



30 October 2023

SURVEY ON SAFETY IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES
2022

TWO OUT OF TEN PEOPLE AGED 18 TO 74 HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE AS ADULTS

The results of the Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces reveal that 20.1% of people aged 18 to 74 have been victims of physical or sexual violence in adulthood. Women are more affected by intimate partner violence, while men are more affected by non-partner violence.

One in ten women with a current or former partner has experienced physical or sexual violence (10.3%) in an intimate context.

The prevalence of reported violence in previous relationships is three times higher than the one reported in current relationships: more than a third of women (36.3%) and around a quarter of men (24.8%) who had previous partners experienced some kind of violence in those relationships.

Outside of an intimate context, physical violence is the most common, particularly among men (17.4%). The proportion of women victims of sexual violence (3.9%) is, however, double that of men.

More than twice as many women (12.3%) as men reported to have been victims of sexual harassment at work.

The prevalence of violence, both inside and outside an intimate context, as well as sexual harassment at work, is higher among the younger age groups.

Statistics Portugal releases the first preliminary results of the Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces (ISEPP) 2022, which was carried out on a voluntary basis in seventeen Member States¹ (MS) between 2020 and 2023.

This press release includes a first analysis of the main results on the prevalence of various forms of violence among the resident population in Portugal aged 18 to 74, following the set of indicators that Eurostat will also disseminate for Portugal on 31 October 2023. Eurostat will release results only for women, who are the target population of this survey. Since these are the first official statistics on this subject, Portugal has extended the scope of the survey to include men.

¹ The Member States that carried out this survey with the financial support of Eurostat, within the framework of the European Statistical System, were Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia. In Belgium, the survey was carried out nationally, following Eurostat's methodological manual, while Italy has a specific survey on this subject. Both countries will subsequently share the data with Eurostat. In order to complete the picture of the European Union on this topic, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) will carry out the survey, following Eurostat's methodology, in the remaining Member States: Czechia, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Romania and Sweden.



For this purpose, the following types of violence were observed, which may have been experienced in the public or private spaces: sexual harassment at work; violence experienced in an intimate context, by current and/or former spouses or boyfriends/girlfriends; non-partner violence; stalking; violence in childhood; and victimisation in general. In addition, the survey also included questions about knowledge of victim support services, as well as perceptions of violence.

The experience of violence in different contexts of people's lives covers specific types of violence: violence in an intimate context includes acts of psychological violence, physical violence (including threats) - which for ease of language will now be referred to as physical violence - and sexual violence; non-partner violence covers only acts of physical and sexual violence. The acts that correspond to each type of violence are described in the Methodological Note at the end of this Press Release.

This first dissemination of results focusses on a global approach to the prevalence and characteristics of violence experienced in adulthood, both inside and outside an intimate context, as well as on experiences of sexual harassment at work. A more detailed analysis of the results will be published by Statistics Portugal in the future.

1. Violence in an intimate context

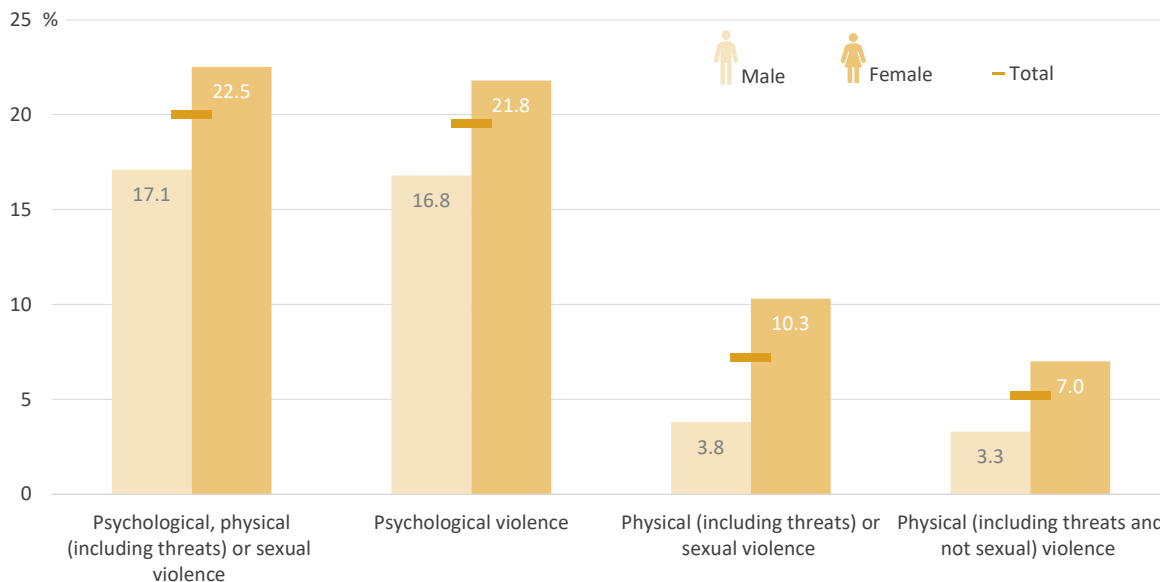
One in ten women with a current or former partner has experienced physical or sexual violence in an intimate context.

