



Evidence-Based Data on German Femicides

The following Data Analysis is based on the
documentation of German Femicides in the period
from

January 1st, 2019 to November 25th, 2021
It is the Balance of 541 recorded
German Femicides within 1.060 days.

Status Thursday, December 10th, 2021



WHY?

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

- Germany ratifies the Istanbul Convention on October 12th, 2017
- Istanbul Convention is in force since February 01st, 2018, legally binding
- Status Federal Law and International Law

But:

- Still no current and valid Data available on Violence Against Women
- German government has no valid data on German femicides - 100% blind spot
- Violation of the Istanbul Convention, Article 11 - Data collection and research

„It is a continuous trend since we have been doing this, since 2015 we see annually increasing numbers“

Holger Münch, President of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), November 10th, 2021, on the occasion of the presentation of the official Police Crime Statistics for the year 2019 on Violence Against Women and Partnership Violence



NEWS

Developments in 2021

June 10th, 2021:

The German Parliament rejects the following six motions on the protection of women against violence by a majority:

1. Systematically combating violence against women and girls - laying the foundations for the successful implementation of the Istanbul Convention (Drucksache 19/14380)
2. Strengthen counseling services for women affected by violence (Drucksache 19/15379)3
3. Assume responsibility for women in women's shelters (Drucksache 19/15380)4
4. Perceive women's shelters as part of the state's duty to protect (Drucksache 19/15770)5
5. Establish a crisis-proof infrastructure for victims of domestic violence in Germany (Drucksache 19/19726)6
6. Investigate, name and prevent femicides in Germany (Drucksache 19/23999)



NEWS

Developments in 2021

November 23rd, 2021:

„In the area of partner violence in particular, however, we have a very significant dark field. (...) This trend of the last years continues with it, we have an increase [note: of partnership violence] since 2015 by a good 11%, which underlines the increasing importance of this phenomenon also again"

Holger Münch, President of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), November 23rd, 2021, on the occasion of the presentation of the official Police Crime Statistics for the year 2020 on Violence Against Women and Partnership Violence. The official statistics on "intimate partner violence" presented by Mr. Münch, which include and evaluate "attempted homicides" and "completed homicides" against women, refer exclusively to offenses in which the current or former partner, cohabitant, or husband is the perpetrator.

Femicides committed by sons, fathers, brothers, cousins, neighbors or projectors (stalkers) are not included.

Thus, the public continuously learns about only a fraction of the annual violent excesses against girls and women.



WHY?

Germany's Data Quality at the National Level, official Police Crime Statistics (PKS)

The original Answers of the Authority in Charge, Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) on request

- Data collection PKS: "Data collection in the PKS takes place after completion of the police investigation and reflects the status at that time" → i.e. **women who succumb to their injuries afterwards are not recorded statistically**
- Perpetrators History of Violence: "The PKS (...) is **not an instrument for analyzing the context of a crime** or for mapping developments in its course.
- Characteristics of particular Cruelty, e.g. presence of child(ren): "No, **these characteristics are not covered by PKS.**"
- How many potential Perpetrators of Violence are known: "The PKS is an annual statistic without personal data. Accordingly, **such evaluations are not possible on the basis of the PKS**".
- Motivation: "**An underlying motivation is not recorded in the PKS** as mass statistics."
- Pregnancies: "**Pregnancies are not recorded in PKS.**"



WHY?

Germany's Data Quality at an International Level according to the Publication of October 15th, 2020 of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) „Intimate partner violence: data collection methodology“

- 1. Indicator 1: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Germany: data are not disaggregated by the age of the victim and perpetrator, nor by the sex of the perpetrator.
- 2. Indicator 2: Annual number of reported offences related to intimate partner violence against women committed by men (aged 18 and over)
→ No data are available for: Germany.
- 3. Indicator 3: Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) perpetrators of intimate partner violence against women (and percentage of male population that are perpetrators)
→ Non-comparable data are available for: Germany



WHY?

Germany's Data Quality at an International Level according to the Publication of October 15th, 2020 of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) „Intimate partner violence: data collection methodology“

- 4. Indicator 4: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of physical intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Germany: data cannot be disaggregated by the age of the victim or by the sex or age of the perpetrator.
- 5. Indicator 5: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of psychological intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Germany: data cannot be disaggregated by the age of the victim, or by the sex or age of the perpetrator.
- 6. Indicator 6: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of sexual intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Germany: data cannot be disaggregated by the age of the victim, or by the sex or age of the perpetrator.



WHY?

Germany's Data Quality at an International Level according to the Publication of October 15th, 2020 of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) „Intimate partner violence: data collection methodology“

- 7. Indicator 7: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of economic intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Non-comparable data are available for: Germany
- 8. Indicator 8: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims reporting rape committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Germany: data cannot be disaggregated by the age of the victim, or by the sex or age of the perpetrator.
→ Germany: data exclude rapes resulting in death.
- 9. Indicator 9: Women victims of intimate femicide (aged 18 and over) committed by a male intimate partner (aged 18 and over), as a share of the women victims of homicide (aged 18 and over)
→ Germany: data cannot be disaggregated by the age of the victim, or by the sex or age of the perpetrator.



WHY?

Germany's Data Quality at an International Level according to the Publication of October 15th, 2020 of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) „Intimate partner violence: data collection methodology“

- 10. Indicator 10: Annual number of protection orders applied and granted in cases of intimate partner violence against women, by type of court
- 11. Indicator 11: Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) prosecuted for intimate partner violence against women
- 12. Indicator 12: Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) sentenced for intimate partner violence against women
- 13. Indicator 13: Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) sentenced for intimate partner violence against women, held in prison or with a sanction involving a form of deprivation of liberty

→ Indicator 11 -13: No data are available for: Germany



STATUS QUO?

