STEREOTYPES ABOUT GENDER ROLES
AND THE SOCIAL IMAGE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
Year 2018

■ The most common stereotypes about gender roles are: 'for the man, more than for the woman, it is very important to be successful at work' (32.5%), 'men are less suited to do housework' (31.5%), 'it is up to the man to provide for the family's financial needs' (27.9%). The statement with the lowest level of agreement is 'it is up to the man to take the most important decisions about the family' (8.8%).

■ Without particular differences between men and women, 58.8% of the population (aged 18-74 years) have these stereotypes, which are more widespread as age increases (65.7% of those aged 60 to 74 and 45.3% of people aged 18 to 29) and among the less educated.

■ The stereotypes are more frequent in Southern Italy (67.8%), especially in Campania (71.6%) and in Sicily, and less often in the North-east (52.6%), with the fewest in Friuli Venezia Giulia (49.2%).

■ On the subject of intimate partner violence, 7.4% of people think it is always or under certain circumstances acceptable that 'a young man slaps his girlfriend because she flirted with another man', and 6.2% think that in a relationship a slap might occasionally occur. Regarding control, however, more than double that number (17.7%) think it is always or under certain circumstances acceptable that a man habitually control his wife's/girlfriend's cell phone and/or activities on social media.

■ Sardinia (15.2%) and Aosta Valley (17.4%) have the lowest levels of tolerance for violence; Abruzzo (38.1%) and Campania (35%) have the highest. But the opinions of men and women differ by region.

■ To the question about why some men are violent with their girlfriends/wives, 77.7% of those interviewed answered because women are considered as property (84.9% of women and 70.4% of men), 75.5% because they abuse drugs or alcohol, and another 75% because of men's need to feel stronger than their girlfriends/wives. The difficulty some men have in managing their anger is indicated by 70.6%, especially by women with about 8 percentage points more than men.

■ Witnessing or experiencing violence in the family as a child is considered a cause of violence by 63.7% of the population, 62.6% believe that some men are violent because they cannot stand women's empowerment, and the association between violence and religious reasons is high but less common (33.8%).

■ Regarding a woman who has suffered violence from her boyfriend/husband, 64.5% of the population would recommend reporting it to the police and 33.2% would recommend leaving the partner. Out of the population, 20.4% would direct the woman to anti-violence centres (25.6% of women versus 15.0% of men) and 18.2% would advise her to use other services or professionals (counselling public services, psychologists, lawyers, etc.). Only 2.0% would suggest calling the dedicated national helpline 1522.

■ The prejudice persists that assigns responsibility to the woman who suffers sexual violence. A full 39.3% of the population believes that a woman is able to avoid having sexual intercourse if she really doesn't want to. The percentage of those who think that women can provoke sexual violence by how they dress is also high (23.9%). Also, 15.1% hold the opinion that a woman who suffers sexual violence when affected by alcohol or drugs is at least partially responsible.

■ For 10.3% of the population, often accusations of sexual violence are false (more men, 12.7%, than women, 7.9%); for 7.2%, 'faced with a sexual proposition, women often say no but in reality mean yes', and for 6.2%, serious women do not get raped. Only 1.9% think that it is not violence if a man forces his wife/girlfriend to have sex against her will.

■ The scenario that emerges from reading the results of the module on stereotypes about gender roles and sexual violence, including opinions on the acceptability of intimate partner violence and its possible causes, shows five categories: two are individuals with the most stereotyped convictions (36.3%), two have less stereotyped beliefs (62%) and one group shows no interest for the topic (1.8%).

The survey on gender role stereotypes and the social image of violence, carried out by ISTAT as part of a collaboration agreement with the National Department of Equal Opportunities, allows the analysis of cultural models and factors that influence attitudes towards violence against women.

Violence against women, and domestic violence especially, are varied and complex phenomena, and knowledge of them is essential to the development of policies to fight violence against women and the establishment of a system to monitor it. These phenomena are rooted in gender culture, and therefore it is necessary to research stereotyped models of women's and men's roles as well as the social image of violence. The spread of gender role stereotypes, on the one hand, and the attitudes towards violent behaviour, on the other, are in fact the keys to understand the cultural context in which violent relationships find their genesis and justification. Knowing about them is essential to a better understanding of the causes of violence and monitoring them over time in order to evaluate, at least partially, how policies involving violence prevention impact the population in terms of cultural change.

Few differences between men and women regarding gender role stereotypes

Respondents were asked for their agreement with stereotyped statements about the role of women in the labour and financial sphere, family decisions and household management. Of the population, 58.8% say they agree strongly or somewhat with at least one of the statements, and 22.4% agree strongly.

In detail, 27% of the population expresses its agreement with only one statement, 15.8% with two and 15.9% with 3 or more. Without substantial differences between men and women, 22.5% of the population does not agree with any of the stereotypes considered.

Stereotypes are more common among older people (65.7% of aged 60-74, versus 45.3% of young people), among the less educated (79.6% of those with no education or with a primary school certificate, versus 45% of those with university degrees) and among blue collars, self-employed and family workers.

Southern Italy and Sicily have the highest percentage of people who agree with the stereotypes considered. The highest figures are estimated to be in Campania, where 71.6% of the population agrees with at least one stereotype; the fewest are in Friuli Venezia Giulia (49.2%).

Although there are no particular differences between men and women at national level, in Bolzano, Lombardy and Basilicata women hold less open opinions than the men in the same geographic area; in contrast, the men in Abruzzo, Calabria, Liguria, Veneto, Apulia and Molise have more prejudices than the women there do.

The stereotype is still common that success at work is more important for the man

The most widely held stereotype is the one involving success at work; indeed, 32.5% of people aged 18 to 74 years say they agree strongly or somewhat with the statement that for the man, more than for the woman, it is very important to be successful at work. The opinion that men are less suited to housework is the second most common stereotype (31.4%), followed by the belief that it is up to the man to provide for the family's financial needs (27.9%). Less deeply rooted, however, is the idea that when jobs are scarce, employers should give priority to men over women (16.1%). Only 8.8% think that it is up to the man to take the most important decisions concerning the family.

Regarding opinions on individual statements, there are no great differences between men and women, with some exceptions. Men are more convinced that they must be the ones to take family decisions (10.7% strongly or somewhat agree, versus 7.1% of women), while women agree that it is more important for men to be successful at work than for women (34.7% of women and 30.3% of men). Only among people with the lowest education does the difference reverse: 45.3% of women agree strongly or somewhat, versus 49.6% of men.

