

25 November 2025

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

TWO OUT OF TEN EVER-PARTNERED WOMEN HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE. IN 2024, 25,919 CRIMES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST A SPOUSE OR AKIN WERE REPORTED AND 26,574 WOMEN WERE IDENTIFIED AS OFFENDED

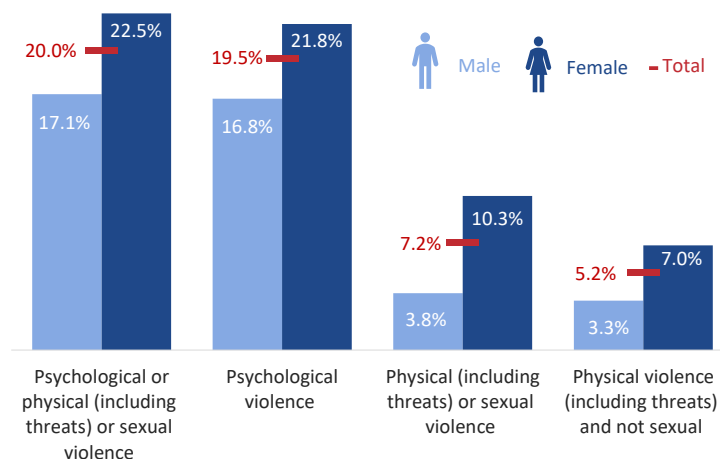
On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which is observed annually on 25 November, Statistics Portugal (INE) and the Directorate-General for Justice Policy (DGPJ) present, in a joint release, some official statistical indicators on violence against women in Portugal.

PREVALENCE AND CHARACTERISATION OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In 2022, more than **1.3 million people** aged 18 to 74 with a partner reported having experienced **some type of intimate partner violence** (20.0%) – threats, psychological violence, physical or sexual violence – a higher proportion among **women (22.5%)** than men (17.1%).

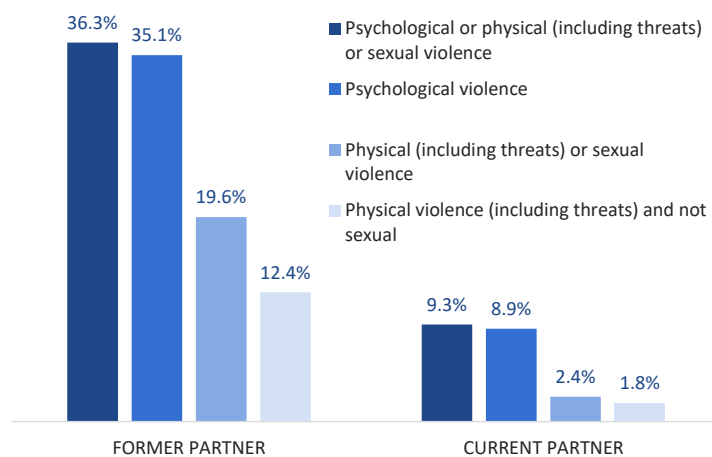
Women show higher proportions than men in all of these types of violence.

The difference observed in **physical (including threats) or sexual violence** stands out, with the proportion of female victims (**10.3%**) being more than double than that of men (3.8%).



Source: Statistics Portugal, [Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces](#), 2022.

The **proportion of women** who had experienced some type of intimate partner violence with **former partners (36.3%)** was much higher than those who reported having experienced violence with their **current partner (9.3%)**.

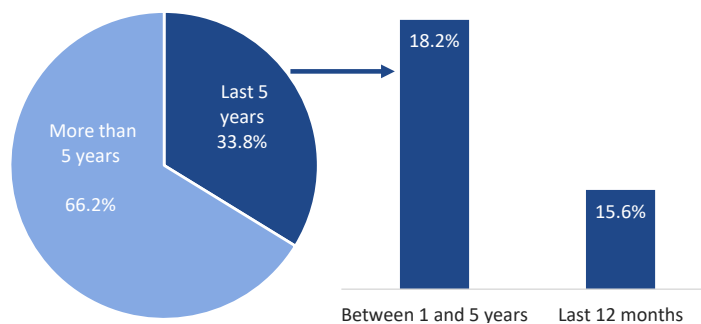


Source: Statistics Portugal, [Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces](#), 2022.

The episodes of violence occurred:

More than 5 years ago for most women (**66.2%**) who reported having experienced violence in an intimate context, by current or former partners...

