context of sexual violence and 16 murders motivated by personal relations ^(e).

Types of femicide	
Intimate partner femicide ^(e)	●
Family-related femicide	○
Child femicide	○
Prostitution-related femicide	○
Robbery-related femicide ^(e)	●
Other types of femicide ^(e)	●
Femicide in the context of sexual violence ^(e)	

Characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator	Victim	Perpetrator
Age ^(a) ^(b) ^(c) ^(d)	●	●
Sex ^(a) ^(b) ^(c) ^(d)	●	●
Gender identity	○	○
Sexual orientation	○	○
Nationality ^(a) ^(b) ^(c)	●	●
Education ^(a) ^(b) ^(c)	○	●
Occupation ^(a) ^(b) ^(c)	●	●
Applied for protection order ^(b)	●	n/a
Active protection order	n/a	○
Socioeconomic profile	○	○
Recidivist status ^(a) ^(b)	n/a	●
Alcohol/drug abuse ^(a) ^(b)	●	●
Victim–perpetrator relationship ^(a) ^(c) ^(d)	●	●
Other ^(a)	○	●
		Migrant status ^(e)

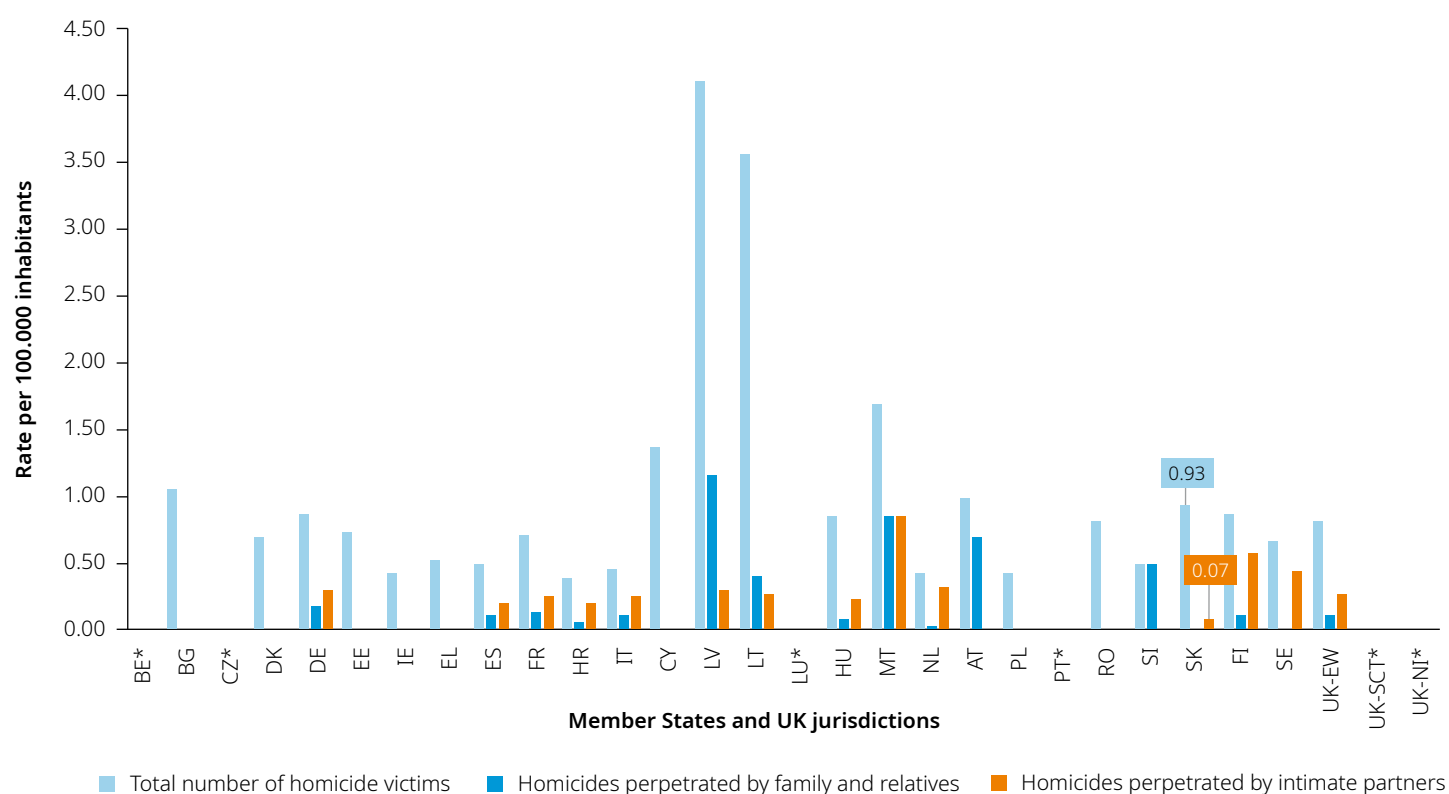
Contextual variables		Investigating femicide	
Method of killing ^(e)	●	Protocol for investigating femicide cases	○
Location ^(e)	●	Analysing femicide	
Suicide of the perpetrator	○	Analysis of femicide cases	○
Killing of children	○	Motive for femicide	
Killing of other persons in the family	○	Variables that indicate gender-related motivation	○
Children present	○		
Other killings in connection with the femicide	○		
Other	○		