FIGURE 1. PEOPLE AGED 18-74 YEARS BY DEGREE OF AGREEMENT WITH SOME STEREOTYPES ON TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES. Year 2018, percentages
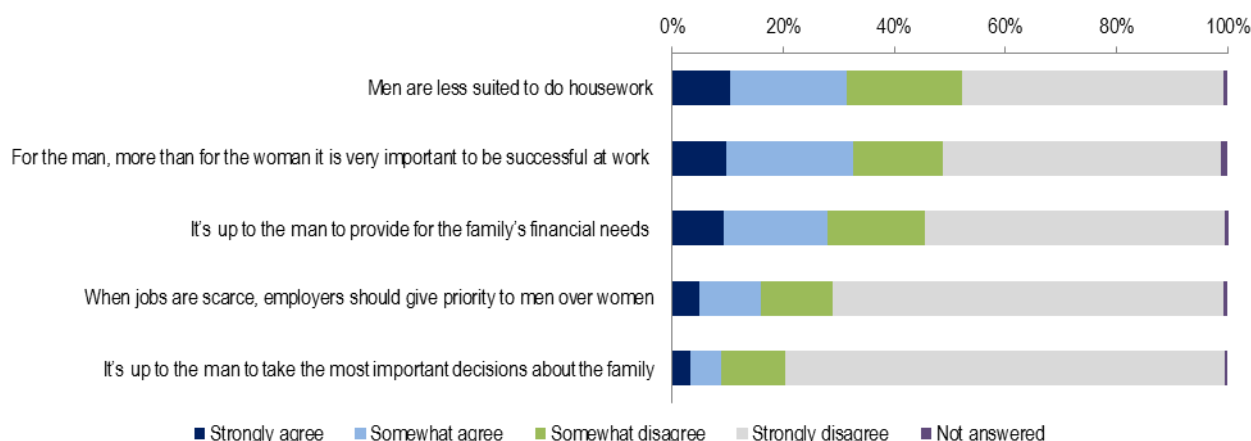
The differences between various education levels influence opinions about who should provide for the family's financial needs. Of those with a primary education or no education, 54.7% believe that it is the man who should provide for financial needs, versus 10.8% of university graduates; among men, these differences are even more marked (66% and 13.2%).

The stereotype about men's inadequacy in doing housework is similar, with a difference of about 35 percentage points between those who have an advanced degree and those without. In this case, however, the stereotype is more common among women, specifically 55% of women with low education, versus 51.9% of men at the same educational level. Women with university degrees are less likely to agree with this statement (15.9%, versus 21.9% of men).

Few people think physical violence by intimate partner is acceptable, but controlling is allowed

Among people aged 18 to 74 years, 91% believe that it is never acceptable that 'a young man slaps his girlfriend because she flirted with another man', 92.3% think that in a relationship a slap might occasionally occur, and 80.6% believe that it is acceptable that a man habitually control his wife's/girlfriend's cell phone and/or activities on social media.

Controlling, however, is tolerated (for 16.8% of citizens under certain circumstances and for 0.9% always) especially among the youngest people (30.3% of males aged 18-29 and 27.1% of females in the same age group).

University graduates have less tolerance (15.1%), with a difference between female graduates (13.6%) and male graduates (16.9%).

Regionally, the percentage of those who believe controlling is acceptable under certain circumstances exceeds 20% in Southern Italy and Sicily: 26.1% in Abruzzo, 25.2% in Basilicata, 23.2% in Campania and Sicily, 22.5% in Molise, 21.5% in Calabria and 20.4% in Apulia. The high proportion in Basilicata, however, should be viewed in light of the sharp differences between men and women there: the acceptability of controlling is 35.9% for men and 14.6% for women.

The percentage of people who think violence or control is 'always' or at least 'under certain circumstances' acceptable is 25.4% (27.3% for men and 23.5% for women). The lowest levels are found in Sardinia and Aosta Valley (15.2% and 17.4%, respectively). Abruzzo (38.1%) and Campania (35%) have higher levels of tolerance but, while in Abruzzo men in particular hold this opinion (47.2% of men believe violence is acceptable, versus 29.2% of women), Campania does not have high differences between the genders on this question (39.5% of men, versus 30.8% of women). Gender differences are almost nil in Sicily and in Lombardy, while in some regions in Northern Italy (Veneto, Aosta Valley and the Autonomous Province of Trento) and in Umbria, women show higher rates of acceptance.

FIGURE 2. PEOPLE AGED 18-74 YEARS WHO BELIEVE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IS ACCEPTABLE AT LEAST UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, BY REGION AND SEX. Year 2018, per 100 people in the same region and of the same sex
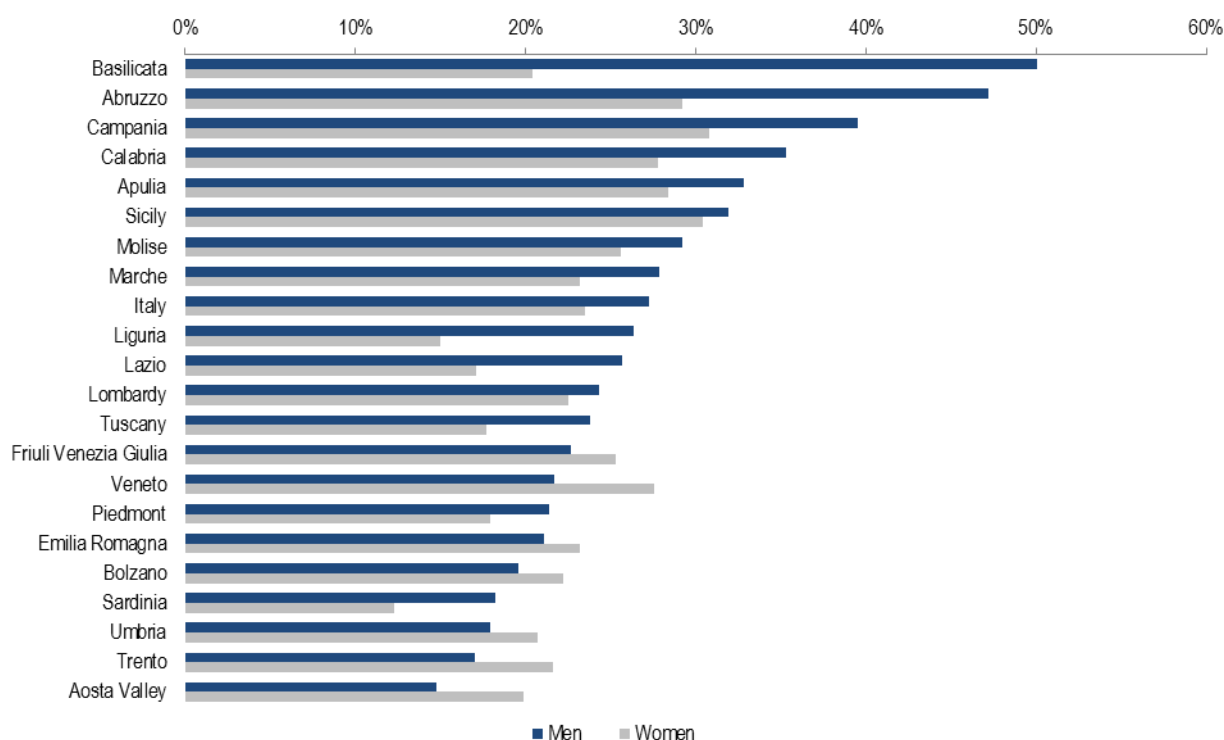
Violence is perceived as very widespread by 47.7% of women and 30.8% of men

For 39.3% of the population aged 18 to 74 years, the physical or sexual violence women suffer from their partners, husbands, live-in partners or boyfriend is very common, for 47.8% it is somewhat common and for 8.5% it is slightly or not at all common. Almost half of women think that this phenomenon is very common, as do 47.9% of those with primary school certificate or no education, and 46.2% of those with a lower secondary school certificate. For 54.5% of graduates and 51.2% of those with upper secondary education certificates, intimate partner violence is, however, somewhat common.

When it comes to the regions, Sardinia stands out for the percentage of people who think intimate partner violence is very common, but unlike in the other regions there are more men there with this opinion (55.0% versus 47.4% of women).

