

Institute for the equality of women and men



Content

Who are we?

Gender health gap

Gender-based violence

- A. Legal instruments
- B. What is gender-based violence?
- C. What about the victim?
- D. Consequences and harms
- E. Risk assessment

I. Institute Mission

- **Created: Act of 16 December 2002 ([Directive \(EU\) 2024/1499](#))**
- **Independent federal public service**
- **Mission:**
 - **Safeguard and promote the equality between women and men**
 - **Fight any form of discrimination and inequality based on gender (incl. pregnancy, family responsibilities, gender identity, etc.)**

Activities as Equality body



Main domains of action

**Fight against
discrimination**

**Gender
mainstreaming**

Employment

**Decision-
making**

**Gender-based
violence**

II. Gender health gap

Underrepresentation of women in medical research and clinical trials

Societal norms and gender stereotypes influence health and diagnosis

Prevalence of GBV and domestic violence impact on health

→ Knowledge gap & unequal access to health care and treatment (misdiagnosis, inefficient medicine, medical instruments inadequate for women)

Car accidents

	Personal injury accidents		Deceased within 30 days		Injured persons		Severity of the accidents	
	2023	Evolution 2022-2023	2023	Evolution 2022-2023	2023	Evolution 2022-2023	2023	Evolution 2022-2023
Key figures	36.855	-2%	501	-7%	45.243	-2%	13.6	-5%
Men	49.433	-2%	385	-9%	25.696	-2%	7.8	-8%
Women	29.659	-2%	99	-10%	18.267	-3%	3.3	-9%

III. Gender-Based violence

A. Legal instruments

Convention of Istanbul

- GREVIO (ECtHR rulings referring to GREVIO and the Istanbul Convention)
- COPA

Victim's rights directive: Directive (EU) 2012/29

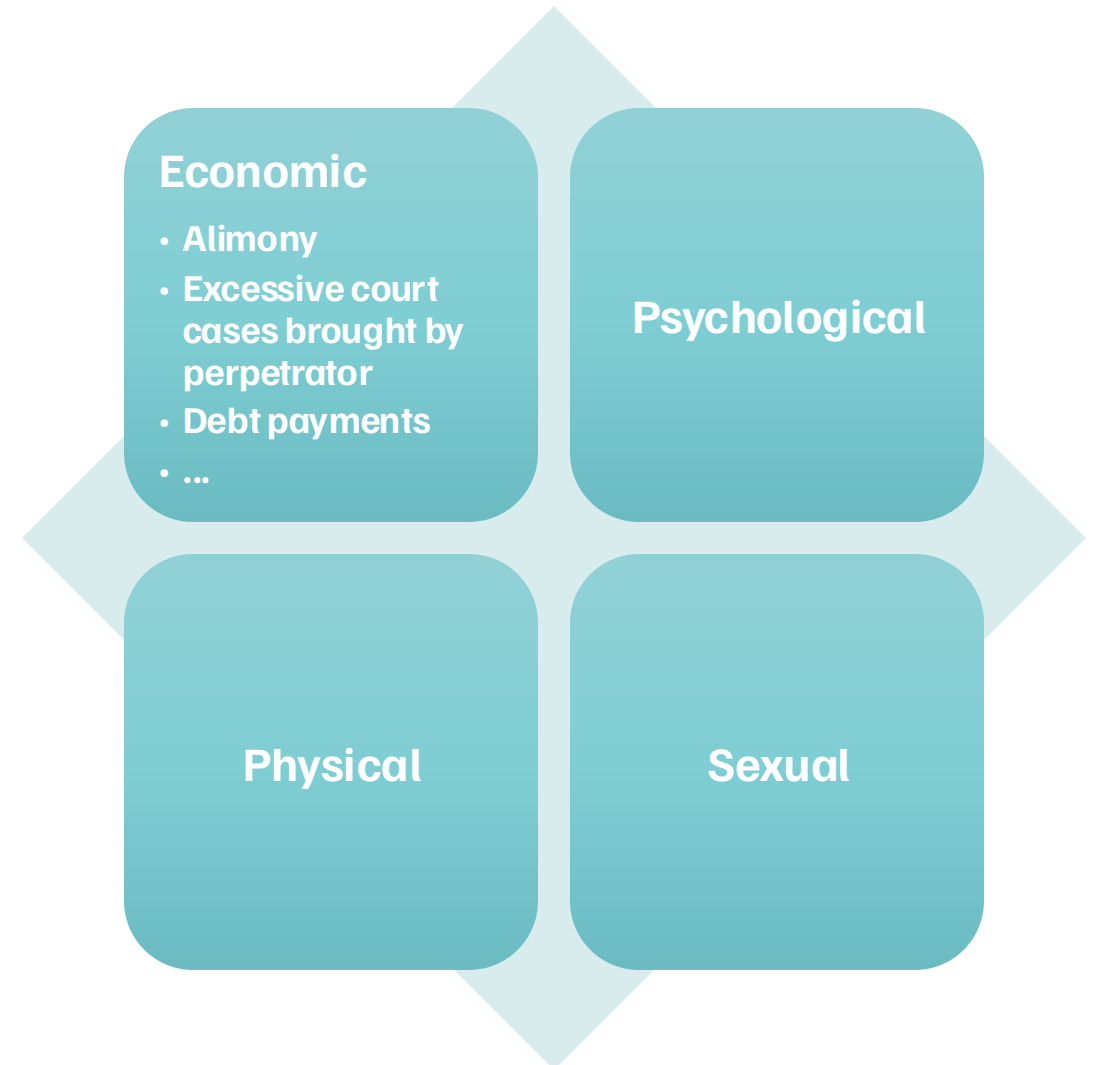
Directive Gender-based violence (digital (sexual) violence): Directive (EU) 2024/1385