Official Request of the Member of Parliament Cornelia Möhring (The Left) to the Federal Government dated on November 3rd, 2020

- Question:

"What is the number of women killed in Germany this year and what is the proportion of women killed who have fallen victim to a femicide, i.e. a killing based on the hierarchical gender ratio (please break down by time, crime scene, cause of death, motive)?"

- Official Answer of the Government of Germany:

"At the present time, the Federal Government has no findings in the sense of the question. In the police crime statistics (PKS), women are recorded as victims of homicides.

However, the PKS is an annual statistic, which means that the following information is not available during the current year 2020. Independent of this, on the basis of the PKS no statements are made about femicides".



METHODOLOGY

Quantitative long-term Study on German Femicides, starting in January 2019

- Based on existing press releases (minimum data)
- Based on three investigation parameters:
 1. Causally male
 2. Self-Increase/Narcism and/or Misogyny
 3. Lack of impulse control
- More than 70 different Criteria related to the individual Crimes
 - For example: Femicides of German Citizens abroad
 - Mental illness, abuse of alcohol, drugs and/or medication
 - Infanticide(s) targeted against the mother
 - Car as a weapon (Frenzy / Car Racing)
 - Gender aspects in the judiciary (nationwide inquiries at public prosecutor's offices/courts)

CREDITS to all employees of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), the German public prosecutor's offices and courts who continuously support me and my work by providing answers.



RESULTS – Numbers in Total

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021

Femicides	2019	Federal State/ Country:	2020	Federal State/ Country:	2021	Federal State/ Country:
In Total:	182		197		162	
<u>by Car as a weapon</u>	3	1 x Saxony-Anhalt 2 x North Rhine- Westphalia	7	4 x Rhineland- Palatinate 1 x Baden- Wuerttemberg 1 x Thuringia 1 x Hessen	8	1 x North Rhine- Westphalia 1 x Bavaria 1 x Hessen 1 x Baden-Wuerttemberg 2 x Brandenburg 2 x Schleswig Holstein
<u>by Germans abroad</u>	2	Switzerland	2	Switzerland	2	Switzerland
	1	Austria	1	Austria		
	2	Spain	1	USA		
	1	Thailand	1	Ukraine		
			1	Tasmania		
Further Course of this Presentation:	173		184		152	



RESULTS - Overview of Months

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 – Trend 2019 – 2020 - 2021

18	2019 – Total: 173	2020 - Total: 184	2021 - Total: 152
January	17	21	15
February	7	15	19
March	14	19	19
April	13	9	11
May	13	18	18
June	14	13	13
July	18	17	9
August	14	12	11
September	19	15	16
October	12	13	13
November	16	16	8 (until the 25 th)
December	16	16	



RESULTS - Annual Overview of the 16 Federal States I.

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - *Alarming Numbers 2021*

	2019 – Total: 173	2020 - Total: 184	2021 - Total: 152
Baden-Wuerttemberg	22	21	16
Bavaria	16	34	20
Berlin	4	10	9
Brandenburg	4	5	5
Bremen	3	2	3
Hamburg	2	2	3
Hessen	16	11	9
Lower Saxony	21	20	17

REMINDER: The FOCG-Database is based on media releases on the events and on the corresponding court hearings.

Not every femicide becomes a news story in the press. Not all reports are online for a longer period of time. Another large number of unreported cases is hidden behind the femicide attempts, for which the last information is "life-threateningly injured".



RESULTS - Annual Overview of the 16 Federal States II.

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - *Alarming Numbers 2021*

	2019 – Total: 173	2020 - Total: 184	2021 - Total: 152
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	6	-	1
North Rhine-Westphalia	52	43	36
Rhineland-Palatinate	6	11	12
Saarland	3	4	-
Saxony	5	8	8
Saxony-Anhalt	4	5	2
Schleswig-Holstein	8	5	11
Thuringia	1	3	-

REMINDER: The FOCG-Database is based on media releases on the events and on the corresponding court hearings.

Not every femicide becomes a news story in the press. Not all reports are online for a longer period of time. Another large number of unreported cases is hidden behind the femicide attempts, for which the last information is "life-threateningly injured".