The woman as property: the most common cause of intimate partner violence

Among the possible causes of intimate partner violence proposed to the men and women surveyed, the most often reported one is considering women to be property (77.7% of the population, specifically 84.9% among women and 70.4% among men). Young women choose this cause (92.9% of women aged 18-29, versus 76.7% of their male peers) more than others, and women with higher educations (90.1% of female graduates, versus 75.3% of male graduates).

The cause indicated second most often is abusing drugs or alcohol (75.5%), without any particular gender differences; then there is the need violent men have to feel stronger than their girlfriends/wives (75%). The latter reason, however, is reported more often by women (81.3%) than by men (68.5%), especially by women aged 18-29 (88.5%) versus men in that age group (75.2%) and by people with university degrees (81.4% versus 62.7% of those with a primary school certificate or no education certificate).

Men's difficulty in managing anger is reported by 70.6% of people, with a difference of 8.2 percentage points between women and men (74.6% and 66.4%, respectively); 63.7% focus attention on negative experiences of violence suffered or witnessed in the family as a child, while another 62.6% believes that some men are

violent because they do not stand female empowerment. In this case, too, the difference based on sex is high, as 69.9% of women and 55.2% of men say this.

Finally, 33.8% of the population associates gender-based violence with religious reasons: this share reaches 39% among young people aged 18-29 years and 40.2% among university graduates (21.7% among people with no education or a primary school certificate).

The differences among education levels are more evident when speaking of violence due to men's need to feel stronger than their companions, indicated by 81.4% of those with a university degree and by 62.7% of those with lower or no education, and when the reason for violence is identified as considering the woman to be property (83.3% and 68%, respectively).

Regionally, the only reported cause for which clear differences are found is religion, more often indicated in the north-central area, with a peak in Friuli Venezia Giulia (45.7%), and less in the south, while the other causes are chosen unevenly around the regions.

Difficulty in managing anger is indicated more often in Friuli Venezia Giulia and in Umbria (75.6% and 75.1% of the time, respectively), and less in Calabria (64.3%). Considering the woman to be property is more frequent in the province of Trento (81.9%), again in Friuli Venezia Giulia (81.2%) and in Emilia Romagna (80.3%), and it is less frequent in Abruzzo (71.6%), Calabria (72.9%) and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano (72%). The negative experiences had during childhood are indicated in greater percentages in the province of Bolzano (68.1%) and in Basilicata (68.0%), while women's empowerment is identified more often by residents of Emilia Romagna and less by those of Aosta Valley, Molise and Abruzzo.

Tuscany and some northern regions, particularly Friuli Venezia Giulia, Emilia Romagna and Lombardy, report more often as a reason for violence the need to feel stronger than one's partner, while in Sardinia, Lazio, Trentino Alto Adige, Molise and again Lombardy and Friuli Venezia Giulia alcohol and drug abuse is pointed to more often as the cause of intimate partner violence.

Considering the three possible causes of violence that focus on the woman's role and her relationship with her partner (the woman considered to be an object, the man needing to reaffirm his superiority and annoyance at women's empowerment), it appears that all three are indicated by 51.3% of the population, with a definite prevalence among women (60.7%) and, in particular, in the age group 30-44 (63%) compared to men (41.1%). There are greater proportions in Emilia Romagna (57.2%) and Friuli Venezia Giulia (54.3%), followed by Apulia, Campania, the Autonomous Province of Trento and Tuscany.

TABLE 1. PEOPLE AGED 18-74 YEARS BY INDICATION OF SOME CAUSES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, BY SEX AND AGE. Year 2018, per 100 people with the same characteristics

	SEX AND AGE	Difficulty in managing anger	Considering women to be property	Having negative experiences of family violence as a child	Religious reasons	Not standing women's empowerment	Abuse of drugs or alcohol	Need to feel stronger than one's partner/wife
Men	18-29	66.6	76.7	65.7	39.3	52.3	75.8	75.2
	30-44	68.5	70.3	61.5	37.3	55.5	74.4	69.7
	45-59	68.1	70.6	58.6	33.5	58.5	74.2	69.4
	60-74	61.5	65.4	56.2	24.8	52.4	71.6	60.7
	Total	**66.4**	**70.4**	**60.1**	**33.5**	**55.2**	**74.0**	**68.5**
Women	18-29	73.4	92.9	69.6	39.2	65.0	78.9	88.5
	30-44	78.4	88.2	69.0	38.8	70.6	79.7	83.9
	45-59	76.3	84.8	67.5	34.2	73.2	76.8	81.9
	60-74	69.4	76.4	63.1	25.6	67.9	73.2	73.2
	Total	**74.6**	**84.9**	**67.1**	**34.0**	**69.9**	**77.0**	**81.3**
Total	18-29	69.9	84.5	67.6	39.2	58.5	77.3	81.7
	30-44	73.3	79.0	65.2	38.1	62.9	77.0	76.7
	45-59	72.3	77.9	63.2	33.9	66.1	75.6	75.9
	60-74	65.7	71.2	59.8	25.2	60.5	72.4	67.3
	Total	**70.6**	**77.7**	**63.7**	**33.8**	**62.6**	**75.5**	**75.0**

The most frequent advice for victims is reporting the violence

If they knew a woman who suffered violence from her partner, 64.5% of the population aged between 18 and 74 years would recommend reporting the partner to law enforcement, while a third of the population (33.2%) would tell her to leave him. Of those interviewed, 20.4% would direct the woman to anti-violence centres (25.6% of women versus 15.0% of men), and 18.2% would advise her to contact other services or professionals (counselling public services, psychologists, lawyers, etc.) and only 2% would urge her to call the national helpline 1522. A 3.8% minority, however, would advise the woman to try to speak with her partner, 2.6% would not know what to do or suggest, and 1.1% of those interviewed would not give advice so as not to intrude in family issues that do not concern them.

Among those who would advise trying to speak with the partner, 13.5% would also suggest leaving him, while more than one-third (38.4%) would also suggest reporting him. Out of the population, 17.8% would recommend both reporting the violent partner and leaving him, while 9.5% would suggest, in addition to reporting him, visiting an anti-violence centre.

The usefulness of reporting a case of violence is recognized prevalently by young people (69.6% of interviewees aged 18-29) compared to older interviewees (56.3% of people aged between 60 and 74), for whom it is in any case the most recommended reaction.

For both sexes, as education level increases, the proportion increases of people who would recommend a woman who is a victim of violence seek help by addressing institutions or services.

University graduates would more often suggest reporting the partner (70.1% versus 51.7% of those with no education certificate or a primary school certificate), contacting anti-violence centres (30.3% versus 6.7%) or other services or professionals (25.3% versus 6.8% of those with no education or a primary school education). Female university graduates, in particular, are more likely to urge going to an anti-violence centre (35.1%) and are the ones less likely to suggest talking with the partner (1.5%).

Conversely, those with less education are more likely to suggest talking with the partner (5.5%) or leaving him (39.3%).

