

**Intimate partner and family-related violence as a component of violence against women,  
based on findings from the UNODC *Global Study on Homicide 2013***

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Abstract

Straddling the divide between the private and public spheres, “interpersonal violence” is a means of resolving conflict and/or punishing the victim through violence when relationships come under strain. One main sub-type of interpersonal violence is that perpetrated by intimate partners or family-members; in its most extreme case, such violence is lethal. This paper, based on findings included in the UNODC *Global Study on Homicide 2013*, discusses intimate partner/family-related homicide as a component of violence against women. UNODC finds that intimate partner and family-related violence disproportionately affects women to the extent that, in some countries, most female victims of homicide are killed by their intimate partners or family members. At global level, almost half of all female homicide victims are killed by these perpetrators, whereas the figure for men is just over 1 in 20 homicide victims. Although the rate of intimate partner/family-related homicide is higher in Africa and the Americas than in other regions, it accounts for a larger share of total homicide victims in Asia, Europe and Oceania. This type of homicide is remarkably stable at global level, varying little year to year. The enduring risk factors for intimate partner/family-related homicide may explain some of this stability in prevalence; when not addressed through non-violent mechanisms of reconciliation, conflicts and disputes between couples or in family contexts can have violent outcomes, especially when certain concomitant factors or enablers are involved, such as power relations based on gender, or patterns of alcohol abuse. Through the lens of homicide statistics collected at the global level, this paper examines lethal violence perpetrated by intimate partners and family-members.

Key words: Homicide, statistics, interpersonal violence, intimate partner homicide, family-member homicide, gender-based violence, risk factors, UNODC.