

## 7. Safety<sup>1</sup>

In the first year of the pandemic, following the restrictive measures on mobility and social contacts imposed by the health emergency, there was a strong reduction in predatory crimes: home burglaries, pickpocketing and robberies had reached the lowest values in the whole period considered.

Since 2021, with the easing of restrictive measures and the return to a normal life, these crimes have shown a slight growth, which also continued in the two-year period 2022-2023. In 2023, the rate of victims of home burglaries stands at 8.3 per 1,000 households (it was 7.6 in 2022) and that of victims of pickpockets at 5.1 people per 1,000 inhabitants (it was 4.6 in 2022). 1.1 people per 1,000 inhabitants suffered robberies, a substantially stable value compared to 1.0 in 2022.

Despite this growth, in 2023 the rate of victims of home burglaries remains below pre-pandemic values, while pickpockets and robberies have returned to 2019 values. In 2022, 332 murders were committed in Italy (0.56 per 100 thousand inhabitants). The homicide rate shows a slight increase compared to 2021 (0.52 per 100 thousand inhabitants). While confirming the long-term decreasing trend, in 2023 homicides exceeded the 2019 values (0.53).

**Table 1. Safety indicators: value for the latest available year and percentage changes compared with the previous year and 2019 (a)**

INDICATORS	Year	Value	Unit of measurement	Polarity	Percentage changes	
					compared with previous year	compared with 2019
Intentional homicide rate	2022	0.56	per 100.000 inhabitants	-		
Burglary (b)	2023	8.3	per 1.000 households	-		
Pick-pocketing (b)	2023	5.1	per 1.000 inhabitants	-		
Robbery (b)	2023	1.1	per 1.000 inhabitants	-		
Perception of safety walking alone in the dark	2023	62.0	%	+		
Social decay (or incivilities)	2023	6.8	%	-		
Perception of crime risk	2023	23.3	%	-		

Source: Istat, Bes indicators

Note: the green colour indicates improvement, red worsening and grey stability, taking into account the polarity of the indicator. The indicators have positive polarity if the increase in their value shows an improvement in well-being, negative polarity if the increase in their value shows a deterioration in well-being. For variations within  $\pm 1\%$  the indicators are considered stable in the reference period.

(a) The indicators Physical violence on women, Sexual violence on women, Intimate partnership violence, Worry of being victim of a sexual violence and Concrete fear of crime are not represented in the Table as no comparisons are available for the reference periods.

(b) 2023 data are provisional.

Like predatory crimes, subjective indicators of perception of safety in the area in which one lives also recorded during the pandemic the best performance of the entire period considered. In 2023, the percentage of people aged 14 and over who declare themselves very or quite safe when walking alone in the dark in the area where they live records an improvement: it grows by +1.4 percentage points, reaching 62.0%, a better value than the pre-pandemic period (it was 57.7% in 2019).

However, the percentage of population who declare having seen people who take drugs or deal drugs, prostitutes looking for clients or acts of vandalism against public good,

<sup>1</sup> This Chapter was edited by Miria Savioli, with contributions from Isabella Corazziari, Maria Giuseppina Muratore, Lucilla Scarnicchia and Franco Turetta. The boxes "Violence witnessed by the children of women victims of violence" and "Femicides" are edited by Lucilla Scarnicchia.

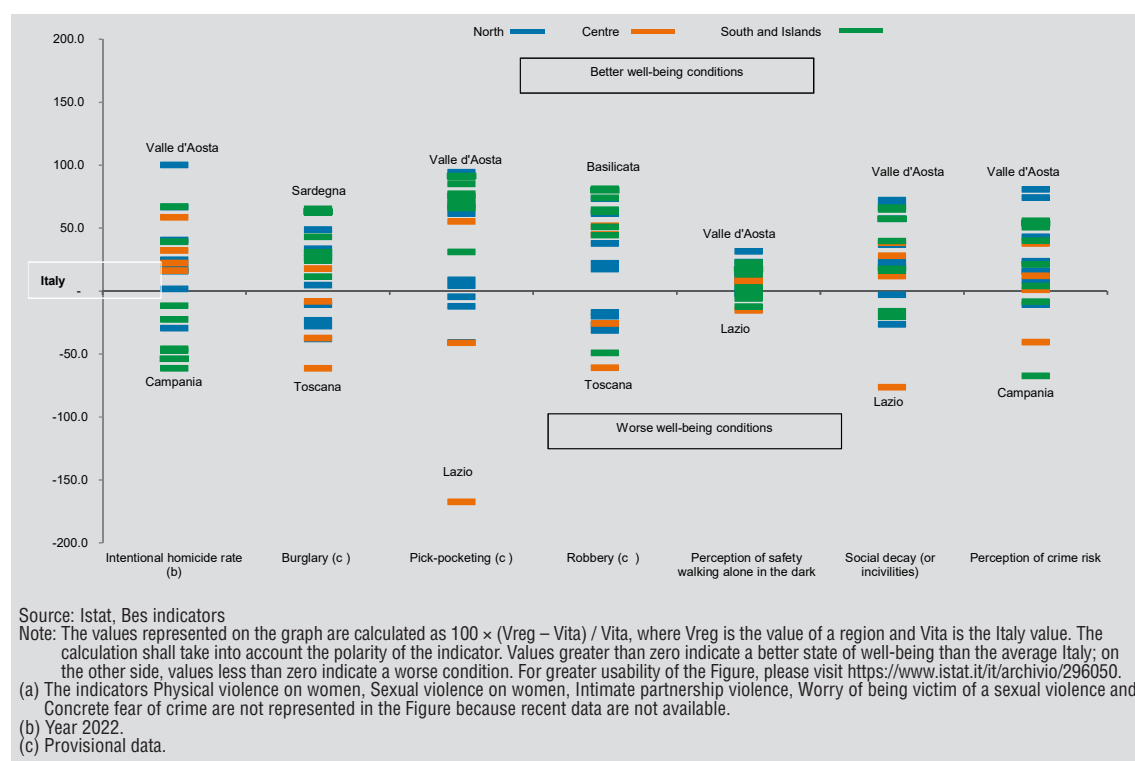
remains almost stable at 6.8%<sup>2</sup>. Also for this indicator, the value remains better than the pre-pandemic period (8.3% in 2019).

The time trend for the perception of the risk of crime is in line with that of predatory crimes, confirming the worsening trend that began in 2022. In 2023, the percentage of households saying that the area in which they live is very or somewhat at risk of crime increases, reaching 23.3% (+1.4 percentage points compared to 2022). Despite this growth, the value remains better than the pre-pandemic period (25.6% in 2019).

Valle d'Aosta records the best values for most of the indicators taken into consideration for the regional comparison.

On the opposite side, two regions in the Centre (Lazio and Toscana) and one in the South (Campania) alternate in presenting the most distant values negatively compared to the national average (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Safety indicators: percentage differences between regional values and the Italian value. Year 2023 (a). Italy = 0



Among the objective safety indicators (homicides and predatory crimes), the one with the greatest regional dispersion compared to the national average is the pickpocketing rate, for which Lazio stands out (in the bottom part of Figure 1), with a value clearly higher than the national average and also very distant from all the other regions: 13.6 victims per 1,000 people, compared to the national average of 5.1.

For predatory crimes, the situation is critical in Toscana for home burglaries, with 13.4 victims per 1,000 households and for robberies, with 1.8 victims per 1,000 people (in both cases a value 61% worse than the national average). On the other side, Sardegna registered the lowest rate of victims of home burglaries (2.9 per 1,000 households) and in Basilicata

<sup>2</sup> The change from 6.9% in 2022 to 6.8% in 2023 is not statistically meaningful.

the lowest rate of robbery victims (0.2 victims per 1,000 people). Valle d'Aosta has the lowest rate of pickpocket victims (0.3 per 1,000 people).

The highest homicide rate is in Campania, with 0.91 victims per 100,000 inhabitants and the lowest in Valle d'Aosta, where no homicide was recorded in 2022.

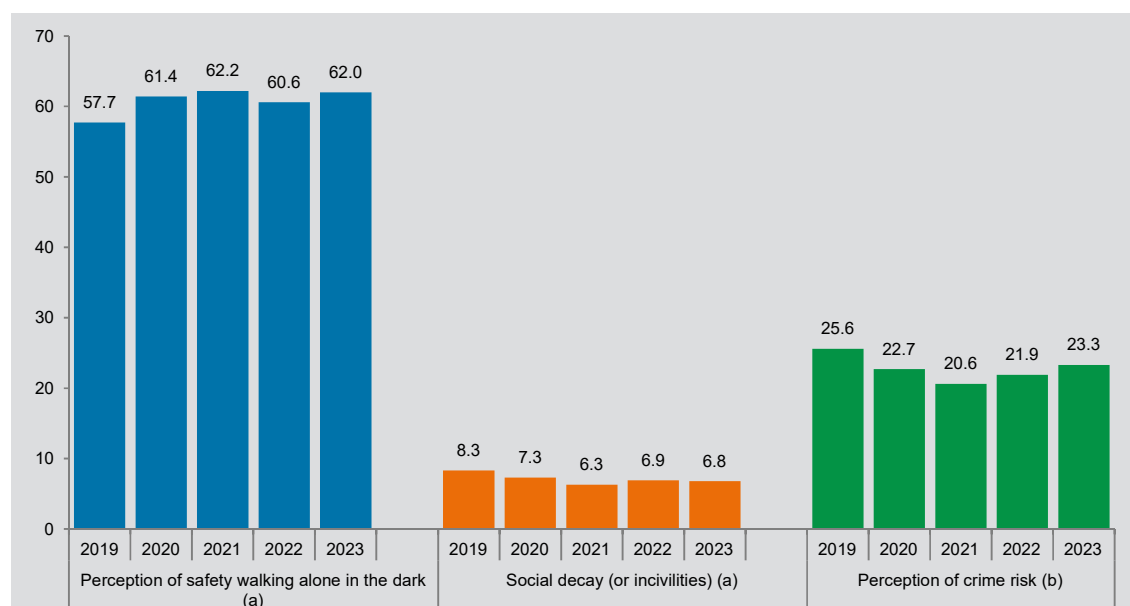
Among the subjective indicators, the perception of safety is the one that shows the least variations between territories. The share of people aged 14 and over who declare themselves very or quite safe when walking alone in the dark in the area where they live reaches its minimum in Lazio (52.4%) and its maximum in Valle d'Aosta, where it reaches 81.5% (31.5% higher than the national average).

Valle d'Aosta also stands out positively for the lowest share of the population who declares having observed elements of decay in the area in which they live, equal to 1.9% compared to 12.0% of residents in Lazio, and for the lowest share of households according to which the area where they live is very or somewhat at risk of crime (4.5%; 80.7% better than the national average). The value of this indicator is almost 9 times higher in Campania, where it reaches 39.0%.

### Higher perception of safety among men

In 2023, the percentage of people aged 14 and over who say they are very or quite safe when walking alone in the dark in the area where they live grows by 1.4 percentage points, reaching 62.0%; an even clearer improvement when compared with 2019, when the share of people who felt very or quite safe stood at 57.7% (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Perception of safety in the area where people live: people aged 14 and over feeling very or quite safe walking alone when it is dark, people aged 14 and over who often see elements of social and environmental decay, households declaring a very high or quite high risk of crime by municipality size. Year 2019-2023. Percentage values**



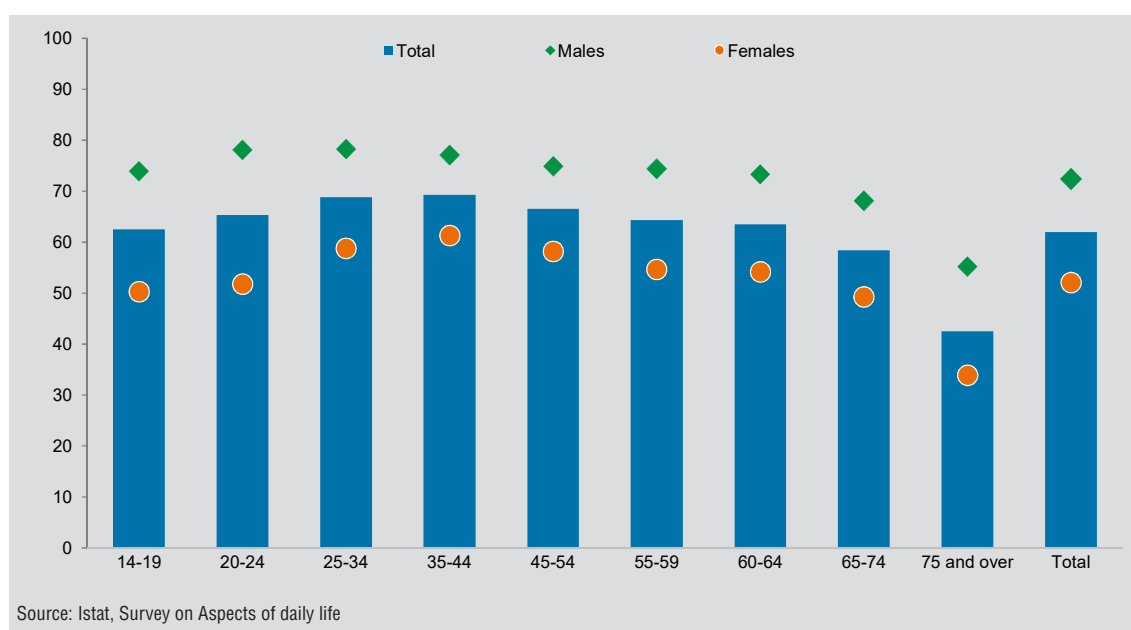
Source: Istat, Survey on Aspects of daily life  
 (a) Per 100 persons aged 14 and over;  
 (b) Per 100 households.

The perception of safety is not uniformly distributed in the population, but varies according to gender, age and educational qualification.

While almost three-quarters of men feel safe walking alone when it is dark in the area where they live, the proportion is just over half among women (52.1%). In the latest year, the distance between men and women has grown, because the perception of safety among men is increasing (+1.5 percentage points).

Age is also a factor affecting perception of safety, which increases to about 69% among people aged 25 to 44. From the age of 45 the safety perception decreases to reach the lowest rate among the elderly aged 75 years and over (42.5%), in particular if they are women (33.9%). Gender differences in favour of men are maintained in all age groups and are greater among young people at the age of 14-24 and among older people aged 75 and over (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. People aged 14 and over feeling very or quite safe walking alone when it is dark in the area where they live by gender and age group. Year 2023. Percentage values**



The perception of safety does not show particular differences by macro territorial area. In 2023, in the North, the percentage of people aged 14 and over who feel safe was 63.7% (+2.5 p.p. compared to 2022). The share is also increasing in the South where it goes from 58.3% to 60.8%. While the lowest shares are recorded in the Centre (59.7%) and in the Islands (61.3%).

The perception of safety is higher among graduates (67.3%), especially if they are males (77.5%) and lower among people with at least a lower secondary school diploma (57.3%) and in particular among women with this qualification (46.7%); the gap between people with a higher level of education and those with a lower level of education is particularly large among people aged 55 and over (13.4 percentage points).

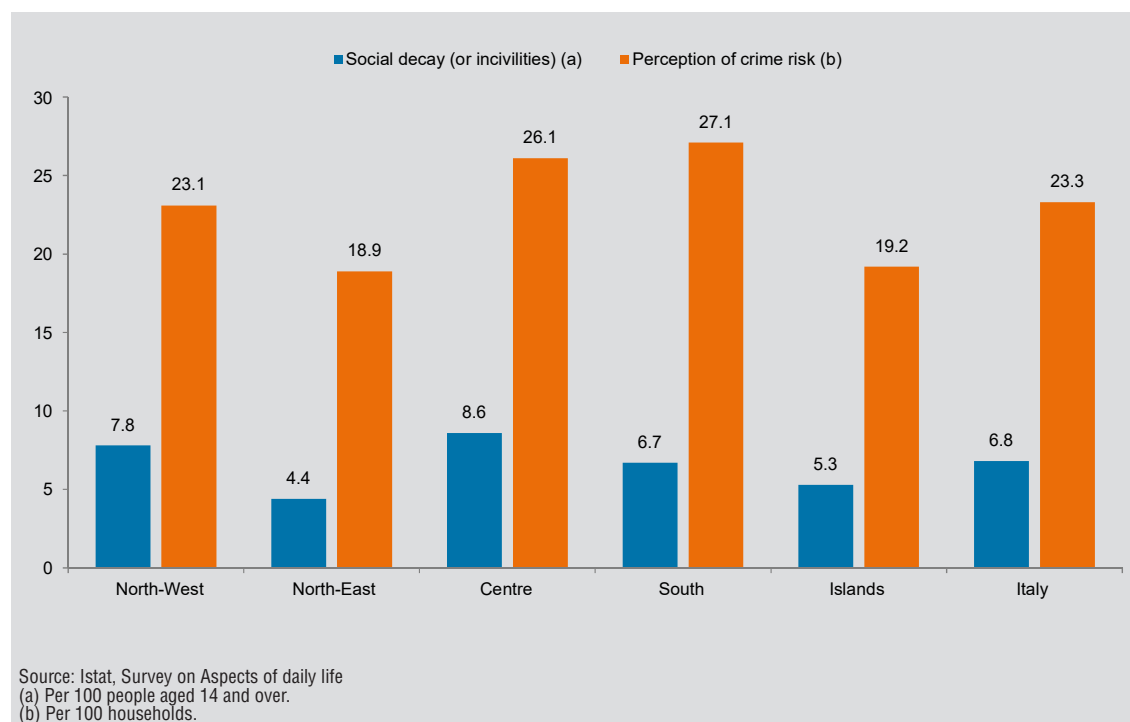
### Worsening of the perception of crime risk. Stable the perception of social decay in the area in which one lives

In 2023, the share of households saying that the area in which they live is very or quite at risk of crime increases, reaching 23.3% (+1.4 percentage points compared to 21.9% in 2022). The perception of crime risk is highest in the central (26.1%) and southern regions (27.1%), lower in the Islands (19.2%) and the North-East (18.9%), while the figure for the North-West is in line with the national average (23.1%) (Figure 4).

In the latest available year, the perception of crime risk increased in the South (+1.8 p.p.) and in the North-East (+2.5 p.p.), while it remained stable in the Centre and the North-West. In 2023, the percentage of the population who saw people taking drugs or dealing drugs, prostitutes looking for clients or acts of vandalism against public good in the area where they live remains stable at 6.8% (6.9% in 2022).

The perception of social decay is higher in the central and north-western regions (around 8%) and lower in the Islands (5.3%) and the North-East (4.4%) (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. People aged 14 and over who often see elements of social and environmental decay, households declaring a very high or quite high risk of crime by geographic area. Year 2023. Percentage values**



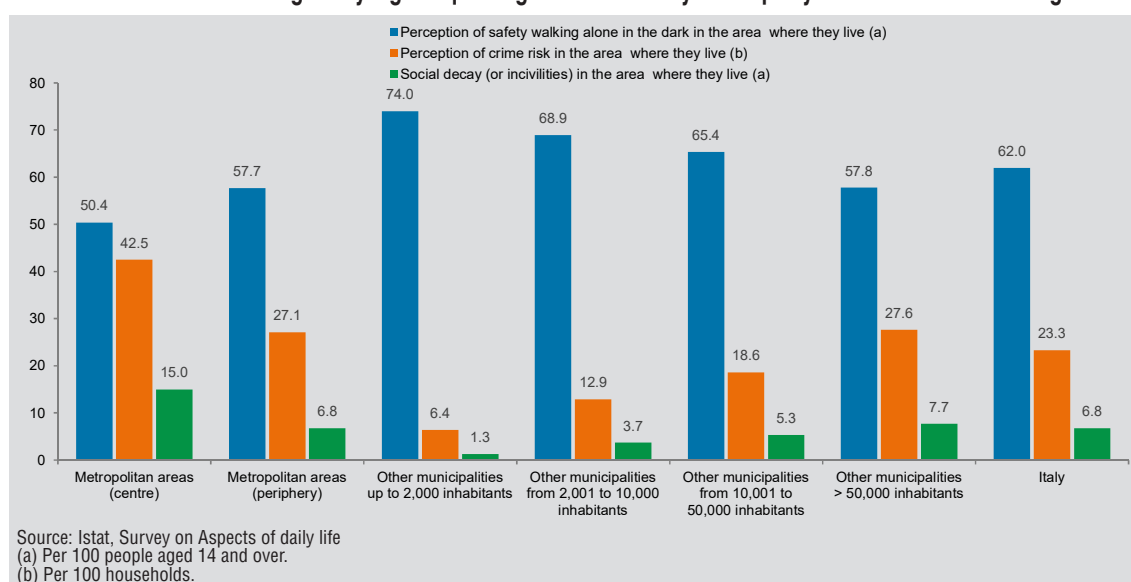
### People living in small towns feel safer

The differences among geographic areas in the level of safety perceived by the population are rather limited, while significant differences emerge with respect to the size of the municipality of residence: people with living in municipalities with up to 10 thousand inhabitants feel safer, perceive a lower risk of crime and less social and environmental decay, compared to those living in large municipalities.

In municipalities with up to 2 thousand inhabitants, the percentage of population aged 14 and over who feels very or quite safe when walking alone in the dark in the area where they live is almost 24 percentage points higher than that found in municipalities that are centres of areas of great urbanisation (74.0% versus 50.4%). Even in municipalities with up to 10 thousand inhabitants the distance remains very high (almost 19 p.p.).

The same is noted for the indicators related to the perception of the risk of crime and social and environmental decay. The first goes from 6.4% in municipalities with up to 2 thousand inhabitants to 12.9% in municipalities from 2 thousand to 10 thousand inhabitants up to 42.5% in municipalities that are centres of metropolitan areas; the second ranges from 1.3% in small municipalities to 15.0% in metropolitan areas (Figure 5).

**Figure 5. Perception of safety in the area where people live: people aged 14 and over feeling very or quite safe walking alone when it is dark, people aged 14 and over who often see elements of social and environmental decay, households declaring a very high or quite high risk of crime by municipality size. Year 2023. Percentage values**



## The continuous growth of predatory crimes

In 2023, after having reached the lowest values during the pandemic, predatory crimes (home burglaries, pickpocketing and robberies) continue the growth trend recorded starting from 2021, which brings the rate of pickpocketing and robberies victims back at 2019 levels.

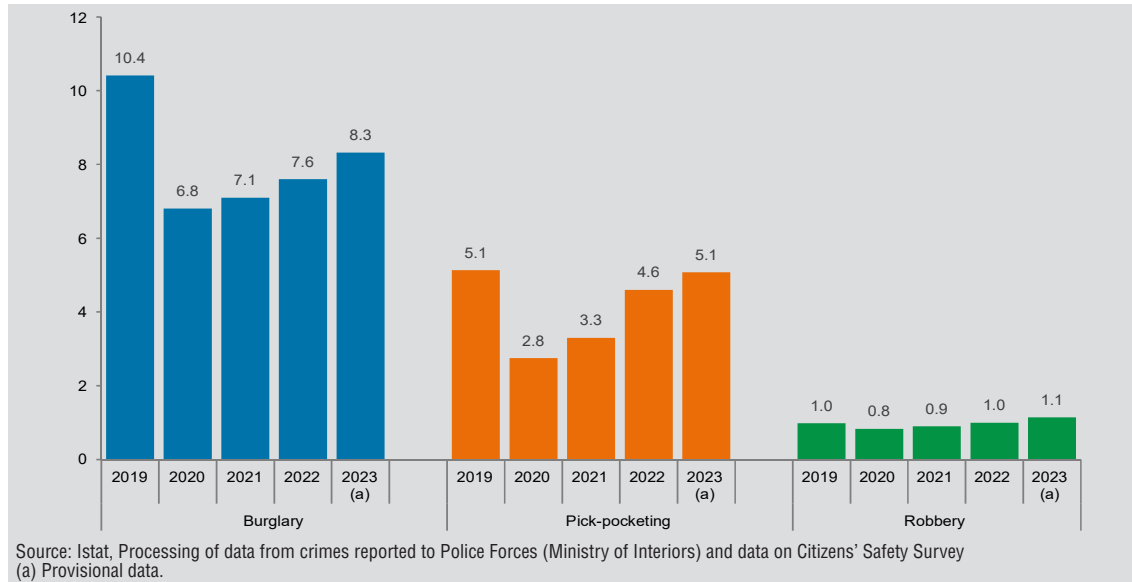
The rate of home burglaries, however, remains lower than in the pre-pandemic period, especially in the North and in the Islands.

In 2023, the victims of home burglaries are 8.3 per 1,000 households (they were 7.6 in 2022), 5.1 people per 1,000 inhabitants are victims of pickpocketing (they were 4.6 in 2022), and 1.1 people per 1,000 inhabitants are victims of robberies (1.0 in 2022) (Figure 6).

Predatory crimes are distributed differently across the territory, with a greater concentration of victims in the central-northern regions compared to those in the South.

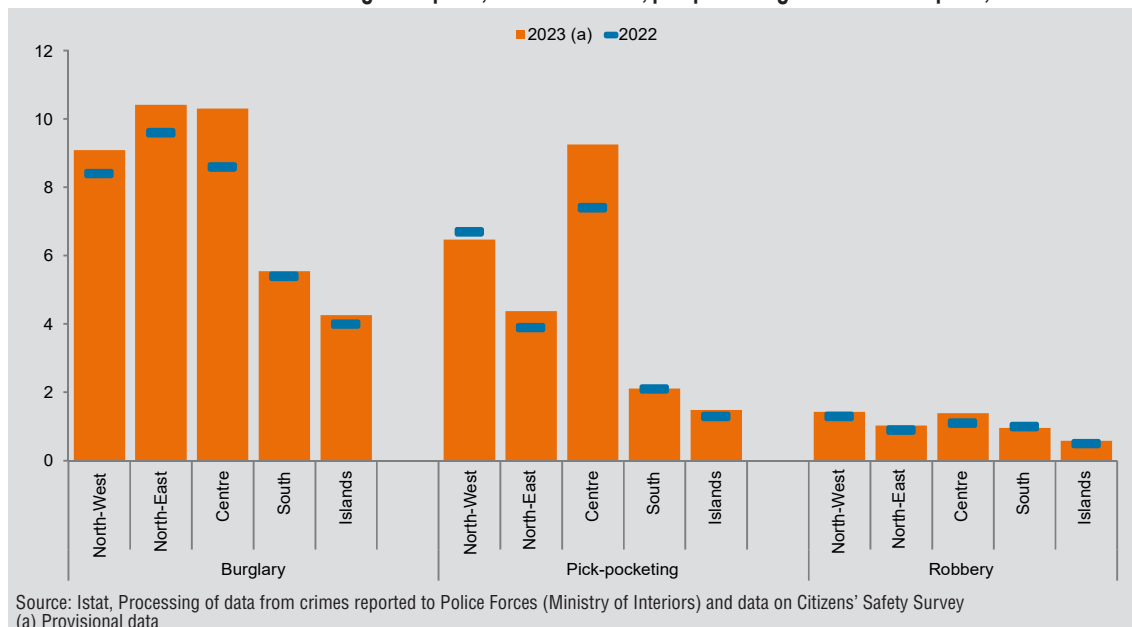
In 2023, the rate of victims of home burglaries is highest in the Centre and North-East, where there are respectively 10.3 and 10.4 victims per 1,000 households, while in the South the value drops to 5.4 victims per 1,000 households and to 4.3 in the Islands (Figure 7).

**Figure 6. Households that are victims of home burglaries and persons that were victims of robberies and pick-pocketing. Years 2019-2023. Burglaries per 1,000 households, robberies and pick-pocketing per 1,000 population**



In the latest year, the territorial gap has widened because the victims of home burglaries increase especially in the central and northern regions, which already had the highest levels. The highest rate of pickpocketing victims is observed in the Centre (9.3 victims per 1,000 inhabitants) and in the North-West (6.5) compared to 2.1 victims per 1,000 inhabitants resident in the South and 1.5 victims in the Islands. In the latest year, pickpocket victims increased in the Centre, while they showed small changes or remained stable in the other areas. For robberies, however, the differences are more limited: the highest value is recorded in the North-West and in the Centre with 1.4 victims per 1,000 inhabitants and the lowest in the Islands (0.6 victims per 1,000 inhabitants).

**Figure 7. Households that are victims of home burglaries and people victims of pickpocketing by geographic area. Years 2022-2023. Home burglaries per 1,000 households, pickpocketing and robberies per 1,000 inhabitants**





### In 2023, increase in the number of calls to the anti-violence public utility number

The public utility number 1522 against violence and stalking, made available by the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, represents a great support for victims of violence.

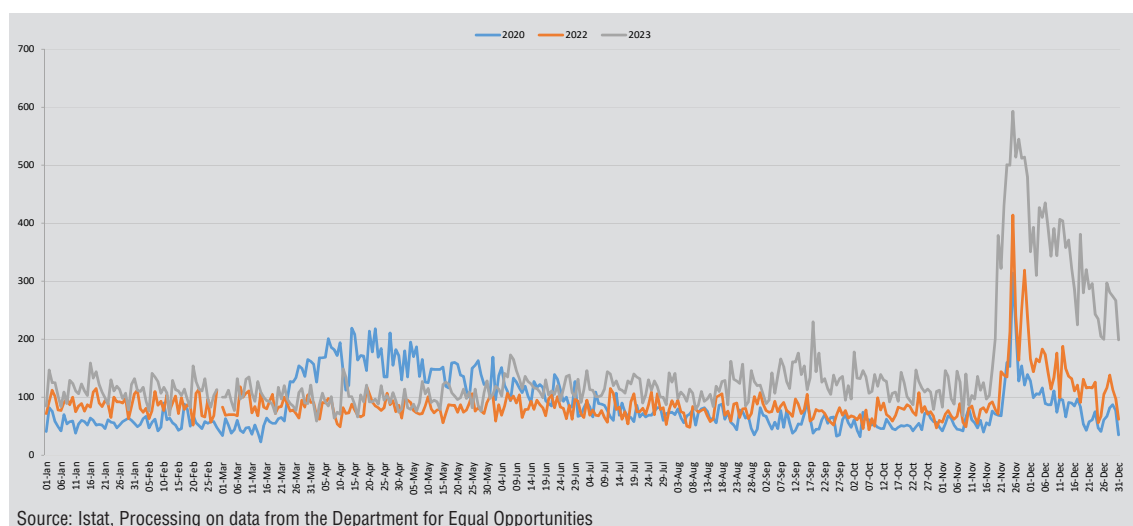
In 2023, valid calls were 51,713<sup>3</sup>, a significant increase compared to previous years (+59.5% compared to 2022) (Figure 8).