FIGURE 3. PEOPLE AGED 18-74 YEARS BY OPINIONS ON WHAT THEY WOULD DO IF THEY KNEW A WOMAN WHO SUFFERED VIOLENCE BY HER HUSBAND/PARTNER, BY SEX. Year 2018, per 100 people of the same sex
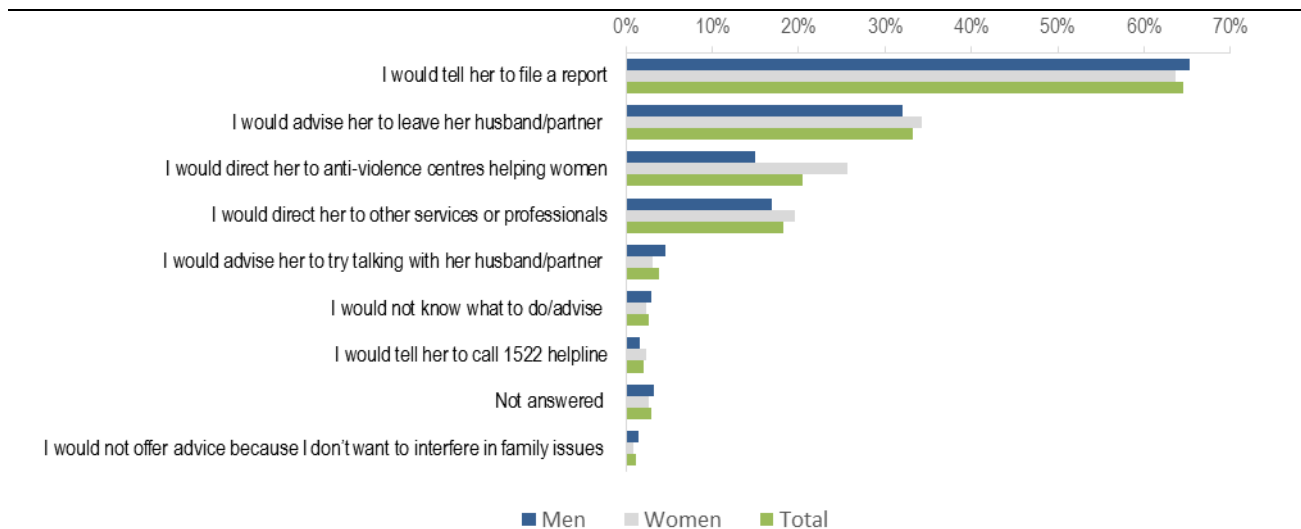
Reporting the violent partner is the most common advice in all regions (ranging from a maximum value in Lazio of 69.7% to a minimum in Bolzano of 46.1%). In Bolzano, however, there is a higher share of people who would suggest using professional services (39.6% versus only 18.2% in Italy on average) and calling the national helpline 1522 (18.3% versus 2%).

Leaving the violent partner is the most common advice in Campania (44.3%, versus the national figure of 33.2%), especially among women (48.0% compared to 34.3% nationally).

"Directing to anti-violence centres" is one among the paths chosen most often by residents of the province of Bolzano (36.9% for men and 34.6% for women), Friuli Venezia Giulia (26.2% of men and 32.8% of women), as well as the women of Emilia Romagna (34.2%), Veneto (32.9%) and Liguria (32.2%).

Few differences between men and women in stereotypes about sexual violence

If violence is deeply rooted in the culture, it is important to know what people think about sexual violence and the women who suffer it.

Of the population, 54.6% agrees strongly or somewhat with at least one of the stereotypes on sexual violence considered in the survey[1]. This proportion increases with age (47.6% of those aged 18-29 and 61.8% of those aged 60-74), with lower levels of education (64.1% versus 42.4% of university graduates) and is greater among men (57.5% versus 51.7%).

In Basilicata, almost 69.8% of the population shares at least one stereotype about sexual violence (79.8% of men and 60% of women), followed distantly by about 10 percentage points but still above the average, by Campania and Apulia, Bolzano province, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Marche and Veneto. Liguria, however, is far below the average, as only 40.4% of the population agrees with at least one statement (42.1% of men and 38.7% of women).

Gender differences regarding prejudices about sexual violence are practically non-existent in Campania, Marche and Bolzano province, where men and women report the same opinions. The regions with the sharpest differences, however, are Basilicata (almost 20 percentage points higher for men than for women), Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Umbria (both with a difference of about 12 points) and Sardinia (10.8 points).

The data reveal the relationship between stereotypes about sexual violence, stereotypes about gender roles and tolerance for violence: the percentage of those agreeing with at least one stereotype on sexual violence, 54.6%, reaches 62.9% among people who believe gender role stereotypes and 68.1% among those who think violence against women is acceptable.

FIGURE 4. PEOPLE AGED 18-74 YEARS BY LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE. Year 2018, per 100 people

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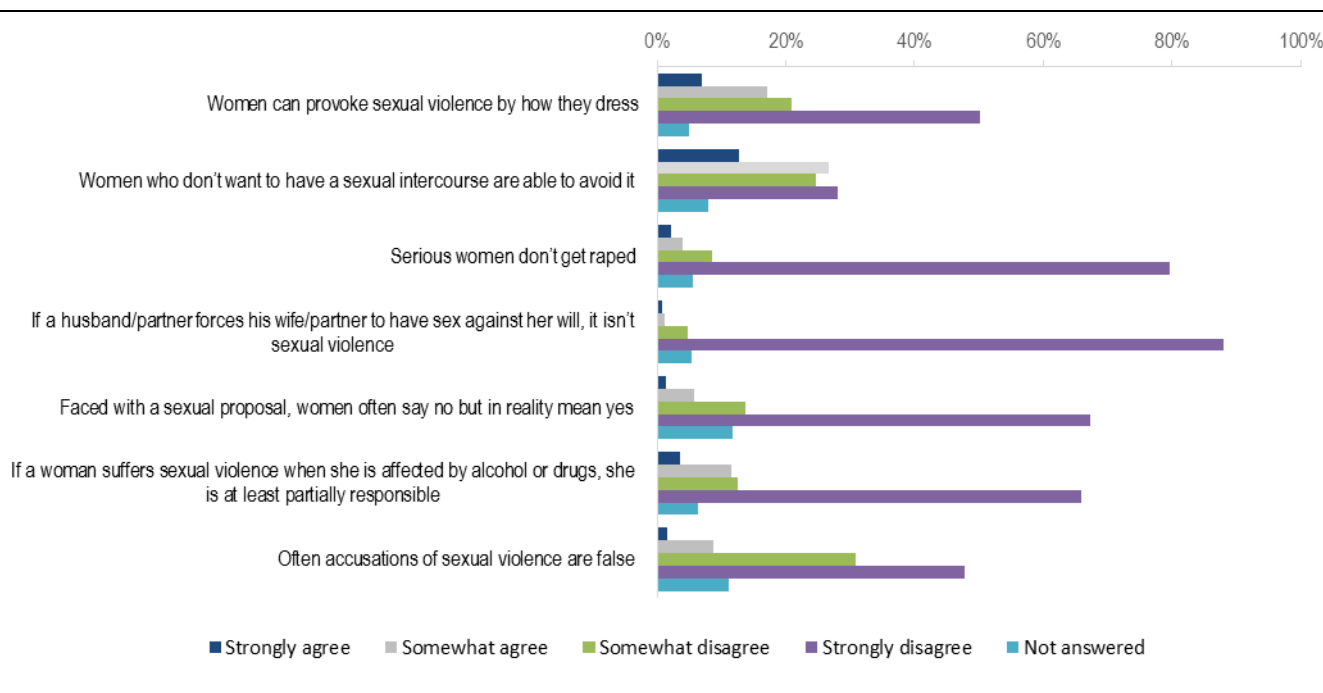
[1] Seven statements were submitted and the level of agreement was asked for each one: women can provoke sexual violence by how they dress; women who do not want to have a sexual intercourse are able to avoid it; serious women don't get raped; if a husband/partner forces his wife/partner to have sex against her will, it isn't sexual violence; faced with a sexual proposition, women often say no but in reality mean yes; if a women suffers sexual violence when she is affected by alcohol or drugs, she is at least partially responsible; often accusations of sexual violence are false.

