



Administrative data collection on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence in EU Member States

European Institute for Gender Equality

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Country Abbreviations

AT	Austria	IT	Italy
BE	Belgium	LT	Lithuania
BG	Bulgaria	LU	Luxembourg
CY	Cyprus	LV	Latvia
CZ	Czech Republic	MT	Malta
DE	Germany	NL	Netherlands
DK	Denmark	PL	Poland
EE	Estonia	PT	Portugal
EL	Greece	RO	Romania
ES	Spain	SE	Sweden
FI	Finland	SL	Slovenia
FR	France	SK	Slovakia
HR	Croatia	UK	United Kingdom
HU	Hungary	EU-28	European Union
IE	Ireland		

What is administrative data?

Administrative data comprises information collected by institutions such as the police, justice system, health and social services and other agencies that come into contact with cases of violence against women (VAW). The police and the justice systems are the most advanced in the availability, quality and comparability of administrative data on violence against women. In general, the police collect data on the cases reported to them, the investigations conducted and their outcomes. Police data is compiled at national level in all Member States, although not all use identical variables. This means that comparison of data at the EU level is made more difficult. Data is usually collected on a large range of criminal incidents, as well as information on the victim (namely the sex) and, in many Member States, on

the victim-perpetrator relationship. In many countries, the latter has been introduced in recent years as a variable to be collected alongside the common classification of crimes.

The same is true for court statistics, which include the number of court cases filed, the number of convictions and the number of convicted persons. Police statistics generally include more information on the victim, while court statistics provide more information on the perpetrator.

Both police and court statistics are mostly categorised according to the typology of crimes in the criminal code of the Member State. However, other categorisation systems are also used in some cases.

How is administrative data collected?

Data is first recorded by the relevant institutions within each sector. The collection, compilation and provision of data at national level is carried out by the following authorities.

Police sector

For the police sector, data is first recorded by the local or municipal police offices and, if applicable, at a higher level, by regional offices. In all Member States, data is then compiled by a federal police authority or the Ministry of Interior. In eight Member States (DK, EL, ES, IT, NL, PL, RO, UK), a national statistical institute is also responsible for compiling police data. In all except five Member States (BG, IE, HU, AT, SE) police data on violence is at least partially published. However in some Member States (EL, NL, RO, FI, UK) this data is published only by the national statistical institute.

Justice sector

In the case of the justice sector, data is recorded at the courts and the prosecution offices. In eight Member States ⁽¹⁾ data from the courts and/or prosecution service is compiled by a national statistical institute. In 10 Member States ⁽²⁾ data is (also) compiled by the Ministry of Justice. In 11 Member States ⁽³⁾ data is (also) compiled at a central level by the public prosecutor's office or similar and in nine Member States ⁽⁴⁾ data is gathered by a central authority of the judiciary (e.g. service for the Criminal Justice Policy (BE), the General Council of the Judiciary (ES), the Courts Service of Ireland (IE)).

Social services sector

In the social services sector, the authorities or institutions responsible for collecting data on violence against women at national level vary greatly. In four Member States (ES, HU, PL, SI), a ministry (of, for example, health, social policy or labour) is responsible for central data compilation, while the remaining Member States all have a national agency, association or network of social services or similar, responsible for data collation.

Health sector

All Member States that reported centralised data collection on violence against women have either a national institute or national board for (public) health that is responsible for centralised data collection. An exception is Spain, where the authority in charge is the Commission on Gender Violence of the Inter-territorial Council of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality.

⁽¹⁾ DE, EL, IT, HU, NL, AT, RO, SI.

⁽²⁾ CZ, EE, FR, HR, IT, LU, NL, PL, SK, UK.

⁽³⁾ BE, BG, EL, ES, FI, HU, PL, RO, SE, SK, UK.

⁽⁴⁾ BE, IE, ES, HU, LV, LT, NL, RO, SE.

What data is available on rape?

Police sector

An analysis of national data showed that for the crime and justice sector, all Member States have at least one statistical product or administrative source collecting data on rape offences.

The police are the main source of data on reported incidents of rape, with data disaggregated by the sex of the victim

in almost all Member States (with the exception of FR, HU and PL). In most Member States (with the exception of DK, EL, IT, MT and UK), the police also record some information (to varying degrees of specificity) about the relationship between the victim and perpetrator, and most also record the number of offences. Police data in 17 Member States ⁽⁵⁾ includes the number of victims. Only two Member States (BG, CY) have separate data for rape and attempted rape, from at least one source ⁽⁶⁾.

