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Assessing the costs of violence against women in Italy

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Abstract:

With the ratification of the Istanbul Convention (Law 77/2013), and the adoption with Law n. 119/2013 of an “Extraordinary Action Plan to combat gender-based and sexual violence (2015-2017)”, Italy has started a multifaceted action towards the eradication of violence, accelerating the process of change in the country. Italy can currently count on accurate and robust sample surveys collecting data at national level on many forms of violence against women, and stereotypes. It seems the situation of registers (health, social, justice and policing services) is more critical, characterized by lack of information and limited data integration. In 2014, the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of Ministers’ Council has nominated a Group of National Experts to formulate some proposals to define an updated Integrated Informative System on gender-based violence. According to the line of action defined by the group of experts, previous surveys have been integrated with further data; new surveys have been launched; a process of gradual integration of registers started along with the integration of lacking information. Italy records only one relevant study estimating the direct and indirect costs of violence. It adopts a methodology combining survey and register’s data, accompanied by the consultancy of key informants (legal, service professionals) for the estimation of unit costs. Hence, it would be important to encourage new studies on cost estimation of violence against women. This information may offer advice that is more precise to policy makers in allocating economic resources to prevent and contrast violence against women.

1. Relevant country context

According to the 2020 EIGE country report, with 63.5 out of 100 points, Italy ranks 14th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. The score is still lower than the EU’s average (-4.4 points). However, Italy is progressing towards gender equality at a faster pace than other EU Member States, as since 2010 its score has increased by 10.2 points, gaining eight places in about ten years (EIGE, 2020).

It is worth noting that on 1st August 2014 the well-known “Istanbul Convention”, that was signed in September 2012, and ratified with Law n. 77 in June 2013, entered into force in Italy. According to the guidelines of the Convention, with the Law n. 119 of 15th October 2013, Italy has adopted an “Extraordinary Action Plan to combat gender-

based and sexual violence (2015-2017)” starting a multifaceted action towards the eradication of violence, accelerating the process of change in the country.¹

1.1 Facts and figures about violence against women in Italy

In Italy, the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) has a long-lasting experience, recognized at international level, in collecting data on different types of violence affecting women's life. In early Nineties, this information was collected within the “National survey on Citizens' security”, then, since the 2006 the first national survey, completely devoted to study violence against women, namely the “National Survey on Women security”, started. A second edition was launched in 2014 and now, the new wave is ongoing.

1.1.1 Prevalence data, intersections, and consequences

According to the data collected in 2014, in Italy 31.5% of women aged 16-70 years (6mil.788th) have suffered from at least one type of physical or sexual violence² during their life course (Table 1): 20.2% (over 4mil) physical violence, 21% sexual violence, 5.4% rape or tempted rape. Intersecting gender with nationality, figures about foreign women show as during their life course they have more frequently experienced physical violence than Italians (25,7% vs 19,6%), while the contrary is reported for sexual violence (16,2% vs 21,5%). Foreign women are much more exposed to rapes and attempted rapes (7,7% vs 5,1%). Comparing data in a longitudinal perspective, over the last five years physical and sexual violence are decreasing, whereas rapes remain stable (Graph. 1 in the Annex). Considering age differences, data show that in 2014 the improvement in certain type of violence is mainly due to young women aged 16-24 years. It is worth noting the situation of women separated or divorced who are more likely to experience violence if compared to other women (51.4% vs 31.5% of the Italian average).

Violence against women affects women's life quality in short, medium, and long-term. Because of physical and sexual violence women suffer from loss of trust and self-esteem (52.7%). Other consequences are anxiety, aversion, and panic attacks (46.8%); sleep and eating disorders (46.3%), depression (40.3%), difficulties in children management and caring (14.8%); self-harm, and risk of suicide (12.1%). Almost 5% of women did not attend their ordinary working activity, and a similar percentage of women was not in condition to carry out daily duties and care.

¹ On 23rd November 2017 the Unified State-Regions Conference (Conferenza Unificata Stato-Regioni) has approved the “*Strategic National Plan on men's violence against women 2017-2020*”. The Authority has allocated 33.1 million euros to which further 5.4 million have been added, for a total amount of 38.5 million euros. These resources are dedicated to funding the Plan to combat violence against women.

² In the FRA survey, the indicator “Physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or a non-partner since the age of 15” is about 27%. So, it seems that this survey underestimates the phenomenon. We know that FRA survey has problem of reliability and comparability.

In some cases, violence may result in femicide, namely the intentional killing of a woman because of her sex (Russell, 1990). In 2019, 111 femicides were recorded, the 0.36 per 100.000 women. Looking at the time series of homicide by gender, the graph n. 2 shows as over 25 years the homicides of men are steadily decreased, whereas those of women remained constant.

