United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

UN WOMEN

FEMICIDES IN 2025

Global estimates of intimate partner/family member femicides



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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Countries and areas are referred to by the names that were in official use at the time the relevant data were collected. For the purposes of discussing data coverage, the term "countries" refers to both countries and areas. The regional and subregional groupings used in this publication are based on the Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use (M49) maintained by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. [1]

In this research brief, the term "femicide" is used to refer to all types of gender-related killings of women and girls as described in the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (also referred to as "femicide/feminicide"), developed by UNODC and UN Women and endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2022.

The Statistical Framework identifies three types of femicide: (a) intentional homicides of women and girls perpetrated by intimate partners; (b) intentional homicides of women and girls perpetrated by other family members; and (c) intentional homicides of women and girls committed by perpetrators other than intimate partners or other family members and meeting at least one of the eight criteria of a gender-related motivation identified in the Statistical Framework.

Intimate partners include current or former spouses, cohabiting partners or dating partners. Other family members refer to blood relatives (parents, children, siblings, uncles, cousins, etc.), other relatives by marriage or adoption (adopted children, parents-in-law, siblings-in-law, etc.), irrespective of whether they were cohabiting with the victim at the time of the killing, as well as other household members.

The analysis contained in this research brief is primarily based on official data submitted by Member States to UNODC through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS). Where needed and applicable, homicide data collected through the UN-CTS are supplemented with data collected directly from government sources (such as websites and publications) or, in some cases, from non-governmental sources.

Population data used in this research brief come from World Population Prospects: The 2024 Revision (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division).

The following abbreviations have been used in this research brief:

UN-CTS: United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems
UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

[1] The list of regional and subregional groupings from the M49 Standard is available here: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 1
EXPLANATORY NOTES 2
TABLE OF CONTENTS 3
KEY FINDINGS 4
INTRODUCTION 6
INTIMATE PARTNER/FAMILY MEMBER FEMICIDE IN 2025 7
TRENDS IN INTIMATE PARTNER/FAMILY MEMBER FEMICIDE 9
HOMICIDE IN THE PRIVATE SPHERE HAS A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS 13
PREVENTING FEMICIDE 15
ANNEX: METHODOLOGY 20

KEY FINDINGS

- In 2025, around 47,000 women and girls worldwide lost their lives at the hands of their intimate partners or other family members, which translates to an average of 129 victims per day. Although this is lower than the 2024 estimate of 50,000 victims,[2] this difference should not be interpreted as evidence of a decline, as it largely reflects improvements in data availability at the country level.[3]
- This extreme manifestation of gender-based violence continues to affect women and girls across all regions. In 2025, Africa had the highest estimated number of victims (22,100) and the highest estimated rate relative to its female population (2.9 victims per 100,000 women and girls). These estimates should be interpreted with caution due to the lack of available data in some countries in the region. The estimated rates were 1.4 victims per 100,000 women and girls in the Americas, 1.1 in Oceania, 0.6 in Asia, and 0.5 in Europe.
- Of the estimated 78,000 women and girls intentionally killed worldwide in 2025, approximately 60 per cent were killed by their intimate partners or other family members. In the Americas and Europe, the two regions with available data on the breakdown by perpetrator in 2025, 70 per cent and 63 per cent of victims of intimate partner/family-member femicide were killed by their intimate partners, respectively. These findings underscore the urgency of ensuring that the prevention of domestic violence addresses intimate relationships, as well as relationships in wider family structures, where women face a risk of lethal victimization.
- Data from the Americas and Europe indicate that the rate of intimate partner/family member femicide has declined only slowly in both regions. Between 2010 and 2025, the rate decreased from 1.6 to 1.4 per 100,000 female population in the Americas, representing a 12 per cent decline, and from 0.7 to 0.5 per 100,000 female population in Europe, a 28 per cent decline. However, the decline in intimate partner/family member femicide was slower than the reduction in overall intentional homicide rates in the Americas and Europe (23 and 43 per cent, respectively), suggesting that these crimes are deeply rooted in social norms and gender stereotypes and pointing to specific barriers in accessing the justice system by women and girls.[4]
- Femicide also includes gender-related killings committed by people other than intimate partners or other family members, including killings of women and girls related to organized crime, forced labour or trafficking in persons. In recent years, several countries, including France and Italy, have begun to quantify these other forms of femicide by implementing the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (also referred to as "femicide/feminicide") jointly developed by UNODC and UN Women. However, data on femicide perpetrated beyond the private sphere remains very limited, and when available, they are not always comparable. As a result, it is not yet possible to accurately assess the size of this type of femicide at the regional or global level.

[2] UNODC and UN Women, "Femicides in 2024 – Global estimates of intimate partner/family member femicides" (United Nations, 2025).

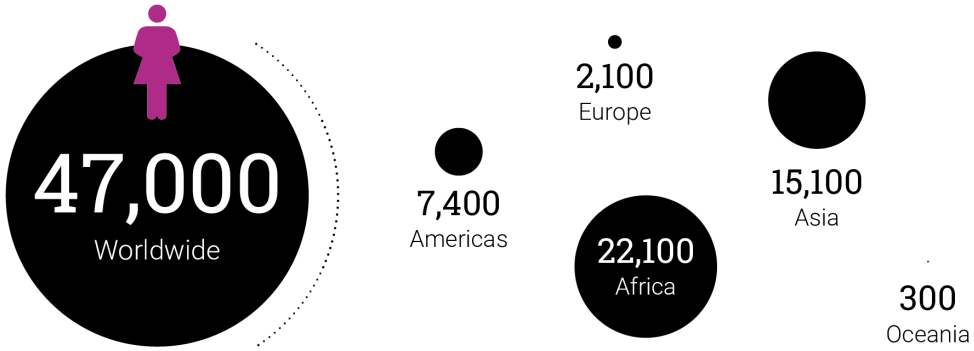
[3] For more information on the methodology, see the Annex to the present research brief.

[4] UN Women. "Access to Justice for Women Survivors of Violence" (2026)

Regional estimates

Women and girls in all regions are affected by gender-related killings. In 2025, 47,000 women and girls were killed by their intimate partners or other family members, equivalent to an average of approximately five victims every hour.

Total intimate partner/family member femicides – 2025



Rates of intimate partner/family member femicide per 100,000 female population – 2025



Gender dimension of homicide

While the vast majority of male homicides occur outside the domestic sphere, the home is the most dangerous place for women and girls.

Male and female share of homicide victims – 2025



Share of male and female homicide victims killed by intimate partners or other family members – 2025



INTRODUCTION

Femicide or the gender-related killing of women and girls[5] is the most extreme manifestation of gender-based violence against women and girls. In many instances, such killings are not isolated incidents but rather the culmination of pre-existing forms of gender-based violence that affect all regions and countries worldwide. Available global estimates for 2023 indicate that 11.4 per cent of women and girls aged 15 years and older worldwide had experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former husband or male intimate partner at least once in the past 12 months.[6] The high prevalence of such violence underscores the risk of femicide faced by women and girls worldwide.

Although intimate partner violence represents a major risk factor for femicides, such killings occur in a variety of settings, both within and beyond the private sphere. These crimes are rooted in societal norms and stereotypes that consider women to be subordinate to men, as well as in discrimination against women and girls, inequality and unequal power relations between women and men in society.[7] In 2023, an estimated 2.7 per cent of women and girls aged 15 years and older globally had experienced sexual violence by someone other than a partner at least once in the past 12 months.[8] The gender-related motives surrounding femicides distinguish them from other intentional homicides of women and girls.

