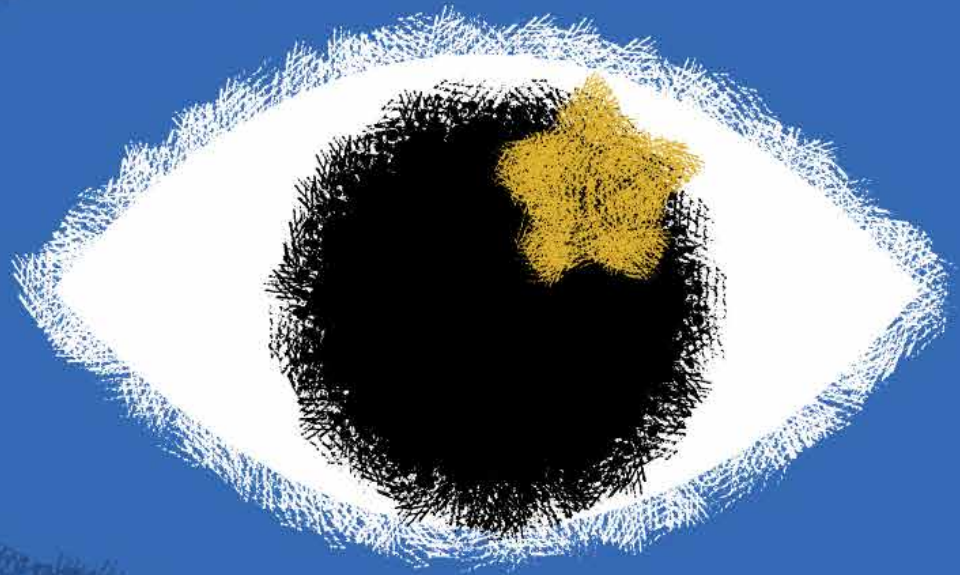


# Violence Against Women in Albania: In Comparison to the European Union







Empowered lives.  
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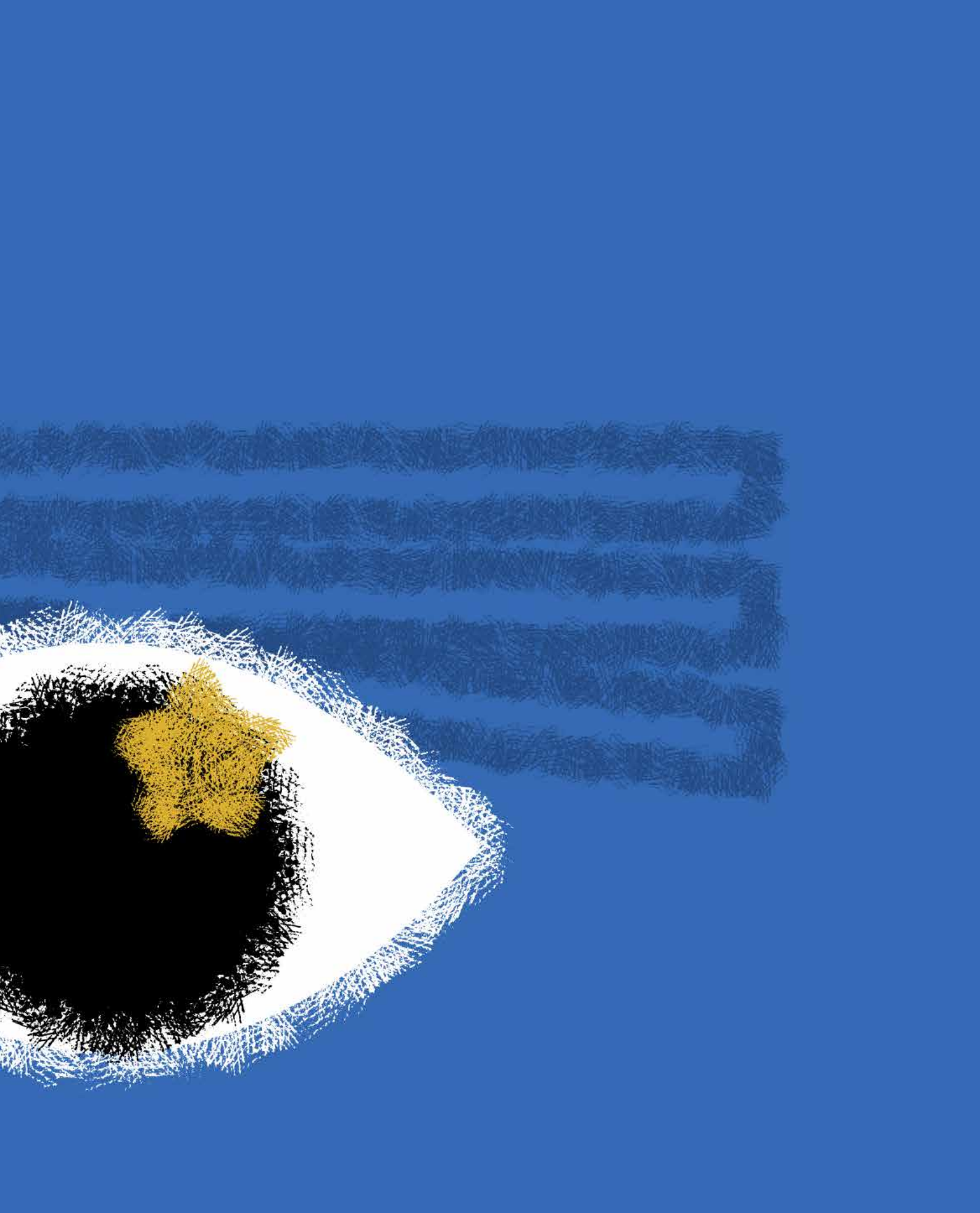
## RESEARCH BRIEF<sup>1</sup>