1.1.2 Help-seeking and support services

Gender violence is still largely invisible to society and statistics. Many women do not consider violence a crime: In Italy only 35.4% of those who experienced physical or sexual violence by a partner believe being victim of a crime (Table 2 in the Annex). Many women neither talk to anyone about the violence they suffer from their partner (28.1%), nor report to police officers (reporting rate 12.1% when the author is the partner – 6% if non-partner). There are still a few women who seek help from anti-violence shelters or other specialised services (about 4% violence inside the relationship – 1% outside). In most of the cases women do not know that these services exist.

1.2 Previous experiences in studying the cost violence in Italy

In Italy, the only relevant study aimed at estimating the cost of violence, is the one carried out by Intervita Onlus in 2013.³ This study is based on a robust and accurate methodology, with a good coverage, and a high level of quality of the data sources used. The results of the study were published in 2014 in a Report titled “*How much is the costs of silence? A National survey on economic and social costs of violence against women*”. The research was supported by the collaboration of very influent scholars and experts in the field, as well as of a Scientific Board made up of academic and non-academic experts with a high standing at both national and international level, belonging to relevant universities and research institutes⁴. Differently from what it was stated in the EIGE Report titled “*Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union*” (2014), the Intervita Study is neither based on a “victim recall” method (Walby and Olive, 2013), nor on information collected through 9 interviews to women victim of violence. Based on the above-mentioned exclusion criteria the study of Intervita was kept out from the EIGE in-depth review of a selected number of research focused on the estimation of the costs of violence against women.

The Intervita methodology should be included among those combining the use of surveys, based on large representative samples of the population, and administrative data. The study estimates the costs of domestic violence in 16.719.540.330 euros. To

³ Intervita Onlus is now named WeWorld Onlus.

⁴ The Scientific Board was made up of Linda Laura Sabbadini (National Institute of Statistics); Maura Misiti (CNR National Centre of Research); Elisabetta Addis (University of Sassari); Franca Bimbi (University of Padua); Rosanna Taricone (Cergas Bocconi University); Anna Maria Fellegara (Intervita – Catholic University of Piacenza). The Report was edited by Giovanna Badalassi, Franca Garreffa, and Giovanna Vingelli.

this amount, 6.323.028 euros should be added to cover the costs of preventative measures to combat violence against women. The study distinguished among direct costs, economical multiplier effects, intangible costs, and social multiplier effects. Direct costs included the following typologies of expenses: health care, psychological consultancy, drug use, security system, judicial and legal assistance, municipalities' social services, anti-violence shelters. The multiplier economic effects included the reduction in participation in the labour market, the decrease in productivity, and other aspects not measurable due to lack of official data. The intangible costs included the increase in pathologies, mortality (due to femicide and suicide), drug abuse, depression and other psychological disorders, the general erosion of life quality and social capital. For each one of these cost headings the study has identified an adequate data source from official statistics and administrative archives. The main point of reference was the *Survey on Women's security* (Istat, 2006); the *Census of social services and interventions of Municipalities* (Istat); the data from *Emergency service; data on Hospitalization; dataset on Drug use* integrated with that of accesses to shelter services; and several other administrative archives.

There is a critical lack in scientific literature, at national level, on this topic. A search for relevant Italian scientific literature was carried out via the internet database and web platforms (Google scholar, Scopus, WoS, EIGE) using key terms included in the abstracts, such as "cost(s) of violence", "cost(s) of violence against women", "costi violenza" (in Italian), and the result was equal to zero. The only, and often merely divulgate articles are notably dated back to 2014, when the Report of Intervita was presented to public audience, inflaming a debate on the topic. The debate remained at the level of public discussion, and it was mainly focused on the resistance to the idea to measure the costs of violence, to give an economic value to a phenomenon that is multifaceted, and that implies the consideration of intangible factors, that is not easy to calculate.

1.3 The policy debate on how to measure violence against women

When looking at the policy debate on how to measure violence against women the situation is quite different. In fact, the government, since the introduction of the "Extraordinary Action Plan against sexual and gender-based violence", has empowered its efforts in this direction. Hence, under the umbrella of the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Ministers' Council, the project for the implementation of an "Integrated Informative System of Statistics on Gender-based violence" has been developed (see details in Annex 3).

The Informative System is made up of: a) Representative sample surveys; b) Administrative sources (archives/registers); c) Shelter's services data.

