

Gender - related killings – report from Norway 2020

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. Although the number of partner murders has decreased from 2018 to 2019, we see that it is women who are killed by a partner or ex-partner. In the period 2010 to 2019, 48 percent of women were killed by a partner. For men, the figure was 7 percent.

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.

We have statistics for the years 2017 – 2019. The numbers for 2020 will be launched in January 2021.

Data of femicide during the Covid 19 pandemic are not available but will be launched in the in the annual report prepared by NCIS in January 2021.

A) Femicide watch/observatory

Norway has not established a separate body that monitors gender based violence and femicide. Statistics are collected by the police, Statistics Norway and NCIS.

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 committee also considers issues related to the possible establishment of a permanent commission (a national femicide watch). The commission will deliver their report in December 2020.

B) Other measures/research

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

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).

A new study that includes figures from the period 2012 to 2017 will be launched in January 2021. The study will be conducted by Solveig Karin Bø Vatnar at Oslo University Hospital and will be conducted according to the same methodology as the previous study.

Below is a brief summary of the main findings from 2015;

- 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.

C) The partner homicide commission will review a range of a spousal homicide cases.

D) Administrative data

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

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

Homicide in Norway 2019

- 28 people were killed in Norway in 2019
- 4 of the victims were partner ex-partner to perpetrator (4 women)
- 12 women were killed by other than partner