More than 1.3 million people who have or have had a spouse or partner or boyfriend or girlfriend (20.0%), henceforth referred to as people with a partner, reported having experienced some kind of intimate partner violence - threats, psychological violence, physical or sexual violence - a higher proportion among women (22.5%) than men (17.1%).

Women show higher proportions than men in all these types of violence, when analysed separately: 21.8% of women reported having experienced psychological violence, compared to 16.8% of men; 7.0% were victims of physical but not sexual violence (3.3% in the case of men); and 10.3% of physical or sexual violence (3.8% in the case of men).



Figure 1. Proportion of ever-partnered people aged 18 to 74 who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by sex and type of violence, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

The proportion of people who reported having experienced some kind of intimate partner violence is inversely proportional to age: it covers around a quarter of people aged up to 44, progressively decreasing to 15.9% of people aged 65 to 74. Women and men show similar trends in terms of age, although there are higher proportions of women victims of some kind of intimate partner violence in the older age groups (20.7% of women aged 55 to 64 and 19.9% aged 65 to 74), compared to men, 13.1% and 11.1% respectively.

For all victims of intimate partner violence (20.0%), the last situation of violence occurred in the following periods: in the 12 months prior to the survey (3.2%); in the last 5 years (7.6%), and more than 5 years ago (12.4%).

Violence in an intimate context: data recorded by police authorities and ISEPP results.

The results obtained by ISEPP show that only part of the experiences of violence are reported to the police authorities or dedicated support organisations, and/or officially registered².

In 2022, administrative records identified around 37.7 thousand victims of registered crimes of domestic violence against a spouse or similar, a value that corresponds to around one sixth of the 214.4 thousand people who reported to the ISEPP that they had been victims of intimate partner violence in the last 12 months. A comparison between the two sources reveals the following: the prevalence of victims of crimes of domestic violence against

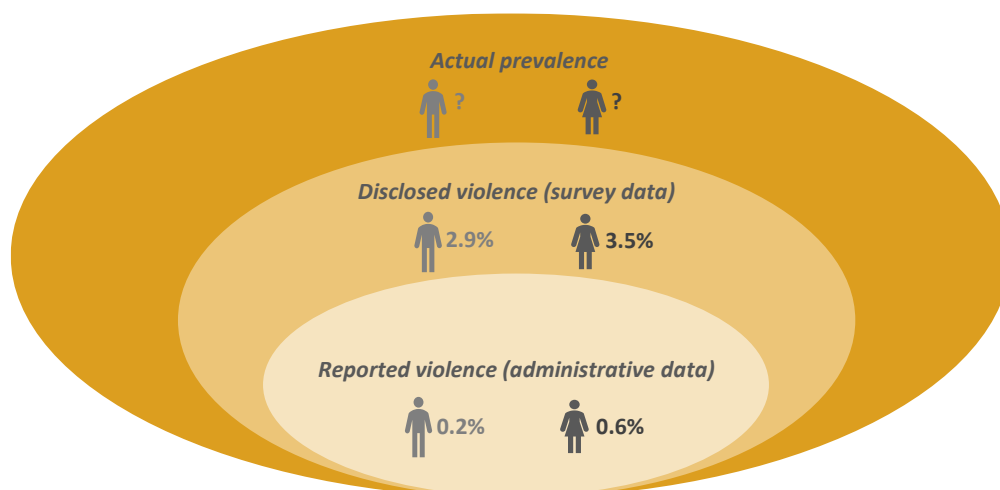
² These results are also evident in the analysis of international organisations. For example: [Facts and figures: Ending violence against women | UN Women – Headquarters](#) (United Nations) and <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-reports/w/ks-ft-22-005> (Eurostat).