Similar to previous editions, this research brief focuses on women and girls killed by intimate partners or other family members. Examples include femicides resulting from intimate partner violence, so-called "honour killings" and dowry-related killings. This focus reflects both the limited availability of data on femicides committed by other perpetrators and the fact that intimate partner/family member femicides account for the majority of intentional homicides of women and girls.

Although data on femicides committed by individuals other than intimate partners or family members remain limited at the global level, a growing number of countries are strengthening the measurement of femicide through the application of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (also referred to as "femicide/feminicide"), developed by UNODC and UN Women. The Statistical Framework, endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2022, supports the measurement of all forms of gender-related killings of women and girls, including those perpetrated by individuals other than intimate partners or family members.

Global and regional estimates of the number of women killed by intimate partners or other family members in 2025 are presented in this research brief, along with available trends over time and promising practices for preventing femicide. Because data coverage is incomplete across countries, missing values are imputed, introducing uncertainty into the estimates. These global and regional estimates should therefore be interpreted as indicative of the scale of the phenomenon rather than as precise figures.

[5] The terms "femicide" and "gender-related killing of women and girls" are used interchangeably in this research brief.

[6] World Health Organization, Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2023: Global, Regional and National Prevalence Estimates for Intimate Partner Violence against Women and Non-Partner Sexual Violence against Women (2025).

[7] UNODC and UN Women, "Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (also referred to as "femicide/feminicide")" (United Nations publication, 2021).

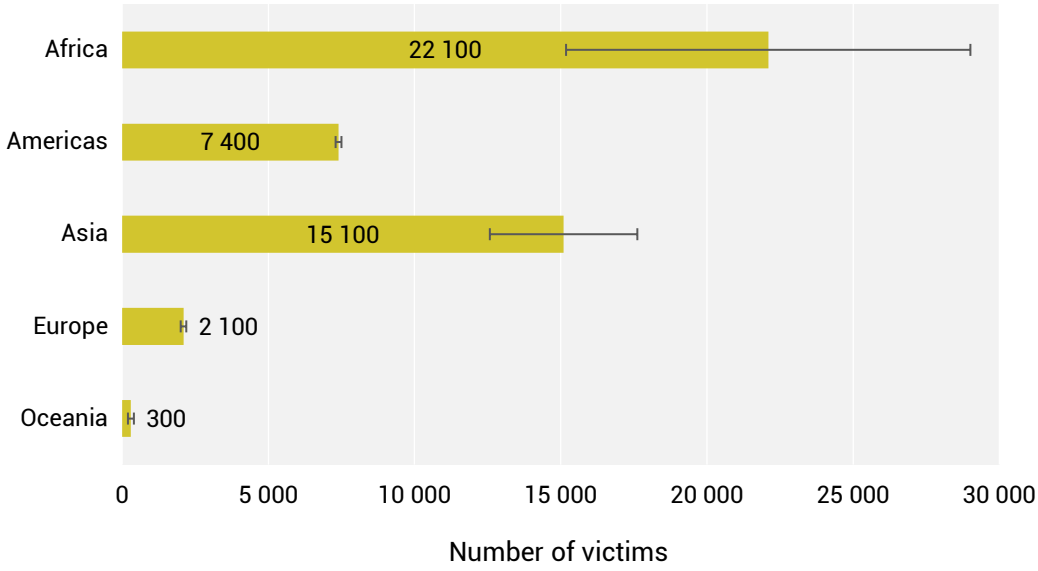
[8] World Health Organization, 2025.

INTIMATE PARTNER/FAMILY MEMBER FEMICIDE IN 2025

Around 47,000 (37,100–56,700) women and girls worldwide were intentionally killed by their intimate partners or another family member in 2025.[9] While this estimate is lower than the 2024 estimate of 50,000 victims,[10] this difference should not be interpreted as evidence of a decline, as it is largely explained by improvements in data availability at the country level.[11] The 2025 estimate means that 60 per cent of the roughly 78,000 women and girls killed intentionally that year were murdered by their current or former intimate partners or other family members, such as fathers, uncles, mothers and brothers. This proportion has remained broadly stable over time.

The highest estimated number of victims of intimate partner/family member femicide in 2025 was in Africa, at 22,100 (15,200–29,000), followed by Asia with 15,100 (12,500–17,600), the Americas with 7,400 (7,300–7,600), Europe with 2,100 (2,000–2,200) and Oceania with 300 (200–400). However, these regional estimates should be interpreted with caution, given persistent limitations in data availability and the resulting uncertainty.

Figure 1: Estimated number of victims of intimate partner/family member femicide, by region (2025)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide Dataset.

Note: The uncertainty bands depicted by the error bars represent possible estimation errors due to the imputation of missing values at the country level. The bands do not represent confidence intervals. The estimates are based on the latest available data, which remain limited, especially in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. The size of the error bars provides an indication of the level of uncertainty that the estimates carry at the regional level. For more information on the methodology and country coverage, see the Annex to the present research brief.

Differences across regions in the absolute number of victims of intimate partner/family member femicide also reflect differences in population size. It is therefore important to assess the scale of the problem by examining the rate of intimate partner/family member femicide relative to the female population.

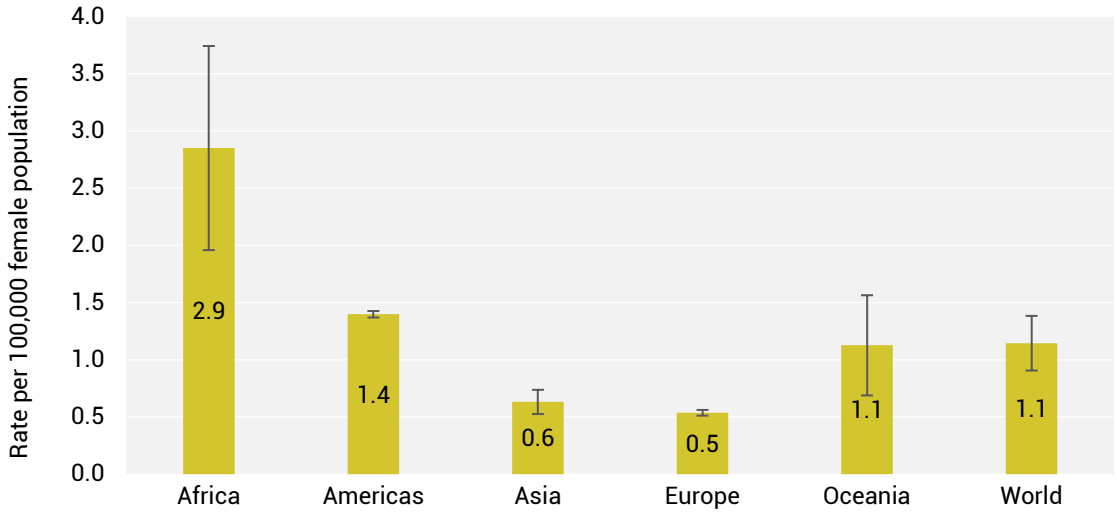
[9] The uncertainty bands in brackets represent possible estimation errors due to the imputation of missing values at the country level. The bands do not represent confidence intervals. The estimates are based on the latest available data, which remain limited, especially in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Due to rounding, they may not be symmetrical.

[10] UNODC and UN Women, "Femicides in 2024 – Global estimates of intimate partner/family member femicides" (United Nations publication, 2025).

[11] For more information on the methodology, see the Annex to the present research brief.

Globally, an estimated 1.1 women per 100,000 female population were killed by an intimate partner or another family member in 2025. At the regional level, the highest estimated rate of intimate partner/family member femicide was in Africa (2.9 per 100,000 female population), followed by the Americas (1.4), Oceania (1.1), Asia (0.6) and Europe (0.5). However, regional rates may mask significant subregional and national differences.

Figure 2: Estimated rate of victims of intimate partner/family member femicide per 100,000 female population, by region (2025)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide Dataset.

Note: The uncertainty bands depicted by the error bars represent possible estimation errors due to the imputation of missing values at the country level. The bands do not represent confidence intervals. The estimates are based on the latest available data, which remain limited, especially in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. The size of the error bars provides an indication of the level of uncertainty that the estimates carry at the regional level. For more information on the methodology and country coverage, see the Annex to the present research brief.

Intimate partners or other family members are the perpetrators of the majority of intentional killings of women and girls worldwide. This implies that the home remains the most dangerous place for women and girls in terms of the risk of homicide. Estimates based on available data for 2010–2025 indicate that the largest share of intimate partner/family member femicides in Europe and the Americas were committed by intimate partners, with 63 per cent of victims being murdered by a current or former intimate partner in Europe and 70 per cent in the Americas. Limited data availability prevents a comparable breakdown between intimate partners and other family members in Africa, Asia and Oceania.

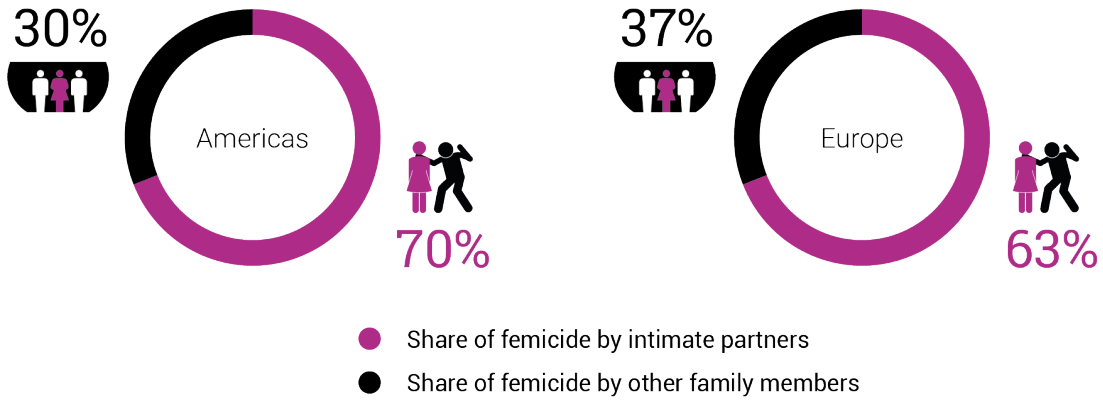
The circumstances under which intimate partner violence escalates into lethal violence have been widely analysed by criminologists and other researchers.[12] A set of risk factors has been identified, including a history of violence between the perpetrator and the victim, previous threats and an actual or imminent separation.[13] Some findings also suggest that being a foreign woman in a given country with no or limited social support, in addition to one or several other risk factors commonly associated with femicide, could increase the probability being killed.[14] The patterns and risk factors associated with intentional killings of women and girls by other family members, including extended family members, have received less attention from academia and criminologists, even though these killings may require a wider set of intervention strategies. Further information on the prevention of femicide can be found in a dedicated section at the end of this brief.

[12] See for example Stöckl, H. and others, "The Global Prevalence of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Systematic Review", *The Lancet*, vol. 382 (2013).

[13] Johnson, H. and others, "Intimate Femicide: The Role of Coercive Control", *Feminist Criminology*, vol. 14 (2017).

[14] Cantor, E. and others, "Femicide and Attempted Femicide before and during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Chile", *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 19 (2022).

Figure 3: Distribution of intimate partner/family member femicide victims by perpetrator relationship, by selected region (average 2010–2025)

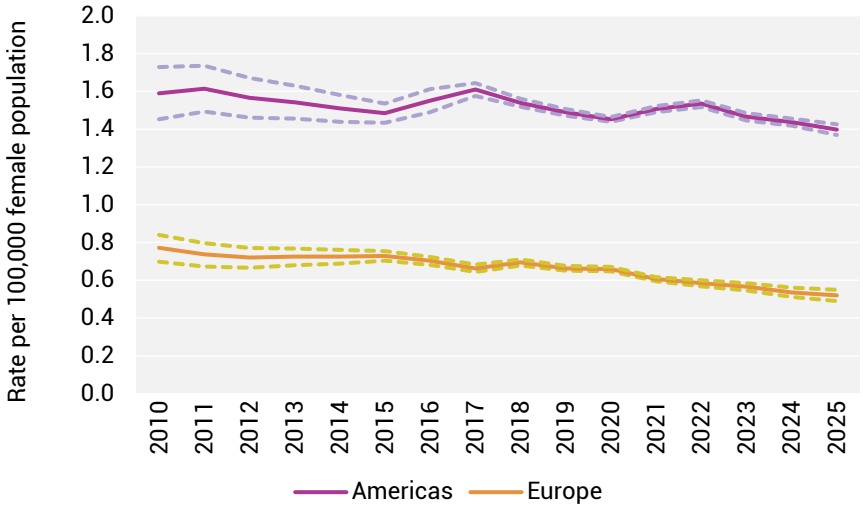


Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide dataset.

TRENDS IN INTIMATE PARTNER/FAMILY MEMBER FEMICIDE

Trends in the rates of femicide perpetrated by intimate partners or other family members have differed slightly in the Americas and Europe since 2010. Over 2010–2025, the rate of femicide committed by intimate partners or family members in Europe declined gradually, by nearly a third. This trend was driven by decreases recorded in Northern Europe, Eastern Europe and Southern Europe. In the Americas, despite some fluctuations, the rate decreased only slightly over the same period, from 1.6 to 1.4 per 100,000 female population. The long-term trends in femicide in these two regions, for which trend data are available, indicate that substantial changes in the level of such lethal violence occur slowly over time, suggesting that the risk factors and causes that drive this form of interpersonal violence are rooted in social norms and gender stereotypes that remain largely unchanged over time.

Figure 4: Trends in the rate of intimate partner/family member femicide in the Americas and Europe (2010–2025)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide dataset.

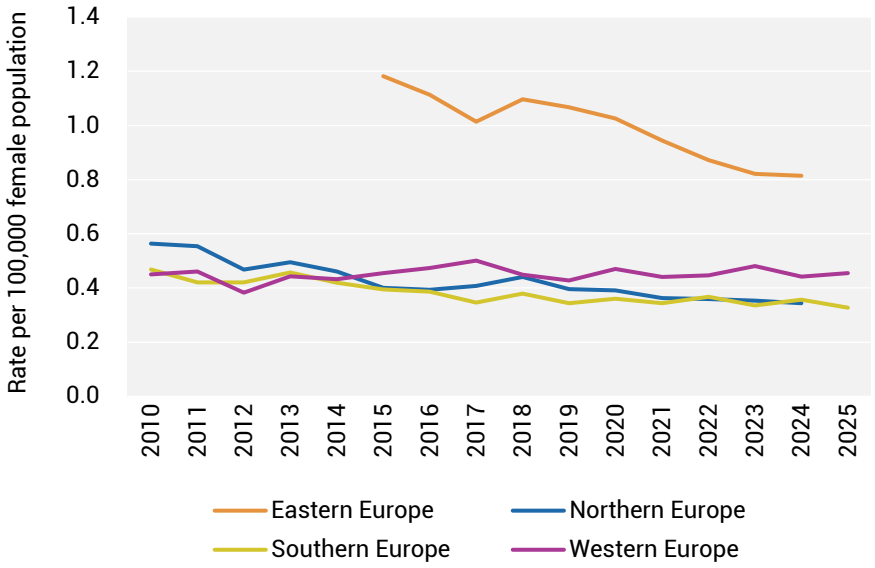
Note: The dotted lines represent ranges around the estimate and show the extent to which the regional estimate for a specific year relies on reported as opposed to imputed country-level series of intimate partner/family member femicide. The ranges do not represent confidence intervals and should not be interpreted as such. For more information on the methodology, see the Annex to the present research brief.

