

Gender - related killings – report from Norway 2019

General information

The homicide rate in Norway is currently 0.6 per 100,000 inhabitants per year. This is a relatively low figure compared to the overall worldwide situation. However, in 2018, 25 per cent of the total number of homicides in Norway were intimate partner homicides. This is a challenge of great concern.

Statistics – general remarks

In Norway registration of homicides are done by the National Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS). The NCIS statistics are issued annually and includes all homicides in Norway. The statistics contain, among other things, information about perpetrator, victim, relation, gender, age, mode and place of crime.

There are limitations concerning number of killings of children in the context of gender-related violence against women. In order to be able to extract such information we must enter into each individual case.

We are not able to provide statistics on suicides by women and men as results of gender based violence.

We have statistics for the years 2016 – 2018. The numbers for 2019 will be launched in January 2020.

Homicide in Norway 2016

- 29 people were killed in Norway in 2016
- 7 of the victims were partner ex-partner to perpetrator (6 women and 1 man)
- 5 women were killed by other than partner
- 2 victims were children underneath 15 years of age

Homicide in Norway 2017

- 28 people were killed in Norway in 2017
- 9 of the victims were partner ex-partner to perpetrator (8 women and 1 man)
- 4 women were killed by other than partner
- 1 victim was a child underneath 17 years of age

Homicide in Norway 2018

- 25 people were killed in Norway in 2018
- 6 of the victims were partner ex-partner to perpetrator (6 women)
- 3 women were killed by other than partner
- 4 victim was a child underneath 17 years of age

Intimate Partner Homicide in Norway (1990 – 2012) – a study

In the last decade, intimate partner homicide accounted for 20–30 % of the total number of killings in Norway. 10 of 23 victims of homicide in 2015 were killed by current or former intimate partner. In more than half of the cases in which women were killed, the perpetrator turned out to be the victim's present or former partner. A three-year research project has been initiated to review all intimate partner homicide cases from 1991 to 2012 in order to identify risk factors and develop more effective prevention strategies. The report was launched in December 2015.

The Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public security have financed a three-year research project to review all intimate partner homicide cases from 1991 to 2012 in order to identify risk factors and develop more effective prevention strategies. The report was conducted by Solveig Karin Bø Vatnar (Oslo University Hospital) and was launched in December 2015 “A Mixed-Methods Study of Risk Factors” by Solveig Karin Bø Vatnar (2015). Below is a brief summary of the main findings

- During the period 1990 to 2014, there were 867 homicides in Norway. Of these, 206 (24%) were categorized as intimate partner homicide (IPH).
- IPH was distributed in a socially biased manner: Marginalized groups were the most vulnerable, both as perpetrators and as victims.
- Prior intimate partner violence was identified in 7 out of 10 IPHs. In 5 out of 10 IPHs, more than five previous episodes of intimate partner violence were identified. These intimate partner homicides did not occur without warning signs.
- Valid risk factors for IPH had been observed by police, healthcare providers, support services, as well as individuals. This implies that in the majority of IPHs in Norway, there is considerable potential for prevention.

- Risk factors for IPH with and without identified prior intimate partner violence were different. If identified incidents of intimate partner violence were systematically recorded and risk assessments and management were then implemented, it might be possible to strengthen capacity to prevent this category of IPH.
- IPH without identified prior intimate partner violence turned out to be the smallest group and the one that appeared to be the most difficult to prevent. Both perpetrators and victims in these homicides presented as being more similar to the general population.

Commission on partner homicide

In 2018 the government set up a commission to review a range of a spousal homicide cases. The object is to strengthen the knowledge base regarding risk factors and possible warning signs. The commission will propose measures to develop better and more focused protective measures and better prevention strategies. The commission will deliver their report in 2020.