



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime



FEMICIDES IN 2024

Global estimates of intimate partner/family member femicides



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Suggested citation:

UNODC and UN Women, *Femicides in 2024: Global Estimates of Intimate Partner/Family Member Femicides* (United Nations publication, 2025).

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This publication has not been formally edited.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research brief was prepared by the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Ending Violence Against Women Section, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) under the supervision of Anja Korenblik, Officer-in-Charge of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, and Kalliopi Mingeirou, Chief of the Ending Violence Against Women Section.

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The Research and Trend Analysis Branch wishes to thank Esteban Manuel De la Huerta Fernández (Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, Chile) and Eva Anatolia Silva Nozal and Juan Jose López Ossorio (Ministry of Interior, Spain) for their contributions.

Review and comments:

The research brief benefited from the expertise of and invaluable contributions from multiple UNODC colleagues.

UNODC and UN Women would also like to thank the artist Cecilia Shishan, who generously donated the artwork picture used for this research brief.

The production of this research brief was made possible thanks to the generous financial contribution of Norway.

UNODC gratefully acknowledges the continuous efforts of the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems focal points in the Member States to collate and report national data on homicide and femicide, which form the basis of this publication.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Countries and areas are referred to by the names that were in official use at the time the relevant data were collected. A list of regional groupings is included in Annex II of this research brief.

In this research brief, the term “femicide” is used to refer to all types of gender-related killings of women and girls as described in the “Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (also referred to as “femicide/feminicide)”, developed by UNODC and UN Women and approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2022.

The framework identifies three types of femicide: (a) intentional homicides of women and girls perpetrated by intimate partners; (b) intentional homicides of women and girls perpetrated by other family members; and (c) intentional homicides of women and girls committed by perpetrators other than intimate partners or other family members and where the killing meets at least one of eight criteria identified in the Statistical Framework.

Intimate partners include current or former spouses, intimate partners, cohabiting partners or dating partners. Other family members refer to blood relatives (parents, children, siblings, uncles, cousins, etc.), other relatives by marriage or adoption (adopted children, parents-in-law, siblings-in-law, etc.), irrespective of whether or not they were cohabitating with the victim at the time of the killing, as well as other household members.

The analysis contained in this research brief is primarily based on official data submitted by Member States to UNODC through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS). Where needed and applicable, homicide data collected through the UN-CTS are supplemented with data collected directly from government sources (such as websites and publications) or, in some cases, from non-governmental sources.

The data on population used in this research brief are taken from: World Population Prospects: The 2024 Revision (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division).

The following abbreviations have been used in the research brief:

TF VAWG: Technology facilitated violence against women and girls

VAWG: Violence against women and girls

UN-CTS: United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

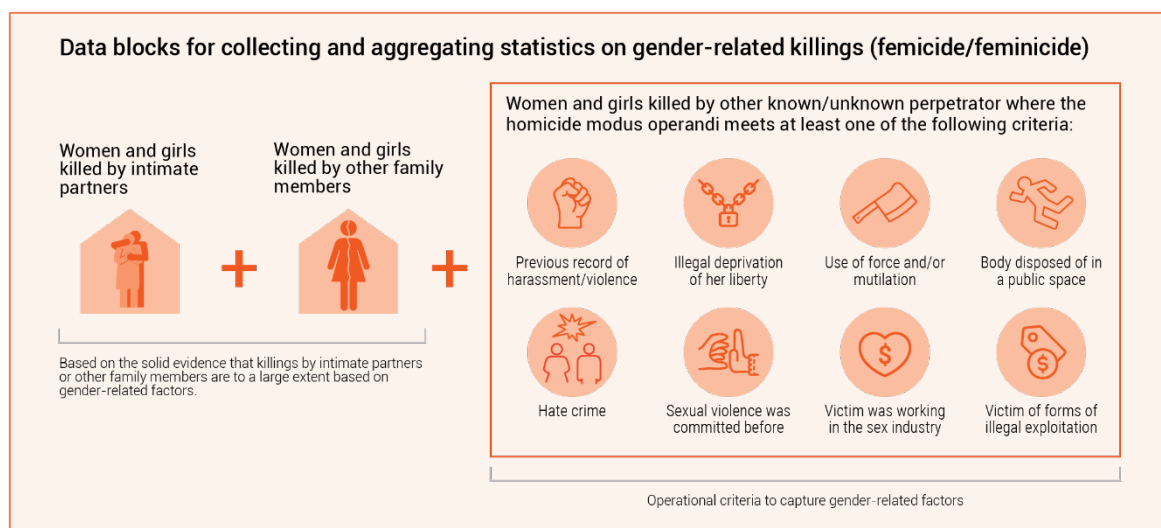
UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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KEY FINDINGS

- Globally, nearly 50,000 women and girls were killed by their intimate partners or other family members during 2024. Lower than the 2023 estimate of 51,100 victims,¹ this change is not indicative of an actual decrease as it is largely due to differences in data availability at the country level.² The 2024 figure means that 60 per cent of the 83,000 women and girls killed intentionally during the year were murdered by their intimate partners or other family members. In other words, an average of 137 women and girls worldwide lost their lives every day at the hands of their partner or a close relative.
- This extreme form of gender-based violence continues to affect women and girls everywhere and no region is excluded. With an estimated 22,600 victims of intimate partner/family member femicide in 2024, Africa is the region with the highest number of victims in aggregate terms, although this figure carries a degree of uncertainty due to the lack of available data in the region. Moreover, Africa continues to account for the highest number of victims of intimate partner/family member femicide relative to the size of its female population (3 victims per 100,000 in 2024). The Americas and Oceania also recorded high rates of intimate partner/family member femicide in 2024, at 1.5 and 1.4 per 100,000 respectively, while the rates were significantly lower in Asia and Europe, at 0.7 and 0.5 per 100,000 respectively.
- Beyond the killing of women and girls by intimate partners or other family members, there are other forms of femicide. In recent years, several countries have begun to quantify these other forms of femicide by implementing the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (also referred to as “femicide/feminicide”) jointly developed by UNODC and UN Women. However, the availability of data on femicide perpetrated beyond the private sphere continues to remain very limited and it is not yet possible to accurately assess the size of this type of femicide at regional or global levels.
- Due to insufficient data in other regions, time trends in intimate partner/family member femicide can currently only be monitored in the Americas and Europe. In the Americas, the rate remained relatively stable between 2010 and 2024. In Europe, it declined slowly but steadily over the same period, driven by downward trends in countries across Northern, Eastern and Southern Europe.
- The intentional killing of women in the private sphere in Europe and in the Americas is largely committed by intimate partners. Out of all women killed by intimate partners or other family members in those two regions in 2024, 64 per cent were murdered by their intimate partners in Europe and 69 per cent in the Americas. This emphasizes the need to ensure that the prevention of domestic violence addresses intimate relationships as well as broader family contexts where women are at higher risk.
- Although many countries are regularly releasing data on intimate partner/family member femicides, fewer are able to produce data on forms of femicide committed outside the domestic sphere in line with the Statistical Framework. This brief therefore focuses on the first two data blocks of the Statistical Framework on femicides committed by intimate partners and other family members.



¹ UNODC and UN Women, "Femicides in 2023 – Global estimates of intimate partner/family member femicides" (United Nations publication, 2024).

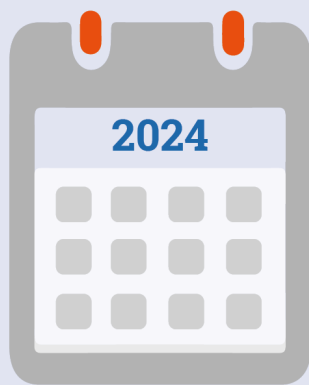
² For more information on the methodology, see Annex I to the present research brief.

Total number of women killed in 2024
by intimate partners or other
family members

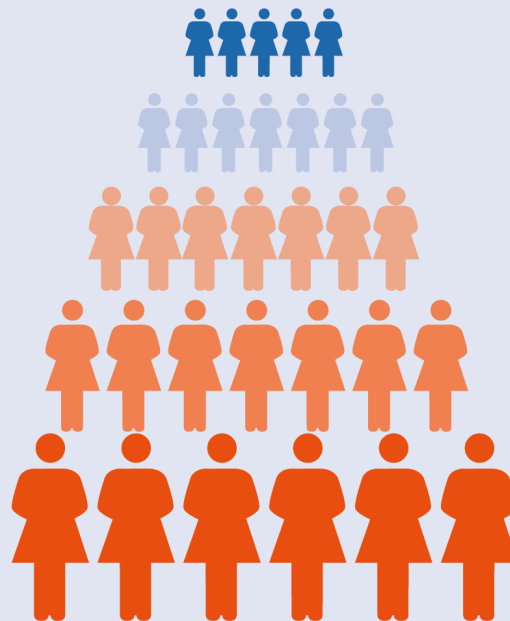
50,000
Worldwide



On average, 137 women and girls were killed every day in 2024 by someone in their own family



137



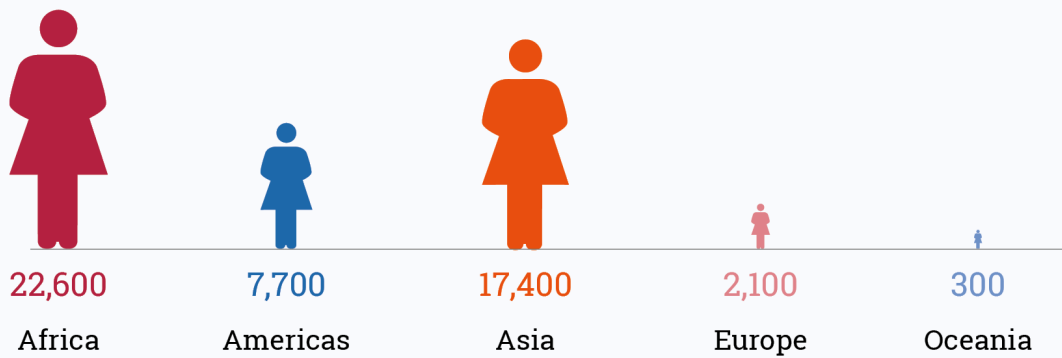
women and girls are killed by someone in their own family

Regional estimates

Women and girls in all regions are affected by gender-related killings. In 2024, Africa was the region with the largest absolute number of killings and with the highest level of violence relative to the size of its female population.

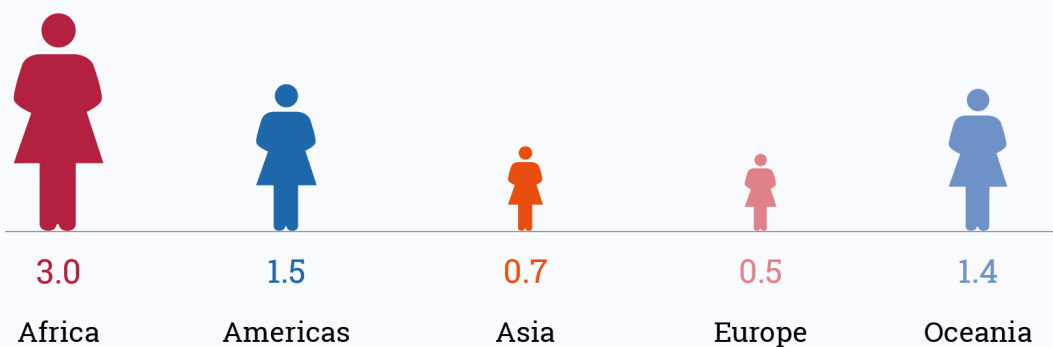
Total intimate partner/family member femicides

2024



Rates of intimate partner/family member femicide per 100,000 female population

2024



Gender dimension of homicide

While the vast majority of male homicides occur outside the domestic sphere, the home is the most dangerous place for women and girls.

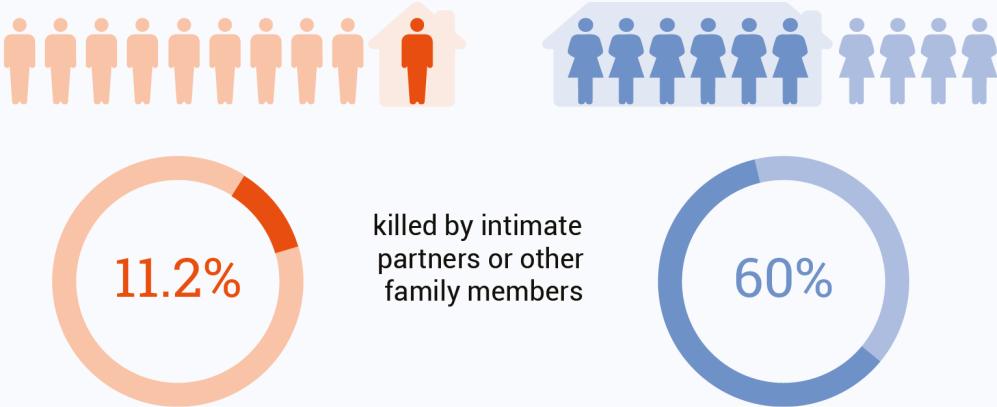
Male and female share of homicide victims

2024



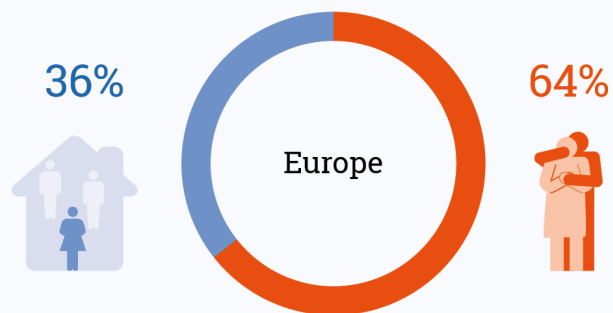
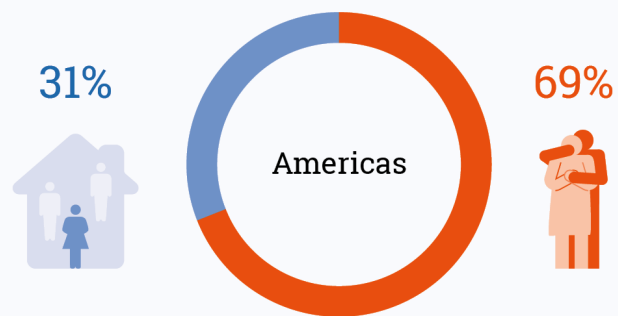
Share of male and female homicide victims killed by intimate partners or other family members

2024



Perpetrators of femicide within the family

In the two regions with sufficient data, the share of femicides committed by intimate partners within the domestic sphere is higher than the share committed by other family members.



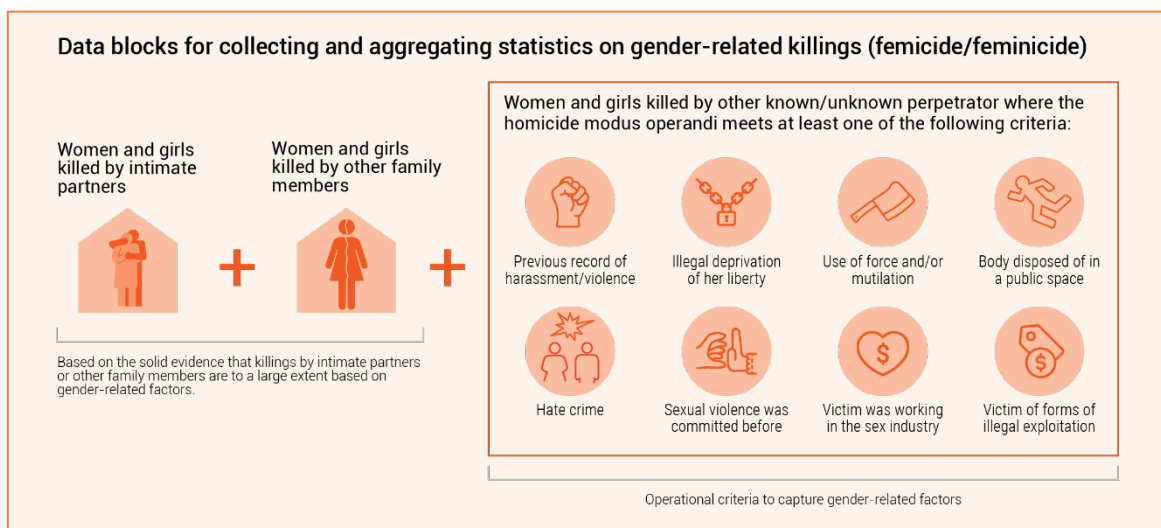
- Share of femicide by intimate partners
- Share of femicide by other family members

INTRODUCTION

Femicide represents the most extreme manifestation of gender-based violence against women and girls. Very often such killings are not isolated incidents but rather the culmination of pre-existing forms of gender-based violence that affect all regions and countries worldwide. Global estimates indicate that approximately one in four women and girls aged 15-49 (25.8 per cent) worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former husband or male intimate partner at least once in their lifetime.³ In broad terms, femicides or gender-related killings of women and girls⁴ are perpetrated in a variety of settings, within the private sphere and beyond, for gender-related motives. The motives behind such crimes are rooted in societal norms and stereotypes that consider women to be subordinate to men, as well as in discrimination towards women and girls, inequality and unequal power relations between women and men in society.⁵ Since gender-related motives characterize the context in which these crimes are committed, this makes them distinguishable from other intentional killings of women and girls unrelated to gender motives.

The Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (also referred to as “femicide/feminicide”), jointly developed by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UN Women and approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2022, identifies three types of femicide:

1. Intentional homicides of women and girls perpetrated by intimate partners (current or former spouses, intimate partners, cohabitating partners and dating partners)
2. Intentional homicides of women and girls perpetrated by other family members (blood relatives and relatives by marriage or adoption, whether or not they live with the victim, and persons living in the same household as the victim)
3. Intentional homicides of women and girls committed by perpetrators other than intimate partners or other family members and where the killing meets at least one of eight criteria identified in the Statistical Framework



This research brief, like previous editions released by UNODC and UN Women, focuses on patterns of and trends in the first two types of femicide, those occurring within the domestic sphere. This focus is due to the limited availability of data on the third type of femicide. Femicides committed within the

³ World Health Organization, “Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2023: Global, Regional and National Prevalence Estimates for Intimate Partner Violence against Women and Non-Partner Sexual Violence against Women” (World Health Organization, 2025).

⁴ The terms “femicide” and “gender-related killings of women and girls” are used interchangeably in this research brief.

⁵ UNODC and UN Women, “Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (also referred to as “femicide/feminicide”)” (United Nations publication, 2021).

domestic sphere also represent by far the most prevalent form of gender-related killings of women and girls.

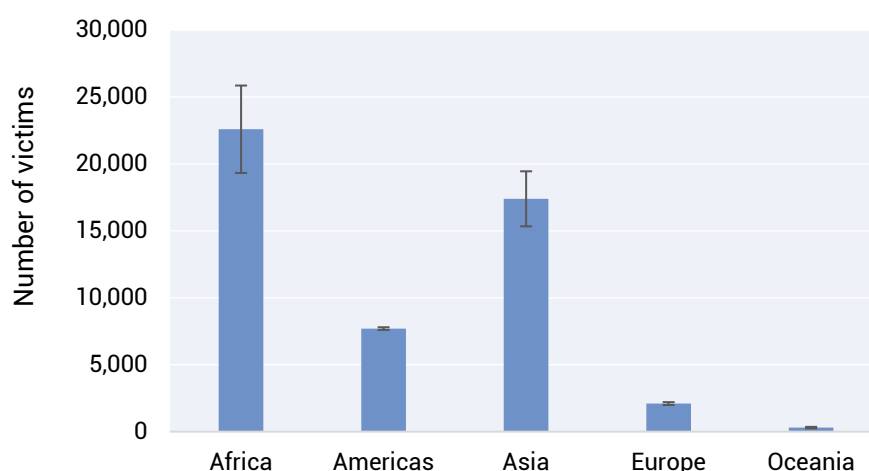
Global and regional estimates of the number of women killed by intimate partners or other family members in 2024 are presented in this research brief, as are available time trends, other features of gender-related killings and selected practices for preventing femicides. Owing to incomplete data coverage across countries, missing values are imputed, which may introduce estimation error. These figures should therefore be interpreted as indicative of overall magnitude rather than precise values.