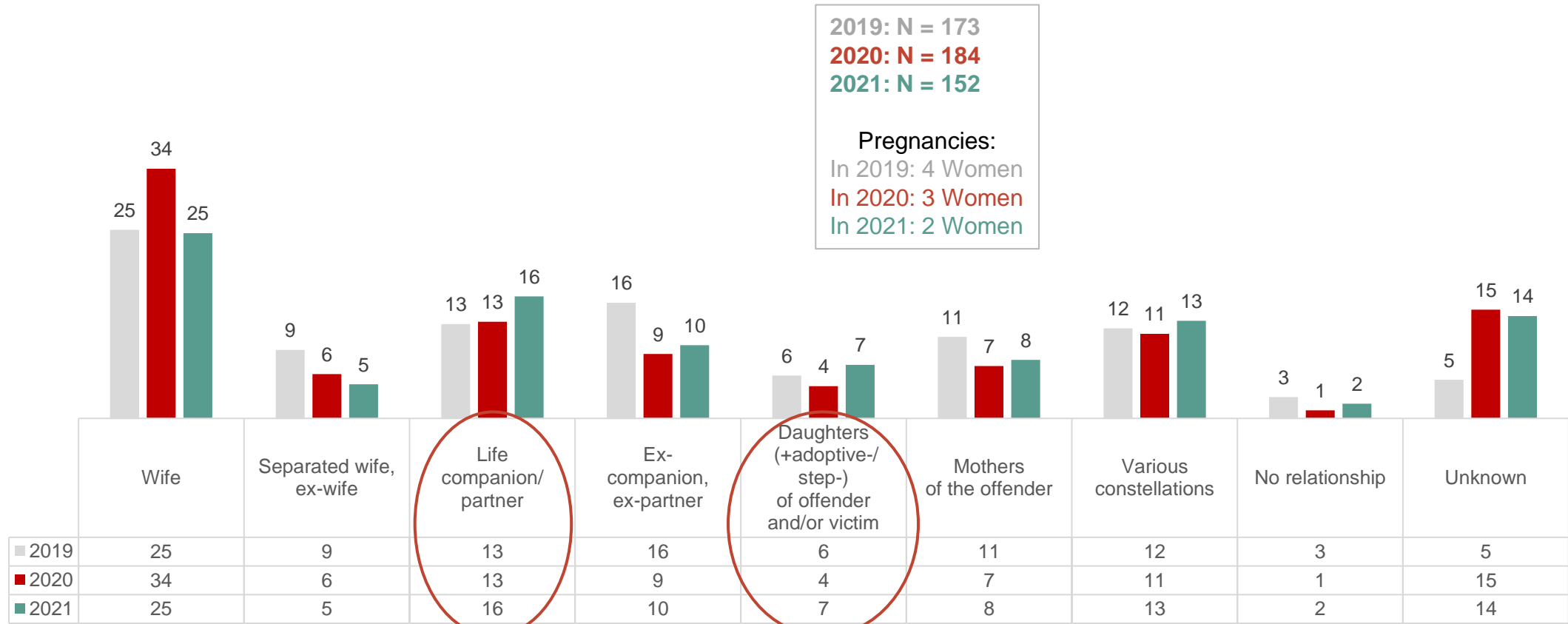


RESULTS - Relationship of the Victims to their Killer

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

2019: N = 173
 2020: N = 184
 2021: N = 152

Pregnancies:
 In 2019: 4 Women
 In 2020: 3 Women
 In 2021: 2 Women



■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021



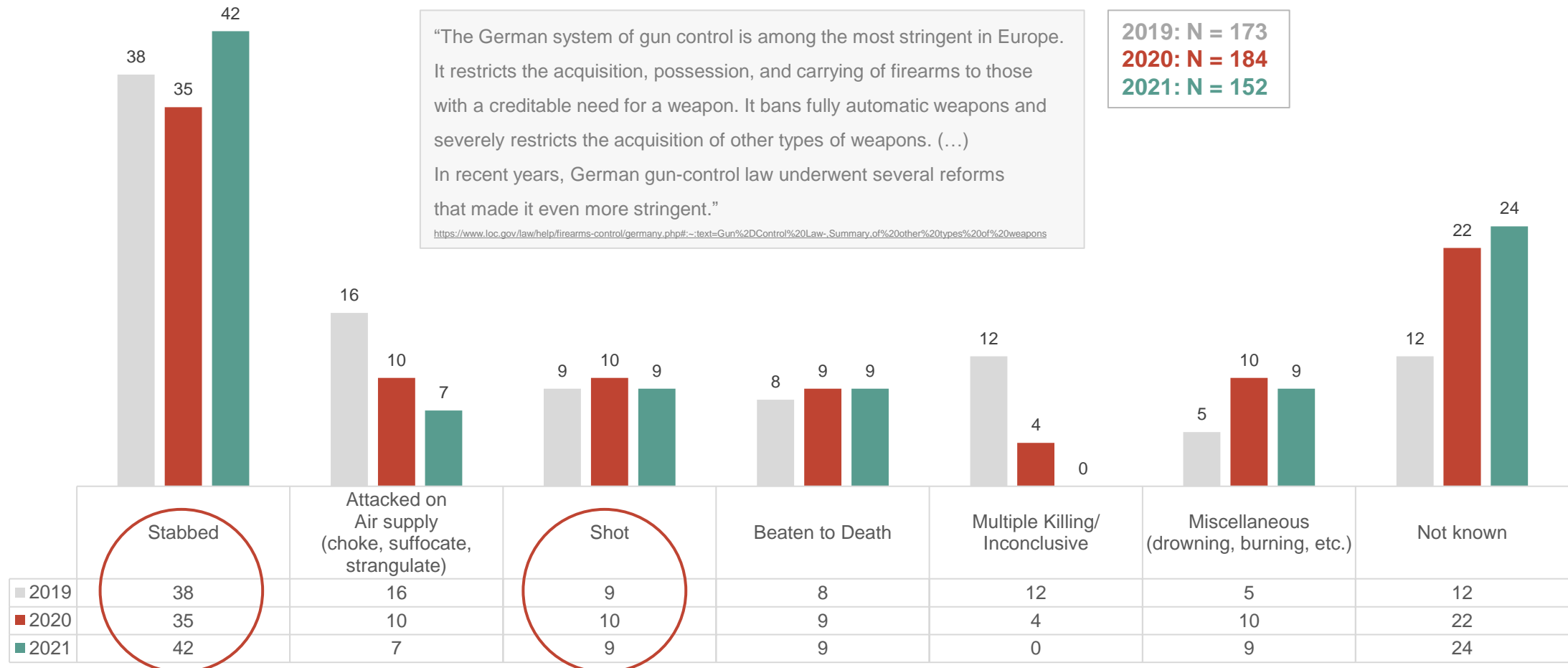
RESULTS – Modus Operandi

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

2019: N = 173
 2020: N = 184
 2021: N = 152

“The German system of gun control is among the most stringent in Europe. It restricts the acquisition, possession, and carrying of firearms to those with a creditable need for a weapon. It bans fully automatic weapons and severely restricts the acquisition of other types of weapons. (...) In recent years, German gun-control law underwent several reforms that made it even more stringent.”

