



Why do we need administrative data on intimate partner violence?

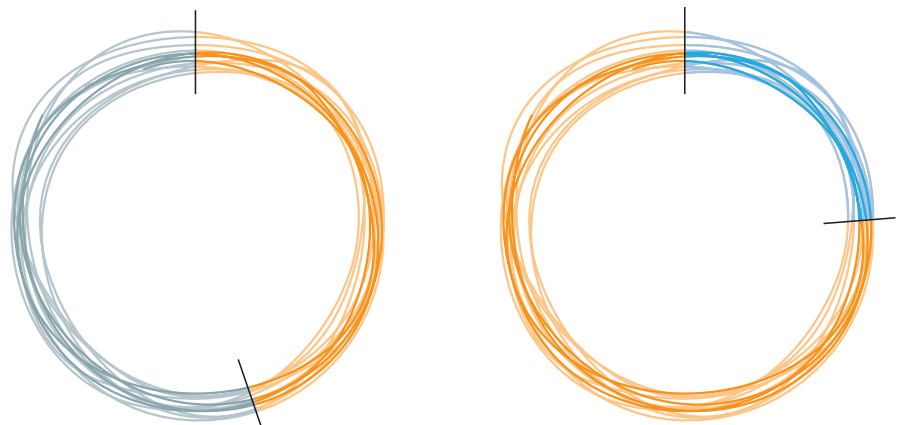
Many women victims of intimate partner violence in the EU Member States remain unprotected. Perpetrators often go unpunished due to inadequate law enforcement approaches, which do not align with international human rights treaties. A gender-neutral approach to the law, coupled with the unavailability 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.

45 % of all assaults reported by women were committed by a related person.

24 % of those women reported the incident(s) to 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 criminalised under several criminal offences of the Criminal Code. One particular relevant offence is the 'gross violation of a woman's integrity by a man'. This offence concerns crimes against life and health, crimes against liberty and peace and sexual crimes committed by a man against a woman to whom he is, or has been, married or with whom he is, or has been cohabiting under circumstances comparable to marriage. Each of the acts must have been part of a repeated violation of the vulnerable person's privacy and integrity and must also have been likely to cause serious harm to the person's self-esteem⁽²⁾. Most cases of intimate partner violence are, however, registered as 'assault' and 'gross assault', that is as physical violence.

Sweden ratified the Istanbul Convention on 1 July 2014. The convention entered into force in November 2014.

Process of administrative data collection by police and justice sectors



POLICE



- Data is available with disaggregation on the age and sex of the victims and the victim–offender relationship for assault, gross assault, gross violation of a person's integrity and gross violation of a woman's integrity.
- Gross violation of a woman's integrity covers all the four forms of violence, but it has restricted scope as it requires elements of repetition and aggravated acts. Thus, data based on this offence only partially reflects intimate partner violence cases.
- A decrease in the recording of 'gross violation of integrity' since 2008 has been observed in statistics. The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (*Brå*) is investigating the reasons for this development.
- Psychological and economic violence data is not available due to lack of recording of victim–perpetrator relationship information.
- Rape data is not disaggregated by victim–offender relationship and thus cannot be used to populate the indicator on sexual violence.
- Data on murder is disaggregated by the sex of the victim, but not by the victim's age or the victim–perpetrator relationship. Data on femicide is thus not available.



- Police data is recorded using a specific national code list: the Swedish Crime Classification system, which mirrors the Criminal Code.
- Data is recorded at input stage and the unit of measurement is the offence. Each offence is counted.
- Police data is centrally processed by experts in data collection, validation and analysis, which results in a high quality of data.



- *Brå* publishes criminal statistics, including police data.



JUSTICE

- Data from the public prosecutor is available with disaggregation on the age and sex of the victims and the victim–offender relationship for assault, gross assault, gross violation of a person's integrity and gross violation of a woman's integrity.
- Information on the victim–offender relationship is not collected outside the above four offences.
- Data from the courts is not disaggregated by age or by the sex of the perpetrators or the victims.

- Data from the public prosecutor is recorded using the same code list as the police. The courts use the Criminal Code. The police and public prosecutor data systems are interlinked, and work is ongoing to link the courts' data system to those of the police and the public prosecutor.
- Data is registered regarding the cases submitted by the police. Data on cases investigated by the public prosecutor is also collected.
- Data is examined and worked upon by *Brå* before it is compiled.

- *Brå* publishes crime statistics, including data from the public prosecutor and the courts.

⁽²⁾ See section 4a of the Swedish Penal Code (<http://www.government.se/49cd60/contentassets/5315d27076c942019828d6c36521696e/swedish-penal-code.pdf>). For a discussion about the construction of the offence and its background, see: Andersson, M., *Grov fridskränkning och grov kvinnofridskränkning -- Fridskränkningens brotten som rättslig konstruktion*, Iustus, Uppsala, 2016.

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

Align with EU and international definitions through new codes for data collection

It is recommended that Sweden make changes in the classification system used by the police and justice sectors in order to provide reliable administrative data on intimate partner violence and femicide. Coding must allow the recording of the intimate partner relationship for the key offences of physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence.



TECHNICAL

Record information on the relationship between perpetrator and victim for sexual offences

It is recommended that steps be taken to ensure the systematic recording of the victim–perpetrator relationship for sexual offences to ensure reliable and standardised recording of sexual violence in intimate relationships.

Collect data on femicide and record the victim–perpetrator relationship for homicide, murder and manslaughter offences

It is recommended that information about the perpetrator (sex and age), the victim (age) and the victim–perpetrator relationship be recorded for homicide, murder and manslaughter. Codes for ‘intentional femicide’ and ‘attempted intentional femicide’ should be included in the classification. This step is key for making this form of violence against women visible.

Collect data on psychological and economic violence

It is recommended that data on the sex of the victims and the perpetrators and victim–perpetrator relationship information also be collected for offences related to psychological and economic violence.



COOPERATION

Coordinate data collection on intimate partner violence across all relevant sectors

It is recommended that, as far as possible, data collection on intimate partner violence by the police, the public prosecutor and the courts also be coordinated with the proposed national statistics in the healthcare sector.

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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