# Violence Against Women in Albania: In Comparison to the European Union

### July 2019

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1. This survey was conducted by INSTAT with technical expertise provided by and report writing led by Dr. Robin Haarr, international consultant, supported by UNDP and UN Women and financial contribution through the Government of Australia in the framework of the regional gender statistics and SDGs project “Women Count” and the Government of Sweden in the framework of the UN Joint Programme on Ending Violence Against Women in Albania. Opinions and views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of UNDP, UN Women and/or their donors.



# INTRODUCTION

Violence against women (VAW) is a pervasive violation of human rights and a global public health problem of epidemic proportions. VAW is recognized as both a cause and consequence of gender inequality, and is a major obstacle to women and girls' enjoyment of human rights and their full participation in society and the economy.

There is no single factor that causes VAW; rather, there are a combination of elements operating at different levels of the 'social ecology' that perpetuate and reinforce gender discriminatory and biased attitudes, norms, and practices that contribute to the pervasive imbalance of power that exists between men and women within societies and contributes to VAW.

VAW manifests in various forms of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence that occur in public and private spaces. VAW undermines the mental and physical health and well-being of women and girls and can have a negative impact on their long-term sense of safety, stability, and peace. VAW also has serious implications for the development and advancement of women, and their contribution to the economy.

VAW is not a new phenomenon in Albania, but has deep roots in the patriarchal traditions and customs that have long-shaped Albania, including strict gender identities and

roles, patriarchal authority, adherence to an honour-and-shame system, customs of hierarchal ordering within the family, and intergenerational family control.

In 2007, with technical assistance and support from UNDP and UNICEF, INSTAT conducted the first National Domestic Violence Survey (NDVS). In 2013, with technical assistance from UNDP Albania and financial support from Government of Sweden, INSTAT conducted the 2nd NDVS. The 2018 National Violence Against Women and Girls Survey (NVAWGS) used a similar methodology and data collection tools as the 2013 NDVS to collect reliable data on the nature and prevalence of intimate partner violence, and was extended to collect data on dating violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment, stalking, and social norms related to VAW. It is important to monitor the prevalence of VAW in Albania. Over time, VAW data helps those who are responsible for decision-making and policy formation understand patterns and trends over time and the impact of EVAWG initiatives.

