



## METHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATION

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# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

This methodological explanation relates to the data releases:

Gender based violence, Slovenia, 2020 (First Release)

Gender based violence, Slovenia, detailed data, 2020 (Electronic Release)



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## 1 PURPOSE

The main purpose of the Gender-Based Violence Survey (GBV) is to determine the level of violence in Slovenia: share of the population experiencing different types of violence (threats, physical violence, sexual violence) by different types of perpetrators (intimate partner, non-partner), main characteristics of violence, how much violence is reported to different institutions, etc.

The key statistics are:

- Victims of violence in adulthood/since age 15 (% of persons)
- Victims of intimate partner violence (% of persons)
- Victims of non-partner violence in adulthood/since age 15 (% of persons)
- Victims of domestic violence in adulthood/since age 15 (% of persons)
- Victims of stalking in adulthood/since age 15 (% of persons)
- Victims of sexual harassment at work (% of persons)
- Victims of violence in childhood/before age 15 (% of persons)
- Households that experienced theft of a car in the last 5 years/12 months (% of households)
- Households that experienced theft of a motorcycle in the last 5 years/12 months (% of households)
- Households that experienced burglary in the last 5 years/12 months (% of households)
- Victims of robbery in the last 5 years/12 months (% of persons)
- Victims of pickpocketing in the last 5 years/12 months (% of persons)

## 2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- [Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys \(LPSR\)](#) (only in Slovene)
- [National Statistics Act \(OJ RS, No. 45/95 and 9/01\)](#)
- [Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence \(CETS No. 210\)](#) – Istanbul Convention

## 3 UNIT DESCRIBED BY THE PUBLISHED DATA

The unit described by the published data is an individual who experienced violence aged 18–74 years who lives in a private household.

The main observed characteristics of persons are experiences with (physical, sexual, psychological, economic) violence, sexual harassment at work, stalking, violence in childhood and experiences of robbery and pickpocketing. Individuals are observed by age groups, sex, frequency of violence, occurrence of last episode etc.

Since the questionnaire covers the victimization part, the observation unit is also a private household.

Households are observed by theft of vehicles, theft of motorcycles and burglary.

## **4 SELECTION OF OBSERVATION UNIT**

The unit described by the published data is an individual aged 18–74 years who lives in a private household. Since the questionnaire covers the victimization part, the observation unit is also a private household.

The survey only covers private households. People living in collective households such as monasteries, social-welfare institutions, old peoples homes, prisons, student accommodations, etc., are not included.

The survey is based on a sample, which includes only a part of the target population, on the basis of which we make conclusions about the characteristics of the entire population.

The basis for the sampling frame is the demographic database updated with the latest state of the Central Population Register. The sample is two-staged stratified. The number of persons in an individual stratum is proportional to the share of persons aged 18–74 years living in an individual statistical region and in an individual type of settlement.

In the first stage, we select the primary sampling units (PSU). For selecting the PSUs, explicit stratification by type of settlements (6 strata) and implicit stratification by NUTS 3 regions is used. Thus, 625 units were selected. In the second phase, in each selected PSU we select the persons. Thus, eight persons in each unit were selected.

Gross sample size is 5,000 persons aged 18–74 years.

## **5 SOURCES AND METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION**

The data collection took place once.

Data are collected with the Gender Based Violence (GBV) survey. The data in this survey are obtained by:

- A web interview based on the Gender Based Violence (GBV) questionnaire
- A personal (CAPI) interview based the Gender Based Violence (GBV) questionnaire
- A telephone (CATI) interview based the Gender Based Violence (GBV) questionnaire
- Sources within SURS:

- The structure of population (DEM-PREB/ČL)
- Socioeconomic characteristics of population and migrants (SEL-SOC)
- Persons in employment (DAK)

The GBV survey consists of two parts or sources: the survey (**WEB, CATI and CAPI**) and **the register and administrative data** for the year of the survey. The demographic data are gathered from the existing registers and we link them to the survey results.

The use of registers not only reduces the reporting burden, but it also helps cut down the survey expenses.

The data collection took place from September to December 2020.