Table 1. Overview of gaps in data collection for rape in the police sector ⁽⁷⁾

Type of VAW	Availability of data including victim's sex	Data available, but no precise relationship breakdown ⁽⁸⁾	No available data, or no breakdown by sex of the victim ⁽⁹⁾
Rape	24 (BE, BG, CZ, DK, DE, EE, IE ⁽¹⁰⁾ , EL, ES, HR, CY, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, AT, PT, RO, SI, SK, FI, SE, UK)	<i>Not applicable</i> ⁽¹¹⁾	4 (FR, IT ⁽¹²⁾ , HU, PL)

Justice sector

In nine Member States (BG, CZ, ES, IT ⁽¹³⁾, LT, NL, RO, SK), both the justice and police sectors collect data on rape. However in three (FR, HU, PL), this data is only collected by the justice sector; in these three countries the data

is disaggregated by the sex of the victim and includes information on the victim-perpetrator relationship. Most justice sector sources record data on filed court cases, convictions and convicted persons; however, few sources report data on victims.

Table 2. Overview of gaps in data collection on rape in the justice sector

Type of VAW	Availability of data including victim's sex	Data available, but no precise relationship breakdown ⁽¹⁴⁾	No available data, or no breakdown by sex of the victim
Rape	11 (BG, CZ, ES, FR, LT, HU, NL, PL, RO, SK, SE)	<i>Not applicable</i> ⁽¹⁵⁾	17 (BE, DK, DE, EE, IE, EL, HR, IT ⁽¹⁶⁾ , CY, LV, LU, MT, AT, PT, SI, FI, UK)

Social services sector

In 11 Member States social services collect data on rape disaggregated by sex of the victim (CZ, EE, IE, EL, FR, IT, LV, HU, NL, PT, SE). In most Member States both data on rape and data on intimate partner violence (IPV) are collected. Most of the social services support victims of rape, whether or not the incident happened within a family context.

In all but three Member States (EL, NL, SE) information is also collected about the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

Compared to intimate partner violence, data collection on rape seems to be more straightforward. All Member States use either number of calls, or number of victims, or both, as counting units. One exception is the Netherlands, in which one service also reports on the number of offenders.

⁽⁵⁾ BG, CZ, DK, DE, IE, ES, IT, CY, LT, LU, MT, AT, PL, PT, SI, SK, FI.

⁽⁶⁾ This refers to the sources for which information is publicly available.

⁽⁷⁾ The tables were constructed according to the information retrieved through research by national experts (desk research and communication with authorities) as well as desk research by the Core Project Team; data that is not publically available and has not been communicated by authorities upon request could not be taken into account.

⁽⁸⁾ This column includes Member States that report that they collect data on the relationship but there is either no specific category to indicate an intimate partnership or we could not confirm what the relationship category constitutes exactly.

⁽⁹⁾ No breakdown by sex of the victim effectively means there is no useful data on this offence, so they have been grouped into the same category.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Ireland could be added to this category but the data on relationship is not recorded systematically.

⁽¹¹⁾ The relationship breakdown is not applicable to rape because this study looked at all rape cases, not only between partners.

⁽¹²⁾ Italy only records data on sexual violence in general, not specifically on rape.

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⁽¹⁵⁾ The relationship breakdown is not applicable to rape because this study looked at all rape cases, not only between partners.

⁽¹⁶⁾ Italy only records data on sexual violence in general, not specifically on rape.

What data is available on femicide?

No Member State has a legal definition of femicide. However, the concept is generally understood as the killing of a woman in the context of intimate partner violence. In order to assess the number of countries that collect data on femicide, two key variables are used: the sex of the victim and the victim-perpetrator relationship.

Police sector

As with rape, it is mainly the police that collect data on homicide, disaggregated by the sex of the victim (with the exception of LT and PL, where the justice sector collects this data). All but six Member States (DK, EL, LT, LU, MT, PL) reportedly record information about the victim-perpetrator relationship in conjunction with homicide data. Fourteen Member States (CZ, DE, ES, FR, HR, IT, LV, NL, PT, RO, SI, SK, FI, UK) record information that can provide insight into the

killing of women by their intimate partners, such as the intimate nature of the relationship, using categories such as 'husband', 'partner', 'cohabitant' or other similar labels for intimacy between the victim and perpetrator. The level of detail varies between the countries; in France, for example, it is possible to differentiate crimes conducted by current and previous partners, whereas Spain and Portugal broadened the scope of intimate partners to include boyfriends⁽¹⁷⁾. Conversely, some Member States use broader categories, such as 'spouse, or similar' (in RO).

Two Member States (FR, UK) are progressive examples in that they make more data publicly available about the circumstances of intimate partner killings. For example, in France, the motive for killing is reported, which is crucial for understanding the nature of the phenomenon⁽¹⁸⁾. Both France and the United Kingdom make data available on the weapons used and the general circumstances of the act⁽¹⁹⁾.

Table 3. Overview of gaps in data collection on femicide in the police sector

Type of VAW	Availability of data including victim's sex and victim-perpetrator relationship	Data available, but no precise relationship breakdown ⁽²⁰⁾	No available data, or no breakdown by sex of the victim
Femicide	14 (CZ, DE, ES, FR, HR, IT, LV, NL, PT, RO, SI, SK, FI, UK)	8 (BE, BG, EE, IE, CY, HU, AT, SE)	6 (DK, EL, LT, LU, MT, PL)

Justice sector

In 10 Member States (EE, ES, FR, CY, LU, HU, NL, RO, SK, SE), information on femicide is collected both by the police and justice sectors. However, specific information on the nature of

the relationship could only be confirmed in the cases of Spain, France and Romania. In two Member States (LT, PL) femicide data is only collected by the justice sector. Most justice sector data is on court cases filed, convictions and convicted persons, with few sources recording data on victims.

Table 4. Overview of gaps in data collection on femicide in the justice sector

Type of VAW	Availability of data including victim sex and victim-perpetrator relationship breakdown	Data available, but no precise relationship breakdown ⁽²¹⁾	No available data, or no breakdown by sex of the victim
Femicide	5 (ES, FR, LT, NL, RO)	7 (EE, CY, LU, HU, PL, SE, SK)	16 (BE, BG, CZ, DK, DE, IE, EL, HR, IT, LV, MT, AT, PT, SI, FI, UK)

⁽¹⁷⁾ Ministério da Administração Interna Secretaria-Geral do Ministério da Administração Interna (2014), 'Violência Doméstica', Lisboa.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Ministère de l'intérieur (2015), France.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Office for National Statistics (2016), Statistical Bulletin — Chapter 2: Homicide, England and Wales.

⁽²⁰⁾ This column includes Member States that report that they collect data on the relationship but there is either no specific category to indicate an intimate partnership or we could not confirm what the relationship category constitutes exactly.

⁽²¹⁾ This column includes Member States that report that they collect data on the relationship but there is either no specific category to indicate an intimate partnership or we could not confirm what the relationship category constitutes exactly.

What data is available on intimate partner violence?

Although various national definitions of intimate partner violence exist across the EU-28, it is not a specific criminal offence in all Member States. Therefore the categories used for collecting data on intimate partner violence are not necessarily related to offences in the national criminal code, but can stem from various legislation or policy. While some states may have a law on domestic violence, (or in exceptional cases, on intimate partner violence), data may still only be collected on specific offences in the criminal code. This complicates the link between legal definitions, crime classifications and categories used for data collection, unlike rape and femicide.

Below is information on Member States that reportedly collect data on intimate partner violence or domestic violence, and those that collect data on the victim-perpetrator relationship, which is crucial for distinguishing intimate partner violence.

In 18 Member States (BE, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FR, IT ⁽²²⁾, LV, LT, LU, HU, MT, NL, AT, PT, RO, FI, UK) both the police and justice sectors collect data on the precise victim-perpetrator relationship in cases of intimate partner violence. The

data is collected either on domestic violence in general or on separate offences in the criminal code. The data is categorised, allowing the relationship to be distinguished; categories usually include 'partner', 'spouse' or 'previous partner' as a general term (for example LT, HU, MT), or sometimes a more detailed breakdown (for example LU, PT). With the exception of Denmark, (which has no relationship information available for this offence), the remaining nine Member States (BG, IE, EL, HR, CY, PL, SI, SK, SE) also collect data on domestic violence and the victim-perpetrator relationship (though it is not always a precise relationship breakdown).

Police sector

In 17 of the 18 Member States mentioned above, data on intimate partner violence is available from the police (the exception is RO). In 12 of these 18 states, the police most often record data on the victims (CZ, DE, EE, ES, FR, HU, MT, NL, AT, PT, RO, FI) and 10 record data on the offences (BE, EE, FR, LV, LT, HU, NL, RO, FI, UK).

