

Standard documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Gender based violence against women

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Executive Summary

The statistic on violence against women is based on the Gender-Based Violence Survey, which is conducted across 18 European countries and measures the prevalence of violence against women in adulthood, both within and outside intimate relationships, including stalking, workplace sexual harassment, and childhood violence.

This survey is carried out in the context of the "The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence " (hereinafter referred to as the "Istanbul Convention"). Article 11 of this convention emphasizes the need for regular data collection with the aim of preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Austria ratified the Istanbul Convention in 2013, and it came into force in August 2014.

In 2016, the Working Group on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics of the European Commission established a task force, involving member states, to develop a harmonized data collection instrument for collecting information on violence against women across the European Union. The goal was to ensure comparability with previous surveys on this topic and to adhere to the definition of gender-based violence as outlined in the Istanbul Convention. This definition encompasses violence against women occurring because the victim is a woman or violence that disproportionately affects women.¹

In addition to the annual publication of selected police and justice data, as well as statistics from specialized support institutions, Eurostat and the Federal Chancellery commissioned this survey. The study was partly funded by the European Commission within the framework of an EU project². Co-financing was provided by the Women's Section in the Federal Chancellery. It shows the prevalence of violence against women in their adult lifetime in and outside of intimate relationships, stalking, sexual harassment at work and violence in childhood. This makes this survey key in providing information on victims of violence and is a valuable supplement to Judicial crime statistics, which provides information about convictions, and to Police crime statistics (statistics on police reports).

For this survey, a stratified random sample of 16 030 women aged 18 to 74 living in Austria was drawn from the central residence register (Zentrales Melderegister – ZMR)³. Of these, 6 240 women were interviewed, resulting in a response rate of 38.9%. To protect the respondents and avoid potential selection bias, the survey was conducted under the title "Security and Quality of Life in Austria". The data collection took place between October 5, 2020, and March 31, 2021.

¹ Grant Agreement number: 945145 – 2019-AT-GBV SURVEY

²See article 3 Istanbul convention.

³ The survey includes individuals who are registered in the ZMR as "female persons"

Participation was voluntary and conducted using CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing), CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing), and CASI (Computer Assisted Self Interviewing) techniques.

The results of the study are documented in the publication "[Gender-Based Violence against Women in Austria](#)". In Chapter 2, the methodology (procedure of the survey and study terminology) is presented in detail. Data tables are available for download on the topic specific [Statistics Austria website on Gender-based Violence against women](#). Furthermore, anonymized microdata is provided for free on the Statistics Austria website as a [Scientific Use File for research purposes](#).

Gender-based violence against women – Main Key Points

Subject matter	Collection of data on the prevalence of violence against women in adulthood, both within and outside intimate relationships, including stalking, workplace sexual harassment, and childhood violence
Population	Women aged 18 to 74 living in Austrian households.
Type of statistics	Primary statistical survey
Data sources/Survey techniques	Sample survey; 6 242 women living in Austrian households. Interviews are conducted using CAWI and CAPI/CASI Interviews
Reference period or due day	October 5th 2020 to March 31st 2021
Periodicity	Initially, the first survey of its kind
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	voluntarily
Main legal acts	Federal Statistics Act 2000
Most detailed regional breakdown	No regional breakdown.
Availability of results	11-25-2022
Other	The survey is carried out in the context of the "The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence "