

HOMICIDE VICTIMS | YEAR 2018

In 2018 homicides continued to decrease, except those with female victims

→ In 2018, there were 345 homicides in Italy (357 in the previous year) with 212 male victims (22 less than in 2017) and 133 female victims (10 more). The number of murdered men was therefore greater, but declining, while the share of murdered women rose from 11% in 1990 to 38.6% in 2018.

Home proved to be the most dangerous place for women, as they were killed mostly by their partners or former partners (54.9%) and by other family members (24.8%); for men, it was the public space: 37.7% of men was murdered by unknown persons, while 33% was killed by unidentified persons.

0.57 per 100,000

Homicide rate in Italy in 2018

In 2017, it was 0.59 compared to the average European rate of 1.03; Italy was only second to Luxembourg.

5.5%

The share of mafia-related homicides (19 victims) decreased over the past 20 years

23.1%

Percentage of foreign women murdered

Total foreign victims were 21.1%.

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This report analyses data on intentional homicides (attempted homicides are not included) registered by the police forces, with a special focus on the characteristics of the victims. Data come from the databases of the Ministry of Interior: the Investigation System (SDI) and the homicide database of the Central Directorate of the Criminal Police (DCPC), existing since 2002.

This latter provides information crucial for the policy makers, as it allows to know the relation between the victim and the murderer, thus identifying the different causes of killings of men and women.

Victims are analyzed by sex, age, citizenship, and victim-offender relationship. Mafia-related murders are described in terms of trend over time and incidence on total homicides. Differences between geographical areas are also highlighted.

Since the number of homicides in Italy has reached very low levels (Figure 1 in the Annex), in order to contain occasional fluctuations in the analysis, indicators in some chapters are computed as multi-annual average rate. Some data are compared on a three-year basis: 2010-2012, 2013-2015, 2016-2018; some other analyses focus on the 2014-2018 five-year period, or on annual changes (2017-2018).



VICTIMS OF HOMICIDES BY TYPE OF HOMICIDE AND SEX

Year 2018, absolute values, percentages, rates and percentage changes 2017-2018

	TOTAL HOMICIDES				ORGANIZED CRIME HOMICIDES(a)	
	absolute values	%	rates per 100,000 inhabitants	percentage changes 2018/2017	absolute values	percentage changes 2018/2017
Men	212	61.4	0.72	-9.4%	23	-45.2%
Women	133	38.6	0.43	+8.1%	2	-33.3%
Total	345	100	0.57	-3.4%	25	-44.4%

Source: Ministry of Interior

(a) Data refer to homicides by all type of organized crime groups, including mafia organizations.

Victims decreased, but only among men

In the last years, mortality from intentional homicides, has declined, mostly among men, especially mafia-related homicides.

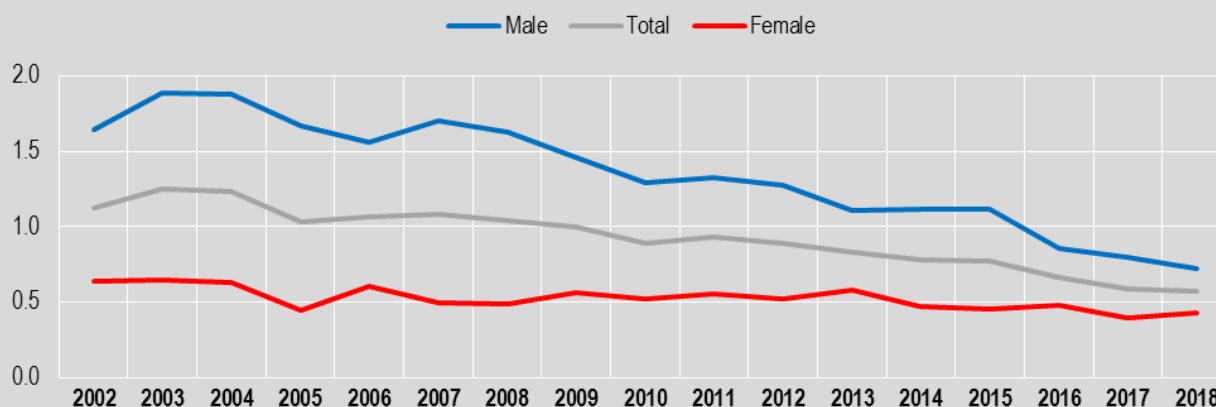
In the early 1990s, there were 5 male victims of homicide¹ for one killed woman. In 2018, there were 212 murders of men and 133 of women (corresponding respectively to a rate of 0.72 and 0.43 murders per 100,000 people of the same sex). Men, therefore, continued to be murdered more than women, but the ratio dropped to 1.6.