Table 5. Overview of gaps in data collection on intimate partner violence in the police sector

Type of VAW	Availability of data including victim's sex and victim-perpetrator relationship	Data available, but no precise relationship breakdown ⁽²³⁾	No available data, or no breakdown by sex of the victim
IPV	16 (BE, CZ, DE, EE, IE ⁽²⁴⁾ , ES, FR, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, AT, PT, FI, UK)	10 (BG, EL, HR, IT ⁽²⁵⁾ , CY, LU, PL, SI, SK, SE)	2 (DK, RO)

Justice sector

Data collected by the justice sector on intimate partner violence is only available in seven Member States (ES, FR,

LV, LT, LU, HU, RO). Units of measurement used in national justice sectors vary significantly and only a few Member States report recording data on the victims in the justice sector.

Table 6. Overview of gaps in data collection of intimate partner violence in the justice sector

Type of VAW	Availability of data including victim sex and victim-perpetrator relationship breakdown	Data available, but no precise relationship breakdown ⁽²⁶⁾	No available data, or no breakdown by sex of the victim
IPV	7 (ES, FR, LV, LT, LU, HU, RO)	7 (EE, HR, CY, NL, PL, SK, SE)	14 (BE, BG, CZ, DK, DE, IE, EL, IT, MT, AT, PT, SI, FI, UK)

⁽²²⁾ The intimate relationship is recorded for homicide cases only.

⁽²³⁾ This column includes Member States that report that they collect data on the relationship but there is either no specific category to indicate an intimate partnership or we could not confirm what the relationship category constitutes exactly.

⁽²⁴⁾ Ireland can be added to this category but the data on relationship is not recorded systematically.

⁽²⁵⁾ Italy: precise relationship breakdown only recorded for homicide cases.

⁽²⁶⁾ This column includes Member States that report to collect data on the relationship but there is either no specific category to indicate an intimate partnership or we could not confirm what the relationship category constitutes exactly.

Social services sector

Thirty-four social service organisations across 19 Member States were identified as collecting data on the broader concept of domestic violence disaggregated by sex (CZ, DK, EE, IE, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, CY, LV, LU, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, FI, SE). A significant majority of these organisations also report on the victim-perpetrator relationship. In eight Member States (DK, IE, FR, IT, CY, PT, FI, SE) social services reported information on the precise nature of the relationship in incidents of intimate partner violence. There is, thus, at least one source providing data on both the sex of the victim and the relationship (either precise or vague) to the aggressor in each of the 19 Member States listed above.

Social services in six Member States (IE, FR, IT, LU, MT, FI) provide data on the type of violence experienced by the victims. Apart from the Rape Crisis Network in Ireland (which also reports rape within the context of intimate partnership), all have breakdowns based on larger categories, such as physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence.

Social services data from all 19 Member States are based on similar counting units, although it should be noted that there are differences in wording across institutions, such as number of contacts or number of calls. This approximation groups a larger number of Member States within the same category: social services in 16 Member States report either on the number of calls or the number of contacts (CZ, DK, IE, EL, FR, HR, IT, CY, LV, LU, HU, MT, NL, PL, FI, SE); three report only on the number of victims (ES, IT, MT); and two base their data on the number of cases they handle each year (EL, PT).

Social services usually collect data from the perspective of the victim rather than the perpetrator. Only in three Member States do social services report data on the number of perpetrators (HR, NL, PL).

Limited data availability in the health sector

The research identified administrative sources in the health sector from nine Member States (DK, ES, HR, LV, MT, RO, SK, FI, SE) collecting data on one or more of the three forms of violence against women. In all nine Member States, health services gather data on rape (DK, ES, HR, LV, MT, RO, SK, FI, SE); in four data is collected on homicides (DK, LV, RO, SE); and in four data is collected on intimate partner violence (ES, LV, MT, RO).

The measurement units used by institutions vary widely, partly depending on the type of violence against women measured. The units of measurement used are number of patients/diagnosis — patient file/deaths and death certificates.

Most sources use clear definitions for their classifications, based on international medical codes (the international coding system most frequently mentioned is the ICD-10⁽²⁷⁾, followed by the European Injury Database (IDB) and the Diagnosis-related Group system (DRG). Data on the victim-perpetrator relationship is recorded in only five Member States (ES, LV, MT, RO, SE). Further details about the availability of data on these three forms of violence against women in the health sector are presented in Table 7 below.