INTIMATE PARTNER/FAMILY MEMBER FEMICIDE IN 2024

Approximately 50,000 (44,400–55,500) women and girls worldwide lost their lives at the hands of an intimate partner or other family member in 2024.⁶ Although this estimate is lower than the 2023 estimate of 51,100 victims,⁷ this change is not indicative of an actual decrease as it is largely due to differences in data availability at the country level.⁸ The 2024 figure means that 60 per cent of the roughly 83,000 women and girls killed intentionally that year were murdered by their intimate partners or other family members, such as fathers, uncles, mothers and brothers.

The highest aggregated number of victims of intimate partner/family member femicide was recorded in Africa in 2024 with 22,600 (19,300–25,800) victims, followed by Asia with 17,400 (15,300–19,500), the Americas with 7,700 (7,600–7,800), Europe with 2,100 (2,000–2,200) and Oceania with 300 (260–380) victims. Africa continues to record the highest number of victims in aggregate terms, although it is advisable to interpret the regional estimates with caution, as they are subject to significant uncertainty given persistent limitations in terms of data availability.

Figure 1: Estimated number of victims of intimate partner/family member femicide, by region (2024)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide Dataset.

Note: The uncertainty bands depicted by the error bars represent possible estimation errors due to the imputation of missing values at the country level. The bands do not represent confidence intervals. The estimates are based on the latest available data, which remain limited, especially in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. The size of the error bars provides an indication of the level of uncertainty that the estimates carry at the regional level.

Disparities across regions in the aggregated number of female victims of intimate partner/family member femicide in absolute terms also reflect differences in population size. It is therefore important

⁶ The uncertainty bands in brackets represent possible estimation errors due to the imputation of missing values at the country level. The bands do not represent confidence intervals. The estimates are based on the latest available data, which remain limited, especially in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Due to rounding, they may not be symmetrical.

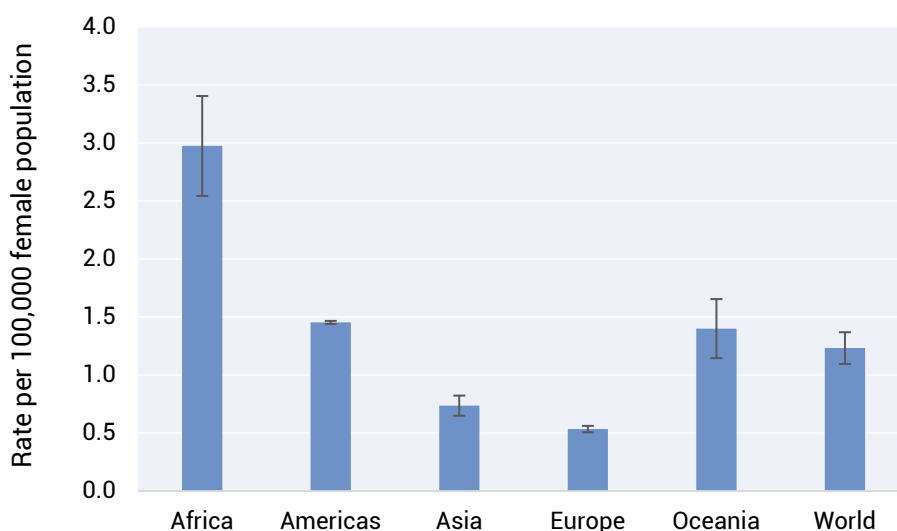
⁷ UNODC and UN Women, "Femicides in 2023 – Global estimates of intimate partner/family member femicides" (United Nations publication, 2024).

⁸ For more information on the methodology, see Annex I to the present research brief.

to assess the scale of the problem through a different lens by looking at the rate of intimate partner/family member femicide.

Globally, around 1.2 women per 100,000 female population are estimated to have been killed by an intimate partner or another family member in 2024. In terms of regional differences, it is estimated that the highest rate of intimate-partner/family member femicide was in Africa (3 per 100,000 female population), followed by the Americas (1.5), Oceania (1.4), Asia (0.7) and Europe (0.5). However, regional rates may mask significant subregional and national disparities in terms of the level of homicide rates.

Figure 2: Estimated rate of victims of intimate partner/family member femicide per 100,000 female population, by region (2024)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide Dataset.

Note: The uncertainty bands depicted by the error bars represent possible estimation errors due to the imputation of missing values at the country level. The bands do not represent confidence intervals. The estimates are based on the latest available data, which remain limited, especially in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. The size of the error bars provides an indication of the level of uncertainty that the estimates carry at the regional level.

The largest share of intentional killings of women and girls worldwide are perpetrated by intimate partners or other family members. This implies that the home continues to be the most dangerous place for women and girls in terms of the risk of homicide. On closer inspection of the relationship between victims and perpetrators, estimates based on available data suggest that the largest share of intimate partner/family member killings in Europe and in the Americas are in fact committed by intimate partners, with 64 per cent being murdered by their intimate partners in Europe and 69 per cent in the Americas. While combined estimates of femicides committed by intimate partner or other family member femicides are available for all regions, limited data prevent further breakdowns to determine the proportion of women and girls killed within the domestic sphere by intimate partners compared with other family members in Africa, Asia and Oceania.

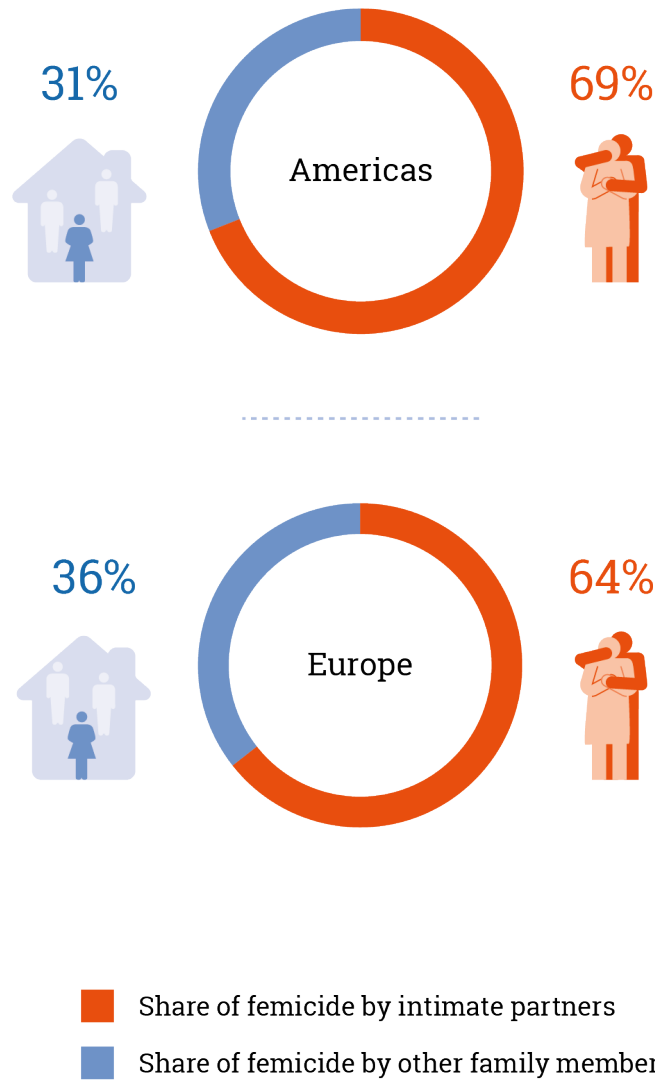
The context in which intimate partner violence can escalate into a killing has been widely studied. An array of studies have been published by criminologists and academics who have analysed the context in which intimate partner violence can escalate into a killing.⁹ A series of risk factors have been identified such as a history of violence between the perpetrator and the victim, previous threats and an actual or pending separation.¹⁰ A lot less is known about the patterns and risk factors associated with the intentional killings of women and girls by other family members, including by members of

⁹ See for example Stöckl, H. and others, "The Global Prevalence of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Systematic Review", *The Lancet*, vol. 382 (2013).

¹⁰ Johnson, H. and others, "Intimate Femicide: The Role of Coercive Control", *Feminist Criminology*, vol. 14 (2017).

extended families, which may call for a broader set of prevention strategies. Further information on prevention of femicide can be found in a dedicated section at the end of this brief.

Figure 3: Shares of perpetrators of femicide within the family, by selected region (average 2010–2024)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide dataset.



BOX 1: Case study: Measuring femicide in Albania

A growing number of countries across the world have begun piloting the Statistical Framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls to produce data on all femicides, including those occurring outside the home. While results are still pending for many of these countries, below is an example of lessons learned in Albania.

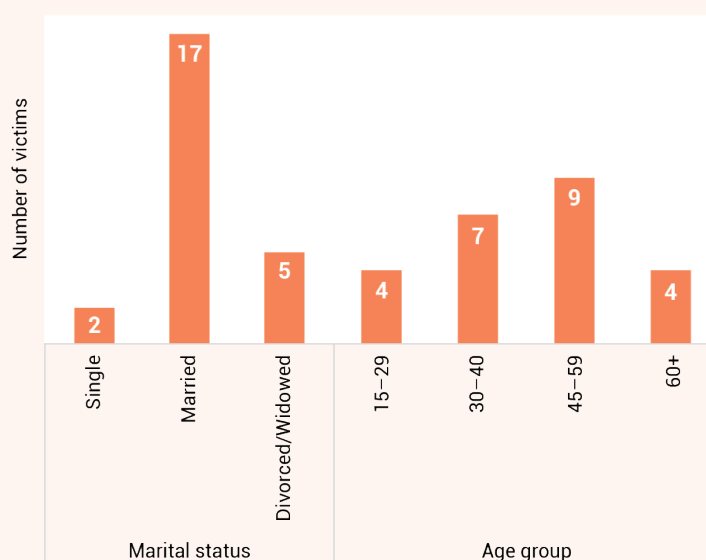
In March 2024, Albania became the first country in the Balkans to establish a dedicated Observatory on Femicide within the Office of the People's Advocate (Ombudsperson) with the support of UN Women and Sweden. The Observatory functions as a national monitoring mechanism, systematically collecting and analysing data on the killings of women and girls. Although "femicide" is not legally defined in the Albanian Criminal Code, the Observatory applies the Statistical Framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls in order to report on femicides. The purpose of this mechanism is to identify gaps in the gender-based violence protection system and provide recommendations, with the ultimate goal of preventing the gender-related killing of women and girls.