## RESEARCH DESIGN

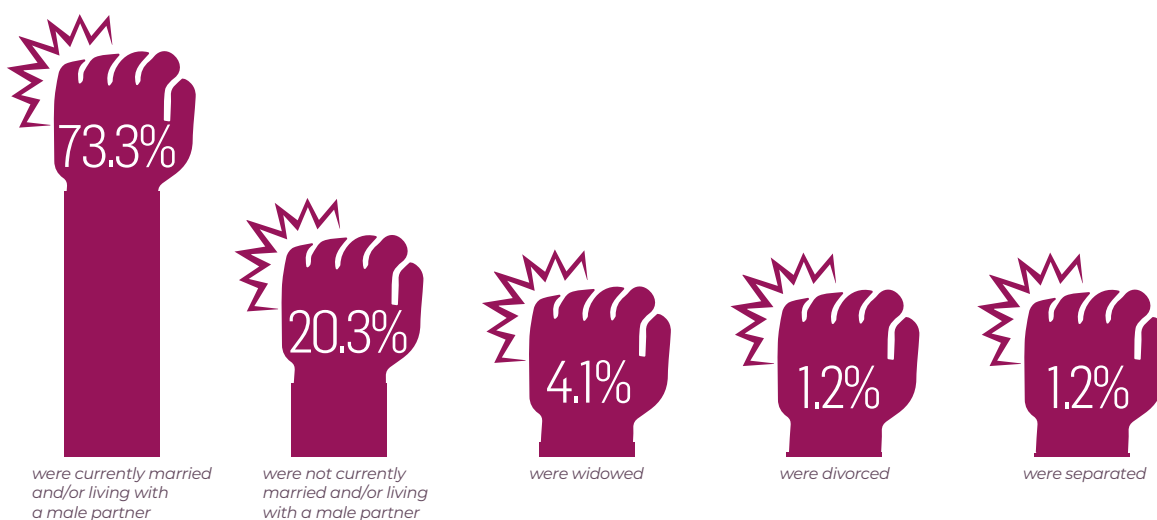
The 2018 NVAWS in Albania was developed to measure the nature and extent of five different types of VAW – intimate partner domestic violence, dating violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment, and, stalking – and social norms related to VAW. The study consisted of a national population-based household survey conducted across each of the 12 prefectures in Albania. A stratified sample design was used for selecting women for sampling. The goal was to generate a sample of women age 18-74 that would allow for the production of statistically reliable national estimates of the prevalence of VAW.

### Sample of Women

The final sample of women included 3,443 households and women age 18-74. The sample was not equally distributed across prefectures, as more women were sampled in Tirana (27.1%), the capital city which has a

much larger population, and in Fier (11.5%) and Elbasan (10.6%), compared to Kukës (3.0%) and Gjirokastër (2.6%) where far fewer women were sampled. There was a fairly equal distribution of women sampled across each of the age groups. Women ranged in age from 18 to 74 years with an average age of 43.6 years. In terms of education, 42.4% of women had a lower secondary education (8-9 years), 27.8% had a upper secondary education, and 19.7% had a university education; only 7.7% of women had only a primary education or less.

The majority of women sampled were currently married and/or living with a male partner (73.3%); 20.3% were not currently married or living with a male partner. Only 4.1% were widowed, 1.2% divorced, and .2% separated or broken up with their current male husband/boyfriend. The majority of women first married or lived together with a man at 18-24 years of age (63.2%).



## COMPARISONS OF EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES AND ALBANIA VAW DATA

Effort was made to compare the prevalence of VAW in Albania with VAW in European Union (EU) Member States based upon findings from the 2014 Violence against Women EU-wide survey conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (herein referred to as the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW*).

### RECOGNIZING DIFFERENCES AMONG COUNTRIES

There are often large differences between countries in levels of reported victimization when people are interviewed for a victimization survey. This applies to crime in general, and in particular to incidents of VAW, which are particularly sensitive topics to talk about in a survey.<sup>2</sup> Variations in VAW prevalence rates between Albania and 28 EU Member States, as revealed by the *2018 NVAWS* in Albania and the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* need to be looked at and considered in relation to a number of factors.