Initially, a combination of two data collection methods was planned, namely online (WEB) and personal survey using a personal computer (CAPI). Due to strict prohibitions (social distancing, prohibition of travelling between municipalities, etc.) connected with the prevention of the spread of COVID-19, at the time of data collection (second wave) we were forced to adjust the method of data collection. Following an introductory online survey (September 2020), we had to stop the originally planned personal interviewing (CAPI) and move on to an alternative, telephone interviewing (CATI). At that time many people were at home, teleworking together in a household with their children, who also had to be schooled from home (all schools and kindergartens were closed). It was quite inappropriate time for the telephone interviewing, especially when dealing with such a sensitive content of the survey. In such a survey, it is necessary to ensure the anonymity to the respondent, which in the given circumstances was not possible. The data collection was completed in early December 2020.

The content of the questionnaire:

Chapter	Content
B	Background questions about the person and the household
C	Difficult experiences at work
F	Experiences with partner(s): screening questions
G	Violent episodes by the current partner (in-depth questions)
H	Violent episodes by a former partner (in-depth questions)
J	Background of this former partner
K	Violent episodes by all ex-partners
L	Experiences with non-partner(s): screening questions
M	Violent episodes by a non-partner (in-depth questions)
N	Stalking
P	Violent episodes in childhood
Q	Support services
R	General opinion
S	General victimization
B (con.)	Background questions about the household

Only the selected person was allowed to answer the questions (proxy answers were **not** permitted). The majority of questions (questionnaire "Gender Based Violence (GBV)) refer to the selected person. A minor part of the questions refers to the household of the selected person (general victimization part).

The reference time of experienced violence is divided into the last **12 months, 1-5 years ago or earlier than 5 years ago**. Data covering experiences over the last year and the last five years can give an indication of the extent and the nature of current levels of violence and an estimate of the number of people who may require help. **Lifetime experiences**, by contrast, provide an indication of the total number of people ever affected by such forms of violence.

Data for the survey are not obtained from administrative sources.

## 6 DEFINITIONS

**Violence** is abuse of a person with less power by a person with more power. It is an intentional, controlled, reasonable and deliberate act that is usually repeated and rarely stopped without outside interference. Violence is always the responsibility of the perpetrator. Violence must not be justified and minimized (belittled, diminished), as this is a message to the perpetrator that it is a permissible way of behaving in interpersonal relationships. Violence is learned behaviour, which means that everyone can learn different forms of behaviour, such that they do not harm, exploit or endanger others.

In the EU-GBV survey, the concept of gender based violence against women and the concept of domestic violence are covered by the different types of violence and the relationship between victim and perpetrator.

**Domestic violence** is defined in the Istanbul Convention (Article 3, b) as all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim.

**Sexual harassment** is defined in the Istanbul Convention (Article 40) as any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

In the EU-GBV survey, sexual harassment at work covers the following unwanted behaviours with sexual connotations that happen in a work context:

- Inappropriate staring or leering
- Being exposed to sexually explicit images or videos
- Indecent sexual jokes or offensive remarks about a persons body or private life
- Inappropriate invitations to go out on a date or suggestions for sexual activity of any kind

- Unsolicited physical contact
- Inappropriate advances on social networking websites or sexually explicit emails or text messages
- Threatening with unpleasant consequences if sexual proposals or advances are refused
- Any other similar behaviour with sexual connotations that took place at work or work-related settings and that offended, humiliated, or intimidated the respondent

**Psychological violence** is defined in the Istanbul Convention as intentional conduct of seriously impairing a persons psychological integrity through coercion or threats (Article 33).

In the EU-GBV survey, psychological violence is observed only in intimate partner relationships and includes a range of behaviours encompassing acts of emotional abuse and controlling behaviour. The range of behaviours included has been extended to include the concept of **economic harm**, which may be linked with psychological violence. This type of violence covers the following types of behaviour by an intimate partner towards the respondent:

- Belittling and humiliating
- Forbidding the respondent to see friends or family, or to engage in hobbies or other activities
- Tracking the respondent via GPS, phone or social network
- Forbidding the respondent to leave the house without permission or locking the respondent up
- Constantly accusing the respondent of being unfaithful or getting angry if the respondent speaks to another person
- Forbidding the respondent to work; controlling the finances of the whole family and the respondents personal expenses
- Keeping or taking away the respondents ID card/passport to control the respondent
- Yelling and smashing things or behaving in a certain way with the aim of scaring or intimidating the respondent
- Threatening to hurt the respondents children or other people close to the respondent
- Threatening to take away the respondents children or to deny custody
- Threatening to harm themselves if the respondent leaves them

**Physical violence** is defined in the Istanbul Convention as 'intentional conduct of committing acts of physical violence against another person (Article 35). The Conventions explanatory report clarifies that the term physical violence refers to bodily harm suffered as a result of the application of immediate and unlawful physical force (Paragraph 188).