Data on killings of women and girls were collected in 2024 for the 2021-2023 period. The Observatory gathered these data through formal cooperation with police, prosecution offices, courts, municipalities, and health institutions. To ensure data accuracy and consistency, each institution received a standardized data template. Additionally, the Observatory implemented specific cross-checking and validation protocols to prevent double counting. Court hearings of perpetrators on trial in 2024 were also monitored to assess judicial practices. The first report, containing findings and analysis, was published in January 2025, with subsequent annual reports to be prepared by the Ombudsperson.¹¹

Results:

Between 2021 and 2023, 32 women and girls were killed in Albania, of which **24 were classified as femicides** according to the definition based on the Statistical Framework, representing a femicide rate of 0.84 per 100,000 female population during this timeframe. The number of femicides committed by intimate partners accounted for 15 cases (63 per cent), while 5 cases of femicides were perpetrated by other family members. Additionally, 4 women were killed by other perpetrators, identified through other modus operandi covered by the Statistical Framework such as previous records of physical, sexual, or psychological violence committed by the perpetrator against the victim. The data collected show that in 71 per cent (17 out of 24) of the cases the victims were married and 83 per cent had children (20 out of 24). The majority of women killed for gender-related motives were between the ages of 30 to 59 years.

Femicide victims by age group and marital status, 2021–2023



¹¹ Office of the People's Advocate of Albania, *The Killing of Women and Girls, Femicide in Albania (2021-2023)* (2025), retrieved November 18, 2025, from: https://albania.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/femicide_english.pdf.

Jealousy, rejection of separation, retaliation for reporting to the police, or refusal to accept new relationships after separation from the perpetrator were the primary motivations for the killings. Many cases were characterized by extreme cruelty, involving firearms, sharp or blunt instruments, or physical force. According to official institutional reports, in 90 per cent of femicides, victims had previously experienced violence by the perpetrator, and 25 per cent had reported the abuse to the police. Two women had been granted protection orders when the killing occurred and four women were killed a few days after the perpetrators had been released from prison, following sentences for domestic violence. Finally, 35 children lost their mothers because of femicide.

Policy implications:

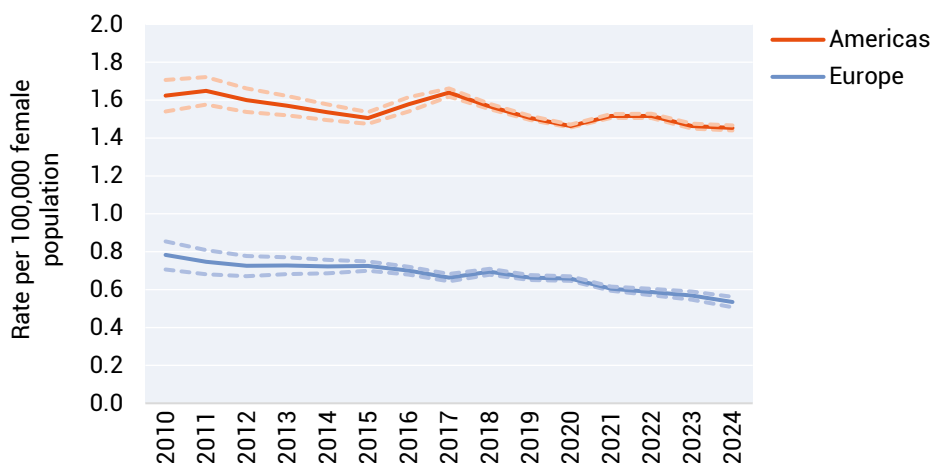
The Observatory's first report underscores the urgent need for legal recognition of femicide as a distinct crime and for addressing gaps in the protection system for women victims of gender-based violence. This includes strengthening risk assessment procedures and enforcing protection measures. Additionally, it is essential to integrate femicide data into official statistics, in line with the standards set out by the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS). Further improvements should focus on enhancing coordination among relevant governmental institutions, as well as improving support services for survivors of gender-based violence and children affected by femicide.

TRENDS IN INTIMATE PARTNER/FAMILY MEMBER FEMICIDE

Trends in the rates of femicide perpetrated by intimate partners or other family members have differed slightly in the Americas and Europe since 2010. Despite undergoing some fluctuations, the intimate partner/family member femicide rate in the Americas was at almost the same level in 2024 as in 2010. Over the same period, the rate of femicide committed by intimate partners or family members in Europe has declined slowly but steadily, driven by downward trends in countries across Northern, Eastern and Southern Europe. The long-term trends in femicide in the Americas and Europe suggest that real changes, when they happen, occur within relatively long periods, which indicates that the risk factors and causes that drive this form of interpersonal violence are rooted in practices and norms that change slowly over time.

Unfortunately, because of persistent data gaps in countries in Africa, Asia and Oceania, it is not possible to construct estimates of long-term femicide trends in those three regions.¹²

Figure 4: Trends in the rate of intimate partner/family member femicide in the Americas and Europe (2010–2024)

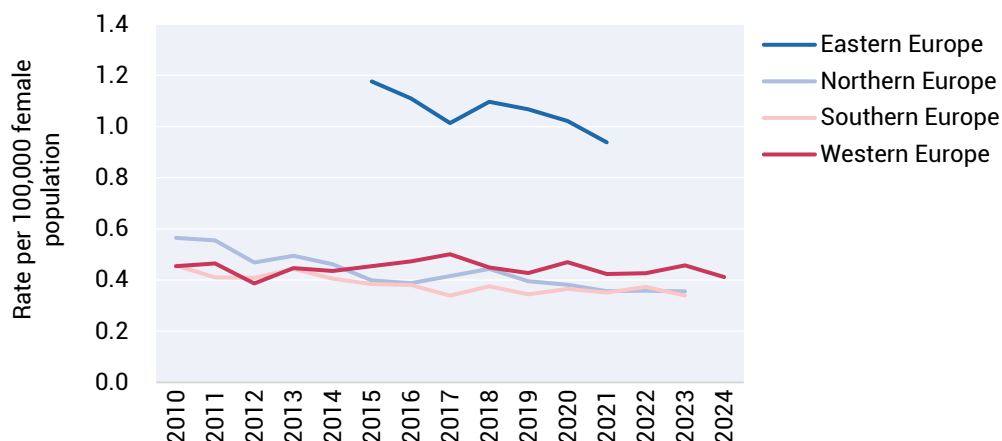


Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide dataset.

Note: The dotted lines represent ranges around the estimate and show the extent to which the regional estimate for a specific year relies on reported as opposed to imputed country-level series of intimate partner/family member femicide. The ranges do not represent confidence intervals and should not be interpreted as such. For more information on the methodology, see Annex I to the present research brief.

¹² For more information on data availability and the estimation model used to input missing data, see Annex I to the present research brief.

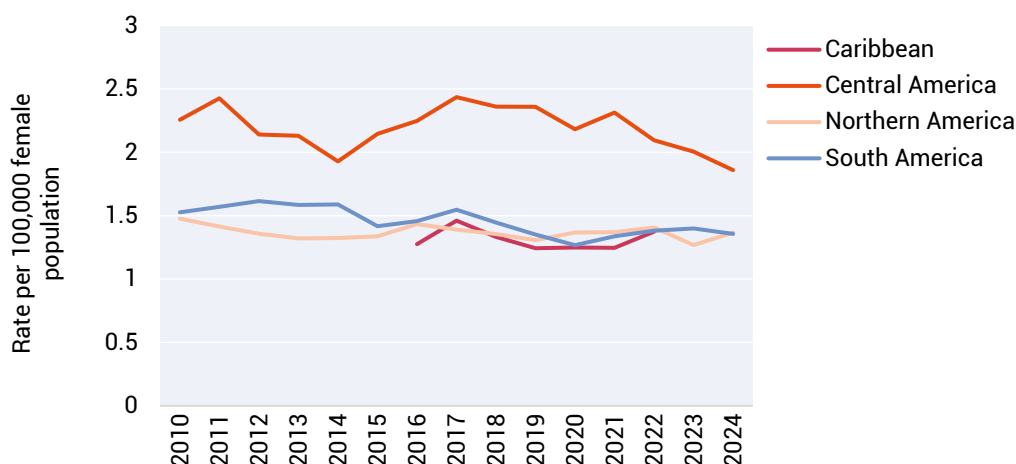
Figure 5: Subregional trends in the rate of intimate partner/family member femicide, Europe (2010–2024)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide dataset.

Note: Subregional figures are published only for years for which the country coverage is sufficient (see Annex I on the methodology for more explanation).

Figure 6: Subregional trends in the rate of intimate partner/family member femicide, the Americas (2010–2024)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide dataset.

Note: Subregional figures are published only for years for which the country coverage is sufficient (see Annex I on the methodology for more explanation).