a spouse or similar captured by administrative data for the year 2022 was 0.6% for women and 0.2% for men; these values are considerably lower than those observed in the ISEPP, 3.5% and 2.9% respectively.

Even if surveys dedicated specifically to the phenomenon of violence make it possible to capture the prevalence and characterisation of this phenomenon in a more comprehensive way, the combination of different data sources in the analysis may still be insufficient to cover the full extent of the phenomenon that violence encompasses.

Figure 2. Proportion of Ever-partnered people aged 18 to 74 who have experienced intimate partner violence in the last 12 months, by sex, 2022



Sources: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.; Ministry of Justice - Directorate-General for Justice Policy.

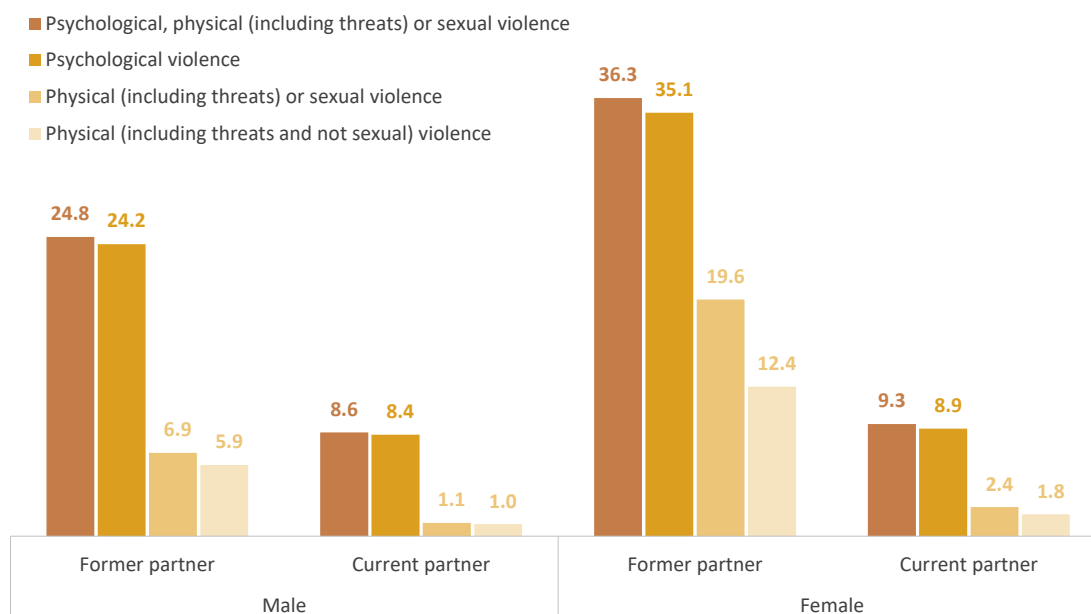
Note: Figure adapted from the report by the European Institute for Gender Equality - *Gender Equality Index 2015. Measuring gender equality in the European Union 2005–2012* (p.121).

More than a third of women and around a quarter of men who have had previous partners have experienced some kind of violence in these relationships.

The proportion of people who reported having experienced some kind of violence in an intimate context with previous partners is much higher than those who reported having experienced some kind of violence with current partners, whether they are women (36.3% and 9.3% respectively) or men (24.8% and 8.6% respectively). The difference between what is reported about past and present relationships is particularly noticeable in psychological violence, and more evident in women: with a difference of 26.2 percentage points (p.p.), compared to a difference of 15.8 p.p. in men. There are also notable differences between the past and the present when it comes to physical or sexual violence: 17.2 p.p. for women and 5.8 p.p. for men. It should be noted that the proportion of women with a previous partner who was a victim of this type of violence (19.6%) is almost triple that of men (6.9%).