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/firearms-control/germany.php#:~:text=Gun%20Control%20Law,-Summary,of%20other%20types%20of%20weapons>



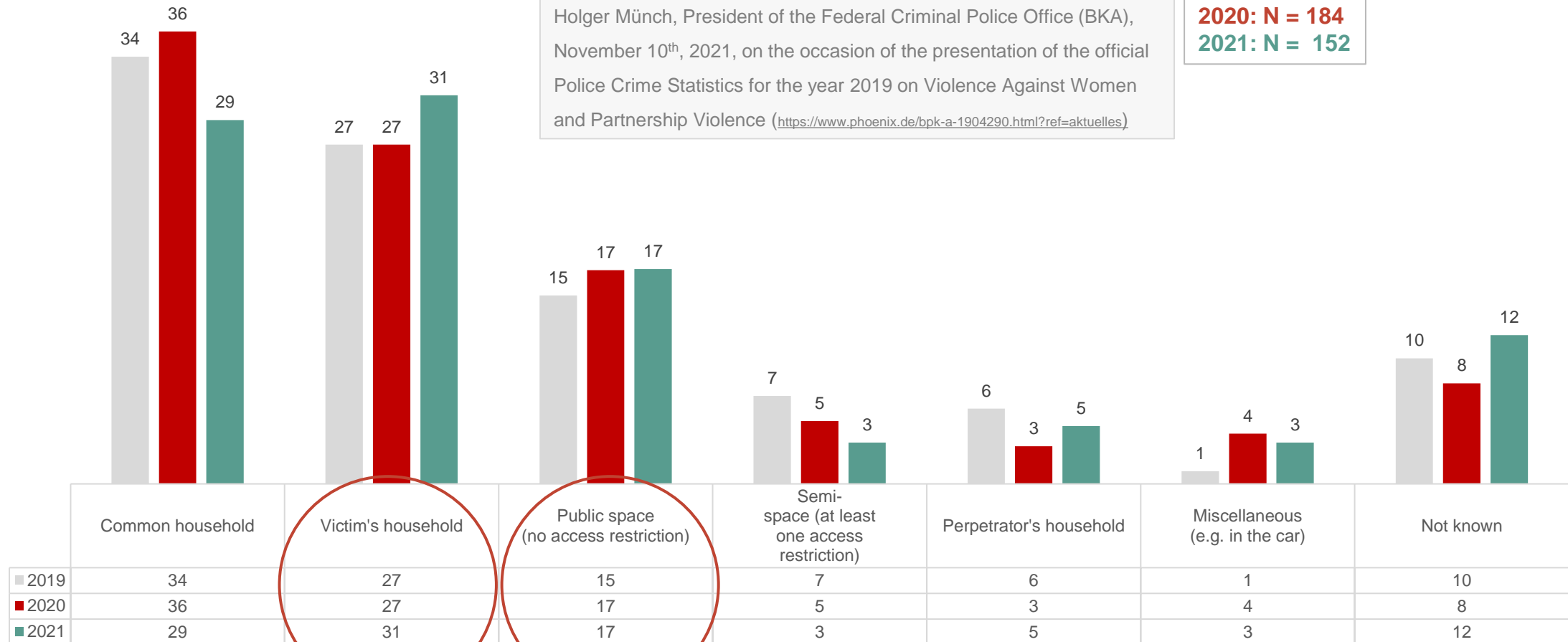


RESULTS – Crime Scenes

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

“Most acts of intimate partner violence happen in private, in secret”.
Holger Münch, President of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA),
November 10th, 2021, on the occasion of the presentation of the official
Police Crime Statistics for the year 2019 on Violence Against Women
and Partnership Violence (<https://www.phoenix.de/bpk-a-1904290.html?ref=aktuelles>)

2019: N = 173
2020: N = 184
2021: N = 152





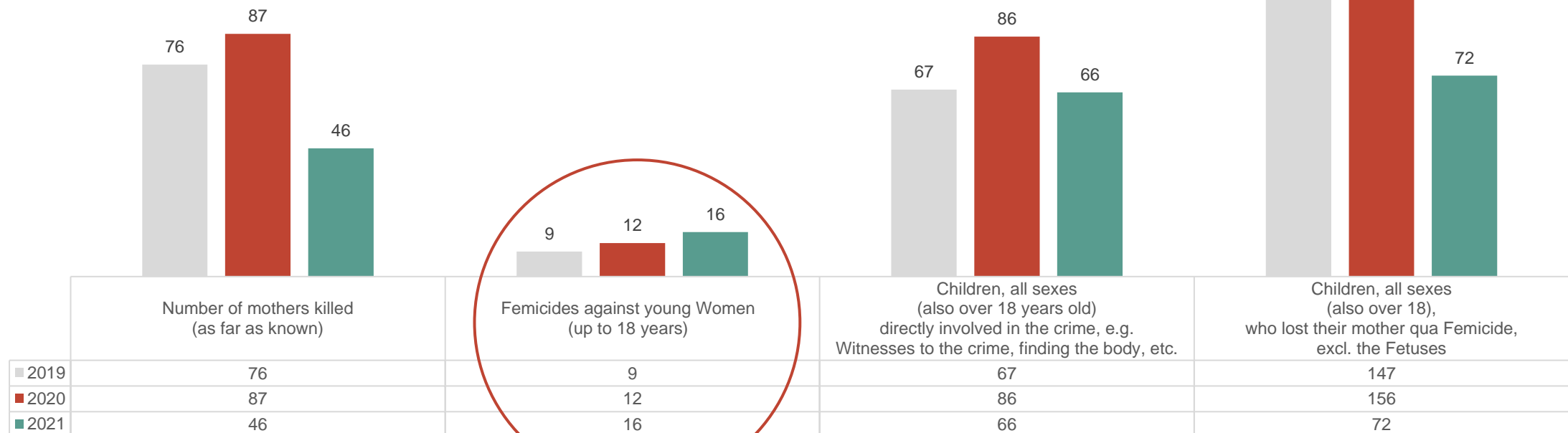
RESULTS – Mothers & Children involved

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - Absolute numbers

“We know that perpetrators often experienced domestic violence themselves in their childhood and adolescence ”.