Although differences between countries in survey results on prevalence rates of VAW are to be expected, in line with other survey findings, such as the World Health Organization's ten-country study on women's health and domestic violence (data collected in 2000-2003). It is difficult, however, to fully explain and generalize from these differences between Albania and 28 EU Member States that participated in the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW*.<sup>3</sup> The main reason is that the *2018 NVAWS* in Albania did not use the

same data collection tools or methodology as the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW*; although there were some similarities. For example, the surveys in Albania and each EU Member State were based on a random sample of women aged 18 to 74 years in the general population, although the sampling approaches in the *2018 NVAWS* and the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* differed. Other differences and similarities will be addressed in the sections that follow where VAW data comparisons are presented.

There are several other possible explanations for observed differences in prevalence rates for VAW across countries.<sup>4</sup>

- In different countries, it may be more or less culturally acceptable to talk with other people about experiences of VAW. When looking at survey results, consideration needs to be given to the possibility that, in societies in which intimate partner violence, domestic violence and sexual violence are considered largely a private matter, incidents of VAW are unlikely to be shared with family and friends and are rarely reported to the police. Such social norms may inhibit talking to survey interviewers about their experiences with VAW.
- Gender equality could lead to higher levels of disclosure about VAW. Incidents of VAW are more likely to be openly addressed and challenged in societies with greater gender equality.
- Women's exposure to risk factors for violence can be examined at

2. Violence against women: An EU-wide survey: Results at a glance, 2014, p. 16. EU Agency for Fundamental Right.

3. Violence against women: An EU-wide survey: Results at a glance, 2014, p. 16. EU Agency for Fundamental Right.

4. Violence against women: An EU-wide survey: Results at a glance, 2014, p. 16. EU Agency for Fundamental Right.

the country-level with respect to factors that might increase women and girl's exposure to violence. These include patterns in employment (working outside the home) and socialization and lifestyle patterns (e.g., dating).

- Differences between countries in overall levels of violent crime need to be considered alongside findings on VAW. For example, more urbanization in a country is generally related to higher crime rates.

### COMPARISONS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE BETWEEN ALBANIA AND EU MEMBER STATES

The 2018 NVAWS in Albania measured intimate partner domestic violence among women age 18-74 who were currently/ever married and/or lived with a husband/partner. These women were asked a series of questions about their experiences with intimate partner domestic violence by their current and/or most recent husband/partner. Table 1 shows that

nearly 1 out of 2 or 47.0% of women 'ever' and 1 out of 3 or 33.7% 'currently' experienced one or more of the five different types of intimate partner domestic violence listed in Table 1. More specifically, 21.0% of women 'ever' and 8.2% 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both, at the hands of their current and/or more recent husband/partner.

In terms of lifetime experiences of intimate partner domestic violence, 41.2% of women 'ever' experienced coercive controlling behaviours, 31.4% 'ever' experienced psychological violence, 18.0% 'ever' experienced physical violence, 8.6% 'ever' experienced sexual violence, and 7.0% 'ever' experienced economic violence. Among women who experienced intimate partner domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview, 1 out of 4 or 25.2% 'currently' experienced coercive controlling behaviours, 19.7% 'currently' experienced psychological violence, 7.2% 'currently' experienced physical violence, 7.0% 'currently' experienced economic violence, and 3.6% 'currently' experienced sexual violence.

**Table 1. Experience of intimate partner domestic violence in Albania (weighted data)**

Women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with a husband/boyfriend N=886,374		
	Ever	Current
Experienced intimate partner domestic violence (one or more of the 5 types)	47.0%	33.7%
Coercive controlling behaviours	41.2%	25.2%
Economic violence	7.0%	7.0%
Psychological violence	31.4%	19.7%
Physical violence	18.0%	7.2%
Sexual violence	8.6%	3.6%
Physical and/or sexual violence, or both	21.0%	8.2%

Note: Percentages will not total 100% as respondents may have experienced more than one type of violence



Tables 2 and 3 compare the proportions of women who 'ever' and 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence by current and/or previous partners in Albania and 28 EU Member States. There are important differences between the *2018 NVAWS in Albania* and the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* which can possibly explain observed differences in prevalence rates for intimate partner violence between Albania and EU Member States. In particular, the *2018 NVAWS in Albania* measured 11 different types of physical violence and three different types of sexual violence; whereas the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* measured nine different types of physical violence and four different types of sexual violence. Some, but not all, of the different types of physical and sexual violence measured were the same. These differences can have an impact on differences in the proportion of women who 'ever' and 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence by current and/or previous partners. Also, the *2018 NVAWS in Albania* focused on women who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/boyfriends, whereas the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* focused on current and/or previous partners, whether or not the women were married and/or lived with them.

