



**Police Service**  
of Northern Ireland



## Clarification and correction of data referring to Northern Ireland's ranking in respect of Domestic Abuse Homicide rates across Europe

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

A figure placing Northern Ireland as 'the most dangerous place in Europe for women' recently came to our attention after being quoted in a range of forums. The source of this information is a set of tables on Intentional Homicide that are available on the Eurostat website [Statistics | Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&plugin=1). Specifically, these tables incorrectly provide a figure of 0.43 homicides committed by an intimate partner per 100,000 inhabitants.

PSNI's Statistics Branch had provided data for the total number of domestic abuse homicides<sup>1</sup> (Intimate partner and other family members); these figures were correctly included in Eurostat's 'All Victims' table but incorrectly included in the 'Intimate Partner' table. Therefore, while the figure of 0.43 per 100,000 inhabitants is correct for all victims of domestic abuse homicide in 2017, it is incorrect in respect of domestic abuse homicide involving an intimate partner.

PSNI's Statistics Branch have contacted Eurostat to ask them to fix the error. At the time of writing, the figures on the Eurostat website have not been updated.

A full breakdown of domestic abuse homicide by both gender and victim-offender relationship on a financial year basis is available in the tables that accompany the Domestic Abuse Annual Trends in Northern Ireland bulletin published on the PSNI website *Table 3.9 Domestic abuse homicides recorded by victim gender and relationship to offender, 2007/08 to 2020/21* (<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/>). Figures for the financial year 2021/22 will be published in the Domestic Abuse quarterly update in May 2022.

For clarity, PSNI's Statistics Branch have provided an updated version of the information currently available on Eurostat, with the correct figures for Northern Ireland. Tables 1 and 2 present the number and rate of intentional homicide victims by victim-offender relationship in Northern Ireland for each calendar year 2008 to 2021. Table 3 presents a comparison of Intentional Homicide victims where the victim-offender relationship is 'intimate partner', per 100,000 inhabitants.

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<sup>1</sup> Homicide includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, infanticide and corporate manslaughter. In relation to the domestic abuse homicide figures provided in Tables 1 and 2, all are offences of either murder or manslaughter.

**Table 1: Intentional homicide victims by victim-offender relationship and sex (number), Northern Ireland, 2008 to 2021**

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female victims	Intimate partner	1	3	5	2	1	5	3	1	1	3	2	2	4	5
	Family and relatives	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2
	Total	1	4	5	3	1	5	5	3	1	5	4	4	6	7
Male victims	Intimate partner	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
	Family and relatives	2	3	1	2	1	3	3	0	1	2	1	1	1	2
	Total	4	7	1	3	1	3	3	0	1	3	1	2	2	2
All victims	Intimate partner	3	7	5	3	1	5	3	1	1	4	2	3	5	5
	Family and relatives	2	4	1	3	1	3	5	2	1	4	3	3	3	4
	Total	5	11	6	6	2	8	8	3	2	8	5	6	8	9

**Table 2: Intentional homicide victims by victim-offender relationship and sex (rate per 100,000 population)<sup>1</sup>, Northern Ireland, 2008 to 2021**

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female victims	Intimate partner	0.11	0.33	0.54	0.22	0.11	0.54	0.32	0.11	0.11	0.32	0.21	0.21	0.42	0.52
	Family and relatives	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.21	0.00	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21
	Total	0.11	0.44	0.54	0.32	0.11	0.54	0.53	0.32	0.11	0.53	0.42	0.42	0.62	0.73
Male victims	Intimate partner	0.23	0.46	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.11	0.00
	Family and relatives	0.23	0.34	0.11	0.22	0.11	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.11	0.22	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.21
	Total	0.46	0.80	0.11	0.34	0.11	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.11	0.33	0.11	0.21	0.21	0.21
All victims	Intimate partner	0.17	0.39	0.28	0.17	0.05	0.27	0.16	0.05	0.05	0.21	0.11	0.16	0.26	0.26
	Family and relatives	0.11	0.22	0.06	0.17	0.05	0.16	0.27	0.11	0.05	0.21	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.21
	Total	0.28	0.61	0.33	0.33	0.11	0.44	0.43	0.16	0.11	0.43 <sup>1</sup>	0.27	0.32	0.42	0.47

<sup>1</sup> The rate of 0.43 for Northern Ireland in 2017, as quoted in media articles, reflects **all** intentional homicide victims where the victim-offender relationship was 'intimate partner' or 'family and relatives'. For female victims of intimate partner intentional homicide in 2017, the rate was 0.32 per 100,000 of the female population.