Holger Münch, President of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), November 10th, 2021, on the occasion of the presentation of the official Police Crime Statistics for the year 2019 on Violence Against Women and Partnership Violence (<https://www.phoenix.de/bpk-a-1904290.html?ref=aktuelles>).

2019: N = 173
2020: N = 184
2021: N = 152





RESULTS – Killed: young women/ girls / children

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - Absolute numbers

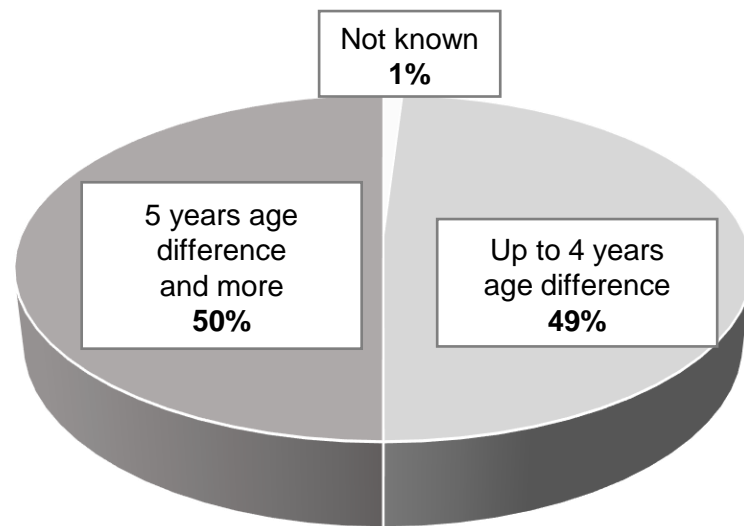




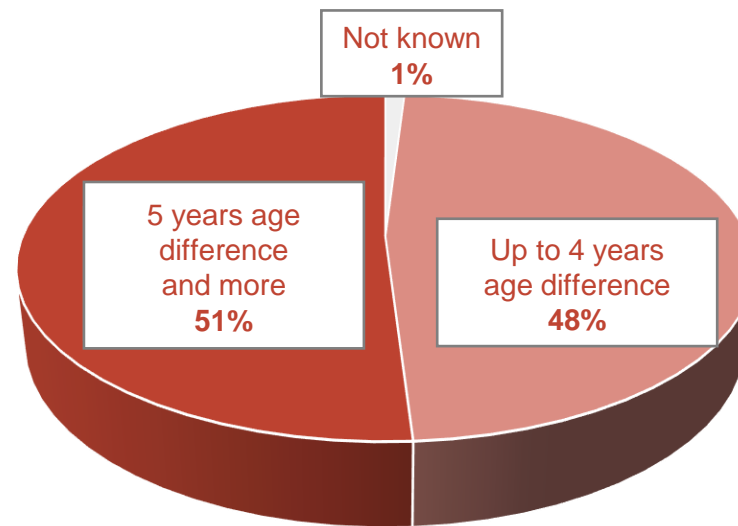
RESULTS – Red Flag

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

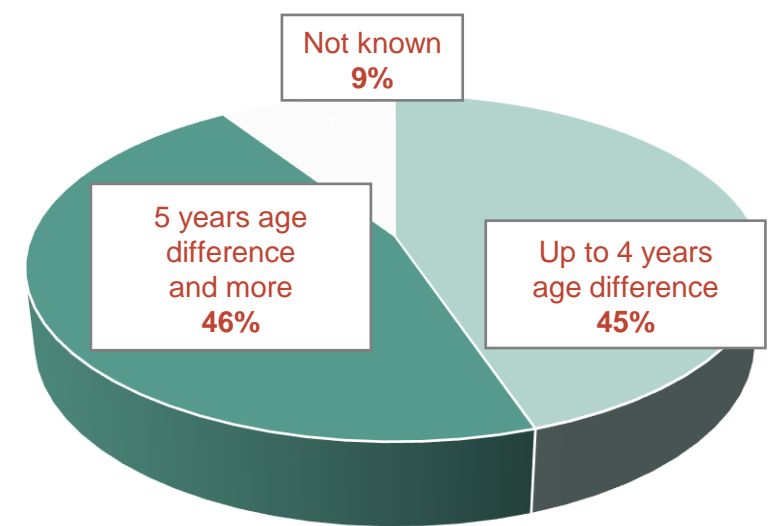
Age difference - In relationship constellations with a sexual context



