

Measuring femicide in Hungary

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 Hungary

There is no definition of femicide in the Hungarian Criminal Code. However, this type of offence may fall under other provisions of Hungarian criminal law. The relevant sections for identifying femicide cases are, inter alia, Sections 160 and 161 ⁽⁴⁾.

Section 160 – Homicide

(1) Any person who kills another human being is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for 5 to 15 years.

(2) The penalty shall be imprisonment for 10 to 20 years, or life imprisonment, if the homicide is committed:

(a) deliberately with premeditation;

(b) for financial gain;

(c) with malice aforethought or with malicious motive;

(d) with particular cruelty;

(e) against a public official or a foreign public official during or because of official duties, against a person performing public duties when carrying out official duties, or against a person providing assistance to or acting in defence of such persons performing official or public duties;

(f) against more than one person;

(g) endangering the life of a number of persons;

(h) by a habitual recidivist;

(i) against a person under the age of 14 years;

(j) against a person incapable of self-defence;

(k) against a person whose ability to defend himself or herself is diminished due to his or her old age or disability.

Section 161 – Voluntary manslaughter

A person who kills another person in the heat of passion caused by a legitimate reason is guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment for 2–8 years.

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

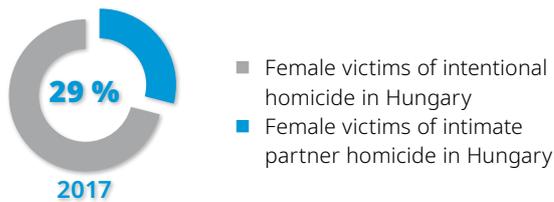
⁽²⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Glossary of definitions of rape, femicide and intimate partner violence*, EIGE, Vilnius.

⁽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 the Hungarian Criminal Code (https://njt.hu/translation/J2012T0100P_20200716_FIN.PDF).

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 ⁽⁵⁾. UNODC estimates that, in Europe ⁽⁶⁾, about 29 % of female victims of homicide ⁽⁷⁾ are killed intentionally by an intimate partner.



Intimate partner femicide in Hungary

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 Hungary, most femicides would be covered by the sections of the Criminal Code identified above. According to data from Eurostat, in 2017 there were 44 female ⁽⁸⁾ victims of homicide, of which (25%) were victims of intimate partner femicide (n=11) ⁽⁹⁾.

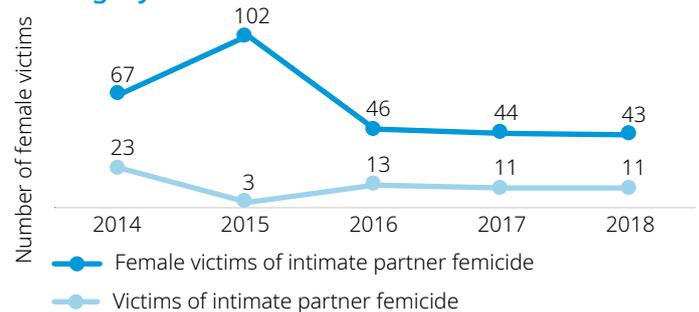


Female victims of intimate partner femicide in Hungary

EIGE has gathered data on homicide and intimate partner femicide for 2014 to 2018. EIGE could not validate the official statistics from Hungary. The official data used in Figure 1 is collected by Eurostat ⁽⁹⁾.

Figure 1 shows data on homicide and intimate partner femicide between 2014 and 2018. The number of female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide remained stable since 2016.

Figure 1: Female victims of intimate partner femicide in Hungary



Source: Eurostat database ⁽⁹⁾.

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 ⁽¹⁰⁾. A detailed report regarding the methodology for the collection, reporting and validation of data, along with detailed metadata per country, has been published ⁽¹¹⁾.

The information 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'. However, the data for Hungary under this indicator is not yet available.

For more information, see EIGE's Gender Statistics Database (https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/browse/genvio/genvio_int).

⁽⁵⁾ UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2019), *Global Study on Homicide – Gender-related killing of women and girls*, UNODC, Vienna.

⁽⁶⁾ 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.

⁽⁷⁾ 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.

⁽⁸⁾ 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.

⁽⁹⁾ Statistics are available on Eurostat database: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/CRIM_HOM_VREL__custom_1466434/default/table?lang=en

⁽¹⁰⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Terminology and Indicators for Data Collection: Rape, femicide and intimate partner violence*, EIGE, Vilnius.

⁽¹¹⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2020), *Intimate Partner Violence: Data collection methodology*, EIGE, Vilnius.

Collecting administrative data on femicide



What is administrative data? Administrative data is collected for recording, organising and monitoring purposes⁽¹²⁾. 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

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⁽¹³⁾. 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 Hungary?