With respect to the sample surveys, the Group has proposed to continue the survey on "*Women's security*" but on a four-year frequency. A new representative sample survey on gender stereotype has been started with a two-year frequency. Finally yet importantly, the planning phase of a new national sample survey, focusing on gender stereotypes among young students, has started.

For what the administrative data are concerned, the Group has considered the suggestions presented in the GREVIO Report. The experts have identified a minimum information set representing the core of the new database on violence against women. At this purpose, they have involved representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Justice to discuss about existing informative gaps, and the actions needed to harmonize the data flows.

Finally, the third database is populated by both the anti-violence shelters (AS), and the public utility number 1522. The DPO has mapped all the anti-violence shelters operating in Italy to have a clearer idea of the territorial coverage of the service. Currently, each AS uses its own questionnaire to collect data on women assisted. There is not any form of standardization or harmonization of the tools used to collect data. Moreover, most of the AS as well as the 1522 operators do not collect information that makes it possible to identify the women who contact them, to guarantee their right to anonymity and privacy, and not threaten reciprocal trust. Consequently, statistics may be referred just to the access as well as to interventions done by these centres, and not to the number of women. This is a very crucial point, affecting not only statistics but also the possibility to integrate these data in a wider informative system.

Anyway, the anonymity and privacy of women victim of violence represents a priority. The GREVIO Report on the Italian case at the paragraph 75 underlines the need “*to respect the methodologies adopted by specialized services dedicated to women, and the primary requisite to guarantee confidentiality and anonymity of the victims*” (see details in Annex 4). In the next paragraph, we will go back to this point, because the impossibility to identify women assisted by the shelter services challenges any initiative of databases integration.

1.4 Feasibility of discussion paper methodology in Italy

For what the cost estimation of violence in health services is concerned, the Finnish study is mainly based on the use of three public datasets: The *Finnish care register for health care*, *Shelter data of domestic violence*, and *Statistics on offences and coercive measures*. The study includes all Finnish women experiencing violence who appeared at least once in administrative data.

In Italy, the Group of Experts nominated by the DPO has identified two main datasets on health care, with national coverage, that may be integrated in the informative system on violence against women, mentioned in the previous paragraph: the EMUR administrative archive, and the Hospital Discharge Register (HDR). The former collects emergency data related to health facilities, first aid units, social and health local services; the latter, records all the hospital discharges using the ICD-9-CM international Classification of Diseases. The integration of these registers is currently in an experimental phase: the Group of Experts is trying to both include forms of violence not considered yet (female genital mutilation) and discuss with the Authority for Privacy Protection for the connection of these two data sources.

Two further archives are available with respect to offences and coercive measures: the crime report, one of the richest and most interesting informative flows continuously

updated by Law Enforcement Offices and handled by the Ministry of Interior; the more critical database of the Ministry of Justice (less precise and lacking some relevant information).

The point of main concern is given by the *Shelter data of domestic violence*, because in Italy anti-violence services and shelters (included the help line 1522) adopt different models of data collection systems. To overcome this limit affecting data collection, many Italian Regions and anti-violence shelters networks have made important efforts. Also, another critical point makes these informative flows different from the Finnish one. The discussion paper states that in the Finnish system the data collected by the 29 shelters for victims of violence “includes a personal identification number for each client”. It makes it possible “to link the shelter data to other registry data sources” (Finnish discussion paper: 6). A similar linkage is not possible in the Italian system of shelters’ data collection, because most of these services, to respect women’s anonymity and privacy, do not identify them in any way. They record data on age, nationality, working condition, type of violence, author of violence, and many other information, but no data that may help to identify the client in a unique way. Therefore, no linkage to other administrative archive is possible. It is worth noting that this choice follows the recommendation of the Istanbul Convention (see details about GREVIO report in Annex 4).

In Italy, there is another important integrated register that, in my opinion, may be of interest in the estimation of the cost of violence, and that I would like to submit to the attention of the Finnish author of the discussion paper. It is the case of the register of the National Institute for the Social Security System (INPS). It is much more than a register, as it is an integrated informative system of other registers, such as: a) the Fiscal Agency database; b) the Unified Informative System of Social Services: including data on social services supplied by all the central and local bodies, by the bodies managing the Social Security System (pension, and other provisional measures); c) the Database of the Multidimensional Assessment (including data on children, young, and families (SINBA); people with disabilities (SINA); and poverty (SIP)).

Even in this case, as in the Finnish case, the process to access this data for research purposes is very time consuming, but I think that this kind of data source might be very useful to estimate tangible e fewer tangible costs.

Hence, according to what discussed before it seems that the methodologies described in the Finnish paper (paragraph 2.2) might be only in part feasible in Italy, mainly because the linkage between shelter services data and the information of the other archives/registers might be challenging.