Tables 2 reveals that 21.0% of women age 18-74 years of age who were currently/ever married and/or lived with a husband/partner reported 'ever' experiencing physical and/or sexual intimate partner domestic violence, which is less than prevalence rates reported in numerous EU Member States, but more than other EU Member States. The prevalence rate in Albania is 1.0% lower than the mean/average for the 28 EU countries (22.0%). More notable is that Table 3 shows that women in Albania were most likely to report 'currently' experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by current/previous partners at 8.2%, compared to women in EU Member States. In fact, the prevalence of 8.2% is two times greater than the mean/average for the 28 EU countries (4.0%).

**Table 2. Women who ever experienced physical and/or sexual violence by current and/or previous partners in Albania and EU Member States**

Countries	%
Latvia	32
Denmark	32
Finland	30
United Kingdom	29
Sweden	28
France	26
Netherlands	25
Romania	24
Lithuania	24
Belgium	24
Bulgaria	23
Slovakia	23
Germany	22
Luxembourg	22
Albania (2018)	21.0
Czech Republic	21
Hungary	21
Estonia	20
Italy	19
Greece	19
Portugal	19
Cyprus	15
Ireland	15
Malta	15
Poland	13
Austria	13
Croatia	13
Spain	13
Slovenia	13
Mean for 28 EU countries	22

**Table 3. Women who currently experienced physical and/or sexual violence by current/previous partners in Albania and EU Member States**

Countries	%
Albania (2018)	8.2
Belgium	6
Bulgaria	6
Greece	6
Hungry	6
Italy	6
Romania	6
Slovakia	6
United Kingdom	5
Sweden	5
France	5
Portugal	5
Netherlands	5
Latvia	5
Finland	5
Czech Republic	4
Denmark	4
Lithuania	4
Malta	4
Luxembourg	3
Ireland	3
Croatia	3
Germany	3
Cyprus	3
Austria	3
Estonia	2
Spain	2
Poland	2
Slovenia	2
Mean for 28 EU countries	4

## COMPARISONS OF NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE BETWEEN ALBANIA AND EU MEMBER STATES

It is well documented that women and girls are at risk of physical and/or sexual violence by non-partners in the context of the family and home, and in public spaces. This *2018 NVAWS in Albania* and the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* study focused on both physical and sexual non-partner violence experienced by women since the age of 15 at the hands of both family members and other relatives, and non-family members.

The *2018 NVAWS in Albania* measured experiences of non-partner violence among women age 18-74. These women were asked a series of questions about their experiences with non-partner physical and sexual violence. Table 4 shows that among women age 18-74, 18.2% 'ever' and 2.4% 'currently' experienced one or more of the four types of physical and/or sexual non-partner violence since the age of 15 by someone other than their husband/boyfriend. Women were more likely to experience non-partner physical violence (17.3% ever, 2.3% current) than non-partner sexual violence (1.3% ever, 0.1% current).