ILO convention 190

B. What is gender-based violence?

Intimate (ex)-partner violence

- **Children**
- **Coercive control**
- **Lethal**
- **Digital aspect**
- **Photo/film**
- **Active/non active**



All forms of violence

Sexual violence

Honour related crimes

- **Female Genital Mutilation**
- **Forced marriages**

Digital (sexual) violence

Sexual harassment

Stalking

Forced abortion/sterilisation

Gender-Based Violence – Eurostat data

17,2% of women have experienced hands-on sexual violence in their lifetime

30,8% of women have experienced sexual harassment at work in their lifetime (4,3 % in the last 12 months)

31,8% of women have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime (psychological violence included)

5,3% of women have experienced intimate partner violence in the last year (psychological violence included)

- [EU survey on gender-based violence - Microdata](#)
- [EU survey on gender-based violence - Key results](#)

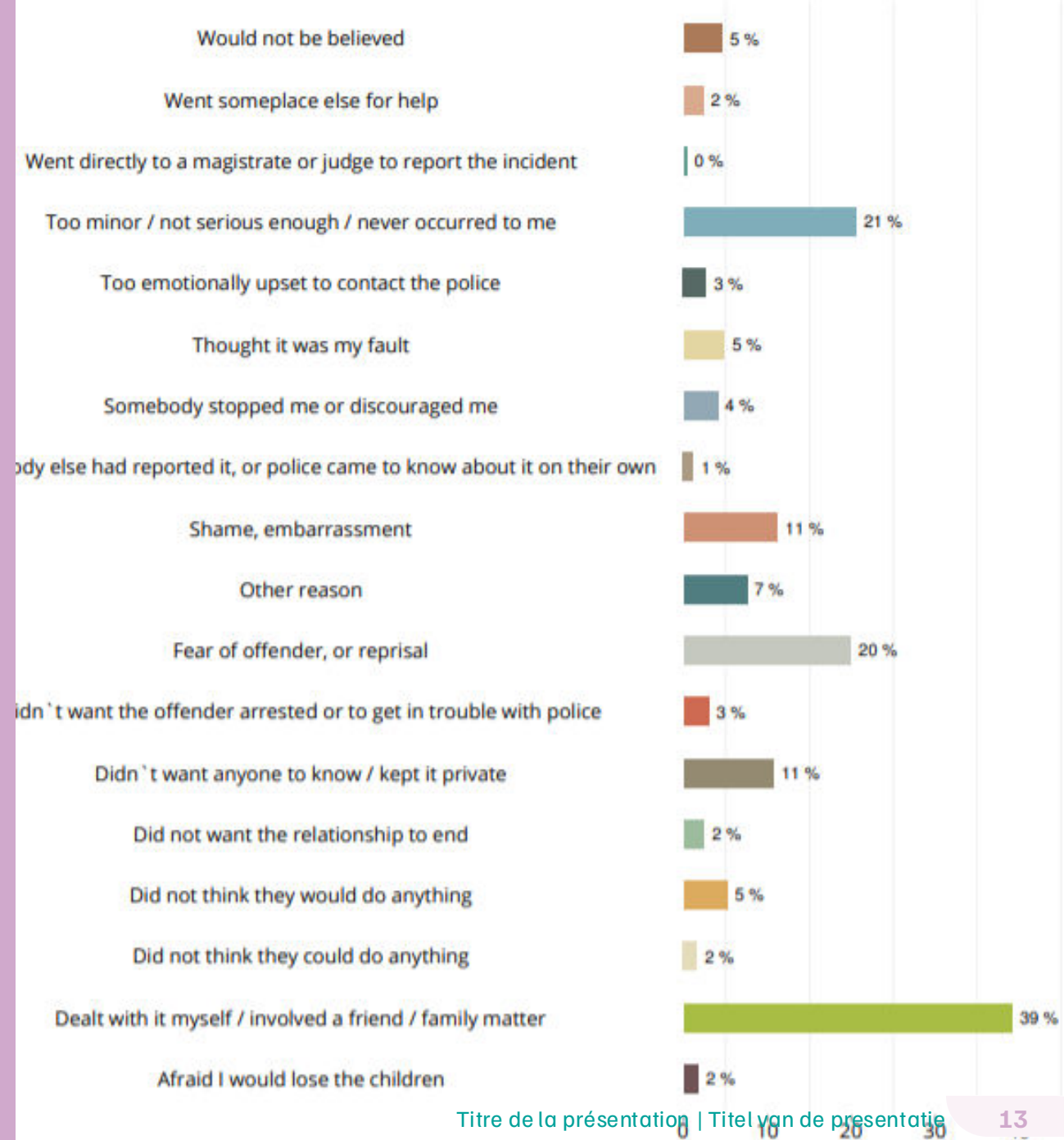
Gender-Based Violence DARK NUMBER

Non-disclosure:

- Only 20.5 % have contacted a healthcare service or social service provider as a result of the incident
 - Only 13.9 % have reported the incident to the police
- Leads to a high **dark number**

REASONS NOT TO CONTACT THE POLICE?

- Not recognising oneself as a victim
- Not viewing the incident as a crime
- Shame, fear, guilt etc.
- Fear of the consequences of filing a complaint
- Feelings of loyalty towards the perpetrator
- Trapped/tangled up in a web → violence is a silent killer
- Lack of energy: survival mode
- Poor image and lack of confidence in the police/legal system
- Filing a complaint means losing control and protracted legal tangle (with lack of information)
- FFFFFFF : Freeze, Faint, Fight, Flight, Fawn, Flop



C. What about the victim?

Victim blaming

Victim
labeling/naming

Victim shaming

**! Aggression, alcoholism and medication
abuse are coping mechanisms !**

Victim framing

'Ideal victim'

Tip: victimology evidence

D. Consequences and harms

IPV has a significant impact on **mental health** (and that of the children). Also medication abuse.

Physical health: people who have experienced intimate partner violence are 44% more likely to die from cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.

Physical injuries: women who become victims are more often physically injured than men.