There is agreement about the method of cost estimation even if we should find a way to harmonize the different DRG adopted by each country involved in the study. Once again, in this regard, I would suggest recuperating the experience of the study carried out by Intervita in 2014, as it combined the used of survey data (for prevalence estimation of different types of violence) with the use of registers and data sets on health, judicial, social assistance services. The study experimented also a way of

estimation of unit costs based on the contribution of relevant professionals whose contribute was very useful to move on in the estimation of the costs of some forms of assistance.

1.5 Relevant datasets available in Italy: strength points and weaknesses

As already shown above in paragraph 1.3 the Italian government is strongly committed in the implementation of an “*Integrated Informative System of Statistics on Gender-based violence*” using the data sources that I am briefly going to summarize as follow: a) Sample surveys (1. security of women, 2. adult stereotypes, 3. young students’ stereotypes); b) Administrative archives (Health Care services, Law Enforcement Offices, Ministry of Justice data base, INPS register – Integrated Informative System on the Social Security System); c) Data bases of both shelters for women victims of violence and the number of public utility¹⁵²².

At this stage it is worth noting the strength and weak point of these data sources to offer a further and clearer idea of their potential when using the Finnish strategy to estimate the costs of violence. Potentialities rely mainly in the richness of information available; the main limit is in the difficulty to integrate, interoperate and harmonize these different registers. More details are summarized in Annex 5.

1.6 Challenges for assessing the costs of violence in Italy

Italy boasts a relevant and long-lasting experience in surveys design and management. The surveys mentioned above represent an important starting point from which to move on the discussion on how to use these data to estimate the cost of violence (see Intervita Study, 2014). The weakest link of the system is in the registers that show some lack in data collection. These weaknesses obstacles the possibility to estimate the costs of violence. The GREVIO Report, as an example, has specifically underlined that the lack of information with respect to the use of health and social services by women and children victims of violence obstacles the estimation of an important part of the costs of violence.

On my opinion, the most difficult challenges in Italy to identify a methodology that may be applied to estimate the cost of violence concerns the following points: a) the type of data collected; b) the integration of different data sources; c) the harmonization of unit of analysis definitions and standardization of unit costs of services and professionals’ interventions.

1.6.1 The type of data collected

In Italy, the data collected by the surveys are rich and quite complete. There are some types of violence that are still not recorded but the Group of Expert of the DPO in collaboration with Istat is planning the inclusion of these data in the forthcoming surveys (e.g., the FGM).

The major challenge is at registers level. There is a lack/fragmentation of information in some strategic registers on the relationship between victim and author, as well as

about the presence or not of young children assisting episodes of violence. Moreover, these archives were designed to reach purposes different from those that today they are called to address to.

These limits result in the underestimation of the prevalence of violence, its duration, its tangible and intangible costs.

So, the first step to do in this direction is to integrate surveys and registers with the information that is still lacking. For the Italian case, it means collecting data on the aspect described in the previous paragraph, considering that they will contribute to estimate the cost of violence. According to the recommended human rights-based approach, we must be aware that *the collection and use of administrative data will prioritize the safety and well-being of women and treat them with dignity, respect and sensitivity* (UNWomen, 2020: 53)

1.6.2 The integration of different data sources

This is the real and most difficult challenge that each country must face at. The discussion paper shows that in the Finnish system, and outside it, it is possible to use “personal ID numbers” to link different registries, “enabling registry-based collaborative research” (Finnish discussion paper: 8-9). This is a great advantage, even if the author of the discussion paper outlines the obstacles that make it difficult to access and use this data as well.

In Italy, as shown in previous discussion, I have explained how much this kind of linkages is challenging, especially when we refer to women victims of violence. The Group of Expert is working to find out a solution to collecting individual data in the full respect of women’s confidentiality and privacy. In my opinion there may be a sort of trade-off between the research needs and the need of privacy and confidentiality of women victim of violence.

As an alternative, if we decide to renounce to these data, and to the integration of this information with the registers, we might use the observation of build up a posteriori some ideal-type path to which may be associated the corresponding costs.

1.6.3 The harmonization of unit of analysis definitions and standardization of unit costs of services and professionals’ interventions

The last point that I would submit to the discussion, concerns the harmonization of unit cost value estimations. Even when we realize a methodology to estimate the costs of violence, we need to be sure that the values we have calculated are comparable.

At this aim, it is worth noting the importance of sharing, since the beginning, common unit of analysis (women, events, crimes...), the definitions to use for defining violence (even if now there is much more convergence on different meaning than in the past), the technique for standardize and harmonize these values (a sort of PPP).