**Table 4. Experiences of non-partner violence since age 15 in Albania (weighted data)**

	Women age 18-74 N=1,040,726	
	Ever	Current
Experienced physical and/or sexual non-partner violence since age 15	18.2%	2.3%
Experienced physical non-partner violence since age 15	17.3%	2.3%
Experienced sexual non-partner violence since age 15	1.3%	0.0%

**Table 5. Women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by non-partners since the age of 15 in Albania and EU Member States**

Countries	%
Denmark	40
Netherlands	35
Sweden	34
Finland	33
France	33
United Kingdom	30
Luxembourg	25
Belgium	25
Germany	24
Slovakia	22
Estonia	22
Czech Republic	21
Ireland	19
Albania (2018)	18
Latvia	17
Italy	17
Spain	16
Lithuania	16
Malta	15
Slovenia	15
Romania	14
Hungary	14
Bulgaria	14
Croatia	13
Austria	12
Cyprus	12
Poland	11
Portugal	10
Greece	10
Mean for 28 EU countries	22

**The 2018 NVAWS in Albania measured one type of physical violence and three different types of sexual violence; whereas the 2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW measured nine different types of physical violence and four different types of sexual violence.**

Table 5 compares the proportion of women who 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence by non-partners since the age of 15 in Albania and 28 EU Member States. There are important differences between the *2018 NVAWS in Albania* and the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* which can possibly explain observed differences in prevalence rates for non-partner violence between Albania and EU Member States. In particular, the *2018 NVAWS in Albania* measured one type of physical violence and three different types of sexual violence; whereas the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* measured nine different types of physical violence and four different types of sexual violence. These differences can have an impact on differences in the proportion of women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence by non-partners since the age of 15.

Table 5 reveals that 18.0% of women age 18-74 years 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence by non-partners, which is less than prevalence rates reported in numerous EU Member States, but more than other EU Member States. The prevalence rate in Albania is 4.0% lower than the mean/average for the 28 EU countries (22.0%).

## COMPARISONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT BETWEEN ALBANIA AND EU MEMBER STATES

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature that constitutes a breach of the principle of equal treatment between men and women; therefore, it is recognized as a form of sex discrimination, sexual abuse and VAW. Existing research has shown that women differ in their perceptions of what behaviour constitutes sexual harassment, and these preconceived notions of what constitutes 'sexual harassment' can differ significantly from country-to-country; thus, estimates concerning the extent of sexual harassment are based on women's personal experiences and the subjective meaning respondents attach to what might be considered unwanted and offensive conduct.<sup>56</sup> To minimize culturally determined variations in subjective interpretations of sexual harassment, respondents were asked about experiencing specific unwanted and offensive acts. Nevertheless, there may still be differences in the degree to which women in different cultural contexts find the described acts offensive or intimidating.<sup>7</sup>

The *2018 NVAWS in Albania* asked women about six specific sexual harassment acts that women felt to be unwanted and which they experienced as offensive and/or intimidating. The six questions covered four possible forms of sexual harassment which were unwanted and offensive according to respondents:

- Physical forms of harassment - unwelcome touching, hugging or kissing.
- Verbal forms of harassment – sexually suggestive, offensive, comments or jokes;

intrusive, offensive questions about private life; intrusive, offensive comments about a woman's physical appearance.

- Non-verbal forms of harassment – receiving or being shown offensive, sexually explicit pictures, photos or gifts; somebody indecently exposing themselves.
- Cyber-harassment – receiving unwanted, offensive, sexually explicit emails or SMS messages; inappropriate, offensive advances on social networking website or internet chat rooms.

The *2018 NVAWS in Albania* found that 18.1% of women age 18-74 'ever' and 8.5% 'currently' experienced one or more of the six types of sexual harassment measured.

Tables 6 compares the proportion of women who 'currently' experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15 in Albania and 28 EU Member States. There are important differences between the *2018 NVAWS in Albania* and the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* which can possibly explain observed differences in prevalence rates for sexual harassment between Albania and EU Member States. Both the *2018 NVAWS in Albania* and the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* measured six different types of sexual harassment; however, only four of the six types of sexual harassment were the same and two were different. These differences can have an impact on differences in the proportion of women who currently experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15.

Tables 6 reveals that only 9.0% of women 'currently' experienced sexual harassment, which is less than prevalence rates reported in the majority of EU Member States. The prevalence rate in Albania is 4.0% lower than the mean/average for the 28 EU countries (13.0%).

5. European Commission (1998), *Sexual harassment in the workplace in the European Union*, Brussels, European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs

6. *Violence against women: An EU-wide survey, 2014*, pp. 96-97.

7. *Violence against women: An EU-wide survey, 2014*, pp. 96-97.