Physical violence, as referred to in the EU-GBV, also refers to a range of violent types of behaviour or acts involving:

- Harm and fear, such as threatening to harm the respondent
- Pushing or shoving the respondent, pulling their hair, slapping or throwing something at them
- Punching the respondent or beating them with an object

- Kicking
- Burning
- Trying to choke or strangle the respondent
- Threatening to use or actually using a knife, gun, acid or something similar
- Using force against the respondent in some other way with the aim of hurting them

**Sexual violence, including rape**, is defined in the Istanbul Convention as (a) engaging in non-consensual vaginal, anal or oral penetration of a sexual nature of the body of another person with any bodily part or object; (b) engaging in other non-consensual acts of a sexual nature with a person; (c) causing another person to engage in non-consensual acts of a sexual nature with a third person. It also clarifies that consent must be given voluntarily as the result of the persons free will assessed in the context of the surrounding circumstances (Article 36).

In the EU-GBV survey, this type of violence includes:

- Unwanted sexual intercourse through force or physical violence or by exploiting a situation in which the respondent is not able to refuse sexual intercourse because they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Unwanted sexual intercourse which the respondent is too afraid to refuse
- Cases in which the respondent is forced into unwanted sexual intercourse with another person or persons

Sexual violence as referred to in the EU-GBV also includes:

- Attempts to carry out any of the above acts or any other unwanted sexual behaviour that the respondent finds degrading or humiliating
- Unwanted sexual touching by non-partners in adulthood or childhood
- Cases of violence experienced in childhood in which the respondent was forced to touch another persons private parts (genitals or breasts), or to pose naked in front of another person or for photographs, video footage or an internet webcam

**Stalking** is defined in the Istanbul Convention as the intentional conduct of repeatedly engaging in threatening conduct directed at another person, causing them to fear for their safety(Article 34).

In the EU-GBV survey, stalking includes a range of offensive or threatening forms of behaviour or acts repeated in the course of the respondents life. This type of violence covers types of behaviour and acts carried out by any person, such as:

- Sending unwanted messages, including messages on social media, emails and letters, or gifts
- Making obscene, threatening, nuisance or silent telephone calls
- Trying persistently to contact with the respondent, waiting or loitering outside the respondents home, school or workplace
- Following or spying on the respondent in person
- Intentionally damaging the respondents things (car, motorbike, letterbox, etc.) or the belongings of people close to the respondent, or harming



- animals belonging to the respondent
- Making offensive or embarrassing comments about the respondent in public, including comments on social networks
- Publishing photos, videos or highly personal information about the respondent

**Current partner** is the person with whom the respondent has an intimate relationship. This can be a spouse (husband, wife), a person with whom the respondent is in a registered partnership (same-sex partner) or a person with whom the respondent is in an extramarital relationship.

**Former partner** is a person with whom the respondent had an intimate relationship in the past. This could be a spouse (husband, wife), a person with whom the respondent was in a registered partnership (same-sex partner) or a person with whom the respondent was in an extramarital relationship.

**Non-partner** is a person with whom the respondent does not have an intimate relationship. These can be strangers, acquaintances, relatives, friends, people at work, etc.

**Domestic perpetrator**, as used in the EU-GBV survey, includes family members and other individuals living or having lived in the same household as the victim at the time of one or more violent events. They also include intimate partners as perpetrators.

**Repeated violence** (series of episodes) refers to similar violent episodes repeated by the same person(s), during which similar thing(s) are done under the same circumstances more than once. For instance, a woman might be beaten by her partner in several episodes over a period of three years.

**Childhood violence** is an unwanted act that happened to a selected person before the age of 15, regardless of who caused the violence. The questionnaire covers physical, sexual and psychological violence against a selected person.

**General victimization** in this survey covers adverse actions that affect either the person or the whole household (vehicle and motorcycle thefts, home burglary, robbery, personal theft).

**Physical injury** is the impairment of the body due to a violent event. Included are: bruises, black eyes, bloody nose, cuts, scratches, burns, fractures, broken bones, broken teeth, head or brain injuries, internal injuries, genital injuries, miscarriage, pregnancy (as a consequence of sexual violence).