The most widespread stereotypes are those in which a woman always has some responsibility when she suffers sexual violence.

In Italy 39.3% of the population agrees strongly or somewhat with the statement that 'women who do not want to have a sexual intercourse are able to avoid it'. This idea is more often held by men (41.9% versus 36.7%) and people with a low or moderate education level. Between the two sexes, the differences are sharpest between the youngest age groups, as 41.4% of men aged 18-29 believe that 'women who do not want to have sex are able to avoid it' versus 32.4% of their female age group, and among the more educated (37.9% of male university graduates versus 28.9% of female university graduates).

The idea that clothing can provoke sexual violence finds agreement with 23.9% of the population (6% strongly agree and 17.0% somewhat agree), with similar proportions among men (23.8%) and women (23.9%), but varying significantly by age and education level. Of those aged between 60 and 74 years, 32.4% believe this statement, versus 15.4% of those aged 18-29, as do 39.6% of people with no education credentials or a primary school certificate, versus 10.7% of college graduates.

Of the population, 15.1% believes that if a woman suffers sexual violence when she affected by alcohol or drugs, she is at least partially responsible, a proportion that reaches 19.1% among people aged 60-74, both men and women, and 22.3% of those with lower education. Among women, in particular, the difference is striking: 23.7% of women with no educational credentials or a primary school certificate have this opinion, and 6.3% of women with university degrees do (for men the figures are 19.9% and 9.1%, respectively).

For 10.3% of the population, accusations of sexual violence are often false. This opinion is more common among men (12.7%) than among women (7.9%), in all age groups. Lower percentages are found among women aged 18-29 (5%) and university graduates, with no gender differences (6.3% of both sexes).

Less common is the idea that faced with a sexual proposition 'women often say no but in reality mean yes', supported by 7.2% of the population. Even less frequent is the stereotype according to which serious women don't get raped (6.2% of the population strongly or somewhat agree), although this remains relatively common among people aged 65-74 (9.7%) and people with no education or primary school education (14.9%). Finally, not many people, 1.9%, agree with the statement that 'a husband/partner who forces his wife/partner to have sex against her will does not commit sexual violence'.

The application of multidimensional analyses highlights situations and types of individuals diversified based on the position taken on gender role stereotypes and sexual violence, increasing from slightly or not at all stereotyped positions to somewhat or very stereotyped positions and the type of advice they would offer a woman who suffers violence and the different motives ascribed for violence.

Specifically, there are five clusters revealed from the analyses: two clusters (36.3% of those interviewed) are individuals with the most stereotyped convictions, 2 clusters are individuals less supportive of stereotypes (who make up 62% of the total) and, finally, one cluster characterised by indifference (1.8%).

In the first two clusters are individuals with few or no stereotypes on gender roles and sexual violence, who do not believe that reports of sexual violence are false, do not think that statements are true that ascribe responsibility to the woman for sexual violence suffered, do not believe that men should be privileged in the labour sphere, and do not think that it is acceptable that a man control his partner. The two clusters differ in the advice they would give a woman who suffers violence. The first and largest cluster (50%) would recommend contacting anti-violence centres or in any case professional or specialist persons. The individuals in the first cluster, moreover, are more likely to associate the causes of violence with their cultural roots such as a lack of acceptance of women's empowered identities, needing to reinforce one's superiority as a man, or the woman being treated as property. Among the possible reasons for violence, they also indicate religious reasons. The second cluster, which is 12%, would suggest that a victim report the attack or call the emergency dedicated number 1522.

The first cluster is characterised by a greater preponderance of individuals with an advanced educational credential, who are employed, mostly unmarried and young: more than 50% are under age 44, and 23% are under age 30. Along with the second cluster, with characteristics similar to those of the first, residents of Lombardy, Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Liguria and Sardinia are more frequent. Women are more present in a relatively greater percentage in these two clusters (56.6% in the first and 53.1% in the second), but there is also a significant presence of men.

The fourth cluster, the smallest one (1.8%) contains individuals without a position, as they did not provide opinions on possible reasons for violence, and state they do not know how or do not want to give advice to any violence survivors so as not to intrude. More than 60% of the people in this cluster are male, while the most associated age group is those aged 45-59. The region most closely affiliated with this cluster is Sicily.

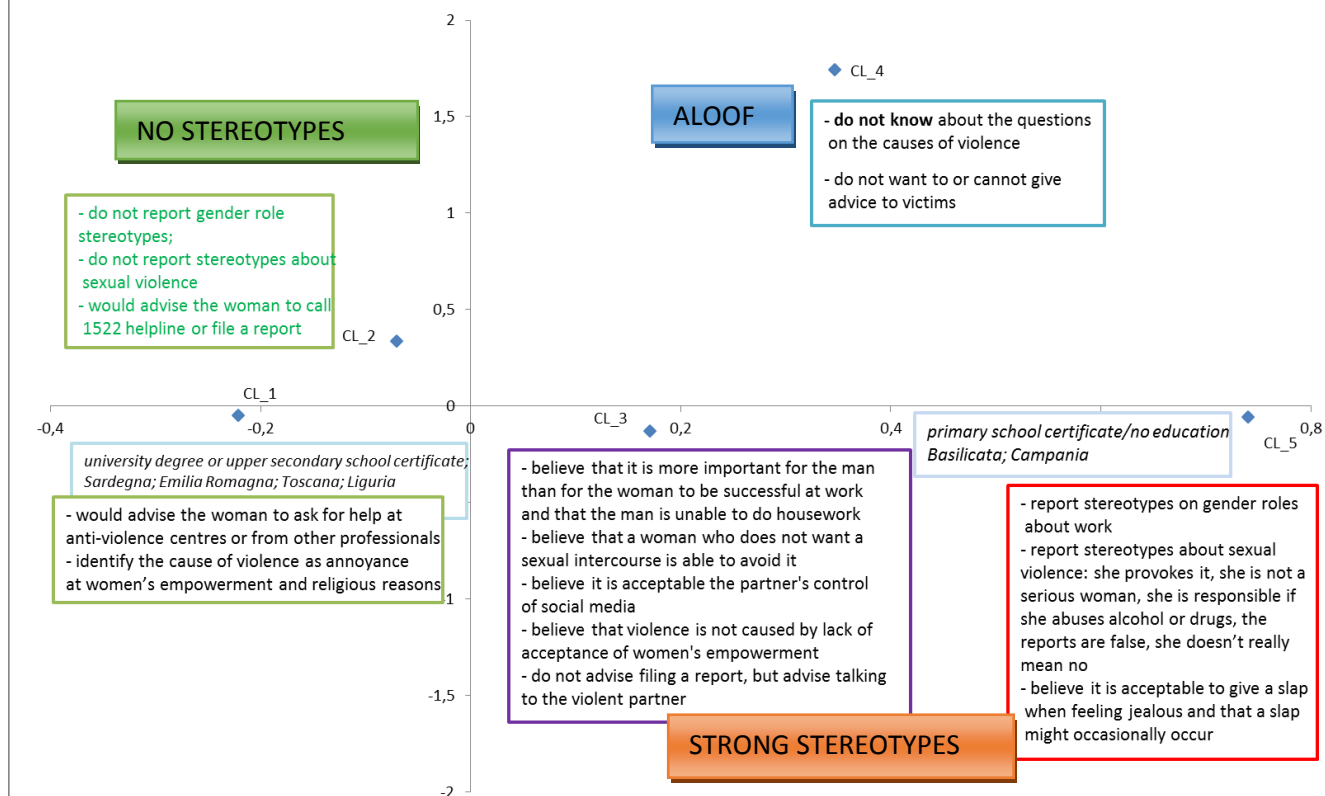The third and fifth clusters are the types of individuals with the most stereotypes.