**Table 6. Women who currently experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15 in Albania and EU Member States**

Countries	%
Denmark	26
Netherlands	22
Sweden	22
Slovakia	19
France	18
Belgium	17
United Kingdom	16
Finland	15
Germany	15
Luxembourg	14
Italy	10
Czech Republic	12
Ireland	12
Spain	11
Malta	12
Hungary	12
Austria	11
Croatia	11
Estonia	11
Greece	9
Latvia	9
Bulgaria	9
Lithuania	9
Albania	9
Cyprus	8
Portugal	8
Slovenia	7
Poland	7
Romania	5
Mean for 28 EU countries	13

## COMPARISONS OF WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES WITH STALKING BETWEEN ALBANIA AND EU MEMBER STATES

Stalking refers to harassing or threatening behavior that an individual engages in repeatedly, such as following a person, appearing at a person's home or place of business, making harassing phone calls, leaving written messages or objects, or vandalizing a person's property. These actions may be accompanied by a credible threat of serious harm, and they may be precursors to an assault or murder. The Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly defines stalking as a "repetition of acts intruding into a person's life which increase in intensity over time. Ultimately, stalking causes distress, anxiety and/or fear. It is a form of violence in and of itself, but can lead to other forms of violence, including murder."

In general, stalking behaviors may include persistent patterns of leaving or sending the victim unwanted items or presents that may range from seemingly romantic to bizarre, following or lying in wait for the victim, damaging or threatening to damage the victim's property, defaming the victim's character, or harassing the victim via the Internet by posting personal information or spreading rumors about the victim. Stalking often involves acts which are individually innocuous, but combined are intended to undermine the victim's sense of safety. Stalking is most often committed by people known to the victim or with whom the victim has had a prior relationship (e.g., current/former intimate partner or an acquaintance); yet, some women are stalked by strangers.

Stalking can be carried out in person or via electronic mechanisms. In fact, cyber-stalking involves the pursuit, harassment or contact of others in an unsolicited fashion initially via the internet and/or email. Cyberstalking can intensify in chat rooms where stalkers

**Findings revealed 12.6% of women experienced one or more of the six types of stalking measured, and 6.9% experienced stalking in the 12 months prior to the survey.**

systematically flood their target's inbox with obscene, hateful and/or threatening messages and images. Cyber-stalkers may also assume the identity of his/her victim by posting information (fictitious or not) and soliciting responses from the cybercommunity. Cyber-stalkers may use information acquired online to further intimidate, harass, and threaten their victim. Although cyberstalking does not involve physical contact with a victim, it is still a serious crime.

The Council of Europe Istanbul Convention calls on the parties to the Convention to criminalise the intentional conduct of repeatedly engaging in threatening conduct directed at another person, causing the victim fear for their safety. Albania's Criminal Code has a law on stalking, which is defined as "a threat or repeated actions intended to cause a continuous and grave sense of anxiety or fear for a person's security, the security of their relatives or the security of a person with whom they are related sentimentally, or intended to force them to change their lifestyle" (Article 121/a).

The *2018 NVAWS in Albania* focused on measuring six different types of stalking experienced by women, without using the term stalking. Findings revealed 12.6% of women experienced one or more of the six types of

stalking measured, and 6.9% experienced stalking in the 12 months prior to the survey. Only 35.6% of women who experienced stalking considered the unwanted contacts or harassing behaviours to be stalking.

Tables 7 compares the proportion of women who 'currently' experienced stalking in Albania and 28 EU Member States. There are important differences between the *2018 NVAWS in Albania* and the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* which can possibly explain observed differences in prevalence rates for stalking between Albania and EU Member States. The *2018 NVAWS in Albania* measured six different types of sexual harassment, while the *2014 FRA EU-wide survey on VAW* measured eight different types of stalking; there was overlap in the types of stalking measured. These differences can have an impact on differences in the proportion of women who currently experienced stalking.

Tables 7 reveals that only 7.0% of women in Albania 'currently' experienced stalking, which is less than prevalence rates reported in only a few EU countries. The majority of EU Member States had lower prevalence rates than Albania. The prevalence rate in Albania (7.0%) was slightly higher than the mean/average for the 28 EU countries (5.0%).

