



Why do we need administrative data on intimate partner violence?

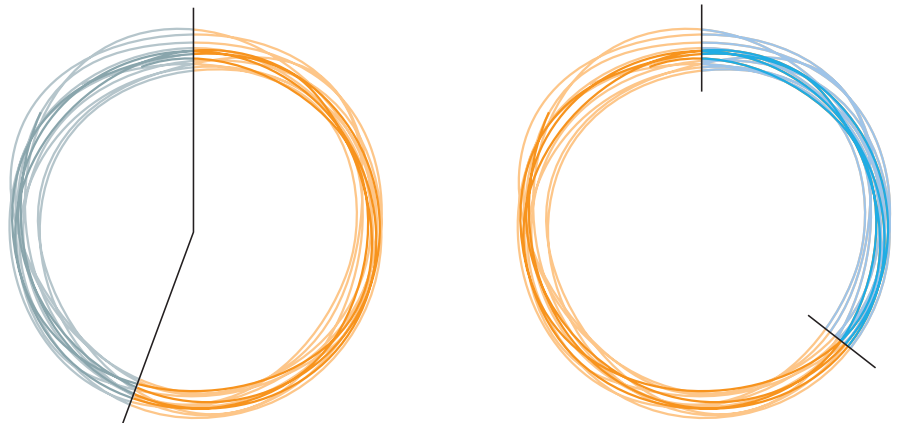
Many women victims of intimate partner violence in the EU Member States remain unprotected. Perpetrators often go unpunished due to inadequate law enforcement approaches, which do not align with international human rights treaties. A gender-neutral approach to the law, coupled with the unavailability 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 Slovenia, 56.1 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence since the age of 15.

Only 36.2 % 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.

Source: Filipčič, K., *Pojavnost nasilja in odzivnost na nasilje v zasebni sferi in partnerskih odnosih*, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law, Ljubljana, 2011, p. 160 (<http://www.dlib.si/stream/URN:NBN:SI:DOC-RMYVUR3P/2c3c8ca8-bde4-4a61-b68c-ecf87caa72bd/PDF>).

What does the law say?

Intimate partner violence is covered by the Domestic Violence Prevention Act ^(?), which defines domestic violence as physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence caused by a family member. Intimate partner violence itself is not a distinct criminal offence. 'Family member' includes a spouse or partner, cohabiting persons and persons in a relationship — regardless of cohabitation. Domestic violence can also be regulated by other articles in the Criminal Code, such as sexual violence (Article 170), threat (Article 135) and bodily harm (Articles 122, 123 and 124). Slovenia ratified the Istanbul Convention in February 2015 and it entered into force in June 2015.

Process of administrative data collection by police and justice sectors



POLICE



- The police collects data on intimate partner violence as a component of domestic violence offences.
- For criminal offences related to domestic violence, the following variables are available: the age and sex of the victim and the perpetrator and the type of criminal offence as categorised in the Criminal Code.
- Sexual, psychological and economic violence are recognised under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act but are not distinct offences in the Criminal Code in the context of domestic violence (Article 191).
- Consequently, information is not collected on these forms of intimate partner violence.
- The relationship between victim and perpetrator is not collected.
- The number of victims and the number of perpetrators, and the sex of both are available separately.
- In 2016, 875 women reported intimate partner violence to the police.



- Data is collected through standardised forms and stored electronically.
- Data input inconsistencies can arise as the amount of data recorded depends on the police officer responsible.
- If a victim reports several types of violence, each is treated as a separate criminal offence.
- The Centre for Crime Analysis within the Criminal Police Directorate is responsible for data collection and maintaining the relevant database.



- Domestic violence data is published in an annual report on the police website.
- The administrative data on intimate partner violence is shared upon request with the Centre for Social Work, the courts and the prosecutor's office.



JUSTICE

- Data currently collected on the perpetrator includes: sex, age, education, citizenship, municipality of permanent residence, the decision of the prosecutor or judge and main penal sanction.
- Data on the victim and their relationship to the perpetrator is not recorded.
- Throughout the prosecution process, official statistics include the number of cases initiated for each incident, the number of cases referred to the court, the types of offences and the number of protection orders and complaints.

- The Centre for Informatics provides a centralised database for all courts in Slovenia.
- This database is the standardised recording system into which judicial staff enter case information as soon as the case arrives at the court and throughout the whole criminal process.
- Data is collected electronically in standardised forms in accordance with the Criminal Code.

- The Statistical Office publishes data from the Centre for Informatics and State Prosecutor's Office.
- In 2017 a pilot project exchanged metadata between the police and the State Prosecutor's Office.
- It is expected that offence information, including domestic violence, will be exchanged in the future.

^(?) Domestic Violence Prevention Act (*Zakon o preprečevanju nasilja v družini*), *Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia*, No 16/08 and the Act amending the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (*Zakon o spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o preprečevanju nasilja v družini*), *Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia*, No 68/16.

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



Introduce the definition of intimate partner violence

The definition of domestic violence covers a range of criminal offences within the context of broad inter-familial relationships. It is recommended that the definition of intimate partner violence be introduced as a specific offence in domestic legislation based on the Victims' Rights Directive and the Istanbul Convention, which Slovenia ratified in 2015.

Account for different types of intimate partner violence in legislation

Domestic violence is defined in the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and the Criminal Code (Article 191 KZ-1). The act differentiates physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence. The Criminal Code does not specify all the different types, which limits the data availability. It is recommended that intimate partner violence (and all types of domestic violence) be included in the Criminal Code to strengthen the quality of data collected on intimate partner violence.



Record relationship information

In the police and justice sectors, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is not currently recorded. The inclusion of this information in administrative data collection across sectors would improve the quality of information on national intimate partner violence prevalence. It is recommended that the police and judiciary include mandatory information about the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator in criminal offences that include intimate partner violence (based on articles within the Criminal Code — namely, domestic violence, sexual violence, bodily harm and threat).



Develop coordinated data infrastructure

At present, different institutions maintain separate databases which are not linked. Data can be shared between institutions upon request; however, there is no coordinated and comprehensive administrative data collection system that makes this collation immediate. It is recommended that different stakeholders — the police sector, the justice sector, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and the Centre for Social Work — cooperate in order to strengthen their common data infrastructure and harmonise administrative data collection.

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.



European Institute for Gender Equality
Gedimino pr. 16
LT-01103 Vilnius
LITHUANIA

Contact details

<http://eige.europa.eu/> 
[facebook.com/eige.europa.eu](https://www.facebook.com/eige.europa.eu) 
twitter.com/eurogender 
[youtube.com/user/eurogender](https://www.youtube.com/user/eurogender) 
eurogender.eige.europa.eu 
eige.sec@eige.europa.eu 
+370 52157444 