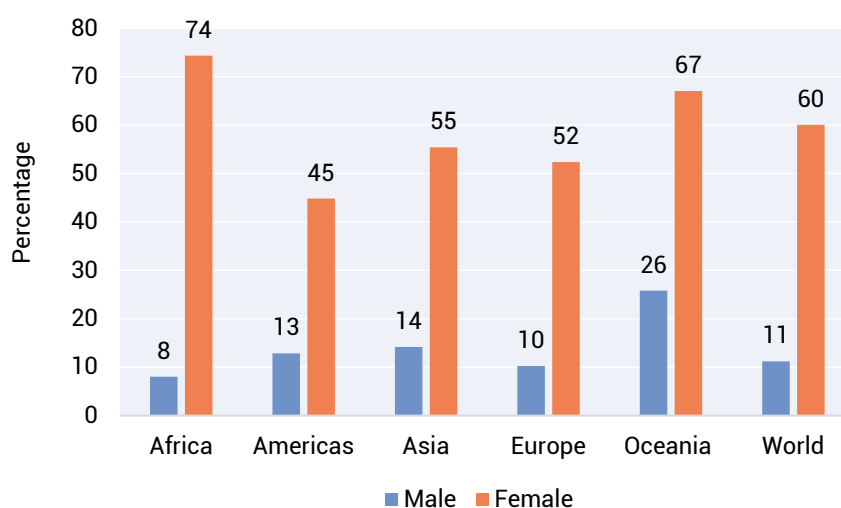
Subregional homicide trends in Europe and in the Americas reflect the variability of femicide levels and tendencies within those regions. In countries in Eastern Europe, for example, the femicide rate continues to be roughly twice as high as in other parts of the continent, although it decreased significantly in the period 2015–2021. Since 2010, the intimate partner/family member femicide rate in Northern, Southern and Western Europe has remained low, ranging between 0.3 and 0.6 per 100,000. Nevertheless, while the trend has been a slowly decreasing one both in Northern and Southern Europe (respectively – 37 per cent and – 26 per cent between 2010 and 2023), despite minor annual fluctuations, the intimate partner/family member femicide rate has also decreased slightly in Western Europe (–9 per cent between 2010 and 2024).

Subregional trends in the Americas show that intimate partner/family member femicide rate continues to be consistently higher in Central America than in the other parts of the region. However, the annual fluctuations in the intimate partner/family member femicide rate are not yet indicative of a clear trend in any of the subregions in the Americas.

HOMICIDE IN THE PRIVATE SPHERE HAS A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

Even though men and boys account for the vast majority of homicide victims, women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by lethal violence in the private sphere. An estimated 80 per cent of all homicide victims in 2024 were men while 20 per cent were women, but lethal violence within the family takes a much higher toll on women than men, with almost 60 per cent of all women who were intentionally killed in 2024 being victims of intimate partner/family member homicide. Violence in the family sphere can target both sexes but just 11 per cent of all male homicides in 2024, by contrast, were attributed to killings by intimate partners or other family members. In terms of regional variations, the largest share of female victims of intimate partner/family member homicide in 2024 was recorded in Africa (74 per cent), followed by Oceania (67 per cent), Asia (55 per cent), Europe (52 per cent) and the Americas (45 per cent).

Figure 7: Shares of intimate partner/family member homicides out of all male and female homicides, globally and by region (2024)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide dataset.

The following box provides a general introduction to the topic of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls and explains through anecdotal evidence how its offline manifestations may result in femicide.



BOX 2: Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls and femicide

Increased access to and use of information and communications technology (ICT) and digital tools have exacerbated existing forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) while also giving rise to new forms of violence,¹³ such as non-consensual image-sharing, doxing, and deepfake videos.

Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (TF VAWG) encompasses *any act committed, assisted, aggravated or amplified* by ICTs or other digital tools that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological, social, political or economic harm.¹⁴ While there are various and constantly evolving

¹³ See the glossary of additional terms related to TF VAWG in UN Women and WHO, *Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women: Taking stock of evidence and data collection* (UN Women and WHO, 2023).

¹⁴ UN Women, Expert Group Meeting report: Technology-facilitated violence against women: Towards a common definition - Report of the meeting of the expert group (2022).

manifestations of TF VAWG, some common behaviours include cyberbullying, cyberstalking, sexual harassment, and image-based abuse.¹⁵

There is a growing body of evidence showing how violence in the online space, such as coercive control, surveillance and stalking, may manifest offline in various ways, including through physical violence.¹⁶ In these cases, technology is used to perpetrate VAWG, through acts which are preceding femicide, thereby demonstrating the gendered motivation of the killing. This includes the prior stalking of femicide victims.

While stalking behaviours by the perpetrator have been identified as a risk factor for femicide already several decades ago,¹⁷ it is also one of the most prevalent forms of TF VAWG.¹⁸ Emerging research has identified patterns of domestic violence intensified by technology in cases that lead to killings by intimate partners. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, an analysis of 41 Domestic Homicide Reviews published between 2011 and 2014 showed that in 58.5 per cent of the cases, technology was used to exercise coercive control and surveillance prior to the victim's killing.¹⁹ This analysis suggests a lack of recognition of these links, underscoring the need to revise risk assessment instruments and police investigations to ensure early detection of the use of technology to perpetrate intimate-partner violence.

Women with high levels of public visibility including journalists, politicians and activists, are at an elevated risk of experiencing technology-facilitated violence.²⁰ One in four women journalists globally, and between one in four and one in three women parliamentarians across regions, have reported receiving online threats of physical violence, including death threats.^{21,22}

Digital technologies also enable the increase of VAWG across virtual spaces. In some cases, the perpetration of violence against women and girls online involves the dissemination of women's photos or videos without their consent, which may eventually lead to a killing committed by someone close to the victim, such as a family member or an intimate partner.²³ There have also been documented cases of women and girls being killed in livestreamed events on social media or filmed and widely shared online.^{24,25}

Legal and policy frameworks to address the risks associated with technology-facilitated violence against women and girls are emerging at global, regional and national levels.²⁶ Measures implemented by countries include strategies to counter the normalization of violence in digital spaces, including the "manosphere", and adjustments to services to ensure proper access for survivors of violence.²⁷ Stronger responses are needed to end TF VAWG, including through legislation and law enforcement.²⁸ A forthcoming technical brief by UNODC and UN Women will provide further guidance on measuring technology-facilitated violence against women and girls leading to femicide, as well as the implementation of the Statistical Framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls.

¹⁵ Backe, E. and others, "Networked Individuals, Gendered Violence: A Literature Review of Cyber Violence", *Violence and Gender*, vol. 5, no. 3 (2018), pp. 135-146.

¹⁶ General Assembly, Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate all Forms of Violence against Women and Girls: Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls, Report of the Secretary General, U.N. Doc. A/79/500 (2024).

¹⁷ McFarlane, J. and others, "Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide", *Homicide Studies*, vol. 3, no. 4 (1999), pp. 300-316.

¹⁸ UNESCO, "Your Opinion Doesn't Matter, Anyway" - Exposing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence in an Era of Generative AI (2023).

¹⁹ Todd, C., Bryce, J., & Franqueira, V. N. L., "Technology, Cyberstalking and Domestic Homicide: Informing Prevention and Response Strategies", *Policing and Society*, vol. 37, no.1(2020), pp. 82-99.

²⁰ Koch, L. and others, "Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence against Politically Active Women: A Systematic Review of Psychological and Political Consequences and Women's Coping Behaviours", *Trauma, Violence and Abuse* (2025).

²¹ Posetti, J. and Shabbir, N., eds., *The Chilling: A global Study of Online Violence against Women Journalists* (International Centre for Journalists, 2022).

²² Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Sexism, Harassment and Violence against Women in Parliaments in Africa* (2021); Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Sexism, Harassment and Violence against women in Parliaments in the Asia-Pacific Region* (2025).

²³ UN Women, *Online Violence against Women in Asia: A Multicountry Study* (2020), p. 34.

²⁴ Woolston, S., "Triple murder streamed online underscores fears of escalating violence in Argentina", *InSight Crime* (October 2025).

²⁵ Garrison, C. and Green, E., "In Mexico, first outrage, then victim blaming over murdered TikTok influencer", *Reuters* (May 2025).

²⁶ UN Women, *Normative Advances on Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls* (2025).

²⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly: Report of the Secretary-General* (E/CN.6/2025/3); UN Women, *Tracking Countries' Efforts on Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls* (2025); UN Women, *Global Database on Violence Against Women and Girls*.

²⁸ UN Women, *Supplement to the Handbook for Legislation on Violence against Women on Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls* (forthcoming); UNDP, UNODC and UN Women, *Guide for Police on Addressing Technology-Facilitated Violence* (forthcoming).

PREVENTING FEMICIDE

To effectively prevent femicides, targeted policies are needed that address the specific forms of gender-based violence perpetrated in the private sphere, as there are key differences in how intimate partner and other family member femicides occur.

Although countries have made efforts to prevent femicides, such killings persist at worryingly high levels. In many cases, femicides are the tragic end to a pattern of ongoing violence,²⁹ meaning that with the timely and appropriate intervention, they could be prevented.

Research shows that female intimate partner homicides are often linked to certain risk factors related to the person committing the crime or the situation surrounding the intentional killing. Common risk factors for intimate partner violence that could lead to femicide include: access to firearms³⁰, coercive control,³¹ previous history of violence and non-fatal strangulation,³² stalking,³³ relationship separation³⁴ and substance use, such as alcohol consumption by the perpetrator, combined with other underlying factors such as lack of social support and accumulation of stressful events.³⁵

Since the second half of the twentieth century, several theories have been developed to explain why intimate partner violence disproportionately affects women. Much of the academic research has focused on individual and socio-political factors, arguing that gender-based violence against women and girls is rooted in patriarchal structures that institutionalize male dominance and control.³⁶ The ecological framework has been proposed by academia³⁷ and international organizations such as the World Health Organization³⁸ as a more comprehensive explanation, emphasizing the interaction of various factors beyond the individual level. It highlights the importance of understanding gender-based violence in a broader context when developing prevention strategies.³⁹ According to the model, drivers of gender-based violence operate at different levels: the individual, interpersonal relationships, community or organizational settings and society as a whole.

Over the past decades, various approaches have been used to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls, including femicide. These approaches can be grouped into six main areas of action.⁴⁰

1. Primary prevention focuses on changing the attitudes and behaviours of both women and men, as well as boys and girls. This is done through tools such as educational curricula and courses. The goal is to teach relationship skills and help people understand what behaviours are acceptable and what roles men and women should play in society.