Female homicide in EU Member States and the United Kingdom (Eurostat)

At the EU level, based on the ICCS, Eurostat compiles data on intentional female homicides, focusing on intimate partner and family-related homicides, disaggregated by age, gender and relationship with the perpetrator. The data from Eurostat presented in Figure 2 reveals that, in 2018, the rate of female victims of homicide in Slovakia was 0.93 per 100 000 inhabitants,

the eighth highest rate among the 24 Member States for which information is available and the United Kingdom. Slovakia had the second lowest rate (0.07) of female victims of intentional homicide perpetrated by intimate partners (out of 15 jurisdictions). There is no data on the rate of homicide perpetrated by family and relatives in Slovakia.

Figure 2: Rate of female victims of intentional homicide in EU Member States and the United Kingdom (2018)



(*) No data available.

NB: UK-EW, England and Wales, United Kingdom; UK-NI, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom; UK-SCT, Scotland, United Kingdom.

Source: Eurostat.

Data information

Eurostat regularly publishes figures on crime and criminal justice. Intentional homicides are recorded by the police in each of the Member States and the United Kingdom. It is not possible to collect information about the gender-related motivation for homicide, the sex of the perpetrator or the age of the perpetrator using this database. Therefore, it is not possible to

provide precise data on femicide. Figures for 2008 onwards are based on the joint Eurostat-UNODC data collection. In this database, homicide is classified by the ICCS.

Data is available on Eurostat’s website (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>).

Key findings

- Slovakia does not have a legal definition of femicide. However, the perpetrator may be liable for first-degree murder, second-degree murder or death as a result of grievous bodily harm.
- There are four main institutions that collect or analyse data for the identification of femicide. Data on intimate partner femicide and other types of femicide is available. Apart from public bodies, one non-governmental organisation collects non-official data.
- Administrative data on femicide is available for 2014 onwards, in line with EIGE's data collection. Available data includes information about the characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator, and contextual variables.

Recommendations

The collection of accurate and comparable data on femicide by the police and justice sectors across Member States helps to increase knowledge and improve responses to prevent femicide⁽²⁰⁾. It is therefore important to:

- develop a femicide definition for statistical data collection, in order to reflect the specific circumstances relating to the killing of women;
- implement a process of continuous data collection;
- establish comprehensive data collection, adding variables that are important for detecting key aspects of femicide, such as those describing the context and the circumstances of the killing, the gender-related motivation, and the victim and perpetrator characteristics, in order to systematise

- and harmonise the collection of data for statistical use;
- cross-reference the variables of the victim and those of the perpetrator, and analyse them using an intersectional approach;
- ensure that the gender dimension of homicide data is made visible.

Recommendations for data collection on femicide in Slovakia

To populate EIGE's indicator on femicide (indicator 9) and to improve understanding of intimate partner femicide, it is recommended that the relationship categories include former and current partners, whether or not they share or have shared the same household as the victim.

This factsheet is based on information from EIGE's study 'Advancing administrative data collection on intimate partner violence and gender-related killings of women' (2021) and has been prepared by the Alternative and Response Women's Association (UMAR). For more information, visit <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/femicide>.

⁽²⁰⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2018), *Recommendations to improve data collection on intimate partner violence by the police and justice sectors – Slovakia*, EIGE, Vilnius; European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Recommendations for the EU to improve data collection on violence against women*, EIGE, Vilnius; European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2021), *EIGE's indicators on intimate partner violence, rape and femicide: Recommendations to improve data quality, availability and comparability*, EIGE, Vilnius.

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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