Furthermore, the decline in intimate partner/family member femicide rates in these two regions has been slower than the decline in overall intentional homicide rates (for women and men combined). Between 2010 and 2025, the overall intentional homicide rate fell by 23 per cent in the Americas and by 43 per cent in Europe. This divergence underscores the need to complement efforts to reduce homicide with targeted measures addressing the distinct gender-related drivers of killings of women and girls.

The relative stability of the intimate partner/family-related femicide rate in the Americas, which stands in contrast to the volatility of the total homicide rate, is consistent with criminological studies[15] and longitudinal analyses conducted by UNODC.[16]

It is not possible to estimate long-term femicide trends in Africa, Asia and Oceania because of persistent gaps in national data availability.[17]

Figure 5: Subregional trends in the rate of intimate partner/family member femicide, Europe (2010–2025)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide dataset.

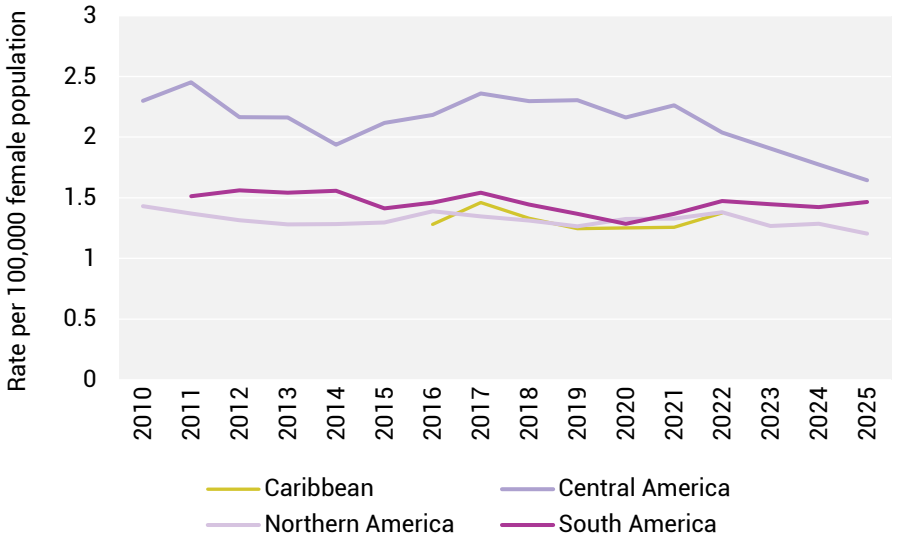
Note: Subregional figures are published only for years for which the country coverage is sufficient (see the Annex on the methodology for more explanation).

[15] See Abrahams, N. and others, "Intimate Partner Femicide in South Africa in 1999 and 2009", *PLOS Medicine*, vol. 10, no. 4 (2013) and Caman, S. and others, "Trends in Rates and Characteristics of Intimate Partner Homicides between 1990 and 2013", *Journal of Criminal Justice*, vol. 49 (2017).

[16] UNODC and UN Women, *Gender-related Killings of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide) – Global estimates of female intimate partner/family-related homicides in 2022* (United Nations publication, 2023).

[17] For more information on data availability and the estimation model used to input missing data, see the Annex to the present research brief.

Figure 6: Subregional trends in the rate of intimate partner/family member femicide, the Americas (2010–2025)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide dataset.

Note: Subregional figures are published only for years for which the country coverage is sufficient (see the Annex on the methodology for more explanation).

Regional and subregional trends can mask the high risk of femicide faced by certain vulnerable groups, whose victimization rates may exceed those observed in the overall female population. The following box illustrates disparities in homicide victimization affecting Indigenous women and girls.

BOX 1: Improving the visibility of lethal violence against Indigenous women and girls

The 2022 edition of the UNODC–UN Women brief on femicide estimates highlighted the disproportionate burden of homicide borne by Indigenous women in several countries and the persistent lack of data on killings affecting Indigenous populations. Recent evidence from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America highlights both the continued scale of this violence and growing efforts to improve its measurement and visibility.

In Australia, a dedicated national analysis published in 2024 examined more than three decades of homicide data involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. The study found that Indigenous women experienced homicide victimization rates up to seven times the national average and that most victims were killed by someone known to them, frequently an intimate partner.[18]

In Canada, police recorded 44 Indigenous women victims of homicide in 2025, compared with 74 in 2024. While data from 2025 showed a decrease, longitudinal data show that Indigenous women and girls continue to experience substantially higher homicide rates than non-Indigenous women and girls.[19]

In New Zealand, a national femicide review published in 2025 documented inequities in family-violence-related homicide affecting Māori women and girls. It estimated that, in the absence of these inequities, approximately 25 fewer Māori women and girls would have been killed over the period examined. The review also highlighted the importance of incorporating Indigenous perspectives and experiences into efforts to understand and prevent gender-related killings.[20]

[18] Bricknell, S. and Miles, H. 2024. *Homicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women*. Statistical Bulletin No. 46. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.

[19] Statistics Canada. 2026. *Number, percentage and rate of homicide victims, by gender and Indigenous identity*, Table 35-10-0156-01, 2014-2025. Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

[20] Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission. 2025. *Femicide: Deaths resulting from gender-based violence in Aotearoa New Zealand | Kōhuru Wahine: nā te ririhau ā-ira i te whenua o Aotearoa*. Family Violence Death Review subject matter experts on behalf of He Mutunga Kore | National Mortality Review Committee. Wellington: Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission.

In the United States of America, recent data show that American Indian and Alaska Native populations experience substantially higher homicide rates than non-Hispanic White populations.[21] Existing research has also documented elevated homicide risks among American Indian and Alaska Native women and identified intimate partner violence as an important circumstance associated with these killings.[22]

Together, these findings demonstrate the importance of collecting and publishing data disaggregated by sex and ethnic identity. Such data are essential for identifying disparities, understanding the contexts in which killings occur, and informing prevention strategies that are responsive to the experiences of Indigenous women and girls.

Implementing comprehensive legal frameworks to prevent gender-based violence and femicide and ensuring access to justice for survivors are among the core interventions countries have adopted to address such violence. The following box provides an overview of existing legal frameworks addressing femicide and complementary criminal justice measures.

BOX 2: Access to justice, legal recognition and accountability for femicide

Access to justice is not only central to the response to femicide but also to its prevention. Failures in legal and justice systems can allow violence to escalate unchecked, while timely, coordinated and gender-responsive interventions can help prevent its escalation into lethal violence.[23]

Despite progress in strengthening legal frameworks, women face greater barriers to justice than men in nearly 70 per cent of the countries surveyed. These barriers reflect the persistence of discriminatory laws, gaps between law and implementation, inaccessible justice mechanisms, institutional bias and harmful social norms that limit access to protection, remedies and accountability.[24] These barriers are particularly significant in the context of femicide. Gender-related killings of women and girls are often preceded by multiple forms of abuse, coercive control and escalating violence, sometimes over prolonged periods. In a substantial proportion of documented cases, the women concerned had previously reported violence to the authorities.[25]

A growing number of countries have explicitly recognized femicide or gender-related killing in law, whether as a distinct offence, an aggravated form of homicide or a circumstance affecting sentencing. Such recognition remains the exception rather than the rule. According to the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law dataset, as of 2023, 29 of the 190 countries examined had enacted laws addressing femicide. Most of these countries were in Latin America and the Caribbean,[26] with several drawing on the Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide) in developing their legal frameworks.[27]

The practical effects of legal recognition depend on how the law is formulated and implemented. Where an offence requires proof of gender-related motivation or other specific elements, classification and prosecution may present additional evidentiary challenges, particularly when the perpetrator or the circumstances of the killing are initially unknown. Available comparative research describes a range of legislative approaches, but robust evidence on whether femicide-specific laws consistently increase the number of investigations,

[21] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2025. *CDC's Violence Against Native Peoples Fact Sheet*. Atlanta: CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

[22] Petrosky, E., and others, "Homicides of American Indians/Alaska Natives — National Violent Death Reporting System, United States, 2003–2018". *MMWR Surveillance Summaries*, vol. 70, issue 8, pp. 1–19 (2021).

[23] See United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/176 of 2015.

[24] United Nations, *Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices, and addressing structural barriers*, report of the Secretary-General, E/CN.6/2026/3.

[25] See case studies on France and South Africa from UNODC and UN Women, Femicides in 2023: Global Estimates of Intimate Partner/Family Member Femicides (United Nations publication, 2024).

[26] World Bank. (2025). "Femicide Laws Worldwide: 50 Years of Evolution and Ongoing Gaps." *Women, Business and the Law Data Blog*, 16 June 2025. Available at: https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/femicide-laws-worldwide--50-years-of-evolution-and-ongoing-gaps. See also UN Women's Global Database on Violence Against Women for details of country legal measures.

[27] Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS), *Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide)* (Washington, D.C., Organization of American States, 2018).

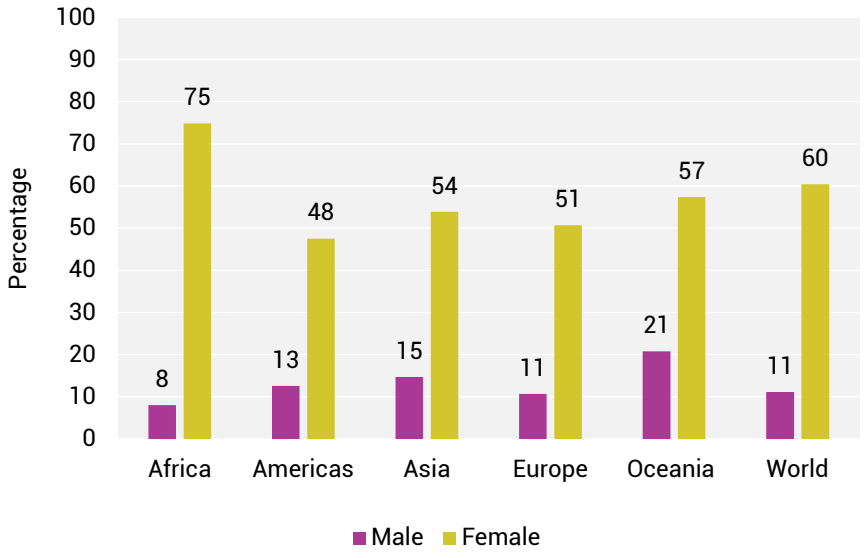
prosecutions or convictions remains limited.[28] This evidence gap is compounded by the scarcity of criminal justice data that capture the gender-related elements of killings. Recording investigations, prosecutions and convictions involving gender-related killings, in line with the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (also referred to as "femicide/feminicide"), would help assess how different legislative models operate in practice.

Women and girls continue to face barriers throughout the justice process when reporting domestic abuse and other forms of gender-based violence, as evidenced by research.[29] Overcoming these barriers requires a range of measures within the criminal justice system that go beyond the legal recognition of femicide as a specific offence and aim to ensure greater access to justice and accountability for these crimes.

HOMICIDE IN THE PRIVATE SPHERE HAS A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

While men and boys constitute the vast majority of homicide victims globally, women and girls are disproportionately affected by lethal violence in the private sphere. An estimated 81 per cent of all homicide victims in 2025 were men, while 19 per cent were women. Lethal violence within the family takes a much higher toll on women than men, with almost 60 per cent of all women who were intentionally killed in 2025 being killed by an intimate partner or other family member, compared with 11 per cent of men and boys. The proportion of female homicide victims killed by intimate partners or other family members varied by region in 2025. It was highest in Africa (75 per cent), followed by Oceania (57 per cent), Asia (54 per cent), Europe (51 per cent) and the Americas (48 per cent).

Figure 7: Proportion of male and female intentional homicide victims killed by intimate partner or other family member homicides out homicides, globally and by region (2025)



Source: UNODC estimates based on UNODC Homicide dataset.

[28] Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law, *The Criminalization of Femicide: A Comparative Legal Perspective*; and Milica Kovačević and Marija Maljković, "Femicide: Certain Controversial Issues and Comparative Law Review", *Journal of Criminology and Criminal Law*, vol. 62, No. 3, pp. 69–88 (2024).

[29] Wieberneit, M. and others, "Silenced Survivors: A Systematic Review of the Barriers to Reporting, Investigating, Prosecuting and Sentencing of Adult Female Rape and Sexual Assault", *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, vol. 25, no. 5 (2024).

As discussed in the previous section, data availability is sufficient to conduct trend analyses only for subregions in the Americas and Europe. While rates of intimate partner/family member femicide have remained stable or declined slightly in these subregions since 2010, overall rates of female intentional homicide committed by other perpetrators have generally decreased more rapidly. Consequently, in some subregions, intimate partner/family member femicide has come to account for a larger share of all female homicides, even where its rate has remained stable or declined. This is the case, for example, in Eastern Europe, where the proportion of female homicides committed by intimate partners or family members increased from 34 per cent in 2015 to 48 per cent in 2024, and in South America, where it rose from 36 per cent in 2010 to 49 per cent in 2025. While this trend reflects progress in reducing female homicides committed by other perpetrators, it also underscores the persistence of lethal violence against women and girls within intimate partner and family relationships. These findings are consistent with the results of other long-term national studies on femicide and domestic violence killings, which emphasize that women are most at risk of being killed in the home by individuals known to them.[30]

[30] Aydemir, S., "Domestic Violence and Femicide: A Sociological Analysis of the 2008-2024 Period in Türkiye", *Veredas do Direito*, vol. 23, no. 14 (2026).

PREVENTING FEMICIDE

Review of practices

The findings presented in this brief indicate that most femicides occur in the context of intimate partner or family relationships. The prevention of femicide therefore requires targeted policies that address the specific forms of gender-based violence occurring in the private sphere, given the important differences in the circumstances in which intimate partner and other family member femicides occur.

Countries have implemented a range of strategies to prevent femicide, including legal responses (such as the criminalization of femicide as a specific offence), other criminal justice responses and multi-agency approaches.[31] Such killings nevertheless persist at high levels. In many cases, femicides are the culmination of a pattern of ongoing violence,[32] meaning that, with timely and appropriate intervention, they may be prevented. The General Assembly has urged Member States to adopt integrated and comprehensive responses to violence against women to reduce the risk of gender-related killing through early intervention and risk assessment, and to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish such killings.[33]

Several theories have been developed to explain why intimate partner violence disproportionately affects women. Much of the academic research has focused on individual and socio-political factors, arguing that gender-based violence against women and girls is rooted in patriarchal structures that institutionalize male dominance and control.[34] An ecological framework has been used in the academic literature[35] and by international organizations such as the World Health Organization[36] to explain how factors at different levels interact to generate violence. The ecological model highlights the importance of understanding gender-based violence in a broader context when developing prevention strategies.[37] According to this ecological model, drivers of gender-based violence operate at different levels: the individual, interpersonal relationships, community or organizational settings, and society as a whole.