The fifth group, or 8.5%, features the most extreme positions. Regarding gender roles, they believe that the man should be guaranteed the job if there is a choice between a man and a woman, including because the man must provide for his family's financial needs. They believe the woman is partially responsible for sexual violence she suffers: if she is a victim, it means that she provoked it or is not 'serious' enough, if she is drunk or using drugs she is partially responsible and, in any case, reports of violence are often not true. In addition, if the partner demands sex, it is never sexual violence, and they consider violence acceptable and normal within a couple's relationship.

The third cluster (27.8%) has more nuanced positions than the previous one, although the responses reveal that 'being successful at work is more important for the man', 'the man is less competent at housework', and they consider it acceptable that a man control his partner's activities on social media. This group, furthermore, does not find credible as reasons underlying violence against women any of considering women to be property, or women's empowerment, or the fact that he feels superior to her. If they were to give advice to survivors, they would recommend talking to her partner, but not reporting the event.

In these two final clusters are people with the lowest education levels, who are married and in older age groups (almost 35% are aged between 60 and 74) and male (more than 60% in the fifth group). The cluster with the most stereotypes is more prevalent among the residents of Campania, Sicily, Apulia, Calabria and Basilicata.

A look at the variables on work satisfaction indicates that the cluster of individuals holding more stereotypes is also more characterised by dissatisfaction related to work compensation, career prospects and the climate of professional relationships.

Clusters projections

NO STEREOTYPES

- do not report gender role stereotypes;
- do not report stereotypes about sexual violence
- would advise the woman to call 1522 helpline or file a report

CL_2

CL_1

university degree or upper secondary school certificate; Sardegna; Emilia Romagna; Toscana; Liguria

- would advise the woman to ask for help at anti-violence centres or from other professionals
- identify the cause of violence as annoyance at women's empowerment and religious reasons

ALOOF

CL_4

- **do not know** about the questions on the causes of violence
- do not want to or cannot give advice to victims

CL_3

- believe that it is more important for the man than for the woman to be successful at work and that the man is unable to do housework
- believe that a woman who does not want a sexual intercourse is able to avoid it
- believe it is acceptable the partner's control of social media
- believe that violence is not caused by lack of acceptance of women's empowerment
- do not advise filing a report, but advise talking to the violent partner

primary school certificate/no education Basilicata; Campania

CL_5

- report stereotypes on gender roles about work
- report stereotypes about sexual violence: she provokes it, she is not a serious woman, she is responsible if she abuses alcohol or drugs, the reports are false, she doesn't really mean no
- believe it is acceptable to give a slap when feeling jealous and that a slap might occasionally occur

STRONG STEREOTYPES

-0,4   -0,2   0   0,2   0,4   0,8

2   1,5   1   0,5   0   -1   -1,5   -2

Methodological note

Introduction

The module on gender role stereotypes and the social image of violence was developed by ISTAT as part of a Collaboration Agreement with the National Equal Opportunities Department. The agreement provides for the establishment of an Integrated Information System on violence against women, a multiple-source system that will track data on the phenomenon of violence against women in its various forms and that will allow monitoring of this phenomenon both qualitatively and quantitatively (https://www.istat.it/en/violence-against-women).

Violence against women is rooted in the more general asymmetry of gender, and thus it is important to research the degree to which this asymmetry persists in the society we live in.

The module on gender stereotypes and the social image of violence seeks to be the tool for analysing cultural models and some of the factors influencing attitudes towards violence against women among the adult population. The questions that gather gender role stereotypes and, for the first time, opinions on the acceptability of violence, its permeation and its causes as well as stereotypes about sexual violence were addressed to individuals aged 18 to 74 years in 2018.

Article 11 of the 'Convention on Preventing and Fighting Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence' (the so called 'Istanbul Convention'), ratified by Italy by Law no. 77 of 27 June 2013, commits the States to adopt legislative or other types of measures 'to collect disaggregated relevant statistical data at regular intervals on cases of all forms of violence' falling into the field of application of the Convention, to support research and carry out surveys on the subject. The Convention recognizes the need to fight stereotyped models of gender roles with Article 12 related to the 'necessary measures to promote changes in the social and cultural patterns of behaviours of women and men, with a view to eradicating prejudices, customs, traditions and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority of women or on stereotyped roles for women and men'. Article 14 specifically reinforces the role of stereotypes in the education of new generations with the need to adopt the measures necessary to promote changes in the socio-cultural behaviours of women and men, in order to eliminate prejudices, customs, traditions and any other practice based on the idea of the inferiority of women or on stereotyped models of men's and women's roles.

The questionnaire

The module is broken into 6 areas, stereotypes about gender roles and stereotypes about sexual violence, the perception of the extent of the violence, the causes of intimate partner violence, the acceptability of intimate partner violence and the reactions to violence.

Stereotypes about gender roles

In the questions the respondents are asked to express their degree of agreement with some descriptions of gender roles and with some behaviours regarding family relationships.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not answered
1. When jobs are scarce, employers should give priority to men over women	1	2	3	4	996
2. It's up to the man to provide for the family's financial needs	1	2	3	4	996
3. It's up to the man to take the most important decisions about the family	1	2	3	4	996
4. Men are less suited to do housework	1	2	3	4	996
5. For the man, more than for the woman it is very important to be successful at work	1	2	3	4	996

Sources: Inglehart and Norris Gender Equality Scale (2003); ISTAT, Indagine Stereotipi, rinunce e discriminazioni di genere (Survey on Stereotypes, Gender Discrimination and Renunciations), 2011; VICHEALTH Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, National community attitudes towards violence against women survey, Australia 2014.

Acceptability of violence

The questions relate to the acceptability of violence, and measure personal opinions on tolerance for domestic violence.

Preference was given to questions based on the description of concrete examples taken from the International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS), which ask for the degree of acceptability of behaviours, as compared to questions asking for agreement on possible definitions of domestic violence.

	Always acceptable	Acceptable under certain circumstances	Never acceptable	Not answered
1. A young man slaps his girlfriend because she flirted with another man. Do you believe that the man's behaviour is:	1	2	3	996
2. In a couple's relationship, it is normal that a slap might occasionally occur. Do you think that this is:	1	2	3	996
3. A man habitually control his wife's/partner's mobile phone and activities on social media (*Facebook, chats, etc.*). Do you believe that the man's behaviour is:	1	2	3	996

Sources: International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS), 2001; Rete Antiviolenza (Anti-violence Network), Progetto Urban 2000 (URBAN Project), 2000; ISTAT, Indagine sulla sicurezza delle donne (Survey on women's safety), 2014

Perceived prevalence

Research performed on attitudes towards different types of phenomena reveal that there is a relationship between an individual's understanding of the phenomenon and the formation of that person's attitudes about it. A better understanding of the phenomenon also means greater awareness of it and thus is one of the factors that may influence responses to violence both individually and collectively.

3. In general, how common do you think the violence (physical and/or sexual) that women suffer from their partners/husbands is in Italy?
Very common (1)
Fairly common (2)
Not very common (3)
Not at all common (4)
Does not know (997)
Not answered (996)

Source: EUROSTAT, Irish violence survey 2003, 2018.

