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Every third woman has experienced violence

Study on prevalence of gender-based violence shows that one third of women has fallen victim to physical and/or sexual violence

Vienna, 2022-11-25 – Every third woman (34.51 %) between 18 and 74 years in Austria has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. Nearly every sixth woman has faced threats of physical violence (15.25 %). This is shown by a survey on violence against women that Statistics Austria conducted between 2020 and 2021 on behalf of Eurostat and the Federal Chancellery of Austria.

The survey “Gender-based violence against women and other forms of inter-personal violence” shows how many women fall victim to violence inside and outside of intimate partnerships during their lifetime, how many are affected by stalking and sexual harassment at work. Those forms of violence are not exclusive; many women experience more than one form of violence or they experience it in different settings. 761 786 women (23.47 %) have experienced physical violence and 770 716 (23.75 %) sexual violence by an intimate partner or by a non-partner since the age of 15. One or both forms of violence affected 1 119 934 women (34.51 % of 18- to 74-year olds). 282 480 women (8.70 %) in Austria have been raped since the age of 15 – either by an intimate partner or by another person. 495 016 (15.25 %) have experienced threats of physical violence.

Violence in intimate Partnerships: 16.41 % of women are affected

Physical and/or sexual violence by the partner has been experienced by 513 934 women between 18 and 74 years (see table). The share of victims to violence in all women who are recently in a partnership or have been in a partnership before stands thus at 16.41 %. 7.00 % have faced sexual violence and 14.07 % other forms of physical violence. Of those women who fell victim to physical or sexual violence in a former relationship 54.63 % have been physically injured.

Further to that, 8.30 % of women in an active or former relationship stated to have had threats of physical violence against them by their intimate partner. 36.92 % have experienced psychological violence in their intimate partnership.

Violence in partnerships is rarely a one-time incident

81.27 % of women who have experienced threats of physical violence in a former relationship have had that repeatedly. That also holds for physical violence. 60.57 % of women victim to physical violence in a former relationship have experienced such incidents more than once. In about half of all cases of rape or attempted rape the offence was repeated.

7.72 % of women who affected by threats of physical violence, physical or sexual violence have had this experience in more than one relationship.

26.61 % of all women have experienced violence outside of intimate relationships

863 505 women between 18 and 74 years have experienced violence by a person other than their partner during their adult years. Thus, 26.61 % of them have been affected by physical and/or sexual violence outside intimate relationships. Physical violence outside of intimate relationships has been true for 13.68 % of women between 18 and 74 years since their age of 15 (443 819), one or several forms of sexual violence

outside of partnerships for 20.11 % of women (652 634). 4.06 % have fallen victim to rape and 3.17 % to attempted rape.

Stalking affected every fifth, sexual harassment at work every fourth woman

Every fifth woman (21.88 %) between 18 and 74 years has fallen victim to stalking during her life. That comprises 709 958 women who have received unwanted messages or gifts, obscene, threatening or silent calls.

736 613 women in Austria have had to deal with sexual harassment at their place of work. That is more than a fourth of all women (26.59 %), who have been employed at least once. Among the most common forms of sexual harassment at work are staring or leering (20.26 % of all women currently or formerly employed have had that), sexual jokes or inappropriate remarks on their body or their private lives (16.21 %) or unwanted body contact (14.60 %).

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Gender-based violence against women in Austria

Form of violence		Population	Absolute numbers	Relative share (in %)
Violence inside and outside of intimate partnerships¹	Physical and/or sexual violence	3 245 166 ²	1 119 934	34.51
	Physical violence		761 786	23.47
	Sexual violence		770 716	23.75
	Threats of physical violence		495 016	15.25
Violence inside of intimate partnerships	Physical and/or sexual violence	3 130 986 ³	513 934	16.41
	Physical violence		440 529	14.07
	Sexual violence		219 096	7.00
	Threats of physical violence		259 755	8.30
	Psychological violence		1 155 887	36.92
Violence outside of intimate partnerships¹	Physical and/or sexual violence	3 245 166 ²	863 505	26.61
	Physical violence		443 819	13.68
	Sexual violence		652 634	20.11
Stalking		3 245 166 ²	709 958	21.88
Sexual harassment at work		2 770 707 ⁴	736 613	26.59

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey on Gender-based violence against women 2021.

1) experienced from the age of 15 on – 2) all women aged between 18 and 74 years – 3) all women (18–74 years), who have been in an intimate relationship – 4) all women (18–74 years), who have been employed.

Information on the survey and methodology: The survey “Gender-based violence against women and other forms of inter-personal violence” was commissioned by Eurostat and the Federal Chancellery of Austria. In line with the Istanbul Convention it encompasses violence that women experience because of their gender or forms of violence that affect women disproportionately. Focus is on violence against women in their adult lifetime in and outside of intimate relationships, stalking, sexual harassment at work and violence in childhood. The data provide information on victims of violence and thus are a valuable supplement to [Police crime statistics](#) (statistics on police reports) and [Judicial crime statistics](#) (information about convictions).

In Austria a sample of in total 6 240 women in private households was drawn and surveyed from October 2020 to March 2021. The analysis is based on the weighted numbers for women of this age range in Austria.

In its “[Gender Equality Strategy](#)” the European Commission foresees measures in the fight against gender-based violence also comprising extensive and comparable data collections on violence against women. The survey was conducted on basis of the manual provided by Eurostat for the „EU survey on gender-based violence against women and other forms of personal violence“ (2021 edition). In total, 18 countries take part in the survey based on the manual recommendations on a voluntary basis (BG, BL, DK, EE, EL, ES, FR, HR, LV, LT, MT, NL, AT, PL, PT, SK, SI, FI). For now, besides results for Austria, those of Bulgaria, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Slovenia, and the non-EU-countries Montenegro and Serbia are available; they are published by Eurostat on their [website](#). The other EU-countries either use national data collections (IT) or their data

collection is implemented by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

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