The killing of women: contexts and global trends

UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch (RAB)
Division of Policy Analysis and Public Affairs (DPA)
Classifying violent deaths

VIOLENT DEATHS

- Killings in war/conflicts
- Non-conflict deaths
- Self-inflicted deaths (suicides)

Intentional homicide

- Killings in self-defence
- Killings in legal interventions
- Non-intentional homicide
  - Negligent
  - Non-negligent

Related to other criminal activities
- Interpersonal
- Socio-political

Source: UNODC.
Global and regional levels of homicide (2012)

• **437,000** homicides at global level in 2012

• Global rate: **6.2** per 100,000 population

---

**Fig. 1.2: Homicide rates, by region (2012 or latest year)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013). The bars represent population-weighted homicide rates based on the source selected at the country level, with low and high estimates derived from homicide rates based on additional sources existing at the country level.*
Killing of women and ‘femicide’

- Violence Against Women
- Intimate Partners and Family Members
- Femicide

Killing of Women
The regional variation

- Variability of men’s rates
- More uniformity of women’s levels across regions
The dual gender bias

- 79% of homicide victims are male
- 95% of homicide perpetrators are male
Homicide and gender parity

- In countries with low (<1) homicide rates
- Share of male and female victims reaching parity
- Not for perpetrators (almost totality are men)

Homicide and gender parity

Decline of females’ homicide rates slower than males’

**Fig. 2.2.9:** Average homicide rate, by sex, six European countries with homicide rates below 1.0 per 100,000 population in 2011 (2000-2011)

Killings by intimate partners and family members

- It is not the only type of gender-related killing (and some of them may not be due to gender issues/roles)

- Though evidence from data indicates that gender roles/inequalities play a predominant role
Fig. 2.2: Shares of homicide, by typology, selected countries (2001-2012)

The global burden of IPFM on women

Globally, 120 women killed by their partners or family members, every day

**Fig. 2.2.5:** Number of female victims of intimate partner/family-related homicide, by region (2012 or latest year)

Note: Estimates based on data for 4 countries in Africa, 14 countries in the Americas; 9 countries in Asia; 21 countries in Europe; and 3 countries in Oceania.

Intimate partner/family-related homicide

- 14% of all homicides in 2012 were intimate partner or family-related.

- This type of killing disproportionately affects women:
  - 2/3 of all victims are women
  - 47% are killed by intimate partners or family members

- Those most at risk are adult women aged 30 and over.
Share of victims by sex

- Total homicide: 78.7%
- Homicide by intimate partners or family members: 68.6%
- Homicide by intimate partners: 79.0%

[Bar chart showing the share of victims by sex for total homicide, homicide by intimate partners or family members, and homicide by intimate partners, with males and females represented by different colors]
The importance of monitoring

- It is increasingly possible to monitor trends of killings in the domestic sphere.
- No change in Americas and Europe, slow decline in countries of Asia/Oceania
Conclusions

• Killings of women by intimate partners and family members is key indicator to assess VAW
• Difficult to eradicate
• Significant prevalence in all regions
• Important to monitor
• Future research work: need to better understand enablers/drivers and perpetrators
www.unodc.org/gsh/

Thank you