In 2020 there was a strong increase in valid calls (48.8% increase compared to 2019) and in the following years the number of calls continued to rise compared to the same months in 2020, except for the lockdown period. The growth in calls in 2020 cannot unequivocally be attributed to the increase in violence due to the restrictive social and mobility measures imposed during the pandemic, since at the same time extensive awareness campaigns against violence and stalking were carried out by the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

The increase in contacts in 2023 compared to 2022 characterises all quarters and is particularly pronounced, as usual, in the last quarter, probably due to the great visibility of the International Day against Violence against Women on the 25th of November, when, under the pressure of mass media and social media, citizens are more encouraged to use this service. The increase is particularly steep in the fourth quarter of 2023, probably also due to the effects on public opinion of the news of that period.

People contact 1522 for requests for help as victims of violence or stalking (31.3% of requests), but also to ask for information on the service provided by the public utility number (33.5%) and to obtain information on the Anti-violence Centres (11.6%). Among 1522 users, the percentage of female callers is 79.7%.

Figure 8. Number of valid calls to the 1522 number. Years 2020, 2022 and 2023 (daily data). Absolute values



3 With the signing of the 2016 memorandum of understanding with the Department for Equal Opportunities at the Council Presidency and the consequent 2017 agreement, Istat prepared the creation of an integrated information system on violence against women (<https://www.istat.it/it/violenza-sulle-donne>) active since November 2017 and continuously updated. The information system is aimed at providing quality information and indicators that offer a general point of view of the situation through the integration of data from different sources: Istat, Department for Equal Opportunities, Ministries, Regions, National Research Council, Anti-violence centres, shelter homes and other services such as the public utility number 1522.



The violence reported to the 1522 operators is mainly violence within the couple: 52.6% from current partners (cohabiting or not cohabiting partners), 22.1% from ex-partners and 0.6% from occasional partners.

### The number of women that started a strategy to avoid violence is increasing

There were 26,131 women who in 2022<sup>4</sup> were involved in strategies to avoid violence with the help of the Anti-Violence Centres (AVC)<sup>5</sup>. Of these, 77.7% started the process in the same year, 18.0% in 2021 and just under 5% two years before<sup>6</sup>.

Analysing the data of the active Centres that responded to the survey both in 2021 and 2022, an increase in women who were cared by a Centre emerges (+9.4%).

17.7% of women undertook the path to avoid violence in emergency situations, which means they were in a dangerous situation or at risk of their own safety.

The decision to contact the Centre and to start this kind of process comes years after the start of the violent event: for 41.3% more than 5 years have passed since the first episodes of violence, for 33.5% between 1 and 5 years, for 13.5% between 6 months and a year and for only 7.1% of women the violence started less than 6 months earlier. Before starting the process with the AVCs, 43.5% of women asked to relatives and then to the police who helped the 31.9% of these women. 52.1% of the women supported by the Anti-violence centres are aged between 30 and 49 years, 18.6% are under 29 years, 16.3% are between 50 and 59 years of age and 7.9% are aged 60 years or older. When women arrive at the Centres they almost always have a need to be heard (more than nine out of 10 women) and to be accepted (almost eight out of 10 women). Four out of 10 women need legal and psychological support and advice.

66.7% of women report having suffered physical violence, 50.7% a threat, 11.7% have suffered rape or attempts of sexual assault. To these reports must be added the 14.4% who have suffered other forms of violence, such as sexual abuse, digital abuse, revenge porn, forced into humiliating or degrading sexual activities. Psychological violence is very widespread. Almost always exercised in conjunction with another form of violence, it is suffered by almost nine out of ten women. Four out of ten women are instead facing economic violence. The percentage of victims related to trafficking of women (0.5%) or who have suffered different types of violence as provided by the Istanbul Convention (2.1%), such as forced or early marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion or sterilization, is a minor part.

The events describe the perpetration of many types of violence: only 15.2% of women have suffered a single type of violence, while 33.4% have suffered more than four. In 53.0% of cases the perpetrator of the violence is the current partner, in 25.3% a former partner, in 11.1% another family member or relative; violence suffered outside the family and couple environment makes up the remaining 10.5%<sup>7</sup>.

4 The Anti-violence centres and the women who have started a strategy to avoid violence. Year 2022, <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/291270> (in Italian).

5 According to the State, Regions and Autonomous Provinces Agreement of 2022, the Anti-violence Centres (AVC) “provide prevention and reception services, free of charge, in compliance with confidentiality and anonymity, to all women victims of male or female violence who are exposed to this risk, together with their minor daughters/sons, regardless of their place of residence”.

6 No information was collected on women who have started their strategy to avoid violence before 2020 and who have not yet completed this path.

7 The woman's husband, cohabitant, boyfriend, and lover are considered partners. Ex-partners include ex-spouse, ex-cohabitant, and ex-boyfriend. The other family member or relative category includes father, mother, brother/sister, son, other relative, father-in-law.

41.8% of the perpetrators of violence were reported<sup>8</sup> at least once (49.4% if the perpetrator is an ex-partner). 9.7% were reported multiple times.

For 27.5% of the perpetrators reported, a measure of removal or prohibition of approach or warning was requested. In 69.7% of cases, the request was satisfied.

The requested measure was obtained “within 7 days” in 15.4% of cases and for a further 17.4% between eight and 14 days. In 23.5% of cases, however, the woman had to wait from 15 to 30 days. The provision arrived one month after the request in 28.3% of cases (between 1 and 2 months for 16.7%, over 2 months for 11.6%).

Among the perpetrators reported, 12.0% have not had any charges over time, 21.3% have had charges in the past and 32.7% are still under investigation. In 4.5% of cases, the complaint was withdrawn.

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<sup>8</sup> For 7.3% of perpetrators of violence, information is not available on whether they have been reported.

## VIOLENCE WITNESSED BY CHILDREN OF WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul, 2011) recognises that children are victims of domestic violence, not only when they are direct victims, but also when they witness violence against other members of the household. These are those episodes that are defined as witnessed violence and which have repercussions on the minor involved<sup>1</sup>.

The most recent data on witnessed violence can be taken from the survey on users of Anti-violence centres. In 2022, 73.1% of women who lived with their children indicated that their children had witnessed the violence suffered by their mothers and 21.9% indicated that their children were also victims of violence<sup>2</sup>.

Furthermore, 40.3% of women that started their strategy to avoid violence were afraid for their lives or that of their children.

Witnessing the father's violence against the mother or suffering violence as children is strongly correlated to suffering the same situation as adults. Among women who have witnessed episodes of physical and sexual violence by their father against their mother in the past, the percentage of those who have suffered more than four events of violence rises to 44.2%, compared to 34.3% of those who have not this past experience. This difference is a proof of how likely the intergenerational transmission of violence is a reason for exposure to the risk of suffering repeated violence.

From the data of the shelter homes related to 2022, it emerges that all 2,670 minors hosted are victims of violence for having witnessed the event suffered by their mother. From the survey carried out through the anti-violence number 1522, it emerges that 63.1% of the victims who call the help-line have children: in 57.5% of cases they are witnesses of the event and in 24.7% they are also victims. The consequences on the children are serious: 64% of victims declare that their children experience restlessness, 9.7% aggression and 9.5% adultised behaviour. The survey on women's safety carried out in 2014<sup>3</sup> allows us to make some considerations, which are still relevant, about the intergenerational transmission of violence.

The results of the 2014 survey shows that the level of violence that characterises the history of women's abuse is associated with the violent context of the family of origin<sup>4</sup>. Violence by the current partner, related to 5.2% of women, rises to 35.9% if men have suffered physical abuse in childhood and to 22% if they have witnessed their father's violence against their mother. Similarly, compared to an average of 31.5%, the rate of sexual or physical violence suffered as adults reaches 58.5% when women have suffered sexual violence before the age of 16, 64.2% if they have been beaten as children by their father and 64.8% in cases where they suffered physical violence from their mother.

1 Law 19 July 2019, n. 69 containing "Amendments to the penal code, the code of criminal procedure and other provisions regarding the protection of victims of domestic and gender violence" (called "Red Code") considers the minor victim of assisted violence as a person offended by the crime, with reference to the Article 572 of the Penal Code

2 The Anti-violence centres and the women who have started a strategy to avoid violence. Year 2022, <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/291270>.

3 *La violenza contro le donne dentro e fuori la famiglia* (Violence against women inside and outside the family). Year 2014, <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/161716>. *La violenza contro le donne* (Violence against women). Year 2014, <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/194779>.

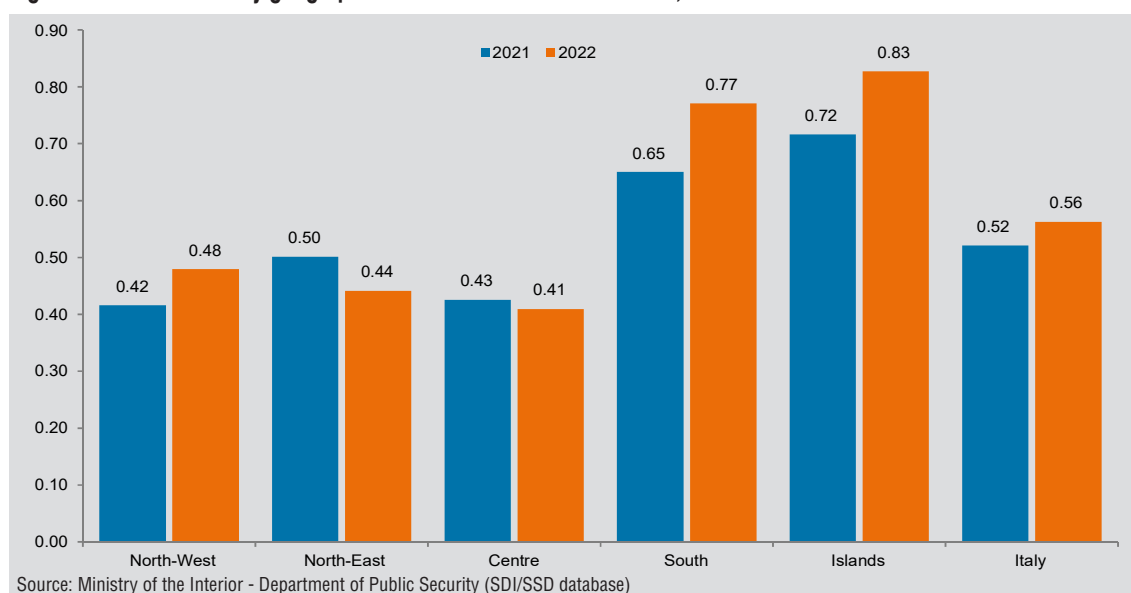
4 Istat, Hearing of the National Institute of Statistics at the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into femicide, as well as all forms of gender violence, <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/293327>.

## Homicides exceed the values of the period before the pandemic

In 2022, 332 murders were committed in Italy, 0.56 per 100 thousand inhabitants. The rate shows an increase compared to 2021, when, with 308 murders, its value was 0.52 per 100 thousand inhabitants. The rate is also higher when compared to 2019 (0.53)<sup>9</sup>.

However, the long-term decreasing trend is confirmed, which was more consistent in the South and Islands even if these areas continue to record the highest rates (0.77 and 0.83 per 100 thousand inhabitants respectively). Between 2021 and 2022, the homicide rate had a more marked increase in these areas and a more slight increase in the North-West, while it registered a decrease in the Centre and North-East (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Homicide rate by geographic area. Years 2021-2022. Per 100,000 inhabitants



In 2022, the victims of homicide were 204 men and 128 women (respectively 0.71 and 0.42 homicides per 100 thousand inhabitants of the same gender).

Between 2021 and 2022, there was a growth in the rate of murder of men, which brings the value of the indicator almost back to pre-pandemic levels (0.72 in 2019).

The female homicide rate, which remained stable in the two-year period 2019-2020, continues in 2022 the slight growth that began in 2021, recording higher values compared to the pre-pandemic period (0.38 in 2019) (Figure 10). Although even today the homicide rate for men is significantly higher than that for women, it must be considered that for women, who started from a more favourable situation, the decrease over time followed much slower rates (recording occasionally even slight increases). This is also because the decline is attributable to a reduction in the number of victims by unknown or unidentified perpetrators, rather than to a decline in victims within the family, which is the predominant component among women. If we consider the data on voluntary homicides committed, coming from the database of the Central Directorate of the Criminal Police of the Ministry of the Home Affairs, it is possible to analyse the relationship between the victim of the homicide and the perpetrator of the crime<sup>10</sup>.

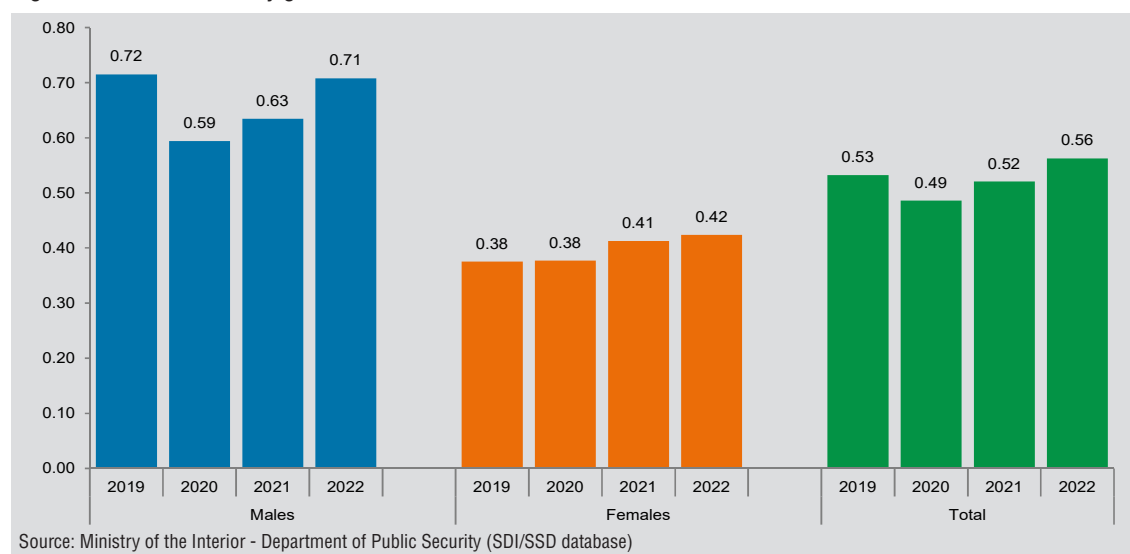
<sup>9</sup> Source: Ministry of the Home Affairs, Department of Public Security (consolidated data from SDI/SSD source).

