



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.

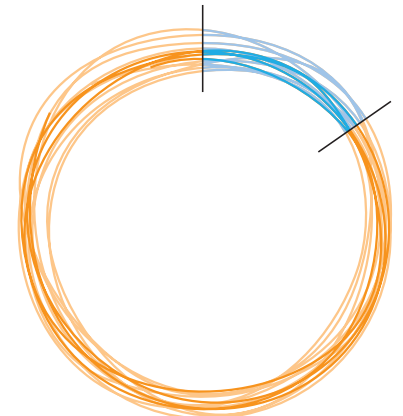
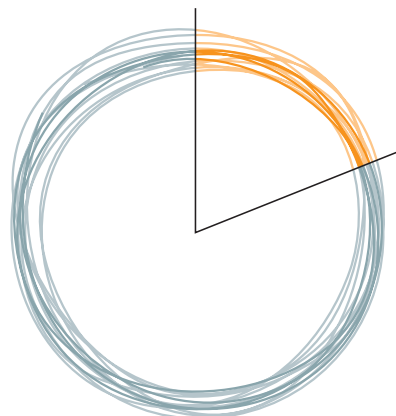
Improving data collection and providing comprehensive and reliable administrative data is crucial to monitor the police and justice sectors' response to violence against women. It also shows a state's willingness to monitor the effectiveness of its law. High-quality administrative data is in line with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

19 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence since the age of 15.

Only 14 % 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?

There is no specific offence for intimate partner violence. Law No 3500/2006, the law on domestic violence, defines family as former and current spouses and partners that cohabit, parents and relatives of the first and second degree and adopted children. Criminal offences within the framework include: physical injury, domestic violence and threat, rape and abuse in lewdness (lechery), sexual abuse, manslaughter by intention and fatal injury. Although existing legal provisions cover physical and some psychological violence (threats) against a partner, economic violence is not covered. Verbal violence is partly covered by the Penal Code (Article 361), though without a provision for intimate partner violence. Greece ratified the Istanbul Convention in June 2018.

Process of administrative data collection by police and justice sectors



POLICE



- Data is collected with the following breakdowns: number of victims of domestic violence by sex; number of homicides; number of rapes and number of sexual assaults.
- The units available are number of victims and offences.
- Data is collected on both the victim and the perpetrator.
- The relationship between them is not systematically recorded.
- Only data on the perpetrator is processed statistically. This includes their nationality, sex and age — though only for rape and homicide offences.
- Data on victims is available upon official request.
- In 2015, the police recorded 2 321 women victims of domestic violence ⁽²⁾.



- Police use legal definitions in the Penal Code and the law on domestic violence to collect data on the victim and the perpetrator.
- Legal definitions in the Penal Code are used to collect data on homicide, rape and intimate partner violence-related crimes.
- Intimate partner violence, rape and homicide data is recorded when the offence is first reported to the police as input statistics and taken from a report prepared by police officials.



- Data is published by the police and the National Statistics Office (NSO). Data published by the NSO is based on data recorded and provided by the police.



JUSTICE

- The database of the public prosecutor on domestic violence does not have the capacity to provide general statistics. It can only store court proceedings.
- Data collected by the judiciary relating to intimate partner violence — and made publically available — concerns the offence and the criminal sentence.
- Information is not collected on the sex of the victim.
- Consequently, it is not possible to verify the nature of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.
- Data on femicide can only be obtained if an official request is made.

- The justice sector use legal definitions in the Penal Code and the law on domestic violence to record data.
- Two main bodies are responsible for data management: the Justice and Public Order Statistics Section of the NSO's Social Statistics Division and the public prosecutor.
- The former compiles raw data sent by the Ministry of Justice.
- The public prosecutor provides data collected by the Public Prosecutors of Domestic Violence Office on the judicial proceedings of domestic violence cases.

- Data is published by the NSO and based on data recorded by the public prosecutor on prosecuted crimes ⁽³⁾ and the courts on convicted crimes ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽²⁾ Data available in EIGE's Gender Statistics Database, source: Hellenic police. Data refers to the number of women victims of domestic violence; the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is not specified.

⁽³⁾ The latest year for which data is available is 2016 (<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SJU03/2016>).

⁽⁴⁾ The latest year for which data is available is 2010 (<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SJU06/2010>).

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



LEGISLATIVE

Amend existing legislation and legal definitions

The current legal definition of domestic violence includes former partners but not violence between non-cohabiting people. Psychological and economic violence is not recognised within it. It is recommended to enlarge the definitional scope of domestic violence under current domestic legislation to include relationships where partners do not cohabit and to recognise psychological and economic violence as components of intimate partner violence. This renewed definition would be in line with the intimate partner violence definition outlined in the Istanbul Convention.

Develop a legal and policy framework

Developing a legal and policy framework would support the harmonisation and collaboration of data collection across institutions and sectors and galvanise policies that aim to improve the quality of data collected on intimate partner violence. It is recommended that such a framework be adopted. It should include guidelines for data collection processes by relevant bodies to establish the scope of data collection, specific variables and a methodology for compiling data.



TECHNICAL

Improve recording at police and justice levels

At present, the justice sector collects data on perpetrators, though not victims. Police data does include information on victims, but does not disaggregate by age. To improve their data recording practices, it is recommended that the justice sector include information on the sex of the victim and that the police include the victim's date of birth or age group, both through mandatory variables.

Systematically record relationship information

Information on the relationship between the victim and perpetrator is necessary to gather accurate data. Currently, information on this relationship is not recorded at either police or justice level. It is recommended that necessary changes be made to data recording systems to ensure that recording relationship information is mandatory at all levels of the criminal process.



COOPERATION

Standardise data recording systems

At present, several bodies are responsible for collecting different data in the judiciary. Additionally, the police and justice sectors use different databases, which compromises the potential for data harmonisation. It is recommended to implement a unified system of recording data on intimate partner violence in the justice sector, and to standardise electronic data recording systems throughout. It is recommended that steps be taken to homogenise the data recording systems used by both sectors.

Extend the mandate of the Observatory of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality

A body responsible for the compilation and dissemination of intimate partner violence data would improve data harmonisation at the national level and promote good practices. In the absence of such a body, it is recommended that the Observatory of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality extend its mandate and take on the role of coordinating authority. It is recommended to develop a protocol of cooperation between all stakeholders to define all steps, actions and responsibilities on data collection.

Publish comprehensive data

The publication of comprehensive data on intimate partner violence is useful to understand intimate partner violence prevalence. At present, data collected by the police on victims is only available on request and published police reports do not provide enough information on specific incidents. The relationship between the victim and perpetrator is not specified, nor the age of the victim. It is recommended that data published by the police contain more comprehensive and detailed information regarding the victim and 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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