**Table 7. Percentage of women who currently experienced stalking by EU Member States (2014) and in Albania (2018)**

Countries	%
Sweden	9
France	8
Luxembourg	7
Albania	7
Belgium	6
Malta	6
Netherlands	6
Slovakia	6
Austria	6
Denmark	5
United Kingdom	5
Italy	5
Hungry	5
Germany	4
Latvia	4
Finland	4
Bulgaria	4
Croatia	3
Ireland	3
Spain	3
Cyprus	3
Slovenia	3
Portugal	3
Poland	3
Greece	2
Czech Republic	2
Romania	2
Estonia	1
Lithuania	0
Mean for 28 EU countries	5

## ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE'S SURVEY ON THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF WOMEN

In 2018, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) led a Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women, which was implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine. The goal of the OSCE-led survey was to provide comparable data on different forms of violence women experience in childhood and throughout the course of their lives. The research examined violence that women experience in conflict and non-conflict settings, as well as the impact violence has on women. Questions related to social norms and attitudes related to VAW were included to better understand the underlying causes of violence. The OSCE-led survey used a different methodology and different data collection tools from the NDVS and was undertaken with the aim to provide country-specific, but comparable data on different forms of violence that women experience in their childhood and throughout the course of their lives. The research also examined the impact violence has on one woman, including its lasting consequences, and norms and attitudes connected to violence against women to better understand the underlying causes of violence.

Findings from the OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women are compared to the *2018 NVAWS in Albania*. As previously mentioned, the *2018 NVAWS in Albania* measured intimate partner domestic violence among women age 18-74 who were currently/ever married and/or lived with a husband/partner and found that 47.0% of women 'ever' and 33.7% 'currently' experienced one or more of the five different types of intimate partner domestic violence measured (i.e., controlling behaviours, psychological violence, economic violence, physical violence and sexual violence). More specifically, 21.0% of women 'ever' and 8.2%

'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both, at the hands of their current and/or more recent husband/partner.

In comparison, the 2018 OSCE-led study in Albania found in Albania that 19.0% of women age 18-74 experienced intimate partner violence since the age of 15 and 19.0% experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. In the 12 months prior to the OSCE-led survey, 7.2% of women age 18-74 experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence. Findings from these two studies provide estimates for the proportion of women who experience violence in their intimate relationships. It is important to understand that depending upon the sample, including ages of women included in the sample, the prevalence of intimate partner violence can vary, and different measures of intimate partner violence can result in different prevalence rates.

This 2018 NVAWS also found that among all women aged 18-74, 18.2% 'ever' experienced non-partner violence since the age of 15, of which 17.3% experienced non-partner physical violence and 1.3% experienced non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime; 3.4% of women experienced non-partner violence during the 12 months prior to the survey. Only 4.6% of women sought help for non-partner violence. In comparison, the 2018 OSCE-led study in Albania found that 11.0% of women

age 18-74 experienced non-partner violence since the age of 15, of which 11.0% of women experienced non-partner physical violence and 1.0% experienced non-partner sexual violence. Data from these two studies reveal no one study generates the same prevalence rates, but provide understanding that 11.0% to 18.0% of women in Albania have experienced non-partner violence since the age of 15.

Finally, the 2018 NVAWG also found that 18.1% 'ever' experienced sexual harassment and 8.5% experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey. In addition, 12.6% 'ever' experienced stalking and 6.9% experienced stalking in the 12 months prior to the survey. In comparison, the 2018 OSCE-led survey in Albania found that 13.0% of women age 18-74 experienced stalking since the age of 15 and 4.3% experienced stalking in the 12 months prior to the survey, and 34.0% of women experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15 and 17.2% experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey. While both of these studies provide similar estimates for the proportion of women who 'ever' and 'currently' experience stalking in Albania, the estimates for the proportion of women who experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime ranged from 18.0% to 34.0%, and the proportion of women who experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey ranged from 8.0% to 17.0%.









**Ending  
Violence**  
Against  
Women