Below is an extract from the Eurostat tables on Intentional Homicide victims where the victim-offender relationship is 'intimate partner'. The incorrect 2017 rates for Northern Ireland have been corrected, and the Northern Ireland rates for 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019 have been added. Countries with a higher 2017 rate than Northern Ireland have been highlighted in grey.

**Table 3: Intentional Homicide victims where the victim-offender relationship is 'intimate partner', presented per 100,000 inhabitants.**

	Female victims					Male victims					All victims				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Czechia	0.22	0.32	0.24	:	0.30	0.15	0.06	0.10	:	0.04	0.19	0.19	0.17	:	0.17
Germany	0.34	0.39	0.37	0.30	0.29	0.06	0.04	0.09	0.07	0.08	0.20	0.22	0.23	0.19	0.19
Greece	0.20	0.23	0.13	:	:	0.09	0.11	0.08	:	:	:	:	0.10	:	:
Spain	0.25	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.19	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.10
France	0.24	0.27	0.29	0.24	0.32	0.06	0.08	0.04	0.07	0.06	0.15	0.18	0.17	0.16	0.20
Croatia	0.50	0.51	0.42	0.19	0.24	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.05	0.31	0.29	0.24	0.15	0.15
Italy	0.23	0.25	0.18	0.24	0.22	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.14	0.14	0.11	0.13	0.13
Cyprus	:	:	0.00	:	:	:	:	0.00	:	:	:	:	0.00	:	:
Latvia	0.47	0.09	0.47	0.29	0.29	0.44	0.22	0.11	0.22	0.23	0.30	0.15	0.31	0.26	0.26
Lithuania	0.83	0.51	0.20	0.26	0.60	0.45	0.53	0.30	0.46	0.39	0.65	0.52	0.25	0.36	0.50
Hungary	0.06	0.25	0.21	0.22	:	0.06	0.04	0.11	0.09	:	0.06	0.15	0.16	0.15	:
Malta	0.46	0.89	0.00	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.44	0.00	0.42	0.00
Netherlands	0.26	0.22	0.20	0.32	0.22	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.17	0.13
Romania	:	:	0.52	:	:	:	:	0.33	:	:	:	:	0.43	:	:
Slovenia	0.19	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.19	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.10
Slovakia	0.04	0.18	0.14	0.07	0.14	0.08	0.08	0.34	0.15	0.15	0.06	0.13	0.24	0.11	0.15
Finland	0.25	0.43	0.57	0.57	0.54	0.19	0.48	0.11	0.37	0.15	0.22	0.53	0.35	0.47	0.34
Sweden	:	:	0.20	0.44	0.31	:	:	0.02	0.08	0.04	:	:	0.11	0.26	0.18
Iceland	0.00	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
Liechtenstein	0.00	0.00	:	:	:	0.00	0.00	:	:	:	0.00	0.00	:	:	:
Switzerland	0.36	0.33	0.26	0.37	0.33	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.23	0.17	0.13	0.20	0.18
England and Wales	0.26	0.27	0.21	0.27	:	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.05	:	0.16	0.16	0.12	0.16	:
Scotland	0.22	0.14	0.25	:	:	0.12	0.08	0.08	:	:	0.21	0.11	0.17	:	:
Northern Ireland (UK)	0.11	0.11	0.32	0.21	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.21	0.11	0.16
Montenegro	0.64	0.32	0.32	0.64	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.30	0.32	0.16	0.16	0.32	0.80
North Macedonia	0.29	0.29	0.00	:	:	0.00	0.00	0.39	:	:	0.14	0.14	0.19	:	:
Albania	0.63	0.56	0.35	0.28	:	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.21	:	0.38	0.35	0.24	0.24	:

: not available (Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina are not included in the table as they have no figures available for the years presented)