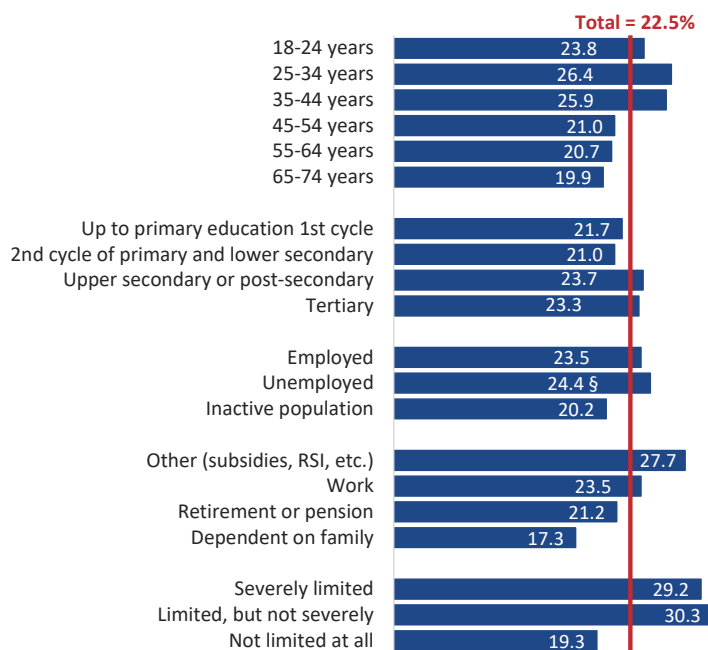
...And **in the last 12 months**, for **15.6%**.



Source: Statistics Portugal, [Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces](#), 2022.

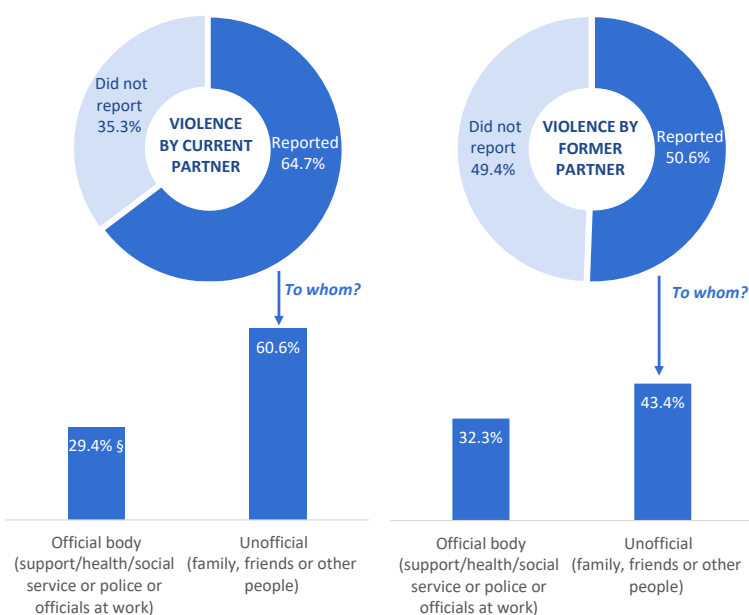
Higher rates of intimate partner violence are observed among the female population:

- Aged **35 to 44 (25.9%)** and **25 to 34 (26.4%)**;
- With **upper secondary or post-secondary education (23.7%)** and with **tertiary education (23.3%)**;
- Whose **main source of income** comes from **subsidies, social integration income, from institutions or people outside the household (27.7%)**;
- And with **some degree of limitation** in performing activities considered usual for the general population (**30.3%**) or who were **severely limited (29.2%)**.



Source: Statistics Portugal, [Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces](#), 2022.

Note: § - Estimate with low reliability.



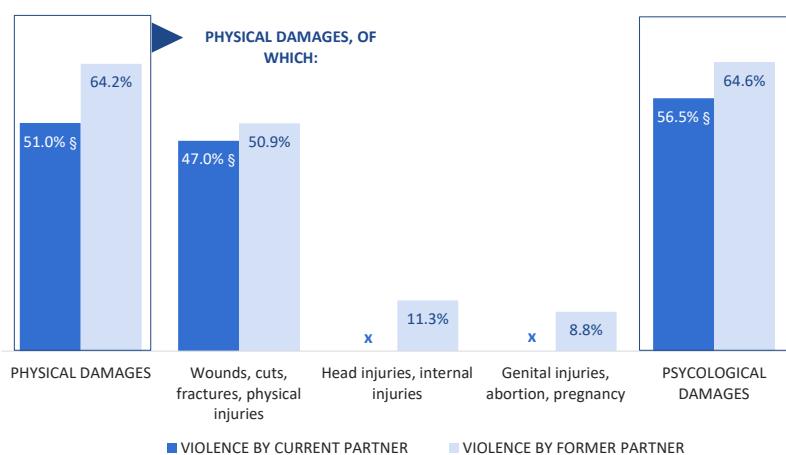
Source: Statistics Portugal, [Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces](#), 2022.