Existing research indicates that intimate partner femicides are associated with risk factors related to the perpetrator or the situational context of the crime. Research has identified several risk factors associated with intimate partner femicide, including access to firearms[38], coercive control,[39] a history of violence and prior non-fatal strangulation,[40] stalking,[41] relationship separation[42] and substance use by the perpetrator, including alcohol consumption, combined with other factors, such as lack of social support and the accumulation of stressful events.[43] A review of 34 femicide cases in Brazil, for example, found that all victims had experienced violence before they were killed, but fewer than a quarter had reported it to the police. In none of the cases had the victim or the perpetrator been referred to monitoring patrols or psychosocial services.[44] The study points to feelings of shame and

[31] For further information see previous editions of the UNODC-UN Women femicide briefs: *Femicides in 2023* and *Femicides in 2024*.

[32] A/HRC/20/16, Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo (2012), para. 15.

[33] United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/176, para. 7.

[34] Dobash, R. E. & Dobash, R. P., *Violence against Wives: A Case against the Patriarchy* (Free Press, 1979).

[35] Heise, L.L., "Violence against Women: An Integrated Ecological Framework", *Violence against Women*, vol. 4, no. 3 (1998).

[36] World Health Organization. (2025), *The VPA Approach*, retrieved November 13, 2025, from https://www. who.int/groups/violence-prevention-alliance/approach.

[37] UN Women, *A Framework to Underpin Action to Prevent Violence Against Wom*en (New York, 2015).

[38] Glass, N. and others, "Young Adult Intimate Partner Femicide: An Exploratory Study", *Homicide Studies*, vol. 12, no. 2 (2008), pp. 177-187.

[39] Stark, E. and Hester, M., "Coercive Control: Update and Review", *Violence against Women*, vol. 25, no. 1, pp. 81-104.

[40] Spencer, C M. and Stith, S.M., "Risk Factors for Male Perpetration and Female Victimization of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Meta-Analysis", *Trauma, Violence and Abuse* (2018).

[41] Campbell, J.C., et.al., "Intimate Partner Homicide: Review and Implications of Research and Policy", *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, vol. 8 (2007), pp. 246-269.

[42] Garcia, L., et.al., "Homicides and Intimate Partner Violence: A literature Review", *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, vol. 8 (2007), pp. 370-383.

[43] Catalá-Miñana, A. and others, "Contextual Factors Related to Alcohol Abuse among Intimate Partner Violence Offenders", *Substance Use & Misuse*, vol. 52, no. 3 (2017).

[44] Pierobom de Ávila, T., and others, "Better Prevention of Femicide: Evidence from Brazil", *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, vol. 10, no. 4 (2021).

guilt, as well as fear of threats, and notes that women who have negative experiences with the criminal justice system may be less likely to report subsequent incidents of violence. Under international standards, the primary responsibility for initiating investigations and prosecutions lies with the police and prosecution authorities, not with women subjected to violence.[45]
Given the complex nature of intimate partner violence, and its links to deeply embedded social and cultural norms that perpetuate stereotyped gender roles, research has identified two key underlying drivers relevant to prevention: the unequal position of women within an intimate relationship and the use of violence by men as means of resolving conflict.[46]

Several interventions have been associated with reduced risks of gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence and intimate partner femicide. These include risk assessments conducted by police officers to identify risk factors and facilitate referrals of victims to social service providers,[47] as well as the issuance and enforcement of protection orders prohibiting contact with the victim. Evidence indicates that risk assessment is most effective when standardized, gender-sensitive and applied consistently across police, justice, health and social services, and when linked to multi-agency risk-management plans and enforceable protection orders. Several countries have introduced multi-agency risk-assessment tools (e.g. Argentina, France, Norway and Portugal) and electronic monitoring of perpetrators with linked alert devices for women at risk (e.g. Brazil, Germany and Latvia).[48]

Other measures to prevent the escalation of intimate partner violence or domestic violence into a killing include restrictions on access to firearms. Evidence from academic research suggests that possession of a firearm by a perpetrator of intimate partner violence significantly increases the odds of a killing[49, 50] and also increases the risk of multiple victims by 70 per cent in killings committed in the private sphere.[51] These interventions are in line with international standards. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice urge Member States to ensure that criminal justice officials and victims' advocates conduct risk assessments, that police and courts have the authority to issue and enforce protection and restraining or barring orders, and that persons brought before the courts in respect of violent crimes, or convicted of such crimes, can be restricted in their possession and use of firearms.[52]

Academic research has also examined how protection orders combined with firearm restrictions can help prevent domestic homicide. Long-term studies of firearm laws relating to intimate partner violence and intimate partner homicide rates found that states with laws both prohibiting firearm possession by persons subject to restraining orders and requiring the surrender of those weapons had intimate partner homicide rates 14 per cent lower than states without such laws.[53]

While research has focused on the trends, patterns and risk factors associated with intimate partner/family member femicide, much less is known about femicide committed by other perpetrators. Examples include gender-related killings of women and girls linked to organized crime, forced labour or trafficking in persons.

[45] United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/228, annex, para. 15 (b).

[46] Jewkes, R., "Intimate Partner Violence: causes and Prevention", *the Lancet*, vol. 359, issue 9315 (2002).

[47] Koppa, V and Messing, J. T., "Can Justice System Interventions Prevent Intimate Partner Homicide? An Analysis of Rates of Help-Seeking Prior to Fatality", *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 36 (2019).

[48] Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: report of the Secretary-General A/81/334 (2026).

[49] Campbell, J. C. and others, "Risk Factors for Femicide in Abuse Relationships: Results from a Multisite Case Control Study", *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 93, No. 7 (2003).

[50] Wallin, M.A. and others, "The Association of Federal and State-Level Firearm restriction Polities with Intimate Partner Homicide: A Re-analysis by Race of the Victim", *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 37 (2022).

[51] Kivisto A. J. and Porter M., "Firearms Use Increases the Risk of Multiple Victims in Domestic Homicides", *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, vol. 48, No. 1 (2020).

[52] United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/228, annex, paras. 14 (c) (i), 15 (h) and 16 (f).

[53] Díez, C., and others, "State Intimate Partner Violence-Related Firearm Laws and Intimate Partner Homicide Rates in the United States, 1991 to 2015", *Annals of Internal Medicine*, vol. 167, no. 8, pp. 536-543 (2017).

BOX 3: From global standards to national action: progress in measuring femicide

Since its adoption in 2022, the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls has been implemented across regions, with testing and capacity development under way in at least 14 countries. In several cases, this work was supported by UNODC, including through its Centres of Excellence on Crime Statistics in Mexico and the Republic of Korea, UN Women, including through its Centres of Excellence on Gender Statistics in Mexico and Knowledge and Partnerships in the Republic of Korea, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Early implementation experiences show how countries are adapting the framework to their national statistical, criminal justice and institutional contexts. This work is already improving national systems: Albania has strengthened its reporting and accountability mechanisms; Ecuador has improved its femicide data and enacted related legal reforms; and Lesotho has modernized its case-management and monitoring approaches.[54]

These experiences show how the Statistical Framework can help countries produce more consistent, comparable and actionable data, while strengthening the links between measurement, criminal justice responses and policy action. Continued implementation will also help identify remaining data gaps and inform further methodological development. UNODC and UN Women will report on global implementation of the Statistical Framework to the UN Statistical Commission in 2027.