In the workplace (Dvatwork, 2017):
- 73% consequences for work and 45% absenteeism at work

D. Consequences and harms

Psychological harms: PTSS, depression, anxiety, self-harm, aggression, low self-esteem

Suicide (attempts): suicide attempts double among Intimate Partner Violence victims
! 12-17% of suicides are a result of IPV

Social harms resulting from isolation, homelessness ...

Keep these costs in mind as well

Sexual harms such as unwanted pregnancies and STD's ...

Vaccinations (HIV, hep B and C, HGPV, prep medication, toxicological test ...)

Others: ambulances, homelessness, relocation and rentals, civil affairs experts, education ...

Economic consequences ([EIGE study on financial independence and gender equality joining dots between income wealth and power](#))

Importance of medical certificates: costs of therapy, sexologist ...

E. Risk assessment

**Risk assessment
tool (also in
divorce cases)**

**Starting legal
procedures is a
trigger**

**VN femicides
2023**

**51.000 women
(= 140
women/day)**

**Belgium Intimate
Partner Violence
2023**

**263 (attempted)
murder,
manslaughters
and poisonings**



Institut pour l'égalité
des femmes et des hommes
Instituut voor de gelijkheid
van vrouwen en mannen

Legal instruments

- Convention of Istanbul
- ECHR rulings referring to GREVIO and the Istanbul Convention
- Directive (EU) 2012/29
- Directive (EU) 2024/1385
- ILO convention 190



Institut pour l'égalité
des femmes et des hommes
Instituut voor de gelijkheid
van vrouwen en mannen

Studies

- [EU survey on gender-based violence - Microdata](#)
- [EU survey on gender-based violence - Key results](#)
- [ElGE study on financial independence and gender equality joining dots](#)
- [Statistics on accidents involving personal injury, by gender \(2023\)](#)
- [Coercive control](#)
- [Dvatwork, 2017](#)



Institut pour l'égalité
des femmes et des hommes

Instituut voor de gelijkheid
van vrouwen en mannen

Information, advise, complaints:

Free number: 0800/12.800

gelijkheid.manvrouw@igvm.belgie.be

www.igvm-iefh.belgium.be



Institut pour l'égalité
des femmes et des hommes

Instituut voor de gelijkheid
van vrouwen en mannen

Thank you!

Marijke Weewauters
0496/805831

egalite.hommesfemmes@iefh.belgique.be
gelijkheid.manvrouw@igvm.belgie.be
igvm-iefh.belgium.be

.be