2. Conclusions and recommendations

Based on the analysis of the data sources currently available in Italy, we can conclude that there is wide room for experimenting the methodology proposed in the Finnish paper. Italy can count on good quality data resulting from well-designed sample surveys. The situation of the registers is more critical and requires more attention when using those data.

This study may also represent an opportunity to encourage the DPO to accelerate the solution of some crucial issues that are still on the floor (e.g. how to integrate registers with information still lacking or how to integrate shelters services data with other registers). A more in-depth discussion on the use of identification codes (numbers) of women victim of violence and their recognition in other registers represents for the Italian context the challenge of this project on costs estimation of violence against women. If we will not be able to identify a trade-off between the need to respect and guarantee women's right to confidentiality and privacy, and that of getting information for costs estimation, other more creative and innovative solution should be found. This comment paper proposes a possible alternative way to follow.

Based on the experience on this topic, the following recommendations are suggested:

- The adoption in this study of a human rights-based approach. It means that the collection and use of administrative data will prioritize the safety and well-being of women and treat them with dignity, respect and sensitivity (UN Women, 2020: 53)
- In line with EIGE Report on the estimation of costs of gender-based violence (EIGE, 2014), I would suggest to move towards the integrated use of survey data and administrative registers. EIGE Report provides an in-depth analysis of the limits of both these data sources, that may represent our starting point;
- Give particular attention to the assessment of both reliability and comparability of data that will be used in cost estimation, as we know that methodological choices at the basis of the data sources considered may explain the differences resulting from cost estimations. This may be misleading. Hence, it is important to be aware of this threat;
- Moreover, for estimating the unit costs of specific is recommended to consider the possibility to identify key informants, who represent well distinguished professionals in the specific field, from whom to get the information needed;
- Create research teams including two key professionals with expertise that should be considered since the beginning of any initiative in this field: computer scientist and legal expert of privacy law. This two expertise are fundamental in order to provide possible solutions to crucial issues that may concern, on the one side, the way to integrate different data sources; on the other side, the respect of women's protection rights when integrating data sources recording personal data;

- To start an in-depth discussion about the indirect costs of violence as well as on the intangible costs that need to be considered if we are willing to have a more reliable idea of the real costs of violence against women.

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4. Annexes

Annex 1 – Detailed facts and figures on violence against women in Italy

Most of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence, report the ex-partner (18.9%) as the author of that violence; in lower percentage the current partner (5.2%) is indicated, who is also responsible for the most severe forms of violence. Among women suffering from sexual violence, physical harassment is widespread under the form of unwanted touches, hugs, or kisses; followed by undesired forced intimate intercourse, rapes and tempted rapes. Partner or ex-partner also mainly commit physical violence, such as slaps, kicks, punches, and bite; unknown males are mainly responsible for sexual harassment (76.8% on the total amount of violence committed by unknown individuals).

Among women aged 16-24 years, physical or sexual violence decreases moving from 31.7% to 27.1%; in particular, when considering female students, the improvement is even better (from 33.5% down to 25.9%). This data is mainly due to the growingly reduction of sexual violence, and, more specifically, of sexual harassment. Physical violence has also decreased in the same age group (from 18.4% to 14.8%). The increasing public commitment⁵ in launching public social campaigns to combat violence against women together with investments at school level in preventative projects aimed to both foster awareness about what violence against women is, and eradicate stereotypes is showing its potential for a shift in cultural change among youngest generations.

Moreover, 21.6% of women with severe physical limitation, 19.8% of women with bad health conditions, and 18.4% of those with long-term chronic diseases suffered from stalking during or after legal separation. More than 1 out of 3 women victims of IPV have suffered from wounds, bruises, and other injuries (37.6%). About 20% of these women was hospitalized, and more than 1 out of 5 reported permanent injuries. Violence does not seem to stop even during the pregnancy (11.8%). Considering those women who have sought help from professionals (lawyers, magistrates) or police officers, in 2014 together with the increase in crime reporting, a corresponding increase in satisfaction with their assistance has been recorded. It is mostly due to the efforts done by the government in funding training programmes specifically oriented to increase awareness within specific professional categories.

⁵ Equal Opportunity Department (DPO) of the Presidency of Ministry Council action through the National Strategic Plan.

Annex 2 – Tables and graphs

Table 1. Women aged 16-70 years who suffered from man's physical or sexual violence by type of author, time of occurrence, type of violence experienced, and citizenship.