Policy implications

Strategies to prevent femicide should focus on both victims and perpetrators. A number of responses and strategies to prevent the escalation of previous or ongoing gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence, fall within the remit of criminal justice systems and relevant support services for victims. These include coordinated victim-centred and multi-sectoral responses to cases of domestic abuse or intimate partner violence reported to authorities.[55]

Effective prevention also depends on the availability of timely and high-quality data. The systematic collection of information on gender-related killings using the UNODC–UN Women Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (also referred to as "femicide/feminicide") can improve the understanding of trends and patterns and facilitate the evaluation of prevention strategies.

In-depth, multi-stakeholder femicide reviews are another relevant mechanism for identifying gaps in responses to gender-based violence. These reviews examine the circumstances preceding a killing, including available information on the victim's previous contacts with relevant support services and criminal justice institutions.[56]

Awareness-raising to encourage reporting by women affected by gender-based violence should be accompanied by a response from criminal justice authorities that victims can trust, in which a report triggers risk assessment, protection measures and referral to support services.

Prevention strategies should also focus on changing the behaviours of boys and men in society at large.[57] They should target perpetrators of domestic and intimate partner violence already known to the authorities through referrals to specialized programmes and interventions[58] that challenge

[54] For more information about the work conducted in Albania and Lesotho, see UNODC and UN Women, *Femicides in 2024*, box 1 and 4.

[55] For example, the UNODC regional programme on criminal justice responses to gender-based violence in Southern Africa trained 590 criminal justice practitioners and multisectoral service providers, while 11,729 survivors received integrated victim-centred and criminal justice services.

[56] UNODC, *Background paper on femicide review committees*, conference room paper submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-second session (E/CN.15/2023/CRP.6).

[57] Mkwananzi S. and Nathane-Taulela M., "Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Interventions – Perspectives from Community Members and Activists in South Africa", *Front. Glob. Women's Health*, vol. 5 (2024).

[58] Pierobom de Ávila, T., and others, "Better Prevention of Femicide: Evidence from Brazil", *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, vol. 10, no. 4 (2021).

harmful gender norms and constructions of masculinity that normalize violence, dominance and control and seek to change these behaviours.[59]

The concept of intersectionality, which recognizes how gender interacts with other factors such as race, ethnicity, class and age to shape the vulnerabilities of women and girls to femicide, provides an important lens through which policymakers can develop effective interventions.[60] For example, legal aid, legal empowerment and community-based justice support can further strengthen access to justice, particularly for women facing intersecting forms of discrimination or living in rural and underserved areas.[61]

Taken together, all these measures point to the need for a comprehensive approach in which legal recognition, effective investigation, risk assessment, protection, legal aid, coordinated services, disaggregated criminal justice data and institutional learning reinforce each other. Legal reform and criminal justice authorities alone cannot prevent femicide or ensure accountability unless they are supported by an array of capable institutions, accessible protection mechanisms and systematic analysis of how justice and other services respond before and after a killing.

Finally, as digital technology and online spaces expand rapidly, technology-facilitated violence has become an increasing threat to the safety of women and girls[62] and can form part of the control, surveillance and threats that precede a killing.[63] At the same time, law enforcement and policymakers face challenges in ensuring that legislation and criminal justice practice respond adequately to these forms of violence.[64]

[59] See for example *Standards for Stalking and Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Interventions*, Policy Paper, UK Home Office (October 2026).

[60] Cole, E.R. and Duncan, L.E., "Better Policy Interventions through Intersectionality", *Social Issues and Policy Rev*iew, vol. 17 (2023).

[61] For further information, see *The United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems*.

[62] United Nations, General Assembly, *Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: report of the Secretary-General* (A/79/500) (2024).

[63] UNODC and UN Women, *Femicides in 2024*, box 2.

[64] Baekgaard, K., *Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: An Emerging Issue in Women, Peace and Security (*Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, 2024).

BOX 4: Expanding femicide reviews in Aotearoa, New Zealand, to uncover overlooked deaths and risks

In-depth femicide reviews typically bring together stakeholders from various sectors, including law enforcement, health, child welfare and victim support services, to examine, following the conclusion of judicial proceedings, how institutions responded to the victim and the perpetrator prior to the killing. Their purpose is to identify lessons learned and recommend changes, and they are separate from criminal or disciplinary proceedings. Such reviews have been conducted in a number of countries. For example, building on its 2023 background paper on femicide review committees,[65] UNODC convened stakeholders from eight countries of the Southern African Development Community in Johannesburg in July 2024,[66] and subsequently worked with national counterparts in Ecuador and South Africa in 2025 to pilot and institutionalize such reviews.

These in-depth, multi-stakeholder reviews of femicide and domestic homicide cases contribute in multiple ways to understanding the circumstances surrounding killings of women and girls and to informing prevention efforts.

Recent experience from New Zealand demonstrates how such reviews can also help identify deaths linked to gender-based violence that fall outside intentional homicide statistics. In June 2025, the Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand published a report on femicide prepared by family violence death review experts on behalf of the National Mortality Review Committee, the ninth in a series of reports on deaths related to family violence.[67] The report applies the definition of femicide set out in the UNODC–UN Women Statistical Framework, while also examining deaths beyond its scope. These include maternal suicides linked to family violence and the deaths of unborn babies resulting from violence during pregnancy, which are not classified as femicides under the Statistical Framework.

Suicide is the leading cause of maternal mortality in New Zealand. Drawing on data from the maternal mortality working group, linked with police family harm records, the report found that 26 of the 41 women who died by maternal suicide between 2006 and 2023 had a police-reported family harm record. The report notes that this figure is likely to be an underestimate because many experiences of family violence are not reported to the police. The violence was seldom an isolated incident but rather part of a continuing pattern. The findings highlight a strong link between family violence and maternal suicide and suggest that interventions during pregnancy and the period following childbirth could significantly reduce the number of lives lost.[68]

The report also highlighted the absence of routine data on migrant or refugee status, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, which limits the visibility of these groups' experiences. It documented inequities in homicide related to family violence affecting Māori women and girls. It also identified emerging issues, including technology-facilitated violence and the heightened homicide risk faced by older women with disabilities or chronic health conditions.[69]

The experience from New Zealand demonstrates the added value of in-depth, multi-stakeholder femicide reviews for the measurement of femicide and the understanding of other deaths linked to gender-based violence. Preventing femicide requires coordinated action across criminal justice, health and social service systems, with such reviews serving as an important mechanism for identifying institutional gaps and opportunities for earlier intervention.

[65] UNODC, Background paper on femicide review committees, conference room paper submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-second session (E/CN.15/2023/CRP.6).

[66] UNODC, *UNODC ROSAF & CPCJS convenes a consultation on femicide reviews with the SADC stakeholders* (2024). Available at https://southafrica.un.org/en/node/278121.

[67] Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission. 2025. Femicide: Deaths resulting from gender-based violence in Aotearoa New Zealand | Kōhuru Wahine: nā te ririhau ā-ira i te whenua o Aotearoa. Family Violence Death Review subject matter experts on behalf of He Mutunga Kore | National Mortality Review Committee. Wellington: Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission.

[68] Ibid.

[69] Ibid.

ANNEX: METHODOLOGY

Data

Data sources

The analysis presented in this brief and the estimates produced at the global and regional levels are based on available data for 122 countries or territories with at least one data point for the period 2010–2025. These data were primarily submitted to UNODC by Member States through the annual United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS). The UN-CTS collects, among other data, the total number of homicide victims and their disaggregation by victim/perpetrator relationship, which is used to identify femicides perpetrated by intimate partners or other family members.