2019: N = 109



2020: N = 113



2021: N = 87

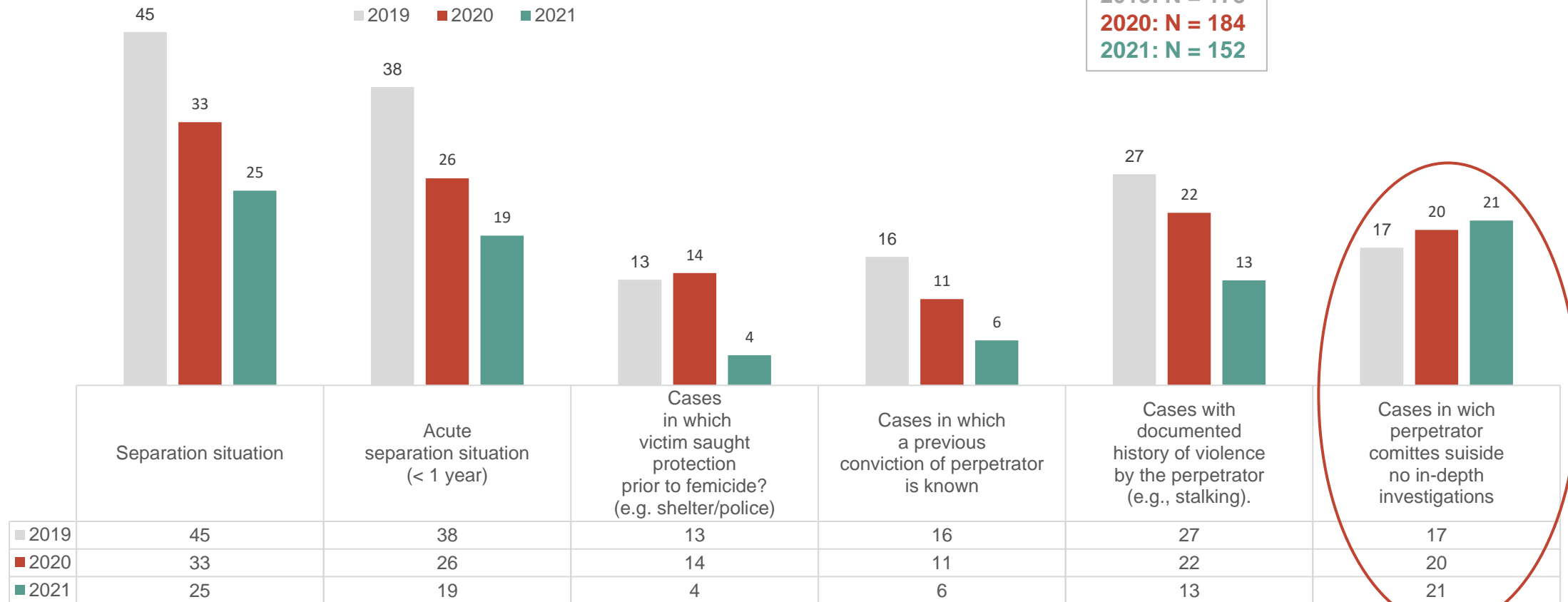


RESULTS – Circumstances

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

In relationship constellations with a sexual context

2019: N = 173
2020: N = 184
2021: N = 152





RESULTS – Jurisdiction

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

Court proceedings must be discontinued in Germany pursuant to § 206a of the German Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO) due to a procedural impediment if the defendant is deceased

(Federal Court of Justice (BGH), decision of June 8th 1999, 4 StR 595/97, BGHSt 45, 108)

In the FOCG database:

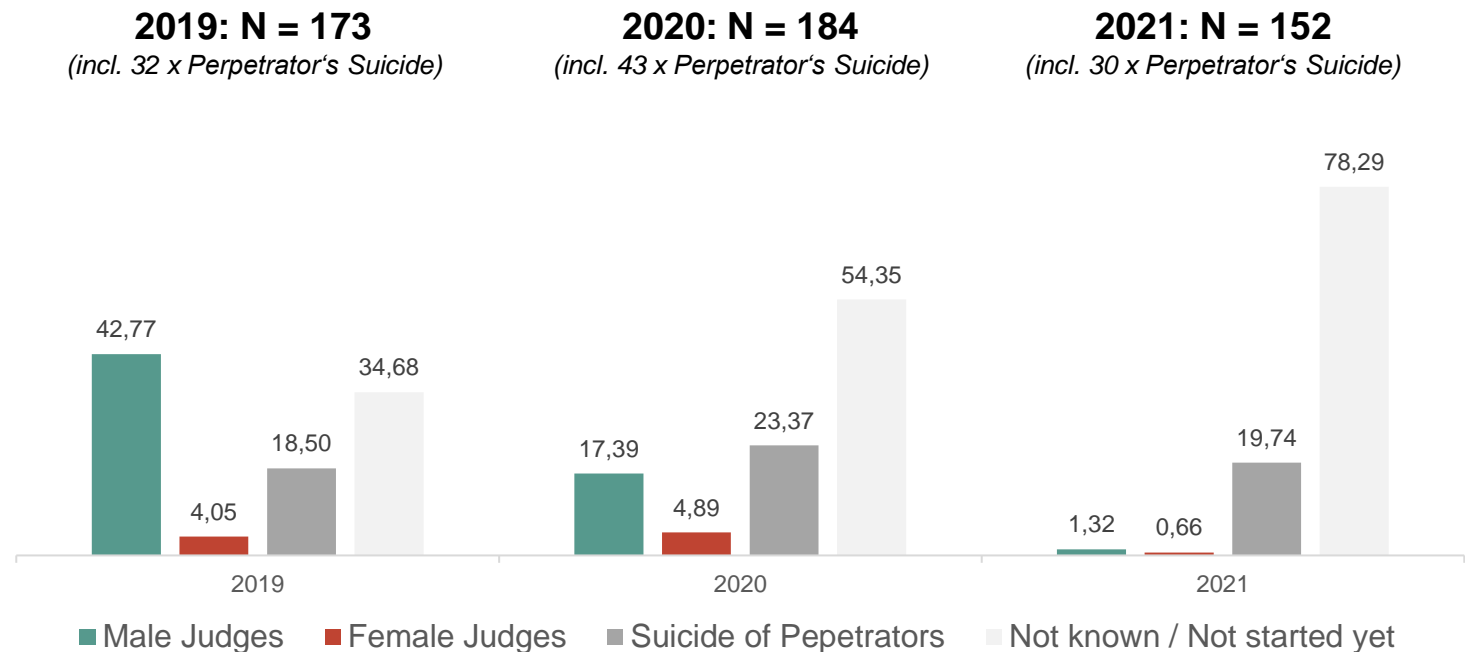
32 cases are recorded in 2019

43 cases are recorded in 2020

30 cases are recorded in 2021

in which the perpetrators committed suicide.