Note: § - Estimate with low reliability.

More than half of the women who were victims of intimate partner violence spoke to someone or some entity about what happened, with a higher proportion for those who reported having experienced violence by current partners (64.7%) than by former partners (50.6%).

The situations experienced were mostly reported to family members and friends, which is particularly noticeable among women who were victims of violence by current partners (60.6%).

More than half of the women who were victims of intimate partner violence reported suffering physical and psychological consequences as a result of the violence they experienced.



Source: Statistics Portugal, [Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces](#), 2022.

Note: § - Estimate with low reliability; x - Data not available.

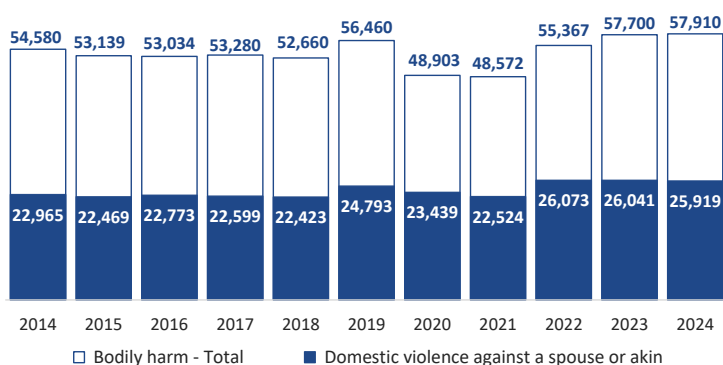
The consequences of violence were **most frequently reported by victims of a former partner**:

64.2% of the women who were victims of intimate partner violence reported suffering **physical consequences** from this violence, and **64.6%** reported **psychological consequences**.

Wounds, cuts, fractures, and physical injuries were the **most frequently mentioned** physical injuries suffered by female victims, whether by a former or a current partner.

CRIMES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST SPOUSES OR AKIN RECORDED BY POLICE AUTHORITIES

44.8% of crimes against bodily harm were domestic violence against a spouse or akin.

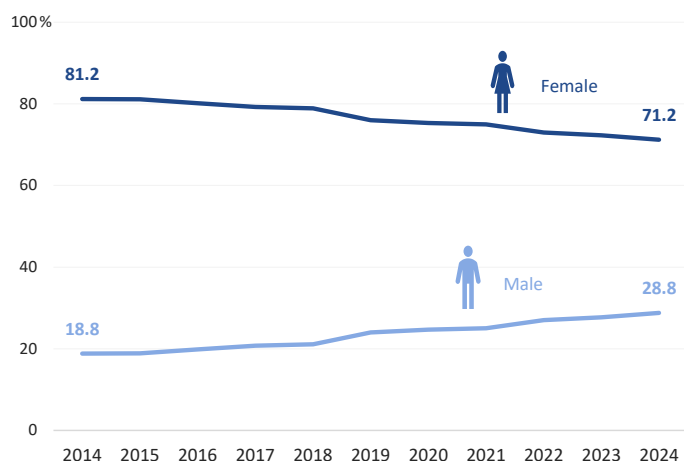


Source: [Directorate-General for Justice Policy](#).

In 2024, **57,910 bodily harm crimes** were recorded¹, corresponding to the highest number of reports recorded by the police authorities since 2014. Of these, **25,919 (44.8%)** were **crimes of domestic violence against a spouse or akin**.

In the period 2014-2024, the proportion of domestic violence crimes against spouses or akin remained above two-fifths of all bodily harm crimes.

¹ The set of crimes of bodily harm recorded by the police authorities includes the following list of crimes: Serious intentional assault; Simple intentional assault; Negligent assault (traffic accident); Negligent physical assault (other); Domestic violence against spouse or akin; Domestic violence against minors; Other domestic violence; Ill-treatment/overburdening of minors; Other ill-treatment; Violation of safety rules; and Other crimes of bodily harm.



Source: [Directorate-General for Justice Policy](#).