²⁹ UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2023* (United Nations publication, 2023) and UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2019* (United Nations publication, 2019), booklet on gender-related killing of women and girls.

³⁰ Glass, N. and others, "Young Adult Intimate Partner Femicide: An Exploratory Study", *Homicide Studies*, vol. 12, no. 2 (2008), pp. 177-187.

³¹ Stark, E. and Hester, M., "Coercive Control: Update and Review", *Violence against Women*, vol. 25, no. 1, pp. 81-104.

³² Spencer, C.M. and Stith, S.M., "Risk Factors for Male Perpetration and Female Victimization of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Meta-Analysis", *Trauma, Violence & Abuse* (2018).

³³ Campbell, J.C., et al., "Intimate Partner Homicide: Review and Implications of Research and Policy", *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, vol. 8 (2007), pp. 246-269.

³⁴ Garcia, L., et al., "Homicides and Intimate Partner Violence: A literature Review", *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, vol. 8 (2007), pp. 370-383.

³⁵ Catalá-Miñana, A. and others, "Contextual Factors Related to Alcohol Abuse among Intimate Partner Violence Offenders", *Substance Use & Misuse*, vol. 52, no. 3 (2017).

³⁶ Dobash, R. E. & Dobash, R. P., *Violence against Wives: A Case against the Patriarchy* (Free Press, 1979).

³⁷ Heise, L.L., "Violence against Women: An Integrated Ecological Framework", *Violence against Women*, vol. 4, no. 3 (1998).

³⁸ World Health Organization. (2025), *The VPA Approach*, retrieved November 13, 2025, from <https://www.who.int/groups/violence-prevention-alliance/approach>.

³⁹ UN Women, *A Framework to Underpin Action to Prevent Violence Against Women* (New York, 2015).

⁴⁰ For further information, see UNODC/Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), EG.8/2014/CRP.1, "National Measures Taken to Prevent, Investigate, Prosecute and Punish Gender-Related Killings of Women and Girls" (May 2014); UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2019* (United Nations publication, 2019), booklet on gender-related killing of women and girls, and UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2023* (United Nations publication, 2023).

2. Legal responses have been adopted by several countries, particularly in Latin America, where femicide has been criminalized as a specific crime in national law.⁴¹ Other countries have introduced aggravating circumstances for homicide offences that fall under the scope of femicide by taking into account the victim-perpetrator relationship and the specific context related to the intentional killing of a woman.

3. Criminal justice responses refer to the creation of specialized units within police forces, courts and prosecutors' offices to investigate and prosecute gender-based violence cases, including femicide. Examples of countries include Canada, Sweden and Jordan, among others, which have established such specialized units within their criminal justice systems to improve how violent crimes against women are investigated and prosecuted.⁴²

4. Multi-agency approaches have been introduced in the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases in accordance with legal provisions from domestic violence legislation in several countries. Such approaches bring together stakeholders from relevant entities such as the police, social services, prosecution offices, health services and others to help facilitate information sharing and collaboration throughout the chain of criminal investigations.⁴³

5. Public campaigns and advocacy have helped raise awareness about gender-based violence and femicide. The "Ni Una Menos" and "Me Too" movements have been instrumental in raising public awareness to condemn behaviours that perpetuate gender-based violence.

6. Efforts in the area of data collection include initiatives by specialized agencies within Governments or national statistical offices to collect data on femicide and to publish reports that analyse national trends and patterns associated with this crime. Civil society organizations have also made efforts to establish "femicide observatories" to monitor national trends and patterns using data and information from various sources, including the media.

Specific interventions that have been shown to help decrease the risk of gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence, culminating in femicide include risk assessments conducted by police officers to identify certain risk factors and intervene through different measures. These may entail placing victims in contact with social service providers⁴⁴ or enforcing a so-called protection order that prevents the perpetrator from having contact with the victim. Other measures taken to prevent the escalation of intimate partner violence or domestic violence into a killing refer to restrictions surrounding the possession of firearms. Available evidence in this field suggests that possession of a firearm by a perpetrator of intimate partner violence significantly increases the odds of a killing⁴⁵ and also increases the risk of multiple victims by 70 per cent in killings committed in the private sphere.⁴⁶

This is in line with international standards, which promote risk assessment, protection orders and other measures, to ensure that persons "who are brought before the courts on judicial matters in respect of violent crimes or who are convicted of such crimes can be restricted in their possession and use of firearms and other regulated weapons."⁴⁷ To ensure increased effectiveness of protection orders, adding the removal of a firearm to the enforcement of a protection order can make it more likely to reduce the risk of intimate partner homicide.⁴⁸ A recent legislative analysis conducted by

⁴¹ For further information, see UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2019* (United Nations publication, 2019), booklet on gender-related killing of women and girls.

⁴² For further information, see UNODC/ Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), EG.8/2014/CRP.1, "National Measures Taken to Prevent, Investigate, Prosecute and Punish Gender-Related Killings of Women and Girls" (May 2014).

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ Koppa, V and Messing, J. T., "Can Justice System Interventions Prevent Intimate Partner Homicide? An Analysis of Rates of Help-Seeking Prior to Fatality", *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 36 (2019).

⁴⁵ Campbell, J. C. and others, "Risk Factors for Femicide in Abuse Relationships: Results from a Multisite Case Control Study", *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 93, No. 7 (2003).

⁴⁶ Kivisto A. J. and Porter M., "Firearms Use Increases the Risk of Multiple Victims in Domestic Homicides", *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, vol. 48, No. 1 (2020).

⁴⁷ See General Assembly Resolution 65/228, annex, *Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, para. 14(c) (i) (2011).

⁴⁸ See Lyons, V. H. and others, "Firearms and Protective Orders in Intimate Partner Homicides", *Journal of Family Violence*, vol. 36 (2021) and Zeoli, A.M. and others, "Analysis of the Strength of Legal Firearms Restrictions for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence and their Associations with Intimate Partner Homicide", *American Journal of Epidemiology*, vol. 187 (2017).

UNODC found that more than half of the 76 jurisdictions reviewed allowed for imposing firearms restrictions as conditions tied to gender-based violence against women protection orders and about a third envisaged gender-based violence as a ground for refusal to grant a firearms licence.⁴⁹ However, only a minority of jurisdictions had integrated these grounds into their firearms regulatory frameworks to enable authorities to refuse, suspend, revoke, or cancel firearm licences.

Academic research has provided evidence on the likelihood of protection orders in combination with firearms control as a method to prevent homicide in domestic settings. The results of a long-term study on intimate-partner violence-related firearm laws and intimate partner homicide rates suggest that states with laws which both prohibit possession of firearms by persons subjected to a restraining order and required the surrender of such weapons were associated with intimate partner homicide rates that were 14 per cent lower than in states without these laws.⁵⁰ While femicide perpetrated in domestic settings is characterized by the relative stability of trends over long periods of time, suggesting that this violence is rooted in stereotyped gender roles and social norms that require long-term prevention strategies, a lot less is known about the patterns of and trends in gendered violence associated with femicide committed outside the private sphere.

Effective prevention also requires understanding that the ways in which gender-based violence is carried out can change over time. For example, as digital technology and online spaces grow rapidly, technology-facilitated violence is becoming an increasingly important issue which poses significant challenges to law enforcement and policymakers.⁵¹



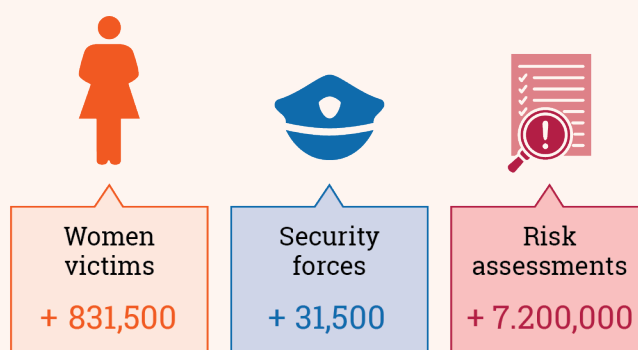
BOX 3: Intimate partner homicide risk assessment in Spain

(Contribution by the Ministry of Interior, Spain)

In 2004, Spain introduced Organic Law 1/2004 on Comprehensive Protection Measures against Gender Violence, a groundbreaking piece of legislation in Europe that marked a turning point in the fight against gender-based violence. Building on this framework, the Spanish Ministry of Interior launched the Comprehensive Monitoring System for Cases of Gender Violence (VioGén system) in July 2007.

The VioGén system integrates innovative tools for carrying out and managing the risk faced by victims, tracking cases of gender-based violence, and implementing police protection measures tailored to the assessed level of risk. As of June 2024, the system contained data on the number of victims who reported violence by a partner, the number of police officers involved in protection efforts, and the number of active risk assessments conducted (see Figure below).

General data on the VioGén System (June 2024)



⁴⁹ UNODC, "Preventing and Addressing Firearms-Related Gender-Based Violence against Women: An Analysis of Legislative Responses", Conference Room Paper submitted to the 34th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, E/CN.15/2025/CRP.6 (2025).

⁵⁰ Díez, C., and others, "State Intimate Partner Violence-Related Firearm Laws and Intimate Partner Homicide Rates in the United States, 1991 to 2015", *Annals of Internal Medicine*, vol. 167, no. 8 (2017), pp. 536-543.

⁵¹ Baekgaard, K., *Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: An Emerging Issue in Women, Peace and Security* (Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, 2024).

VioGén incorporates the Ministry of Interior's Protocol for Police Assessment of the Level of Risk of Violence against Women, designed to enhance the detection and prevention of gender-based violence and femicide.⁵² The protocol consists of two assessment tools: the initial police risk assessment (VPR) is completed when a victim files a complaint and establishes the preliminary risk level and corresponding protection measures. The police risk evolution assessment (VPER) is used to reassess the case over time, particularly when new risk scenarios emerge, such as after legal proceedings.