These cases conceal a further, immense dark field, because the circumstances upfront to the Femicides are not determined or published





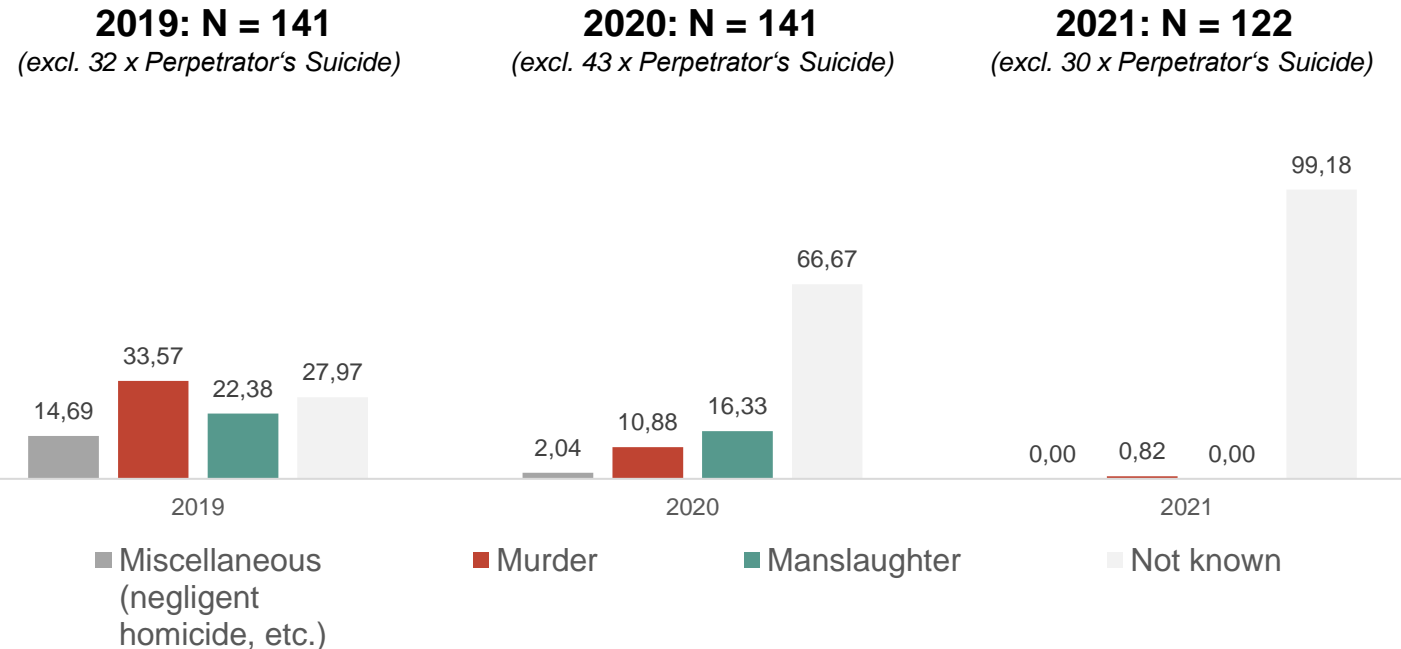
RESULTS – Femicide Verdicts: Murder or Manslaughter

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

"Not every homicide that occurs because the (former) partner wants to turn partner wants to turn away or has turned away from the perpetrator is necessarily based on based on low motives.

Rather, in such a case, feelings of despair and inner hopelessness can also trigger and determine the act.

These can make an evaluation as "low" appear questionable, especially when the as "low", especially if the separation is caused by the victim and the and therefore the defendant deprives himself through the act of precisely that which he actually does not want to lose." (BGH 2 StR 349/08, of October 29th, 2008)



REMINDER: In 2020, German courts still refer to the Verdict of the Federal Court of Justice (BGH) of 2008.

Unlike murder, manslaughter is subject to a statute of limitations.



RESULTS – Is the Istanbul Convention applied?

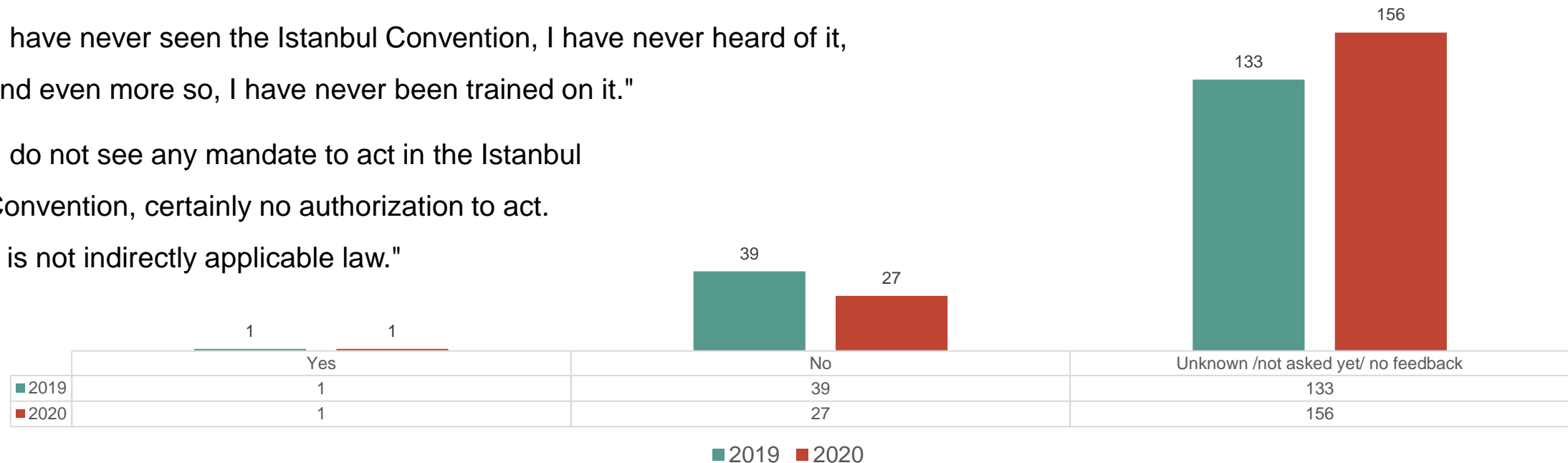
Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021 - Absolute numbers