<sup>10</sup> In this source for 2022 there are 126 murders of women and 196 of men. Since these are data used for operational purposes, they can be subject to changes that may emerge in subsequent extractions.

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**Figure 10. Homicide rate by gender. Years 2019-2022. Per 100,000 inhabitants**

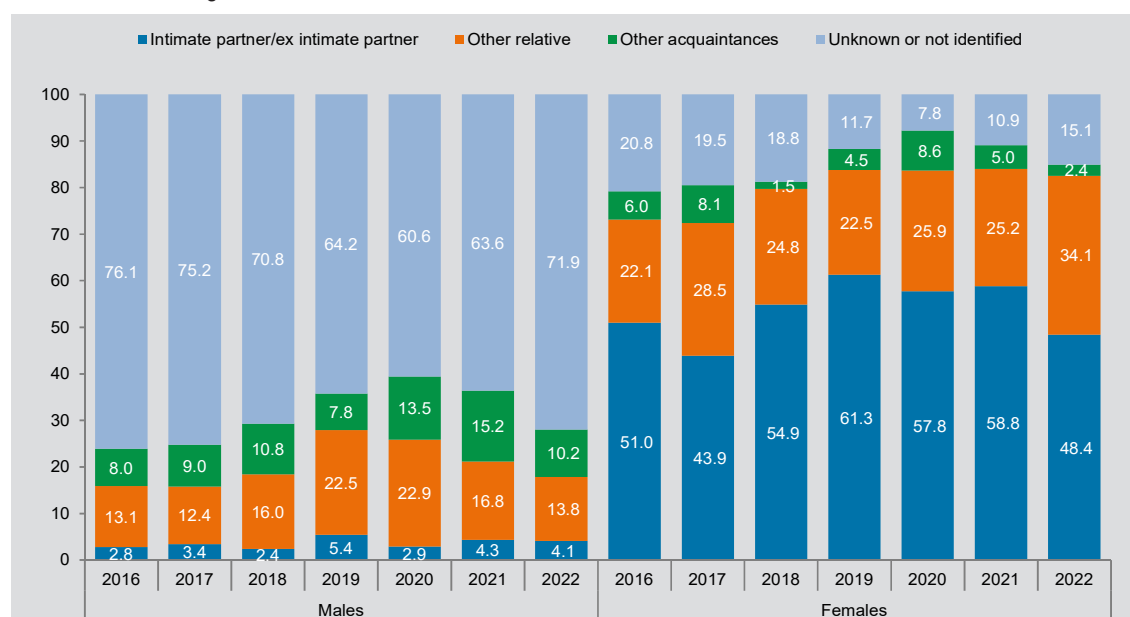


These data show strong gender differences: while women are killed mainly in couples and within the family, men in most cases are victims of an unknown perpetrator or one not identified by the police.

In 2022, 84.9% of female homicides were committed by a known person: approximately 5 out of 10 women were killed by their current or previous partner, 34.1% by a family member (including children and parents) and 2.4% from another person the woman knew (friends, colleagues, etc.).

The situation is very different for men: in 2022 only 28.1% were killed by a known person and among these 4.1% by a partner or ex-partner, while 71.9% were killed by a stranger or by a perpetrator not identified by the police (Figure 11).

**Figure 11. Victims of homicide by relationship with the murderer and gender. Years 2016-2022 (a). Per 100 victims of the same gender**



(a) Figures related to the homicide victim and perpetrator relationship are extracted from the homicide database of the Ministry of the Interior (DCPC). Since this data are used for operational purposes, it is subject to changes that may emerge in subsequent extractions

## FEMINICIDES

In March 2022, the 53rd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission approved the “Statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls (also referred to as femicide/feminicide)”<sup>1</sup> in which they were defined gender homicides, commonly called feminicides, those which concern the killing of a woman because of her gender.

There are many different variables to identify a feminicide and concern the victim, the perpetrator, and the context of the violence. Briefly, from a statistical point of view, the definition includes three types of gender-related killing: murders of women by their partners; the murders of women by another relative; the murders of women by another person, whether known or unknown, but which occurs through a *modus operandi* or a gender-related motivation. Among these, there is information referring to specific conditions, under which it is necessary to know: whether the victim has previously suffered other violence from the perpetrator of the murder; if she has suffered forms of illicit exploitation (for example human trafficking, forced labour, slavery, organized crime); if you were in a situation where you were abducted or unlawfully deprived of your liberty; if she worked in the sex industry; if there was sexual violence against the victim before and/or after the killing; whether there was a difference in hierarchical position between the victim and the perpetrator; if the victim's body was mutilated; if the body was abandoned in a public space; if the motivation for the murder was related to a gender-based hate crime (or if there was a specific prejudice against women on the part of the perpetrators).

Italy has decided to join the United Nations framework, even if it currently does not have all the information, which will only be possible in the future thanks to inter-institutional collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs. In any case, already from the information available related to 2022<sup>2</sup> (relationship between victim and perpetrator, motive, scope of the murder) it is possible to provide an evaluation of this phenomenon: 61 women were killed within the couple, by their partner or ex-partner; there are 43 women killed by another relative; there is only one woman killed by an acquaintance for a crime of passion, and there is only one woman killed by strangers, in the context of organised crime. In total there are 106 presumed feminicides, out of 126 murders with a female victim.

Among the remaining 20 female victims, 2 were killed by male acquaintances with different motives: robbery for one and madness for the other; 15 were killed by unknown persons (14 male perpetrators and one female) with different reasons: madness (9 cases), economic interests (4 cases, including 3 robbery victims) and other motives (2 cases), plus 3 other women with an unidentified perpetrator whose motive is unknown. Based on the same analysis, the number of presumed feminicides in Italy was 101 in 2019, 106 in 2020 and 104 in 2021<sup>3</sup>.

**Table A. The minimum set of Centre of Excellence for Gender Statistics (CEGS) variables to detect feminicides. Year 2023**

The characteristics of the victims (21 variables)	The characteristics of the perpetrator (18 variables)
In addition to socio-demographic variables, sexual orientation, whether she was a victim of sexual violence, pregnant, working in the sex industry, etc.	In addition to socio-demographic variables, criminal records, previous history of violence, etc.
The victim-perpetrator relationship (9 types of relationship)	Modus operandi (5 variables)
Including intimate partner, ex-partner, family member, acquaintance, colleague, friends, strangers, people from the armed forces and police forces, etc.	Including excessive mistreatment of the body, or overkilling, and type of weapons used, the vilification of the corpse, etc.

Source: UNODC – UNWOMEN

1 Statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls (also referred to as “femicide/feminicide”), [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Statistical\\_framework\\_femicide\\_2022.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Statistical_framework_femicide_2022.pdf). United Nations, Global estimates of female intimate partner/family-related homicides in 2022, Unodc, 2023, [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/briefs/Femicide\\_brief\\_2023.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/briefs/Femicide_brief_2023.pdf).

2 This in-depth analysis wants to show the data related to voluntary homicides committed, detected and reported by the police forces during 2022, coming from the database of the Central Directorate of the Criminal Police of the Ministry of the Home Affairs. In 2022, there are 126 murders of women. Compared to the information that is sent to Istat from other information systems of the same Ministry, this one is extremely interesting as it indicates the relationship, where existing and known, between the victim and the murderer. This is of fundamental importance especially for understanding the dynamics of murders of women, which have strong differences compared to those of men. Istat, Le vittime di omicidio (Homicide victims). Year 2022, <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/291266>.

3 Istat, Integrated Information System on Violence against Women, <https://www.istat.it/it/violenza-sulle-donne/il-fenomeno/omicidi-di-donne>.