The VPR incorporates a scale capable of identifying cases at risk of intimate partner homicide (H-Scale). The scale automatically adjusts the risk level based on two estimates: the likelihood of recidivism and the risk of homicide. This additional layer of analysis strengthens protection for cases identified as more serious. Each assessment tool operates independently, using its own set of risk factors to estimate the final risk level.⁵³ However, these assessment tools are not based solely on algorithmic results. Officers can review and adjust upwards the protocol's outcome if they receive additional information that justifies correction.

Depending on the assessed level of risk (low, medium, high and extreme), the protocol outlines specific measures to protect female victims and any children in their care, as well as to monitor the perpetrator.

Police Risk Assessment and Police Risk Evolution Assessment

Criteria	VPR (Initial Risk Assessment)	VPER (Risk Evolution Assessment)
Purpose and Timing	Initial registration and risk evaluation	Risk reassessment during follow-up
Initiation	New complaint or reoffending	Follow-up, new information, or judicial request
Recidivism	VPR is used in every case of recidivism	VPER does not apply to recidivism
Frequency	Completed as needed until the case is presented to the Judicial Authority.	First evaluation after judicial action and based on risk
Judicial Authority	Receives results when case is first reported or when recidivism occurs.	Receives results whenever there is a change in risk level or at periods defined at each level
Outcome for Victims	Protection measures	Personalized security plan

Previous experience shows the importance of victims actively participating in their own protection, alongside maintaining a clear perception of risks for themselves and for minors in their care. These elements are incorporated into a Personalized Security Plan (PSP), which is tailored to each individual's circumstances. This personalized approach empowers victims to take a proactive role in preventing future episodes of violence. The PSP outlines specific actions and includes a support network of family members and close friends, referred to as "the Circle of Strength". Victims are encouraged to keep their Circle of Strength informed about any significant changes that could impact on their safety, such as a change of address or upcoming travel plans.

In conclusion, Spain's approach strengthens prevention efforts by enabling both law enforcement and victims to take proactive roles. It combines systematic risk evaluation with professional judgement and integrates personalized security plans tailored to each case.

⁵² López-Ossorio, J.J., González-Álvarez, J.L., Muñoz, J.M., Urruela, C., y Andrés-Pueyo, A., "Validation and Calibration of the Spanish Police Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment System (VioGén)", *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, vol. 34, no. 4 (2019), pp. 439-449.

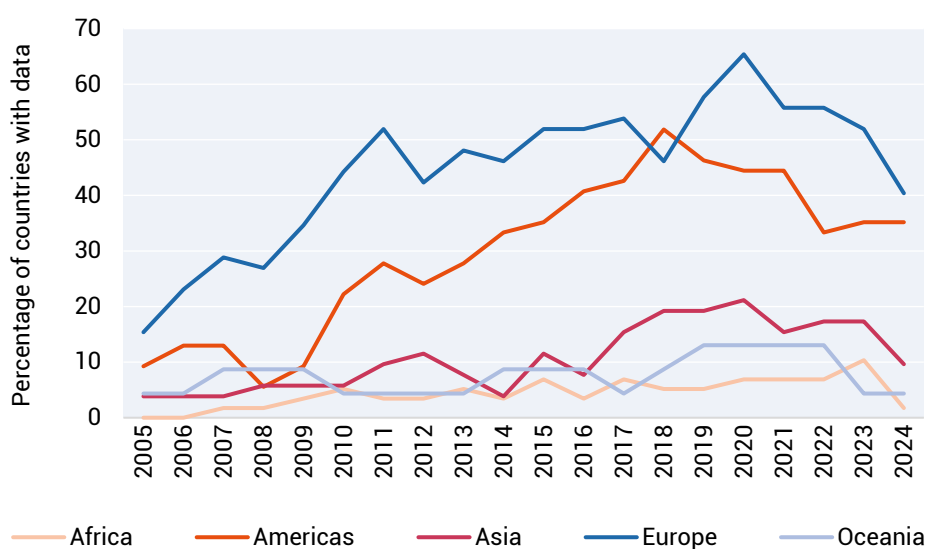
⁵³ Ibid.

PRODUCING FEMICIDE DATA: AN UNMET CHALLENGE

Several countries are taking steps to test and implement the Statistical Framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls⁵⁴ and academic research is increasingly referring to this international standard as an instrument for producing high quality and comparable data on femicide. Yet the availability of femicide data in most countries remains a challenge.

The Statistical Framework identifies data on killings of women and girls by their partners or other family members as the first step in producing comprehensive and comparable data on femicide. Important differences exist between regions in terms of the availability of intimate partner/family member femicide data, with Europe and the Americas traditionally registering the largest shares of countries publishing such data. Because compiling and validating these statistics takes time, they are often published with a delay, which can explain the lower coverage for 2024 as compared to 2023.

Figure 8: Shares of countries with available data on intimate partner/family member femicides, by region (2005–2024)



Source: UNODC Homicide dataset.

Over the past two decades, the number of countries reporting data on the killing of women by intimate partners or other family members increased slowly, peaking in 2021 (with 61 countries). The number has slightly declined since then. Data produced by academic research or civil society organizations are sometimes used by UNODC to overcome data gaps, increasing the number of countries with available data.

Countries' commitment to combating gender-related killings is reflected in the quality and availability of their statistics. Significant efforts are therefore needed to improve data availability.

The following boxes provides insights from countries in different regions about initiatives aimed at improving national data collection systems to generate comprehensive and comparable data on femicide of higher granularity that capture the relationship between victims and perpetrators.

⁵⁴ Beyond the work conducted in Albania and Lesotho illustrated in this research brief, other countries are piloting the Statistical Framework with technical guidance by UNODC (Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Jamaica and Mongolia), by UN Women (Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya) or the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Senegal).



BOX 4: Case Study: Testing the Statistical Framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls in Lesotho

Lesotho faces high rates of intimate partner violence, with 44 per cent of women between aged 15 to 49 years reporting physical or sexual violence by a partner.⁵⁵ Despite the severity of the issue, reliable data on femicide remain scarce due to definitional, methodological, and societal challenges. Piloting the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (“femicide/feminicide”) in Lesotho demonstrated the potential for improving femicide data collection and reporting. While challenges persist – particularly in standardization, capacity, and data gaps – the study underscored the need to adopt a statistical definition, which would serve as the foundation for future efforts to address gender-related killings and support survivors through evidence-based policy and practice.

A mixed-methods approach was used to test the Statistical Framework, combining quantitative analysis of crime datasets from the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) with qualitative stakeholder interviews. Field visits were undertaken to police stations and posts in five districts to observe data collection practices and to interview officers. During the testing phase, LMPS variables were mapped against the Statistical Framework, identifying convergences (e.g., location, time, victim age/gender) and divergences (e.g., inconsistent variable naming, missing contextual information). The data were then cleaned and validated to identify actual femicide cases, taking into account the motive, relationship, and context.

Due to the large number of cases lacking sufficient contextual information for classification, the study could not provide reliable estimates of femicide. However, by using the Statistical Framework, Lesotho identified 116 femicide victims from 2019 to 2022. Most femicides involved intimate partners or family members, with domestic violence, alcohol use, and conflict identified as common triggers.

The study recommended that Lesotho fully adopt the Statistical Framework, harmonizing data practices between the LMPS and the Bureau of Statistics. It also identified key areas for improvement in femicide measurement. First, robust data quality control measures and regular training for police officers should be implemented. Secondly, data collection and management processes should be digitized to reduce errors and improve accessibility. Third, investments should be made in real-time monitoring systems (e.g., dashboards) for femicide and related crimes. Lastly, the study called for efforts to enhance community sensitization and translate “femicide” into local languages to ensure broader understanding. Additionally, alternative data sources, such as civil registries and judiciary records, should be explored to supplement police data and strengthen post-incident detection and law enforcement training.



BOX 5: Inter-institutional coordination on homicide statistics in Chile

(Contribution by the Ministry of Public Security, Chile)

In the mid-2010s, Chile faced a situation where data on homicide showed significant differences in magnitude across different national data sources (ranging from fewer than 1,000 cases to more than 4,000, depending on the source of information). To address these discrepancies, an inter-institutional effort began to harmonize homicide statistics. As a result, a homicide observatory was established in 2018, led by the Undersecretary of Crime Prevention. It brought together multiple institutions, including the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, Legal Medicine, the Chilean Gendarmerie and the two national police forces.

The observatory served as a forum for exchanging, consolidating and validating information by various institutions. Its first challenge was to adopt criteria for counting cases, including the type of case (manslaughter and murder), the status of the case (completed homicides) and the unit of aggregation (victims), among other issues.

The observatory found that some institutions reported completed and attempted homicides, while others referred only to cases of completed homicides. These differences in recording were not due to errors but rather to the fact that each institution carried out counting exercises that served the tasks it had to perform. For example, the Public Prosecutor’s Office must investigate attempted homicides with the same resources as completed homicides, so it records both under the category of “homicide”, even if no death occurred.

⁵⁵ Ministry of Health, Lesotho, *Lesotho: Demographic and Health Survey 2023-24*, table 19.8, p. 411(2024).

By 2022, the Public Prosecutor's Office, an institution with a central role in defining criminal offences and managing a large database fed by both police forces, agreed to collaborate with the observatory. That same year, an electronic platform was introduced to improve data management. It allows, among other things:

- Direct uploading of information by each institution
- Incorporation of unique identification data (ID number), when available
- Automatic linking of information across institutions for the same case
- More effective validation of data

Also in 2022, the Centre for the Prevention of Homicide and Violent Crime was officially established under the Undersecretary of Crime Prevention. The Centre gradually incorporated other institutions and began publishing biannual reports. These reports provide detailed profiles of homicide victims according to registered sex, age, nationality, region and location of occurrence, mechanism and context of the homicide, among other variables.

Finally, in 2024, the Inter-institutional Roundtable on Femicide was launched to improve the registration, analysis, validation and monitoring of completed femicides in the country. This committee consolidates official femicide figures based on the legal definition of the term and conducts in-depth analyses of victim profiles and crime circumstances.⁵⁶

Through these initiatives, Chile now has a consolidated and validated database of homicide and femicide cases. This puts the country in a strong position to conduct a more in-depth analysis of lethal crime and to design more effective public policies for prevention grounded in an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the problem.