**Households** are composed of families or other communities of persons who live together and spend their income together (for dwelling, food, other), irrespective of whether all members have permanent residence in the place in which the household is located, or whether - due to work, schooling or other reasons - some of the members for a longer period of time (up to 12 months) live elsewhere in Slovenia or abroad. Students are household members if they live in a boarding home, in a rented dwelling, etc., and have regular contacts with household members. Students are not household members if they have their own household and come home only to visit. Students who study elsewhere (study exchange) and/or study abroad are household members if the entire (not interrupted) duration of their absence is shorter than 6 months.

## **7 EXPLANATIONS**

### **7.1 CLASSIFICATIONS**

Some of the published data are broken down by cohesion and statistical regions, in accordance with the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics in the European Union (NUTS). Data are published at NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 (interpretation of classifications is available at: <http://www.stat.si/statweb/en/Methods/Classifications>)

### **7.2 DATA PROCESSING**

#### **DATA EDITING**

Data were edited with the combination of systematic corrections, individual corrections and imputation procedures. The imputation was made in a small part of the data (only on demographic variables of the selected person in chapter B and on demographic variables of the former partner in chapter J) where hot-deck imputation was used.

The major part of the questionnaire (all chapters except the mentioned B and J) was edited with the systematic and individual corrections.

For more, see the general methodological explanations [Statistical data editing](#).

#### **WEIGHTING**

With weighting adjustment we want to achieve representativeness of the sample, so that the weighted data give us as good population estimates as possible. The process of weighting depends on the sampling design, the unit non-response rate and available auxiliary variables used for calibration (sex-age structure, statistical region, types of settlement, education, and activity status). The final weight is the product of the sampling weight, the non-response weight and the calibration factor.

#### **SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT**

Seasonal adjustment is not applicable.

### **7.3 INDICES**

Indices are not published.

## 7.4 PRECISION

In statistical surveys different kinds of errors can occur (e.g. sampling error, non-response error, measurement error) influencing the reliability and accuracy of the statistical results. Errors deriving from the random mechanisms determine the precision and consequently the reliability of the statistical estimates. The precision of the statistical estimate is estimated by calculating the standard error (SE). The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia draws attention to less reliable estimates by flagging them with a special sign.

If the table contains estimated proportions of units with a certain characteristic (expressed in percentages), publishing limitations are determined by the standard errors of the estimates (SE) of the proportions. In such cases it holds:

If the standard error (SE) of the estimate of a proportion is

- 0.05 or below ( $SE \leq 0.05$ ) the estimate is reliable enough and is published without limitations;
- between 0.05 and up to 0.15 ( $0.05 < SE \leq 0.15$ ) the estimate is less reliable and is flagged for caution with letter M;
- over 0.15 ( $SE > 0.15$ ), the estimate is too unreliable to be published and therefore suppressed for use by letter N.

For more, see the general methodological explanations [Precision of statistical estimates](#).

## 7.5 OTHER EXPLANATIONS

Data that are statistically protected to respect the confidentiality of reporting units are replaced with the letter »z«.

## 8 PUBLISHING

- SiStat Database: [Quality of life](#) - Crime (shares)
- First Release (Quality of Life, Crime): »Gender based violence, Slovenia, 2020«
- Electronic Release (Quality of Life, Crime): »Gender based violence, Slovenia, detailed data, 2020«

## 9 REVISION OF THE DATA

### 9.1 PUBLISHING OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL DATA

Provisional data are not disseminated. Only final data are published.

## 9.2 FACTORS INFLUENCING COMPARABILITY OVER TIME

Since the survey was conducted only once, the comparability is not an issue.

## 10 OTHER METHODOLOGICAL MATERIALS

Methodological materials on SURSs website are available at <https://www.stat.si/statweb/en/Methods/QuestionnairesMethodologicalExplanationsQualityReports>.

- Questionnaire:
  - Osebna varnost v zasebnem okolju (GBV)

Theme: Kakovost življenja, Subtheme: Kriminaliteta

- Methodological explanations:
  - Gender based violence (GBV)

Theme: Quality of life, sub-theme: Crime

- Eurostat methodology:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/faces/jsp/extension/wai/navigation/container.jsp>