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

One public institution and one non-governmental institution collect or analyse data on femicide in Hungary: the Ministry of the Interior⁽¹⁴⁾ and the NANE Association and the Patent Association⁽¹⁵⁾. Where data on femicide in this factsheet is drawn

from these institutions, this is indicated by ^(a) and ^(b), respectively. There may be other institutions or researchers who collect and analyse data on femicide in Hungary.

	Institution ^(a) Ministry of the Interior	Institution ^(b) NANE Association and Patent Association
Type of data collection	Official	Non-official
Sources of data	Police crime investigations	Media reports
Stage at which the homicide is established as a femicide	During the (criminal or court) investigation	During the (criminal or court) investigation
Stage at which the homicide is registered as a femicide	During the (criminal or court) investigation	During the (criminal or court) investigation
Regularity of data collection	Annual	Occasional
Availability of data to the public	Data not publicly available	Data not publicly available

⁽¹²⁾ UN Women (2020), *A synthesis of evidence on the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women*, UN Women, New York.

⁽¹³⁾ 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>).

⁽¹⁴⁾ See the Ministry of the Interior's statistics report (<https://www.parlament.hu/irom40/13762/13762-0001.pdf>).

⁽¹⁵⁾ <https://nokjoga.hu/alapinformaciok-a-nok-elleni-eroszakrol/nema-tanuk-a-nok-elleni-eroszak-halalos-aldozatai/>

Official and non-official sources inform administrative data collection in Hungary. In line with EIGE's data collection, official administrative data is displayed for 2015 and 2016. However, data may be available in Hungary for other years. According to the Ministry of the Interior, there were 29 intimate partner femicides in 2015 and 23 in 2016 ^(a), most recent data is not publicly available. The Criminal Investigation Division of the National Police Headquarters submitted disaggregated data on homicide/femicide for 2018, 2019, and 2020 ^(b), according to them in 2020 8

where killed by intimate partners, 21 by family members and 28 women were killed by unrelated perpetrators. Non-official administrative data on the number of female victims of intimate partner femicide is available for 2014 to 2019 ^(b). Non-official data from the NANE Association and the Patent Association shows that, between January and November 2019, there were 19 victims of intimate partner femicide. When considering the period between March 2014 and November 2019, the same source identifies 121 women killed.

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

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

Types of femicide	
Intimate partner femicide ^(a) ^(b)	●
Family-related femicide	○
Child femicide	○
Prostitution-related femicide	○
Robbery-related femicide	○
Other types of femicide	○

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

Contextual variables		Investigating femicide	
Method of killing ^(a) ^(b)	●	Protocol for investigating femicide cases	○
Location ^(a)	●	Motive for femicide	
Suicide of the perpetrator	○	Variables that indicate gender-related motivation	○
Killing of children	○	Analysing femicide	
Killing of other persons in the family	○	Homicide reviews / domestic homicide reviews	○
Children present	○	Analysis of court cases	○
Other killings in connection with the femicide	○	Administrative data from police ^(a)	●
Other ^(b)	● Monthly breakdown of the killings ^(b)	Administrative data on cause of death	○
		Media information ^(a) ^(b)	●
		Other	○

NB: n/a, not applicable.

⁽¹⁶⁾ This data was submitted to the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, in reply to the last call for femicide related data and information: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/SR/Femicide/2020/States/submission-hungary.pdf>

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 Hungary was 0.84 per 100 000 inhabitants, the 10th

highest rate among the 24 Member States for which information is available and the United Kingdom. Hungary has the fifth highest rate (0.22) of female victims of intentional homicide perpetrated by intimate partners (out of 15 jurisdictions), and the third smallest rate (0.08) of female victims of homicide perpetrated by family members and relatives (out of 14 jurisdictions).

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

- Hungary does not have a legal definition of femicide. However, the perpetrator may be liable for homicide or voluntary manslaughter.
- The Ministry of the Interior is the main institution that collects or analyses data for the identification of femicide. Data on the motive of the killing is not registered in the administrative database, although there are some param-

eters that might allow for the identification of the gender motivation.

- Non-official data on femicide is available for 2014 to 2019 and includes information about the characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator, and contextual variables.
- Femicide is analysed on the basis of official and non-official sources, such as data from police and media information.

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⁽¹⁷⁾. 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 sys-

tematise and harmonise the collection of data for statistical use;

- cross-reference the variables of the victim and those of the perpetrator, and analyse them through an intersectional approach;
- ensure that the gender dimension of homicide data is made visible.

Recommendations for data collection on femicide in Hungary

To populate EIGE's indicator on femicide (indicator 9) and to improve understanding of intimate partner femicide, the number of female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide should be specified in official publications.

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>.

⁽¹⁷⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2018), *Recommendations to improve data collection on intimate partner violence by the police and justice sectors – Hungary*, 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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