Type of violence	Violence suffered from:														
	Current partner (a)			Ex partner (b)			Current partner or Ex partner (c)			Non partner (d)			Total (d)		
	Italian	Foreign	Total	Italian	Foreign	Total	Italian	Foreign	Total	Italian	Foreign	Total	Italian	Foreign	Total
	During the life course														
Physical or sexual violence	4,9	7,8	5,2	17,9	27,9	18,9	12,9	20,4	13,6	25,3	18,2	24,7	31,5	31,3	31,5
Physical violence	3,9	6,4	4,1	15,4	25,8	16,4	11,0	18,2	11,6	12,3	12,6	12,4	19,6	25,7	20,2
Sexual violence	1,8	3,6	2	7,8	12,2	8,2	5,5	9,1	5,8	18,3	9,7	17,5	21,5	16,2	21,0
Rape or tempted rape	0,4	1,1	0,5	3,6	6,4	3,8	2,2	4,2	2,4	3,3	4,6	3,4	5,1	7,7	5,4
Rape	0,3	0,9	0,4	2,9	6,0	3,2	1,8	3,8	2,0	1,1	2,0	1,2	2,8	5,3	3,0
Tempted rape	0,2	0,5	0,2	1,5	3,2	1,7	1,0	2,1	1,1	2,5	2,9	2,5	3,3	4,6	3,5
	During the last 5 years														
Physical or sexual violence	2,8	4,9	3,0	4,9	5,9	5,0	4,7	6,9	4,9	7,8	7,0	7,7	11,2	12,4	11,3
Physical violence	2,2	3,6	2,3	4,0	5,5	4,1	3,8	5,7	4,0	3,7	4,5	3,8	6,8	9,3	7,0
Sexual violence	1,0	2,6	1,1	2,1	2,6	2,1	1,8	3,4	2,0	4,9	3,3	4,8	6,4	6,0	6,4
Rape or tempted rape	0,2	0,6	0,2	0,1	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,5	0,2	0,6	0,9	0,6	1,1	1,9	1,1

Source: Istat, Survey on Women's Security 2014 (Indagine sulla sicurezza delle donne)

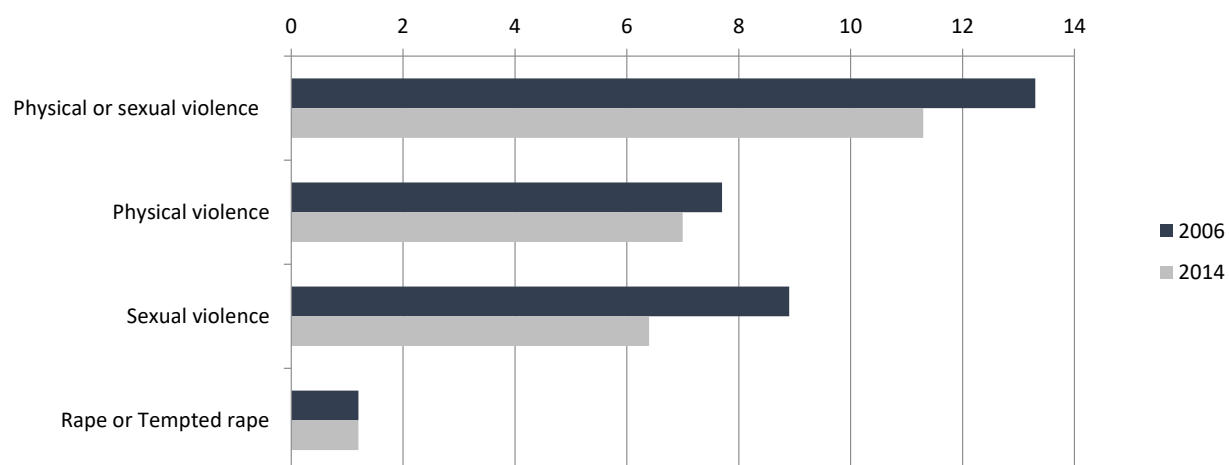
(a) per 100 women who have a current partner (per 100 donne che hanno un partner attuale)

(b) per 100 women who have an ex-partner (per 100 donne che hanno un ex-partner)

(c) per 100 women who have current/former partner (per 100 donne con partner attuale o precedente)