The causes of domestic violence

This part of the module enquires into the extent of stereotypes on the possible justifications for men committing violence against their female partners. In particular, it dwelt on the attitudes that ascribe violence respectively to individual factors related to those perpetrating the violence, the responsibility of the victim and more generally on the occurrence of certain special situations.

4. Some men are violent with their partners/wives. In your opinion, why is this?				
	Yes	**No**	**Does not know**	**Not answered**
1. Because they have difficulty managing anger	1	2	996	997
2. Because they consider women to be property, as something they own	1	2	996	997
3. Because as children they had (seen or suffered) negative experiences of family violence	1	2	996	997
4. For religious reasons	1	2	996	997
5. Because they do not stand women's empowerment	1	2	996	997
6. Because they abuse drugs or alcohol	1	2	996	997
7. Due to a need to feel superior to their partners/wives	1	2	996	997

Sources: International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS), 2001;   VICHEALTH Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, National community attitudes towards violence against women survey, Australia 2014;   Rosa Shocking (Shocking Pink), conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs for WeWorld Intevita, 2014;   Rete Antiviolenza (Anti-violence Network), Progetto Urban 2000 (2000 URBAN Project), 2000.

Reactions to violence

The question serves to monitor, on the one hand, the citizens' familiarity with some services and, on the other hand, seeks to gather attitudes towards the victims of violence and the awareness of the complexity of the pathway out of violence.

5. If you knew a woman who suffered violence by her husband/partner, what would you advise her to do? *(multiple responses permitted)*		
1. I would direct her to anti-violence centres/other telephone services to help women	**Yes**	**No**
2. I would tell her to call 1522 (a)	1	0
3. I would direct her to other services or professionals (counselling public services, lawyer, psychologist, doctor, etc.)	1	0
4. I would tell her to file a report (Police/Carabinieri)	1	0
5. I would advise her to try talking with her husband/partner	1	0
9. I would advise her to leave her husband/partner	1	0
6. I would not know what to do/advise	1	0
7. I would not offer advice because I don't want to interfere in family issues	1	0
8. Not answered	1	0

(a)   1522 is the Italian national helpline dedicated to violence and stalking.

Stereotypes about sexual violence

This question investigate the extent of stereotyped opinions on the possible justifications for sexual violence that place responsibility on the victim and on the occurrence of certain special situations.

6. For each of the following statements, please tell me if you 'strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree'	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not answered
1. Women can provoke sexual violence by how they dress	1	2	3	4	996
2. Women who don't want to have a sexual intercourse are able to avoid it	1	2	3	4	996
3. Serious women don't get raped	1	2	3	4	996
4. If a husband/partner forces his wife/partner to have sex against her will, it isn't sexual violence	1	2	3	4	996
5. Faced with a sexual proposal, women often say no but in reality mean yes	1	2	3	4	996
6. If a woman suffers sexual violence when she is affected by alcohol or drugs, she is at least partially responsible	1	2	3	4	996
7. Often accusations of sexual violence are false	1	2	3	4	996

Sources: EUROSTAT, Irish violence survey 2003, 2018; Rete Antiviolenza (Anti-violence Network), Progetto Urban 2000 (URBAN Project 2000), 2000; VICHEALTH Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, National community attitudes towards violence against women survey, Australia 2014; Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonian population's attitudes and awareness of gender-based violence and human trafficking 2014/2016, 2016.

Sampling strategy and degree of precision of the results

Sample design

The sampling of the 2018 survey on stereotypes was established as a sub-sample of the sample of those responding to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) during the June - November 2018 period.

The LFS survey is a continuous survey[2] and is the main source on the labour market and is currently the ISTAT sampling survey with the largest sample (about 150,000 individuals selected every three months, corresponding to about 65,000 households).

The LFS is a survey on a quarterly basis. The sample for each quarter consists of groups of households belonging to various survey waves. The sample households are interviewed on four occasions and fall into the quarterly sample following the 2Q-2Q-2Q rotation scheme: they take part in the survey in two consecutive quarters, then are not surveyed during the following two quarters, and finally are again part of the sample in the two quarters after that and then they are not interviewed anymore.

The sample for each wave is drawn from a two-stage design (municipalities and households) with stratification of the first-stage units based on the population size. The minimum domain planned for the LFS estimates is the province, and in each province the municipalities are stratified based on the resident population: the biggest municipalities are called self-representative (SR) and the others are non self-representative (NSR). This distinction is based on a threshold that considers the fraction of the provincial sample, the minimum number of interviews to be held in the municipalities and the average household size. The SR municipalities are those that have a demographic size larger than the threshold; each of the SR municipalities is a single stratum and is therefore included with certainty in the sample. In the SR strata, then, there is only one phase of selection: the one related to the households that are selected with equal probabilities. The NSR strata, however, are composed by several municipalities, and from these is selected a municipality with a probability proportional to its demographic size. In the NSR strata, then, there are two selection stages: one related to the municipality and one related to the households that, again in this case, are selected with equal probabilities. Once an household is selected, all their members are included in the sample.

For the sake of the timeliness of the information, ISTAT has also been producing monthly estimates since 2009. The monthly LFS sample is, of course, smaller (about one-third the quarterly sample). Nevertheless, to ensure the sample's geographical representativeness, at least at national level, it has been provided a plan to rotate the sample by the time, during the same quarter.

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[2] For further information, see the methodological note for the Labour Force Survey
https://www.istat.it/microdata/download.php?id=/import/fs/pub/wwwarmida/2/2018/4/Nota.pdf.

In general, the first interview is done with the CAPI technique, and the remaining three use the CATI technique.

The sample for the stereotypes survey (2018) was established by selecting one individual for each household interviewed in the LFS survey in the fourth wave, considering only the families interviewed with the CATI technique.

The sample of the stereotypes module is representative of individuals living in Italy aged from 18 to 74 during the June - November 2019 period.

The table below shows the numbers of households in the monthly and quarterly samples of the LFS survey and the corresponding number of individuals (one per household) that responded to in the module on stereotypes.

TABLE 1. SAMPLING NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS FOR THE LFS SURVEY AND OF RESPONDENTS TO THE MONTHLY MODULE ON STEREOTYPES.

Quarter	Month	LFS household sample	Stereotypes sample
2	June	19,730	2,516
3	July		
3	August	64,067	7,222
3	September		
4	October	20,117	2,431
4	November	24,824	2,865
	Total	**128,738**	**15,034**

The total respondents to the module on stereotypes was 15,034, distributed regionally as follows:

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS TO THE MODULE ON STEREOTYPES BY REGION

Region	Actual sample
Piedmont	1162
Aosta Valley	578
Lombardy	2006
Bolzano	335
Trento	396
Veneto	771
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	539
Liguria	510
Emilia-Romagna	1195
Tuscany	957
Umbria	364
Marche	420
Lazio	1206
Abruzzo	302
Molise	185
Campania	1061
Apulia	702
Basilicata	459
Calabria	337
Sicily	1087
Sardinia	462
Total	**15,034**

Calculation of the carry-over coefficients of the universe

The sampling weight to be assigned to the respondents to obtain estimates referring to the reference population was determined in two steps. In the first step, the direct weights of the stereotypes survey were calculated starting from the direct weights of the LFS survey ($d_{k,FOL}$), applying the correction factors that take into account the selection process:

$$d_k = d_{k,FOL} * \frac{(nfam_m - nfam_{m,ineleg})}{nfam_{m,risp\,STER}} * w_{m,STER} * ncomp_{eleg}$$,

where:

- $nfam_m$ is the number of sample households in the month m for the LFS survey;

- $nfam_{m,ineleg}$ is the number of sample households in the month m ineligible for the LFS survey, meaning those without members of ages 18 to 74;

- $nfam_{m,risp\,STER}$ is the number of sample households in the month m for the FOL survey responding to the Stereotypes module as well;

- $w_{m,STER}$ is the number of households responding to the Stereotypes module in the month m, out of the total LFS respondents;

- $ncomp_{eleg}$ number of members of an age from 18 to 74 in the household.