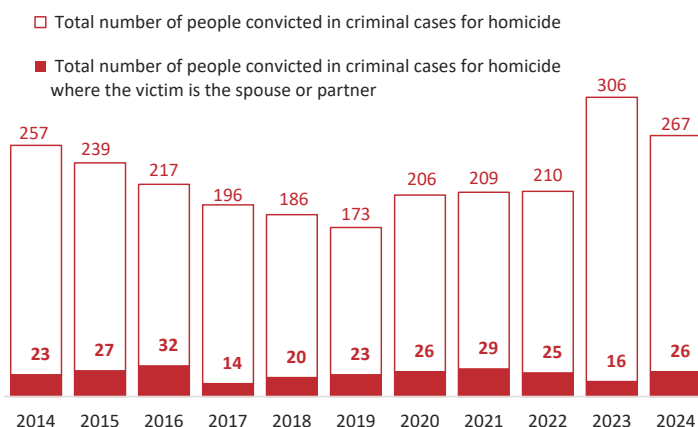
In 2024, seven out of ten people offended by the crime of domestic violence against a spouse or kin were women (26,574).

In the period 2014-2024, **women** always accounted for **more than 70% of the offended** people of crimes of violence against spouses or kin.

However, the **proportion of men** among the **offended people** in this type of crime **has been increasing**, from 18.8% in 2014 to 28.8% in 2024.

SPOUSAL HOMICIDES

In 2024, one in ten homicide victims were spouses or partners (9.7%).



Source: [Directorate-General for Justice Policy](#).

Data on **people convicted** in the first instance judicial courts **for homicide**,² in which the victim is a **spouse or partner – spousal homicides**³ – in the period 2014-2024, show that:

In **2024**, of the 267 people convicted of homicide, **26** were for **spousal homicide (9.7%)**.

In **2016**, the highest number of convictions for spousal homicide (**32**) was recorded.

In that year, the **highest proportion of people convicted of spousal homicide** in the total number of homicide convictions (**14.7%**) was also observed. The lowest proportion (5.2%) was recorded in 2023.

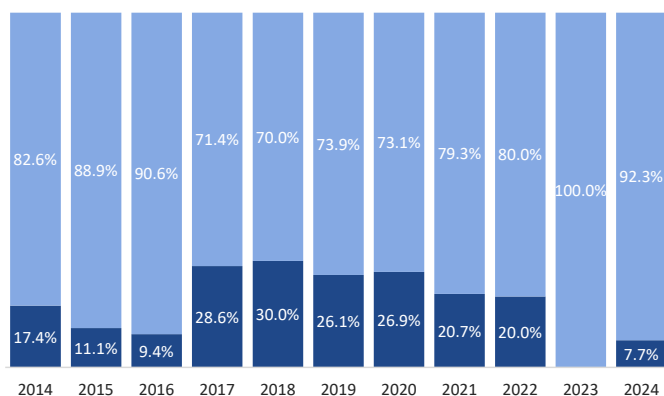
² The following types of homicide are included: simple homicide, attempted homicide, qualified homicide, and attempted qualified homicide.

³ From 2010 onwards, new relationships between the defendant and the victim, namely ex-spouse or ex-partner, boyfriend/girlfriend and ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend, became autonomous. In 2024, 13 more people were convicted of homicide, in which the victims were former spouses, former partners, boyfriends or former boyfriends.

Nine out of ten people convicted of spousal homicide in 2024 were men...

In that year, the proportion of **men convicted** of that type of homicide was **92.3%**.

Men, who were always the **majority of those convicted of spousal homicide** in the period 2014-2024, accounted for all convictions (100%) in 2023.

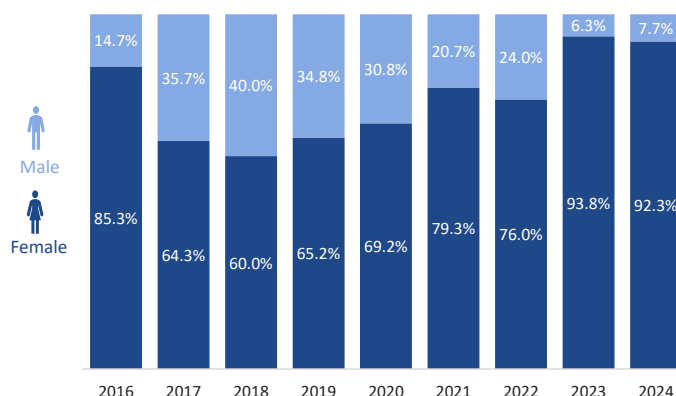


...While women accounted for 92.3% of the victims of spousal homicide in the same year

In the period 2016⁴-2024, **women** consistently accounted for **more than 60% of the victims**.

This proportion was particularly high in 2023 (**93.8%**) and 2024 (**92.3%**).