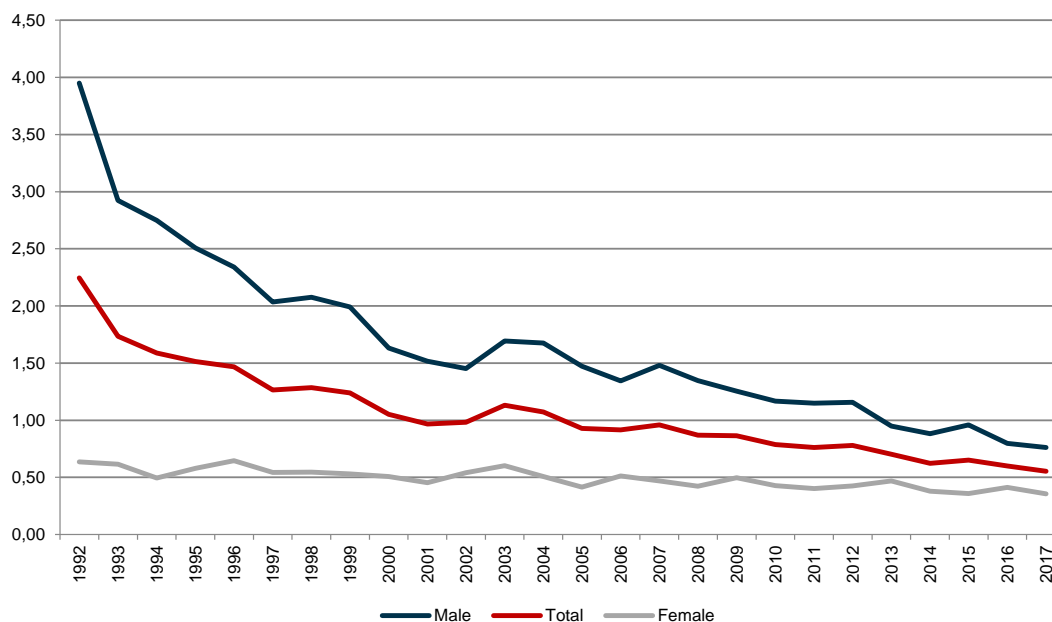
(d) per 100 women aged 16-70 years (per 100 donne dai 16 ai 70 anni)

Graph. 1. Women aged 16-70 years who suffered from man's physical or sexual violence over the last 5 years by type of violence. Years 2006 and 2014 (per 100 women aged 16-70 years) i)



Source: Istat, Survey on Women's Security 2014 (Indagine sulla sicurezza delle donne)

Graph. 2 Victims of homicide by gender – Years 1992-2017 (values per 100.000 inhabitants) (a)



Source: Istat, Survey on causes of death (Indagine su decessi e cause di morte)

(a) The rates shown in this graph may slightly differ from those reported elsewhere, due to the different classification criteria used. <https://www.istat.it/it/violenza-sulle-donne/il-fenomeno/omicidi-di-donne>

Table 2. Women aged 16-70 years who suffered from partner or ex-partner violence, over the life course, by some characteristics of violence, and type of violence. Year 2014 (% composition - data referred to the last episode of violence)

Characteristics of violence	TOTAL			Tot.
	Physical	Sexual	of which rape or tempted rape	
Consider the event suffered: a crime	34,7	51,9	54,1	35,4
Consider the event suffered: something wrong, not a crime	44,1	34,4	32,4	44,0
Consider the event suffered: something that may happen	20,0	12,5	12,2	19,4
Talked to someone about the episode	71,7	59,2	57,7	70,4
Not talked to anyone	26,9	39,2	41,5	28,1
Has reported (a):	12,5	16,0	17,5	12,26
Satisfaction with police officers				
<i>Very satisfied</i>	26,7	31,6	33,0	26,3
<i>Quite some satisfied</i>	25,1	18,5	19,3	24,9
<i>Slightly satisfied</i>	19,4	27,0	28,3	18,6
<i>Not at all satisfied</i>	26,6	22,8	19,4	28,1
Seek help to centres:				
antiviolence shelters/services/help point (a)*	3,6	7,1	8	3,4

Annex 3 – Details on the political process leading to the implementation of an Integrated Informative System on Violence Against Women

After the Law 77/2013 that ratified the Istanbul Convention, and the following Law 119 approved in the same year, the Department for Equal Opportunities (DPO) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers has instituted an Interministerial Task Force on violence against women, coordinated by Linda Laura Sabbadini, a well-known thematic expert of the National Institute of Statistics (Istat). The Task Force oversaw an in-depth study on available data sources (surveys, administrative archives/registers, shelters and non-profit services datasets, local observatories, the public utility lines 1522 data, etc...), and submitted some proposals, to implement an “Integrated Informative System of Statistics on Gender-based violence”.

In 2014 this document represented the starting point of the work that a Group of Experts, nominated by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, was appointed to realize. The Group had to formulate some proposals to define an updated informative system on gender-based violence. In November 2016, a new report was submitted to the DPO, also including budget coverage of 2million euros for the period 2016-2018. The Action Plan has then allocated in 2018-2020 further 2mil681k euros supporting the activity oriented to continue the implementation of the informative system on gender-based violence.