Table 7. Overview of gaps in data collection, health sector

Type of VAW	Availability of data (Member State) including sex	Data available disaggregated by victim sex	Data available disaggregated by victim-perpetrator relationship	No available data
Rape	9 (DK, ES, HR, LV, MT, RO, SK, FI, SE)	7 (DK, ES, HR, LV, MT, RO, SK)	5 (ES, LV, MT, RO, SE)	19 (BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, FR, IE, IT, LT, LU, HU, NL, AT, PL, PT, SI, UK)
Homicide	4 (DK, LV, RO, SE)	3 (DK, LV, RO)	2 (LV, RO)	24 (BE, BG, CZ, DE, EE, IE, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, CY, LT, LU, HU, NL, AT, PL, PT, SI, SK, FI, SE, UK)
IPV	4 (ES, LV, MT, RO)	4 (ES, LV, MT, RO)	4 (ES, LV, MT, RO)	24 (BE, BG, CZ, DK, DE, EE, IE, EL, FR, HR, IT, CY, LT, LU, HU, NL, AT, PL, PT, SI, SK, FI, SE, UK)

(27) International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision.

Evaluating the quality of the administrative data

Comparability

There is good comparability of police and justice sector data at a national level between Member States. Many sources that produce or compile justice data reportedly use national guidelines and clear rules, as well as protocols and/or codified questionnaires ⁽²⁸⁾. For the development of statistical products, most police and justice sources report having clear rules of data aggregation in place. However, for most sources from the police and justice sectors, no information was available on any historical conceptual or methodological changes in data collection that could affect comparability over time, which presents a challenge to quality validation ⁽²⁹⁾.

Overall, comparability of social services data at a national level is limited by differences in classification and/or recording methods and processes between institutions; gathering and processing data centrally would likely improve the quality. In the health sector, information on data collection procedures was too scarce to accurately assess the level of comparability.

Coherence

Most statistical products based on police data and many from the justice sector are reportedly based on coherent data, meaning that data compiled from different institutions is harmonised, with corrections made for differences in concepts and/or methods. Similarly, in social services data collection, most Member States with available data conduct data harmonisation before preparing a statistical product and in the health sector most of the Member States with available data also do so.

Accuracy and reliability

Accuracy and reliability relates to the method of measurement, which can vary given that each administrative source registering the data, and each statistical product compiling data, has differing priorities. Overall, reliability and accuracy of police data can be considered fairly good and better than other sources ⁽³⁰⁾. While some problems were reported with the accuracy of data entry at the recording stage, most police sources have mechanisms in place to control for these errors.

In both the police and justice sectors, most Member States report having some method in place in their **statistical product** to control for the validity of their data (e.g. through triangulation with data from other sources or data from previous years or meetings among persons involved in data collection and compilation) and in most Member States, data is also reportedly controlled for processing errors. In each sector only five Member States ⁽³¹⁾ reported that internal or external audits are used for quality assurance.

With respect to data collection at the **administrative sources** themselves, in both the police and justice sectors, most Member States use standardised forms for data collection in order to control for recording errors at the source. Several Member States reported that their staff are trained and/or supervised for this data recording ⁽³²⁾ and for the vast majority, data is recorded electronically ⁽³³⁾, thus reducing the potential for errors. Though data is generally controlled for errors at the source ⁽³⁴⁾, the majority of Member States do not have regular independent audits or control mechanisms in place to ensure quality standards ⁽³⁵⁾.

Information on accuracy and reliability of data from social services ⁽³⁶⁾ and the health sector ⁽³⁷⁾ was extremely difficult

⁽²⁸⁾ The following issues limiting geographical comparability were reported. (i) Belgium: there are still substantial differences in the ways in which data are recorded in the 27 Prosecutors' Offices and with codes at the national level, as the methods of registering the data are not harmonised. There are 27 local databases, each connected to the national database (Belgian Prosecutors' Offices). (ii) Croatia: data from justice and police sources is collected using different methods and with different purposes and, therefore, provides different figures (Croatian Bureau of Statistics). (iii) Italy: too often the information about the convicted person is not registered in the case management system (Italian Ministry of Justice). (iv) Latvia: a number of institutions run new electronic systems and are still struggling with functionality. It is not mandatory to fill in many fields, leaving space for interpretation and creating a dependence on the competence of the end-user of the system (Latvian Court Information System). (v) Poland: a report on implementation of the national programme for counteracting domestic violence mentions that only partial statistics exist in various administrative sources (Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs). (vi) The Netherlands: no coding system is used by the courts (Rechtbank) and the Public Prosecution Office (Openbaar Ministerie).