Figure 3. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74, with current and former partner, who have experienced intimate partner violence, by sex, type of partner and type of violence, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

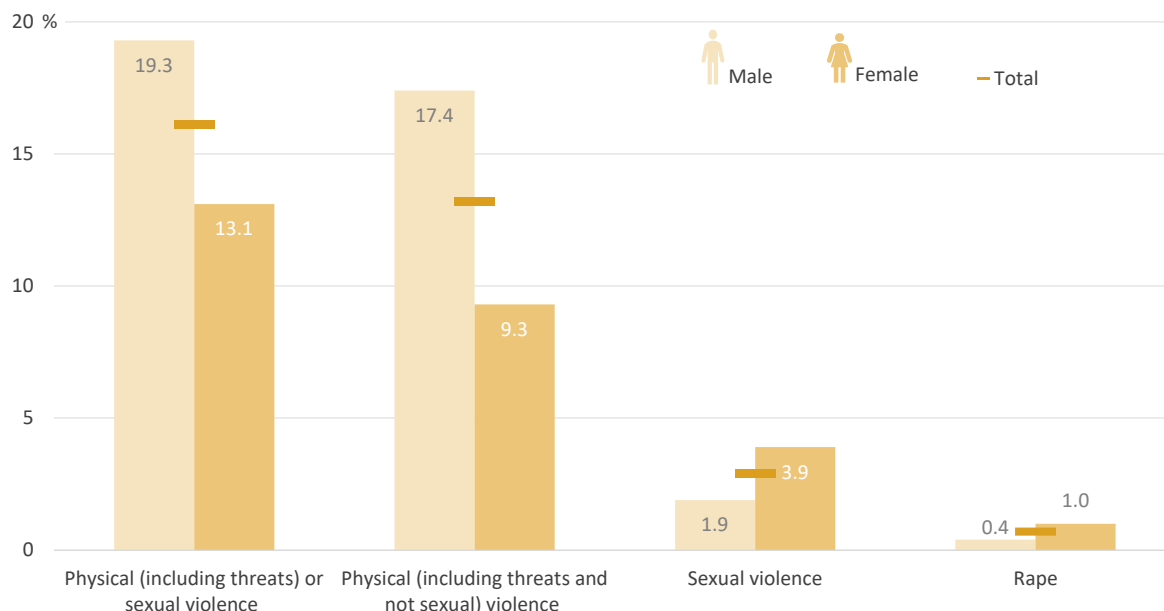
2. Non-partner violence

Outside of an intimate context, physical violence is the most common, particularly among men. The proportion of women who are victims of sexual violence is double that of men.

Analysing the prevalence of violence with people other than partners, outside of an intimate context, from the age of 15 onwards, reveals that 16.1% of the population aged 18 to 74 have been victims of this type of violence, a higher proportion in the younger age groups: 21.5% in the 25 to 34 age group and 21.7% in the 35 to 44 age group, decreasing from there as age progresses.

The data also shows a different pattern to that observed in intimate partner violence: the proportion of men who are victims of this type of violence (19.3%) is higher than that of women (13.1%), particularly supported by the higher proportion of men who have suffered physical but not sexual violence (17.4%), compared to 9.3% of women. However, the proportion of women victims of sexual violence outside the context of intimacy (3.9%) is double that of men (1.9%).

Figure 4. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 who have experienced violence by a non-partner, by sex and type of violence, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