In 2018, the proportion of men among all victims of spousal homicide was the highest (40.0%).



Source: [Directorate-General for Justice Policy](#).

⁴ Data on victims of spousal homicide crimes are only available from 2016 onwards, when their processing began.

TECHNICAL NOTE

The **Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces (ISEPP)**, conducted by Statistics Portugal in 2022, is a sample survey, whose information was collected directly from the observation units comprising men and women aged 18 to 74 living in dwelling units of main residence.

For a more detailed analysis of the methodology followed, we suggest reading the ISEPP 2022 [methodological document](#) (only in Portuguese) available at <https://smi.ine.pt/> (tab *Documentação metodológica; tema "Justiça"*). The results of this statistical operation have been published in several Press Releases, which can be accessed via the following link: [ISEPP](#).

The [Justice Statistics](#) cover crimes recorded by the police authorities, as well as criminal cases concluded at the trial stage in the first instance judicial courts.

The statistics on **Crimes recorded by police authorities** refer to the crime of domestic violence against a spouse or akin. Each report is counted as one crime, with the most serious crime being characterised. The entities currently providing data are the Judicial Police (PJ), the Public Security Police (PSP), the National Republican Guard (GNR), the Foreigners and Borders Service (SEF) until 2023, the Food and Economic Safety Authority (ASAE), the Maritime Police, the Military Judicial Police, and the Tax and Customs Authority (AT).

For a more detailed analysis, we suggest reading the [methodological document](#) (only in Portuguese) on Statistics on recorded crimes for a more detailed analysis. This document is available at <https://smi.ine.pt/> (tab *Documentação metodológica; tema "Justiça"*)

TYPE OF CRIME	LEGAL PROVISION (PENAL CODE)	DESCRIPTION IN THE MANUAL FOR REPORTING CRIMES RECORDED BY POLICE AUTHORITIES
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST A SPOUSE OR AKIN	Article 152. ^o	<p>Include all cases of physical or psychological abuse, including corporal punishment, deprivation of freedom and sexual offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against a spouse; • Against a former spouse; • To a person who, regardless of gender, is or has been in a romantic or spousal relationship with the perpetrator, even if they do not cohabit; • To the parent of a common first-degree descendant (i.e. when the victim has a child in common with the perpetrator); <p>Do not include attempted abuse.</p>

The statistics on **convicted people** are related to cases that have ended the trial phase. A criminal case proceeds to the trial phase if the Public Prosecutor's Office charges the defendant or if an indictment is issued by the investigating judge. One or more defendants or one or more crimes may be tried in the same case, which is classified according to the most serious crime. Those convicted of homicide crimes in which the victim is their spouse or partner were counted.

For a more detailed analysis, we suggest reading the [methodological document](#) (only in Portuguese) on the First Instance Judicial Courts, available at <https://smi.ine.pt/> (tab *Documentação metodológica; tema "Justiça"*).

TYPE OF CRIMINAL CASES	LEGAL PROVISION (CRIMINAL CODE)
HOMICIDE CRIME IN WHICH THE VICTIM IS THE SPOUSE OR PARTNER	Article 132.º of the Penal Code
HOMICIDE CRIME IN WHICH THE VICTIM IS THE FORMER SPOUSE OR FORMER PARTNER, BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND OR FORMER BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND	Article 132.º of the Penal Code

KEY CONCEPTS

Threat: Harm announced with a view to provoking in the person threatened a feeling of fear or unease or jeopardising their freedom of determination.

Convicted: A person that has been sentenced to imprisonment or subject to any security measures to restrict freedom, to pay a monetary fine or against whom any other non-detaining penalty has been imposed.

Crime: All actions described and declared as liable of conviction for felony, by a law promulgated prior to the moment of practice.

Offended person: A person who has suffered losses as a result of a crime.

Criminal cases: A series of legally pre-ordered actions carried out by legitimately authorised individuals to determine whether a crime has been committed and, if so, the appropriate legal consequences.

Closed case: The proceeding in which a final judgement, ruling or decision is delivered, in the respective lawsuit, regardless of *res judicata*.

Intimate partner violence: Any type of violence (psychological, threat, physical or sexual) experienced by victims who have or have had a current or former partner.

Physical violence: Action or omission that endangers or causes harm to the physical integrity of a person.

Psychological violence: Intentional behaviour that seriously damages a person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats.

Sexual violence: Action that forces a person to have sexual, physical or verbal contact with the use of force, intimidation, manipulation, threats or any other mechanism that cancels or limits personal will.