⁽²⁹⁾ In the police sector, methodological changes over time were reported for 22 sources, with conceptual changes (in categories or units recorded) over time reported for 30 sources. Information on breaks in series would need to be specifically requested, as it is rarely available online. From justice sector sources, some breaks in series were reported due to methodological changes in data registration systems (EL, IT, LT, NL, UK).

⁽³⁰⁾ The main issues regarding reliability and accuracy in data collection or processing at the source are as follows. (i) Cyprus and the Netherlands: no mechanisms to control recording errors or other quality assurance are in place (Cyprus Police Database, Dutch National Functional Manager, National Police Database). (ii) The Netherlands: staff are not trained specifically in data recording and/or processing (Dutch National Functional Manager, National Police Database). (iii) Poland: only internal audits are carried out, there are no external audits (Polish Police Bureau of Criminal Service).

⁽³¹⁾ In the justice sector: DE, IT, NL, SK, UK; in the police sector: DE, FR, LT, AT, UK.

⁽³²⁾ In the justice sector: except EL, NL and RO for which no information was available, and those Member States where the information on data from the justice sector related only to statistical products, for example because the main central compilation point is the National Statistics Office (NSO). In the police sector this includes: BE, BG, DK, EE, ES, LV, LU, MT, AT, PL, SI, SE.

⁽³³⁾ In the justice sector only two Member States (Poland (Ministry of Justice) and Sweden (Swedish Prison and Probation Services)) collect data in paper form; in the police sector it is only four sources. Collecting data in paper form increases the risk of processing errors.

⁽³⁴⁾ In the justice sector three Member States (IE, NL, SK and FI) have no information on controlling processes available, and LV and RO reported that no control procedures were in place for some sources.

⁽³⁵⁾ In the justice sector only four Member States (BG, IT, LT, PL) reported that regular independent audits take place. In the police sector only around one third of the sources have independent audits or control mechanisms in place to ensure quality standards. Five sources have no such mechanisms in place, while, for the others, no information was found.

to retrieve. The social services sector rarely has data controlling mechanisms, standardised forms or structured templates in place, and only a few Member States reportedly have staff training or regular independent audits. Regarding health sector data, a few Member States reported using standardised data collection forms (mainly based on the ICD-10 coding system), while some others reported that data is controlled for recording errors. Most of the data is recorded electronically.

Accessibility and clarity

The main problem in accessibility and clarity of data is the scarcity of publicly available, clear metadata. In most Member States, data from the justice and police sectors is fully or partially available to the public, either online or on request. A small minority of police and justice sector services reported that their data is not publicly available, and no information at all on availability could be obtained for an even smaller minority. The data for both sectors is most commonly published in (a variety of) publications, and

to a lesser degree in online databases. A small number of Member States either do not publish their data or provided no information on the format used.

Around half of the Member states have data publicly available (either on request or online) from the social services sector, although metadata is less commonly publicly available. This illustrates the difficulty in assessing coverage and usability of the data from this sector. In the health sector, data and metadata is publicly available for many of the Member States where data on these forms of violence is collected.

Timeliness

The time lapse between the recording of the data and its publication is between 1 and 2 years. This applies to most sources in all sectors. For a small number of data sources, the timeframe exceeds 2 years.

⁽³⁶⁾ The most important issues affecting reliability and accuracy from social services sources are as follows. (i) Croatia: there are only standardised templates in place, with no other means in place, such as training or control mechanisms (Croatian Ministry of Social Policy and Youth). (ii) Finland: in most cases the victim is the client, but there are several cases where an incident has been notified by a family member or somebody else close to the victim. This notifying individual is then recorded as the client in the files (Finnish Victim Support, Data on violence against women incidents). (iii) Finland: data is not recorded based on incidents but rather on actions (Finnish Victim Support, Data on violence against women incidents). (iv) Latvia: information is available only insofar as the person involved is willing to disclose such data and is largely subjective (Latvian Hotline of Crisis and Consultation Centre, SKALBES). (v) The Netherlands: no cross-checking with data from other sources (Dutch Victim Support Netherlands).

⁽³⁷⁾ Problems related to accuracy and reliability are as follows. (i) Croatia: data collection is not systematic and there is no procedure in place. The coding system used is the WHO International Classification of Diseases, but the data is not collected in a systematic way, and is therefore unreliable. There is no obligation for health workers to systematically record cases of violence against women, nor is there any form to fill (Croatian Institute for Public Health). (ii) Sweden: diagnoses are generally correct, given the quality of medical personnel. There is, however, the possibility of women hiding the real cause of injury, and medical personnel being unable to identify the real cause (Swedish National board on health and welfare).

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