3. Violence in adulthood, by partners or non-partners

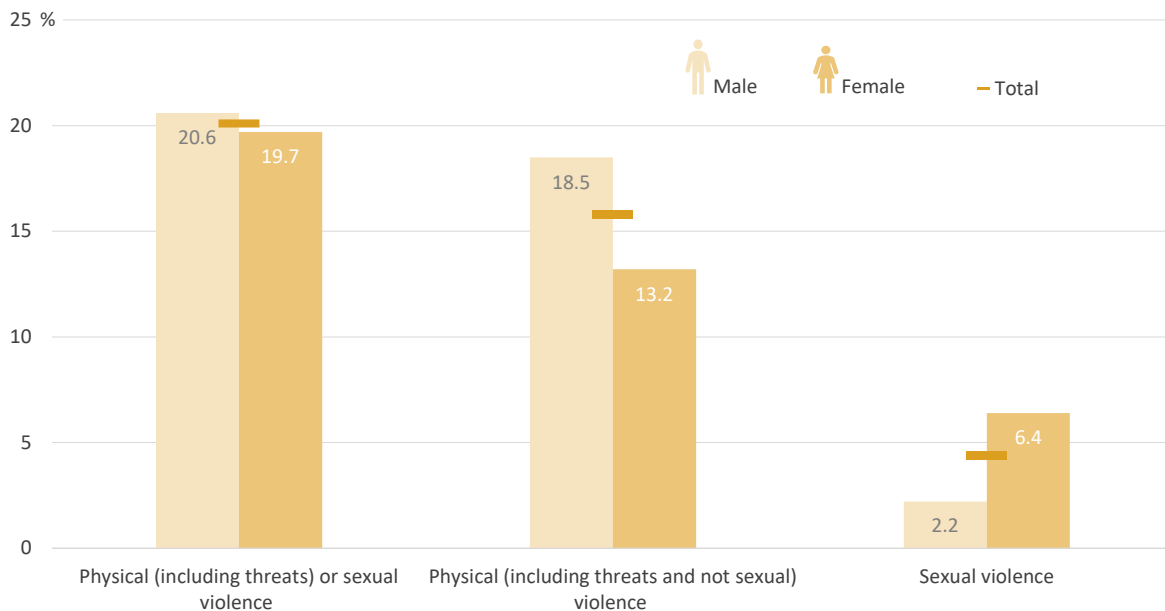
Two out of ten people aged 18 to 74 have been victims of physical or sexual violence as adults. Women are more affected by intimate partner violence, while men are more affected by non-partner violence.

Violence in adulthood results from the combination of all the violence experienced by people in adulthood in the two contexts described above: in the private space, in their sphere of intimacy, i.e. with current and/or former partners; and in the public space, in the social sphere, i.e. with people other than partners, whether or not they are known to the victims. For this analysis, it was taken into account the type of violence observed that is common in both spheres, i.e. physical violence and sexual violence.

The proportion of women who have experienced sexual violence in adulthood is almost triple that of men (6.4% to 2.2%, respectively). Men have a higher prevalence of physical violence than women by 5.3 p.p. (18.5% to 13.2%). As a result, the total proportion of people who have been victims of physical and/or sexual violence in adulthood is 20.1%, with the proportion of women and men being very similar, 19.7% and 20.6% respectively.



Figure 5. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 who have experienced physical or sexual violence during adulthood, by partners or non-partners, by sex and type of violence, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

4. Sexual harassment in the workplace

More than twice as many women as men report to have been victims of sexual harassment at work.