Annex 4 – Details on the Grevio Report on the Italian case

At paragraph 76 the Grevio experts add: *“At this regard, the GREVIO expresses its preoccupation about those Regions that have suspended AS from the access to funding opportunities due to their reluctance to collect data enabling the unique identification of women (e.g. fiscal code). Grevio expresses its reserve on the need that Authorities, although public, get these data to monitor episodes of violence against women, or the AS activities supporting them”*.

In fact, the GREVIO report has strongly invited those Regions that put the service supply under the condition of getting women’s personal data to revise this behaviour, giving priority to the respect of the anonymity of women victims of violence (GREVIO, 2020). It would be interesting knowing if GREVIO had similar comments to the Finnish system. In light of this situation, the Group of Experts of the DPO has proposed to shelters to send individual data of victims of violence directly to Istat that will elaborate and analyse them at regional level, sending back to shelter networks report on the women assisted.

Annex 5 – Strengths and weaknesses of available datasets

Available datasets	Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Sample survey on the “Security of women”</p> <p>Sample survey on the “Security of citizens” + ad hoc module on sexual harassment at workplace.</p>	<p>Large representative sample at national level – from 2014 includes also foreign women resident in Italy</p> <p>Many different forms of violence are recorded: physical, sexual, economical, psychological, stalking, assisted violence – many other relevant information on risk factors, authors of violence, help requests, etc...</p> <p>In the ongoing survey it has been planned to record data on FGM</p> <p>It provides relevant information on this form of violence</p> <p>Both these surveys are considered “good practices” at European level</p>	<p>In 2006 and in 2014 – now it is ongoing. Lack in periodicity - Objective: every 4 years</p> <p>Lack in collecting data on forced marriages, FGM, forced sterilization, forced abortion</p> <p>It is recommended a major effort in collecting data on socio-economic and cultural aspect in which violence against women is rooted</p>
Sample survey on the “Adult stereotypes”	Smaller but still representative sample survey at national level	
Health care services register	The EMUR administrative archive, and the Hospital Discharge Register (HDR).	<p>Lack of consolidated data at national level on the access of victim of violence to health and social services</p> <p>Lack of data on the relationship between the victim of the crime and the author</p> <p>Lack of information about young children assisting to violence episodes</p>
Law enforcement offices – Ministry of Interior	<p>Interforces Informative System (SDI-SSD) – collects data on reported crimes.</p> <p>Istat regularly imports these data, analyses them, and publishes very useful reports</p>	Not collected the relationship between the victim and the author of violence, but when the crime is the homicide of a woman, and the type of relationship represents an aggravating factor
Ministry of Justice database	The Informative System of Penal Crime Cognition (SICP) – collect data sent by the attorneys about the open inquiries by type of crime. The	In the penal field, data on victims and their relationship with the author of violence are

	<p>data refer to both author of crimes and inquiries</p> <p>Since 2019 the system records the sex of the victim</p> <p>The Group of Expert of the DPO is working at the integration of these registers to the one of the Ministry of Interior</p>	<p>collected but not recorded in electronic databases.</p> <p>These data are not integrated with those from the Law enforcement offices.</p> <p>Lack of harmonization with respect to the unit of analysis: author of violence, crimes, inquiries, etc...</p> <p>Lack of data collected by Civil Courts as well as by the Juvenile Court</p> <p>Lack of data on economic damage compensations proposed to the Civil and Penal Courts.</p> <p>Lack of data on recidivism</p>
INPS register – Integrated Informative System on the Social Security System	<p>Integration of the a) Fiscal Agency database; b) the Unified Informative System of Social Services: including data on social services supplied by all the central and local bodies, by the bodies managing the Social Security System (pension, and other provisional measures); c) the Database of the Multidimensional Assessment (including data on children, young, and families (SINBA); people with disabilities (SINA); and poverty (SIP)).</p>	
Database of shelters	<p>Both general and specific information on violence is collected</p> <p>Information on the empowerment process of women accompanied by the centres in getting out of violence</p>	<p>Data are referred to single women but there is no possibility to identify each one of them due to the need to respect privacy and confidentiality.</p> <p>The main issue concerns the impossibility to integrate these very important and strategic data in a wide integrated informative system</p> <p>Statistics are not reliable for the estimate of prevalence of victims who are supported by the services</p>

		These data represent accesses to service, not women
Database of 1522	General information – first contact and aid	Statistics are not reliable for the estimate of prevalence of victims who are supported by the services – These data represent accesses to service, not women