⁵⁶ The crime of femicide was criminalized in Chile as a special offence through Law No. 20.480 in 2010.

ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGY

Data

Data sources

The analysis presented in this brief and the estimates produced at the global and regional levels are based on available data for 117 countries or territories, for which at least one data point is available for the period 2010–2024. These data were primarily submitted to UNODC by Member States through the annual United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS). The UN-CTS collects administrative data on crime, the total number of homicide victims and its disaggregation by victim/perpetrator relationship, which is used to identify femicides perpetrated by their intimate partner or other family members.

In most cases, these data are sourced from Member States' criminal justice systems. In a few cases, however, the data are sourced from the public health system. Where needed and applicable, homicide data collected through the UN-CTS are supplemented with data collected directly from government sources (such as websites and publications) or, in some cases, from non-governmental sources.⁵⁷ When country-level data on femicide by intimate partners or other family members are missing, other relevant data are collected and processed for the purpose of producing global and regional estimates. This includes data referring to victims of criminal offences such as femicide/femicide, dowry death and honour killing in countries where such criminal offences are established by national law.

Population data used to calculate sex-disaggregated homicide rates (per 100,000 population) were sourced from the United Nations 2024 Revision of World Population Prospects.

Data validation

All homicide data collected through UN-CTS as well as external data sources are validated to ensure that they meet a set of minimal quality criteria, including consistency with the standard definition of intentional homicide in the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), coherence of country time trends (to ensure the use of data with consistent counting rules and reporting authorities), and internal consistency of homicide disaggregations (for example, to ensure that the male and female homicides add up to the reported total, or that the reported number of intimate partner/family member femicides does not exceed the reported number of female homicides). In some countries, the perpetrators of a large share of intentional homicides remain unidentified and this can heavily affect the validity of data on femicides by intimate partners or other family members. In such cases, the data validation process adjusts available data for the purpose of producing global and regional estimates of femicides by intimate partners or other family members.

Data coverage

Internationally comparable data on female victims of intentional homicide and femicide perpetrated by an intimate partner or other family member remain patchy, especially in Africa, Asia and Oceania, but are available for a large enough number of countries and territories to enable the production of global and regional estimates.

⁵⁷ Additional data collected by UNODC are shared with Member States for technical review before publication.

Table 1: Coverage of femicide data, by region (2010–2024)

Region	Number of countries/territories in region	Number of countries with available data for at least 1 year in the period 2010–2024		Number of countries with available data for at least 3 years in the period 2010–2024	
		Female victims of intentional homicide	Victims of intimate partner/family member femicide ⁵⁸	Female victims of intentional homicide	Victims of intimate partner/family member femicide
Africa	58	21	11	18	6
Americas	54	43	36	40	32
Asia	52	40	21	36	15
Europe	52	48	44	44	38
Oceania	23	8	5	5	2
World	239	160	117	143	93

Methodology for producing estimates

The methods used for estimating the number of intimate partner/family member femicides at the global and regional levels are aimed at making the best possible use of available data. For each regional aggregate, the number of intimate partner/family member femicides should correspond to the sum of all national data on such killings in the respective region in each year. However, for many countries, data on intimate partner/family member femicides are not available, or data are only available for some years. As a result, the sample of countries with available data is different for each year. If left unaddressed, this issue would result in inconsistencies, as regional aggregates would be drawn from a different set of countries each year.

Imputation of missing values at the country level

The imputation of missing values at the country level follows a three-step procedure, whereby: 1) the values in the total homicide series are imputed if missing; 2) the total homicide series is used to inform the imputation of missing values in the female homicide series;⁵⁹ and 3) the female homicide series is then used to inform the imputation of missing values in the intimate partner/family member femicide series.

- Imputation of the total homicide series is performed on the country-level *rate* of total homicides per 100,000 population.
- Imputation of the female homicide series is performed on the country-level *ratio* of female homicides over total homicides (where data on both indicators are available).
- Imputation of the intimate partner/family member femicide series is performed on the country-level *ratio* of intimate partner/family member femicides over total female homicides (where data on both indicators are available).⁶⁰

⁵⁸ In 27 countries (12 in the Americas, 3 in Africa, 7 in Asia, 4 in Europe and 1 in Oceania), data on other types of gender-related killings such as “femicides” or “feminicides” were used as proxy measures given that reliable data on intimate partner/family member femicides are not available. These proxy measures were primarily used to capture information on country-level trends. For a detailed comparison of data on female intimate partner/family member homicides and “femicides/feminicides”, see UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2019* (United Nations publication, 2019), Booklet 5, p. 25.

⁵⁹ Coverage for female homicide is generally better than for intimate partner/family member femicide.

⁶⁰ Validation checks ensure that this ratio is lower than or equal to one.

For all three series, the following three-step imputation approach is applied:

- If a country has just one available data point in the respective series,⁶¹ all missing values are set equal to this single available data point. Given that the estimated series is either a rate (if the imputation refers to total homicide) or a ratio based on that rate (if the imputation refers to female homicide or intimate partner/family member femicide), this approach accounts for population growth over time and does not mean that the series is constant in absolute terms.
- If a country has two to eight available data points in the respective series, the missing values between two data points are estimated by linear interpolation, and if there are missing values that are temporally before (or after) the earliest (or latest) available data point, the values at the beginning (or end) of the series are filled with the earliest (or latest) available data point.
- If a country has more than eight available data points in the respective time series, the missing values between two data points are estimated by linear interpolation, and if there are missing values that are temporally before (or after) the earliest (or latest) available data point, the values at the end of the time series are imputed using an exponential smoothing approach.⁶²

Estimation of regional aggregates

Once the series have been computed at the national level, they are aggregated at the regional level using the following approach:

- Regional homicide totals are calculated for each year by multiplying the regional homicide rate per 100,000 population with the total population of the respective region (divided by 100,000).⁶³
- Regional female homicide totals are calculated for each year by multiplying the regional ratios of female homicides by total homicides using the total homicides of the respective region.
- Regional totals of intimate partner/family member femicide are calculated for each year by applying the regional ratios between intimate partner/family member femicide and total female homicides to the total female homicide series of the respective region.

Finally, regional estimates are aggregated to compute the global number of intimate partner/family member femicides.

Computation of uncertainty intervals

As explained above, global and regional estimates of intimate partner/family member femicides are produced based on available national data and through a statistical model imputing missing values at the country level. As a result, any changes in the availability of country-level data can influence the estimates. To account for estimation error due to the imputation of missing values at the country level, the global and regional estimates are accompanied by intervals of uncertainty. These bands are intended to represent how the uncertainty due to imputation varies across time and regions. It is important to note that these bands do not represent confidence intervals and should not be interpreted as such. The procedure to compute the uncertainty intervals closely follows the approach used in the *Global Study on Homicide 2019*.⁶⁴

In the case of countries and territories with at least one year of data on intimate partner/family member femicide (in the period 2010–2022), a penalty of plus and minus 2 per cent was added⁶⁵ to

⁶¹ The three-step imputation approach is applied to the period 2000–2024.

⁶² For more information, see https://afit-r.github.io/ts_exp_smoothing.

⁶³ In order to better reflect the diversity of homicide levels across African countries, a different approach was used to calculate the regional homicide estimate for Africa, which rests on the classification of countries into three groups according to the level of insecurity. For more information, see the methodological annex to UNODC, *The Global Study on Homicide 2019* (United Nations publication, 2019).

⁶⁴ See the methodological annex to UNODC, *The Global Study on Homicide 2019* (United Nations publication, 2019).

⁶⁵ The 2.0 per cent represent half the global average change in the ratio between intimate partner/family member femicides and total female homicides. For the two regions with sufficient data coverage, Europe and the Americas, half the regional average change in the ratio between intimate partner/family member femicides and total female homicides is used instead (Europe: 2.2 per cent; Americas: 2.0 per cent).

the value of each estimate for each year of distance between the estimate and the closest observed intimate partner/family member femicide value. For countries and territories without any reported data on intimate partner/family member femicide, a maximum “penalty” is applied in the sense that the distance to the closest observed values is assumed to be 15 years. Ranges around global and regional trends were obtained by adding up – for each year – the compounded ranges of all countries that are a part of each regional aggregate. This approach to calculating uncertainty intervals means that countries with fewer years of reported data have wider ranges around the national trend and contribute more to the ranges around the trends in their respective regions. In addition, regions with a greater number of countries without any reported data have even wider ranges.

ANNEX 2: REGIONAL GROUPINGS

Africa

Eastern Africa – Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Middle Africa – Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe

Northern Africa – Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia

Southern Africa – Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa

Western Africa – Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia (Republic of The), Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

Americas

Caribbean – Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago

Central America – Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama

Northern America – Canada, United States of America

South America – Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Asia

Central Asia – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Eastern Asia – China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea

South-eastern Asia – Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam

Southern Asia – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Western Asia – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Europe

Eastern Europe – Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine

Northern Europe – Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Southern Europe – Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain

Western Europe – Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Switzerland

Oceania

Australia and New Zealand – Australia, New Zealand

Melanesia – Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

Micronesia – Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau

Polynesia – Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu

Globally, around **50,000 women and girls were killed by intimate partners or other family members in 2024**. This represents **60 per cent of the approximately 83,000 intentional killings of women and girls killed worldwide**. On average, **137 women and girls lost their lives every day** at the hands of a partner or a close relative.

Femicide is not confined to the private sphere. Other forms, such as killings linked to organized crime or technology-facilitated violence, require different prevention strategies. In recent years, several countries have begun measuring different forms of femicide using the **UNODC–UN Women statistical framework**, with pilot studies highlighted in this brief.

However, current estimates still fail to capture femicides committed outside the family. More **comprehensive and detailed data** are needed to analyse all forms of femicide. Such evidence is essential for designing effective policies to prevent killings in both private and public settings.

The research brief was produced jointly by UNODC and UN Women.