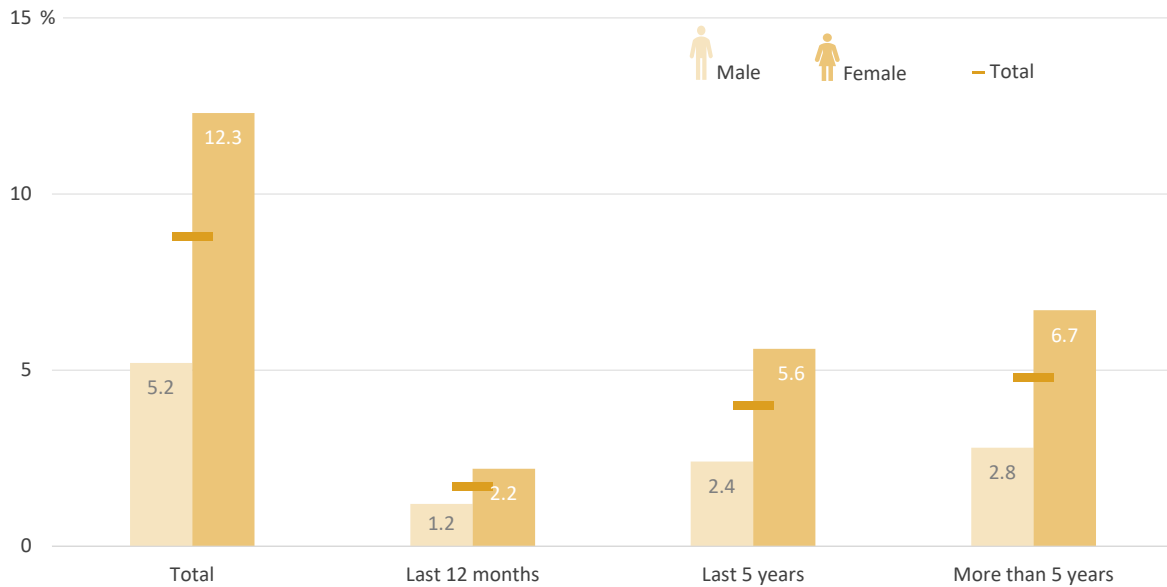
The proportion of working or former working women who said they had been victims of sexual harassment at work (12.3%), i.e. the target of any unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, is more than double that of men (5.2%). More than 76 thousand women (2.2%) were victims of this type of behaviour in the 12 months prior to the interview and around 199 thousand (5.6%) in the last 5 years.

The phenomenon of sexual harassment at work is particularly noticeable among younger women: approximately a third (31.7%) of those aged between 18 and 24 said they had already been victims of sexual harassment at work, a proportion that decreases with age. The prevalence among men also tends to decrease with age.

The majority of aggressors identified by victims of sexual harassment at work are men: of the total number of female victims (12.3%), 11.6% identified male aggressors, with the categories *co-worker* (4.8%) and *boss* (4.3%) standing out. A similar trend can be observed for male victims of sexual harassment at work, although with lower proportions: of the total number of male victims (5.2%), 2.9% identified male aggressors, with co-workers standing out (1.7%).

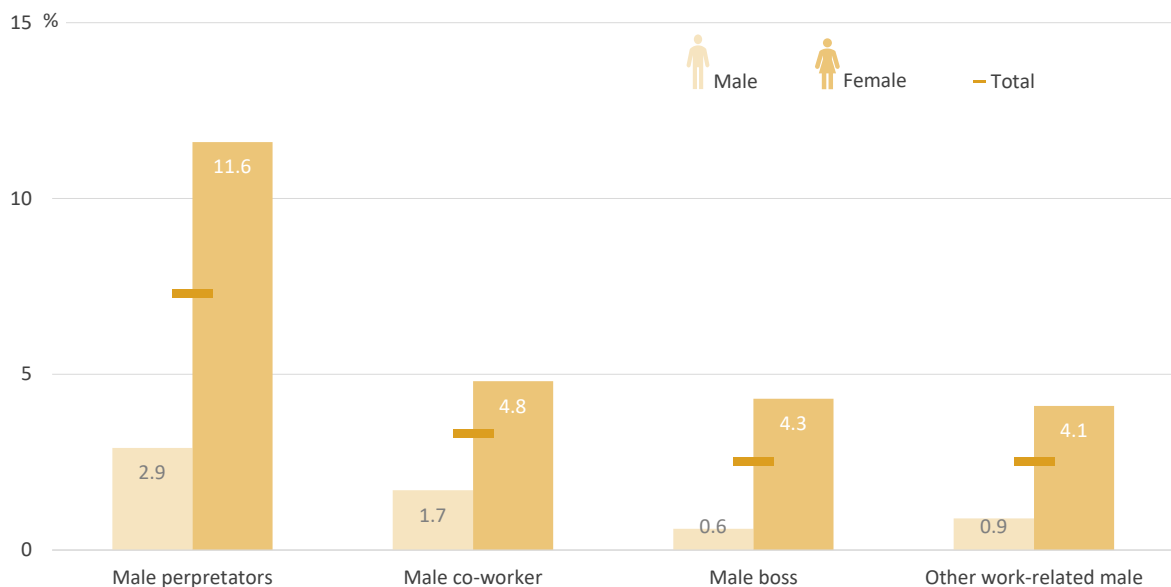


Figure 6. Proportion of ever-working people aged 18 to 74, who have experienced sexual harassment at work, by sex and occurrence of the last episode, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

Figure 7. Proportion of Ever-working people aged 18 to 74, who have experienced sexual harassment at work, by sex and type of male perpetrator, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.



METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces (ISEPP), carried out in 2022, aims to contribute to the consolidation of a European statistical information system on gender-based violence and domestic violence. It is a statistical operation funded by the European Commission (EC), and is part of the European Statistical Programme for 2021-2027.

Combating gender-based violence and domestic violence and improving knowledge on the subject to support the definition of policy measures is a priority of the EC, expressed in particular in the Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019 and, more recently, in the European Strategy for Gender Equality 2020-2025.

This issue has also received particular attention at national level, requiring data to define and monitor policy measures in this area. In particular, the Action Plan for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (PAMVD), which is part of the National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination (ENIND) - Portugal + Igual³, sets out major global and structural action targets until 2030 for the pursuit of equality and non-discrimination, defining strategic and specific objectives in terms of preventing and combating all forms of violence against women, gender-based violence and domestic violence.

In addition, article 11 of the 2011 Istanbul Convention, to which Portugal has been a signatory since 2013, introduces the obligation to regularly collect data on gender-based violence and domestic violence through population surveys covering all the forms of violence mentioned in the Convention (physical, sexual, psychological and economic).

In this context, a Eurostat working group was set up, in which Portugal is represented by Statistics Portugal, to develop a Europe-wide survey focussing on gender-based violence issues. The aim of this working group was to develop and test the methodology of a population survey to collect representative statistics on the prevalence and characterisation of gender-based violence in the Member States, in line with the requirements set out in the Istanbul Convention.

To this end, a pilot survey was carried out in 2019 to test the methodology in terms of interview methods and scope (rural and urban areas; men and women; and the adult population, with no upper age limit). The reference population for the pilot survey consisted of individuals aged 18 and over living in three regions: Norte, Centro and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa. Three interview modes were tested: CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview); CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interview); and CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interview). The results of the pilot survey supported the development of a more complete questionnaire adopted at European level in the main statistical operation. The Eurostat working group developed a proposal for a methodology and questionnaire on the subject of gender-based violence and domestic violence, implemented on a European scale, with a view to obtaining harmonised and comparable data at European level. This is the context of the current survey, whose main concepts and definitions, as well as technical and methodological guidelines for data collection, follow the recommendations set out in the Methodological Manual developed by Eurostat for this purpose⁴.

The ISEPP is a sample survey, whose information was collected directly from the observation units - men and women aged 18 to 74, living in dwelling units of main residence - using a mixed sequential data collection modes, combining web interviews (CAWI), with telephone (CATI) and face-to-face (CAPI) interviews for the accommodation units that didn't respond via the web.

³ The National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination (ENIND) - Portugal + Igual was approved in Council of Ministers Resolution no. 61/2018 of 21 May (<https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/resolucao-conselho-ministros/61-2018-115360036>).

⁴ Methodological manual for the EU survey on gender-based violence against women and other forms of inter-personal violence (EU-GBV), Eurostat, 2021 (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-gq-21-009>).



The survey was applied nationwide between July and early October 2022 to a sample of 21,030 dwelling units. Only one person per dwelling was interviewed, selected by the method of the last anniversary in the dwelling. A total of 11,346 complete interviews were obtained.

For a more detailed analysis of the methodology followed, we suggest reading the [ISEPP 2022 methodological document](#) (only in Portuguese), available at Statistics Portugal website.

MAIN CONCEPTS

Threat: Harm announced with a view to provoking in the person threatened a feeling of fear or unease, or jeopardising their freedom of determination.

Sexual harassment: Any unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature aimed at violating a person's dignity, particularly when this conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

Rape: An offence committed by anyone who, by means of violence or serious threat, or after having rendered the person unconscious or unable to resist, forces another person to suffer or perform an act of a sexual nature.

Gender-based violence: Violence directed at a person on the basis of their gender, gender identity or gender expression, or which disproportionately affects people of a particular gender, and may result in physical, sexual, emotional or psychological harm, or economic loss to the victim.