In most cases, these data are sourced from Member States' criminal justice systems. In a few cases, however, data are sourced from the public health system. Where needed and applicable, homicide data collected through the UN-CTS are supplemented with data collected directly from government sources (such as websites and publications) or, in some cases, from non-governmental sources.[70] When country-level data on femicide by intimate partners or other family members are missing, other relevant data are collected and processed for the purpose of producing global and regional estimates. This includes data on victims of offences such as femicide/feminicide, dowry death and honour killing in countries where offences are defined under national legislation.

Population data used to calculate sex-disaggregated homicide rates (per 100,000 population) were sourced from the United Nations 2024 Revision of World Population Prospects.

Data validation

All homicide data collected through the UN-CTS and external data sources are validated to ensure that they meet minimum quality criteria, including consistency with the standard definition of intentional homicide in the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), coherence of country time trends, and internal consistency of homicide disaggregations (for example, to ensure that male and female homicides add up to the reported total, or that the reported number of intimate partner/family member femicides does not exceed the reported number of female homicides). In some countries, the perpetrators of a large share of intentional homicides remain unidentified, and this can heavily affect the validity of data on femicides by intimate partners or other family members. In such cases, adjustments are applied during the estimation process to account for incomplete information on the victim-perpetrator relationship.

Data coverage

Internationally comparable data on female victims of intentional homicide and femicide perpetrated by an intimate partner or other family member remain limited, especially in Africa, Asia and Oceania, but are available for a large enough number of countries and territories to enable the production of global and regional estimates.

[70] Additional data collected by UNODC are shared with Member States for technical review before publication.

Table 1: Coverage of femicide data, by region (2010–2025)

Region	Number of countries/ territories in region	Number of countries with available data for at least 1 year in the period 2010–2025		Number of countries with available data for at least 3 years in the period 2010–2025	
		Female victims of intentional homicide	Victims of intimate partner/family member femicide [71]	Female victims of intentional homicide	Victims of intimate partner/family member femicide
Africa	58	21	11	18	7
Americas	54	43	36	40	33
Asia	52	40	25	36	16
Europe	52	48	45	45	38
Oceania	23	8	5	5	3
World	**239**	**160**	**122**	**144**	**97**

Methodology for producing estimates

The methods used to estimate the number of intimate partner/family member femicides at the global and regional levels are aimed at making the best possible use of available data. For many countries, data on intimate partner/family member femicides are not available, or data are only available for some years. To ensure that regional aggregate estimates correspond to the sum of all national data in the respective region for each year, missing values are imputed at the country level.

Imputation of missing values at the country level

The imputation of missing values at the country level follows a three-step procedure, whereby: 1) the values in the total homicide series are imputed if missing; 2) the total homicide series is used to inform the imputation of missing values in the female homicide series;[72] and 3) the female homicide series is then used to inform the imputation of missing values in the intimate partner/family member femicide series.

- Imputation of the total homicide series is performed on the country-level *rate* of total homicides per 100,000 population.
- Imputation of the female homicide series is performed on the country-level *ratio* of female homicides to total homicides (where data on both indicators are available).
- Imputation of the intimate partner/family member femicide series is performed on the country-level *ratio* of intimate partner/family member femicides to total female homicides (where data on both indicators are available).[73]

[71] In 25 countries (11 in the Americas, 3 in Africa, 6 in Asia, 4 in Europe and 1 in Oceania), data on other types of gender-related killings such as "femicides" or "feminicides" were used as proxy measures given that reliable data on intimate partner/family member femicides are not available. These proxy measures were primarily used to capture information on country-level trends. For a detailed comparison of data on female intimate partner/family member homicides and "femicides/feminicides", see UNODC, Global Study on Homicide 2019 (United Nations publication, 2019), Booklet 5, p. 25.

[72] Coverage for female homicide is generally better than for intimate partner/family member femicide.

[73] Validation checks ensure that this ratio is lower than or equal to one.

For all three series, the following three-step imputation approach is applied:

- If a country has only one available data point in the respective series,[74] all missing values are set equal to this single available data point. Given that the estimated series is either a rate (if the imputation refers to total homicide) or a ratio based on that rate (if the imputation refers to female homicide or intimate partner/family member femicide), this approach accounts for population growth over time and does not mean that the series is constant in absolute terms.
- If a country has two to eight available data points in the respective series, the missing values between two data points are estimated by linear interpolation. If there are missing values preceding (or following) the earliest (or latest) available data point, the values at the beginning (or end) of the series are filled with the earliest (or latest) available data point.
- If a country has more than eight available data points in the respective time series, the missing values between two data points are estimated by linear interpolation. If there are missing values preceding (or following) the earliest (or latest) available data point, the values at the beginning (or end) of the time series are imputed using an exponential smoothing approach.[75]
- If a country has no available data points in the respective time series, missing values are estimated using the annual regional rate or ratio calculated from countries in the same region that have at least one observed data point in the series.

Estimation of regional aggregates

Once the series have been computed at the national level, they are aggregated to produce regional estimates. Regional estimates are then aggregated to compute the global number of intimate partner/family member femicides.

Computation of uncertainty intervals

Since global and regional estimates of intimate partner/family member femicides are produced based on available national data and through a statistical model that imputes missing values at the country level, any changes in the availability of country-level data can influence the estimates. To account for estimation error due to the imputation of missing values at the country level, the global and regional estimates are accompanied by intervals of uncertainty. These intervals are intended to represent how the uncertainty due to imputation varies across time and regions. These intervals do not represent confidence intervals and should not be interpreted as such. The procedure to compute the uncertainty intervals closely follows the approach used in the *Global Study on Homicide 2019*.[76]

In the case of countries and territories with at least one year of data on intimate partner/family member femicide (in the period 2010–2025), a penalty of plus and minus 3 per cent was added[77] to the value of each estimate for each year of distance between the estimate and the closest observed intimate partner/family member femicide value. For countries and territories without any reported data on intimate partner/family member femicide, a maximum "penalty" is applied in the sense that the distance to the closest observed values is assumed to be 16 years. Ranges around global and regional trends were obtained by adding up – for each year – the compounded ranges of all countries that are part of each regional aggregate. This approach to calculating uncertainty intervals means that countries with fewer years of reported data have wider ranges around the national trend and contribute more to the ranges around the trends in their respective regions. In addition, regions with a greater number of countries without any reported data have even wider ranges.

[74] The three-step imputation approach is applied to the period 2000–2025.

[75] For more information, see https://afit-r.github.io/ts_exp_smoothing.

[76] See the methodological annex to UNODC, *The Global Study on Homicide 2019* (United Nations publication, 2019).

[77] The 3.0 per cent represents half the global average change in the rate of intimate partner/family member femicides per 100,000 female population.

Globally, around **47,000 women and girls were killed by intimate partners or other family members in 2025**. This represents **60 per cent of the approximately 78,000 intentional killings of women and girls worldwide**. On average, **more than five women and girls lost their lives every hour** at the hands of a partner or another family member.

Femicide is not confined to the private sphere. It also includes other forms of femicide, such as killings linked to organized crime or trafficking in persons. In recent years, several countries have begun measuring different forms of femicide using the **UNODC – UN Women Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls**.

However, current estimates still fail to capture femicides committed outside the family setting. More **comprehensive and detailed data** are needed to analyse all forms of femicide. Such evidence is essential for designing effective policies to prevent gender-related killings of women and girls in both private and public settings.

This research brief was prepared jointly by UNODC and UN Women.