"The so-called Istanbul Convention is not applied in the proceedings, but German criminal and criminal procedure law."

"I have never seen the Istanbul Convention, I have never heard of it, and even more so, I have never been trained on it."

"I do not see any mandate to act in the Istanbul Convention, certainly no authorization to act.

It is not indirectly applicable law."



REMINDER: As part of the FOCG's scientific research questionnaires on the individual Femicides are sent to German Prosecutors and Courts nationwide. Here are some quotes on the questionnaires sent out for the Femicides.



KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021

- Even if the current year 2021 is not completed yet, the Femicide figures are already alarmingly high.
- In the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate, there is a case-specific risk management system 'RIGG' which has been praised throughout Germany as a 'best case'. The figures prove that it is not an efficient best-case practice in its current execution.
- The federal states of Bremen, Hamburg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Schleswig-Holstein have already increased their Femicide statistics 2020 before the end of the year 2021. Brandenburg as well as Saxony are on the verge of doing so.
- The federal state of Saxony holds the sad German record with three Femicides within the first two weeks of September 2021: Werdau (September 1), Plauen (September 12) and Großröhrsdorf (September 15).

They were followed by another Saxon Femicide in Leipzig on November 19.



KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021

- Married wives are consistently the group most frequently victimized by Femicide: Year after year, their share is 25% or above.
- Daughters experience an increasing risk of becoming victims of Femicide in Germany.
- Year after year, the most common modus operandi is stabbing, each with a share over 35%.
- Striking is the consistent frequency of Femicides by shooting, especially since Germany has very restrictive gun laws.
- The frequency of Femicides that were carried out in public spaces increased from 2019 to 2021.

It must be analyzed whether the supposedly private is becoming a public safety risk.



KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021

- The frequency of Femicides carried out in the private space of subsequent victims is consistently high, which means that protective measures for victim households need to be intensified (as in Italy, for example).
- The percentage of young girls and women under the age of 18 over the years is a cause for deep concern and suggests that awareness-raising for this generation needs to be intensified urgently.
- The number of cases in which (mostly common) children are instrumentalized and killed with the mother, or as a tool against the mother, is alarming.
- In more than half of all Femicides in 2019, 2020 and 2021, there was an age difference of 5 years or more in cases of (ex-)partner violence - raising awareness about this red flag is highly recommended.



KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021

- The decreasing number of victims who have turned to the help system in the run-up to femicide should be countered -especially in the wake of Corona-related protective measures and restrictions- with a strategy to facilitate access as well as with a significant intensification of the support and assistance offered.
- The high percentage of perpetrators who escape prosecution by committing suicide, and in whose cases the depth of the Femicide is not investigated, is a glaring structural deficit that causes a wide field of unknown but relevant details.
- A significant imbalance of male compared to female judges was already noticeable in the 2019 and 2020 review. The same trend is emerging for 2021, despite the fact that almost all cases are still pending.



KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021

- The percentage of Femicides that are classified as manslaughter is higher than the percentage of those that are classified as murders in 2020. For this reason, an independently installed quality management system for the judiciary is recommended in order to do justice to the relevance of a verdict on a killing of a human being.
- The percentage of jurisdictional institutions where the contents of the Istanbul Convention are known and can thus be applied is a glaring structural deficit.

In 2021, an increase in transparent public information was noticeable: research on violent crimes against women as well as femicides had to be significantly intensified. In an increasing number of cases, it was not further reported whether a severely or most severely injured person survived the male attack. In an increasing number of cases, reports were only made after specific inquiries, and in individual cases there were even official police reports with the comment that no further details would be made public because the attack/femicide was a "private matter".



CONCLUDING

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021

- Violence against women, or Femicides are NOT a women's issue
- **The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has estimated that the cost of gender-based violence across the EU is €366 billion a year. The cost for Germany is over €68 billion per year.**
- In 2019, only € 6.1 million was available from The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) for measures to combat violence against women
- **In the 2020 BMFSFJ budget, this budget title was cut down to € 5 million (minus 18%)**
- **In the 2021 BMFSFJ budget, only €5 million has again been earmarked for measures to combat violence against women**
- The continuously increasing number of affected children increases the risk that the number of Perpetrators/ Killers will continue to rise
- The top ranking for femicide in Europe reflects the decades-long extent of structural of structurally anchored traditional German violence against women.

(<https://eige.europa.eu/news/gender-based-violence-costs-eu-eu366-billion-year>

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/haushalt-2019-im-bundestag/130888>

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/mehr-geld-fuer-starke-familien/160678>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1096116/femicide-in-europe-in-2018/>)



Evidence-Based Data on German Femicides

Status Thursday, November 25th, 2021
The International Day for the Elimination
of Violence against Women

Thank You for Your Time and Interest
[Further Details@ https://kristina-wolff.de](https://kristina-wolff.de)