Note: Gender-based violence is considered a form of discrimination and a violation of the victim's fundamental freedoms, and includes violence in intimate relationships, sexual violence (including rape, assault and sexual harassment), human trafficking, slavery and different forms of harmful practices such as forced marriages, female genital mutilation and so-called honour crimes.

Domestic violence: The act of inflicting, repeatedly or not, physical or psychological abuse, including corporal punishment, deprivation of freedom and sexual offences on a spouse or ex-spouse; a person of the other or same sex with whom the perpetrator maintains or has maintained a relationship similar to that of spouses, even without cohabitation; the parent of a common first-degree descendant; a person who is particularly defenceless due to age, disability, illness, pregnancy or economic dependence, and who cohabits with the perpetrator.

Physical violence: Action or omission that endangers or causes harm to the physical integrity of a person.

Psychological violence: Intentional behaviour that seriously damages a person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats.

Note: This includes a range of behaviours that include acts of emotional abuse and control, as well as the economic damage that can be associated with psychological violence.

Sexual violence: Action that forces a person to have sexual, physical or verbal contact with the use of force, intimidation, manipulation, threats or any other mechanism that cancels or limits personal will.

Victim: A person who has suffered harm, namely an attack on their physical or mental integrity, moral damage or material loss, directly caused by actions or omissions that contravene criminal legislation.



ACTS OF VIOLENCE OBSERVED AT ISEPP, BY TYPE OF VIOLENCE

TYPES OF VIOLENCE	ACTS OF VIOLENCE
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Looking inappropriately or maliciously to the point of intimidation
	Showing sexually explicit images or photos to the point of offence, humiliation or intimidation
	Making indecent sexual jokes or offensive comments about your body or private life
	Making inappropriate suggestions about going on a date to the point of offence, humiliation or intimidation
	Making inappropriate suggestions about sexual practices
	Touching in a sexually explicit way without consent or trying to kiss or hug against their will
	Making inappropriate, humiliating or intimidating comments or taunts on social networks
	Sending emails or messages with sexually explicit content
	Threatening retaliation if you don't accept sexual proposals
	Engaging in sexual behaviour other than that mentioned, to the point of offence, humiliation or intimidation
PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE	Belittling, humiliating or name-calling when alone or in the presence of other people
	Preventing you from spending time with friends or engaging in hobbies or other activities
	Preventing you from being with family members
	Insisting on knowing where you were, in a controlling way, or watching your steps via GPS, mobile phone, social networks, etc.
	Getting angry at you for talking to another man/woman or suspecting you of being unfaithful for no reason.
	Demanding that you ask permission to leave the house or locking you in against your will
	Forbidding you to work outside the home
	Managing the family budget alone and over-controlling expenses
	Keeping or removing your ID card, identity card or passport against your will in order to control you
	Doing something to scare or intimidate on purpose, for example by shouting or breaking objects
THREATS	Threatening to harm your children or someone you care about
	Threatening to take away or deny custody of your children
	Threatening to harm themselves if they leave you
THREATS	Threatening to harm with violence in a way that frightens or intimidates



TYPES OF VIOLENCE

ACTS OF VIOLENCE

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Pushing hard or pulling hair on purpose in a way that hurts or frightens

Throwing an object or slapping on purpose in a way that hurts or frightens

Punching, hitting with an object or kicking on purpose in a way that hurts or frightens

Burning on purpose

Trying to suffocate or strangle on purpose

Threatening or using a knife, gun or other weapon or dangerous substances against the person

Using other physical violence in a way that hurts or frightens

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Forcing you to perform a sexual act under threat, by holding you down or hurting you in any way

Forcing you to perform a sexual act when you were unable to refuse because you were under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Forcing you to perform a sexual act against your will because you are afraid of what might happen if you refuse

Forcing you to have sex with another person, using force, threats or blackmail (in exchange for money, goods or favours)

Trying to force you to perform a sexual act under threat, by holding you down or hurting you in some way, but the sexual act did not materialise

Forcing an unmentioned sexual act that was degrading or humiliating for the person

Touching intimate parts against their will

(only applicable to non-partner violence)