In the second step, the weights d_k were corrected so that the final weights respected the known totals related to the average Italian population during the June - November 2018 period. This correction was obtained by means of a calibration that considered the following constraints:

In terms of breakdown:

- Perceived employment condition (3 kinds: employed, unemployed, inactive).
- Education level (4 kinds: no education or a primary school certificate, lower secondary school certificate, upper secondary school diploma, university degree).
- Sex (2 kinds: Male, Female) per age group (6 groups: 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70-74).

In terms of region:

- Sex (2 kinds: Male, Female) per age group (4 groups: 18-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60-74).

The distance function used for calibration is the truncated logarithmic. All the constraints (895) were satisfied.

For the calibration, the estimate and the calculation of the sampling errors, we used the software installed at ISTAT, ReGenesees[3].

The sampling errors for the assessment of the precision of the estimates

To permit an assessment of the precision of the estimates produced by the survey, the absolute and relative sampling error was calculated for each of them.

Indicating with $\mathrm{V\hat{a}r}(\hat{Y}_d)$ the estimate of the variance of the generic estimate of the total of a variable *y* referring to a generic domain *d,* $\hat{Y}_d$, the estimate of the absolute sampling error of $\hat{Y}_d$ can be obtained by means of the following expression:

$$\hat{\sigma}(\hat{Y}_d) = \sqrt{\mathrm{V\hat{a}r}(\hat{Y}_d)}.$$

The estimate of the relative sample error of $\varepsilon(\hat{Y}_d)$ is, rather, established by the expression.

$$\hat{\varepsilon}(\hat{Y}_d) = \frac{\hat{\sigma}(\hat{Y}_d)}{\hat{Y}_d}.$$

[3] Zardetto D. 2015. ReGenesees: an Advanced R System for Calibration, Estimation and Sampling Error Assessment in Complex Sample Surveys (extended version). *Journal of Official Statistics*, 31(2):177-203.

Nevertheless, it is not possible to publish all the sampling errors for the estimates provided because the tables would not be easy for the end user to read.

In any case, in order to permit an assessment of the sampling variability of all the estimates of interest, we used a concise presentation of the related errors based on regressive models; that is, founded on the establishment of a mathematical function that places each estimate in relation to its own sampling error.

The approach used to construct the models is different depending on whether the variable being estimated is qualitative or quantitative. Indeed, for estimates of absolute (or relative) frequency referring to the styles of qualitative variables, it is possible to use models that have a theoretical foundation, according to which the relative errors of the estimates of absolute frequencies are a decreasing function of the values of those estimates.

Since the estimates of the stereotypes survey are mostly frequencies, the mathematical function that best approximates the relationship between the estimate and its sampling error is:

$$\ln\left[\varepsilon\left(\hat{Y}_d\right)^2\right] = a + b \ln\left(\hat{Y}_d\right)$$
. (1)

The model's parameters, estimated by means of the least squares method for each geographical domain estimate, are provided in the following table.

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED PARAMETERS OF THE CONCISE PRESENTATION MODEL OF SAMPLING ERRORS BY GEOGRAPHICAL ESTIMATE DOMAINS AND RELATIVE CONVERSION FACTORS (R2).

Domain	a	b	r^2
Italy	10,584	-1,164	0.94
North-West	10,331	-1,168	0.92
North-East	9,742	-1,124	0.91
Centre	9,178	-1,094	0.93
South	10,239	-1,148	0.94
Italian islands	10,285	-1,177	0.91

$$\varepsilon\left(\hat{Y}_d\right) = \sqrt{\exp\left[a + b \ln\left(\hat{Y}_d\right)\right]}.$$
(2)

Table 5 makes it easier to evaluate the percentage relative sampling error ($\varepsilon\left(\hat{Y}_d\right) \times 100$). For example, an estimate of 200,000 for the Centre domain has a percentage relative error of 12.40, obtained by replacing the appropriate values in the expression (2):

$$\sqrt{\exp\left[9.178 - 1.094 \ \ln(200000)\right]} = 0.12396 \approx 0.1240 = 12.40\%.$$

Indeed, the first column of the table indicates the increasing estimate values (20,000, 30,000, ..., 20,000,000) and the following columns indicate the percentage relative sampling errors for each territorial domain of interest, calculated using the expression (2) corresponding to the estimates in the first column.

TABLE 4. PERCENTAGE RELATIVE SAMPLING ERRORS ($\varepsilon(\hat{Y}_d) \times 100$) FOR ESTIMATES AND DOMAIN ESTIMATES.

Estimates	Italy	North-West	North-East	Centre	South	Italian islands
20.000	62.39	53.89	49.92	43.68	56.83	50.37
30.000	49.27	42.53	39.75	34.99	45.03	39.68
40.000	41.68	35.95	33.81	29.90	38.18	33.50
50.000	36.60	31.56	29.83	26.46	33.59	29.38
60.000	32.92	28.37	26.92	23.95	30.25	26.39
70.000	30.09	25.93	24.69	22.01	27.69	24.10
80.000	27.84	23.99	22.90	20.46	25.64	22.28
90.000	26.00	22.39	21.44	19.19	23.97	20.79
100.000	24.45	21.05	20.20	18.11	22.56	19.54
200.000	16.33	14.05	13.69	12.40	15.16	12.99
300.000	12.90	11.08	10.90	9.93	12.01	10.23
400.000	10.91	9.37	9.27	8.48	10.18	8.64
500.000	9.58	8.23	8.18	7.51	8.96	7.58
750.000	7.57	6.49	6.51	6.02	7.10	5.97
1,000,000	6.40	5.49	5.54	5.14	6.02	5.04
2,000,000	4.28	3.66	3.75	3.52	4.04	3.35
3,000,000	3.38	2.89	2.99	2.82	3.20	2.64
4,000,000	2.86	2.44	2.54	2.41	2.72	2.23
5,000,000	2.51	2.14	2.24	2.13	2.39	1.95
7,500,000	1.98	1.69	1.79	1.71	1.89	-
10,000,000	1.68	1.43	-	-	1.60	-
15,000,000	1.32	-	-	-	-	-
20,000,000	1.12	-	-	-	-	-

Information on data privacy

The data collected on the survey on gender role stereotypes and the social image of violence are protected by statistical confidentiality and subject to the laws on the protection of personal data. These can be used, including for further processing, only for statistical purposes by the bodies in the National Statistical System and can, likewise, be communicated for purposes of scientific research under the conditions and according to the methods provided for by Article 7 of the Code of Professional Ethics on the processing of personal data implemented in the National Statistical System and by E.C. Regulation no. 831/2002. The estimates, issued in aggregate form, are such that they may not be traced back to the subjects that provided the data, or to whom they refer.

Coverage and geographical detail

Estimates are available:

- For the entire national territory

- For the five geographical areas (North-West, North-East, Centre, South and Islands)

- For the geographical regions

Dissemination

Data and analysis on violence against women are available at

https://www.istat.it/en/violence-against-women

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