## Indicators

1. **Intentional homicide rate:** number of intentional homicide on total population per 100,000.  
Source: Ministry of the Home Affairs- Department of Public Security (consolidated data from SDI/SSD source).
2. **Burglary:** victims of burglaries per 1,000 households: the number of victims is calculated using data on victims who reported burglary to the police, adjusted by the number of non-reporting victims from the Citizens' Safety Survey, using a specific correction factor by geographical area.  
Source: Istat - Processing of data from crimes reported to Police Forces (Ministry of Interiors) and data on Citizens' Safety Survey.
3. **Pick-pocketing:** victims of pick-pocketing on total population per 1,000: the number of victims is calculated using data on victims who reported pick-pocketing to the police, adjusted by the number of non-reporting victims from the Citizens' Safety Survey, using a specific correction factor by geographical area and by sex and age group.  
Source: Istat - Processing of data from crimes reported to Police Forces (Ministry of Interiors) and data on Citizens' Safety Survey.
4. **Robbery:** victims of robberies on total population per 1,000: the number of victims is calculated using data on victims who reported robbery to the police, adjusted by the number of non-reporting victims from the Citizens' Safety Survey, using a specific correction factor by geographical area and by sex and age group.  
Source: Istat - Processing of data from crimes reported to Police Forces (Ministry of Interiors) and data on Citizens' Safety Survey.
5. **Physical violence on women:** percentage of women aged 16-70 victim of physical violence in the last 5 years before the interview on total women aged 16-70.  
Source: Istat - Women Safety Survey.
6. **Sexual violence on women:** percentage of women aged 16-70 victim of sexual violence, including physical sexual harassment, in the last 5 years before the interview on total women aged 16-70.  
Source: Istat - Women Safety Survey.
7. **Intimate partnership violence:** percentage of women aged 16-70 victim of physical or sexual violence by the partner or ex-partner during the 5 years before the interview on total women aged 16-70 who have or had a partner.  
Source: Istat - Survey on Women's Safety.
8. **Worries of being victim of a sexual violence:** percentage of people aged 14 years and over who are very or quite worried, for themselves or someone in their family, of suffering sexual violence out of the total number of people aged 14 and over.  
Source: Istat - Citizens' Safety Survey.
9. **Perception of safety walking alone in the dark:** percentage of people aged 14 and over feeling very or quite safe walking alone when it is dark in the area where they live.  
Source: Istat - Aspects of daily life survey.
10. **Concrete fear of crime:** percentage of people aged 14 and over who are afraid of becoming concretely a victim of crime in the last 3 months.  
Source: Istat - Citizens' Safety Survey.
11. **Social decay (or incivilities):** percentage of people aged 14 and over who often see elements of social and environmental decay in the area where they live. They often see at least one element of decay among the following: people who take drugs, people who sell drugs, vandalism against the public good, prostitutes looking for clients.  
Source: Istat - Survey on Aspects of daily life.
12. **Perception of crime risk:** percentage of households declaring a very high or quite high risk of crime in the area where they live on the total number of households.  
Source: Istat - Survey on Aspects of daily life.



## Indicators by region and geographic area

REGIONS GEOGRAPHIC AREAS	Intentional homicide rate (a)	Burglary (b)	Pick- pocketing (c)	Robbery (c)	Physical violence on women (d)	Sexual violence on women (d)
	2022	2023 (*)	2023 (*)	2023 (*)	2014	2014
Piemonte	0.4	7.9	5.7	1.4	6.3	6.2
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	0.0	4.3	0.3	0.3	7.0	3.9
Liguria	0.7	5.5	4.6	1.5	7.8	7.6
Lombardia	0.5	10.3	7.2	1.5	6.1	6.6
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	0.4	6.0	1.8	0.7	6.8	5.1
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>5.9</i>
<i>Trento</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>4.3</i>
Veneto	0.5	11.5	4.9	0.9	5.0	6.2
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	0.3	9.2	1.2	0.7	5.9	5.9
Emilia-Romagna	0.5	10.6	5.3	1.3	8.2	6.7
Toscana	0.4	13.4	7.2	1.8	8.9	4.5
Umbria	0.2	11.4	2.3	0.6	8.0	6.9
Marche	0.5	6.8	1.7	0.6	7.8	5.0
Lazio	0.4	9.0	13.6	1.4	9.1	6.8
Abruzzo	0.6	7.4	1.6	0.4	9.3	9.1
Molise	0.3	6.3	1.2	0.3	7.7	7.1
Campania	0.9	6.0	3.5	1.7	8.4	8.8
Puglia	0.7	5.8	1.4	0.6	6.8	5.3
Basilicata	0.2	3.1	0.5	0.2	4.3	6.5
Calabria	0.9	3.1	0.4	0.2	4.6	4.7
Sicilia	0.8	4.7	1.7	0.6	5.7	5.2
Sardegna	0.8	2.9	0.8	0.4	6.6	5.2
North	0.5	9.6	5.6	1.3	6.4	6.4
North-West	0.5	9.1	6.5	1.4	6.3	6.6
North-East	0.4	10.4	4.4	1.0	6.5	6.3
Centre	0.4	10.3	9.3	1.4	8.8	5.9
South and Islands	0.8	5.1	1.9	0.8	6.9	6.5
South	0.8	5.5	2.1	1.0	7.3	7.2
Islands	0.8	4.3	1.5	0.6	5.9	5.2
Italy	0.6	8.3	5.1	1.1	7.0	6.4

(a) Per 100.000 inhabitants;

(b) Per 1.000 households;

(c) Per 1.000 inhabitants;

(d) Per 100 women aged 16-70;

(e) Per 100 women aged 16-70 who have or have had an intimate relationship with a partner;

(f) Per 100 persons aged 14 and over;

(g) Per 100 households;

(\*) Provisional data.

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Intimate partnership violence (e)	Worries of being victim of a sexual violence (f)	Perception of safety walking alone in the dark (f)	Concrete fear of crime (f)	Social decay (or incivilities) (f)	Perception of crime risk (g)
2014	2016	2023	2016	2023	2023
4.7	33.7	66.6	2.6	7.0	19.7
3.6	16.3	81.5	4.7	1.9	4.5
6.2	26.1	69.2	5.0	5.5	17.8
4.6	32.4	61.0	9.5	8.6	25.8
4.5	19.5	71.6	4.6	4.2	12.0
4.9	20.3	66.9	5.0	5.5	18.3
4.2	18.6	76.2	4.3	2.9	6.0
4.4	29.9	63.1	7.6	4.3	19.6
3.0	26.0	71.1	4.3	2.2	13.3
5.9	28.5	61.2	8.5	5.2	21.4
4.9	29.1	66.1	6.4	6.0	20.5
5.2	26.5	66.7	5.0	4.2	23.1
4.3	19.7	67.8	6.5	4.9	14.5
5.7	37.8	52.4	7.9	12.0	32.8
7.6	28.5	63.7	4.9	5.6	18.4
6.9	23.1	71.3	4.6	2.4	11.5
5.8	23.1	54.3	5.2	7.9	39.0
4.6	22.2	60.5	5.8	8.2	25.3
4.4	24.6	76.0	6.9	2.3	14.0
2.4	34.4	72.9	4.7	2.9	10.7
4.6	24.1	58.3	4.3	5.7	22.4
4.4	23.0	70.1	3.8	4.1	10.3
4.8	30.3	63.7	7.2	6.4	21.4
4.8	31.9	63.5	7.1	7.8	23.1
4.8	28.0	64.0	7.3	4.4	18.9
5.2	31.9	59.7	7.0	8.6	26.1
4.9	24.6	61.0	4.9	6.3	24.5
5.1	25.0	60.8	5.3	6.7	27.1
4.5	23.9	61.3	4.2	5.3	19.2
4.9	28.7	62.0	6.4	6.8	23.3