In the 2016-2018 period mortality rates due to homicide were always higher for men than for women regardless of age, with the exception of children and elderly people who showed the same rates for both sexes. Men aged 25-34 years were at the highest risk of homicide (1.20 homicides per 100,000 men in the same age group), and the risk was slightly lower for the close age groups (1.17 homicides among men aged 35-44 and 1.19 in the 45-54 age group), progressively decreasing as age increased.

For women, the rate was highest among the over 64 year-olds (0.55 per 100,000 women), followed by women aged 45-54 (0.45)

The perpetrators of intentional homicides were men in most cases: in the 2016-2018 period men committed 93.0% of all intentional homicides (Table 4 in the Annex).

FIGURE 1. HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY SEX. Years 2002-2018, rate per 100,000 inhabitants of the same sex



Source: Ministry of Interior

More than one in five victims was a foreign national

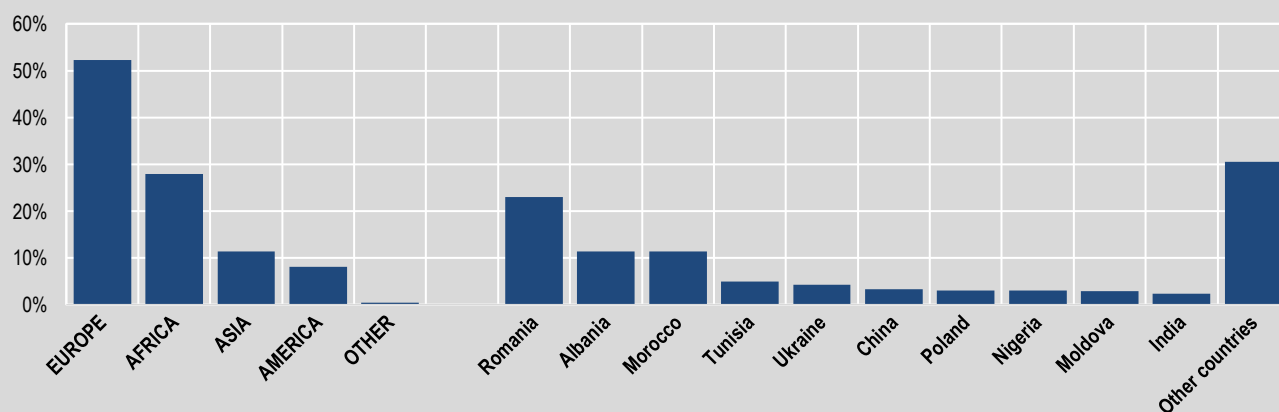
In the 2016-2018 period, foreigners made up 21.1% of all victims of homicides, 20.2% of murdered men and 23.1% of murdered women.

Calculating the rates of victims per inhabitant as a ratio to the total resident population has to be considered carefully: we would obtain 1.52 homicide per 100,000 foreign residents, disaggregated into 2.01 among men and 1.07 among women, and a risk of falling victims for foreign nationals two and a half times higher than for Italian nationals. This should be taken into account, even though in reality it is objectively difficult to determine the exact size of the foreign population living on the national territory, especially the unauthorized component (those who have entered illegally, and those who may have entered regularly, but whose residence permit is no longer valid). One should moreover include citizens from the Eu Member States, who do not need any residence permit or visa to stay up to three months in Italy.

Extending the analysis to the five-year period 2014-2018, data appear more stable. Foreign victims of homicide were mainly Europeans (52.2%) and Africans (27.9%). Citizens from Romania accounted for the biggest share (22.9% of a total of 423 foreign victims in the 2014-2018 period), followed by those from Albania and Morocco (11.3% in both cases).

FIGURE 2. FOREIGN VICTIMS BY REGION AND COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP.

Years 2014-2018, percentages



Source: Ministry of Interior

Mafia homicides in a strong decline since 1990

Mafia-relatedⁱⁱ homicides accounted for a significant share of total homicides, especially in the past, but still not negligible. They include homicides involving victims outside the criminal world (targets of the mafia, members of the police forces or the judiciary, people killed by mistake, etc.), and those affecting victims of blood feuds to control the territory or otherⁱⁱⁱ.

Mafia-type criminal organizations already existed before the Italian unification and along with them, the use of murder as an extreme form of oppression and intimidation. The distinction between organized criminal groups (simple criminal conspiracy, under the Italian criminal law) and mafia organizations was, however, introduced only in 1982^{iv}.

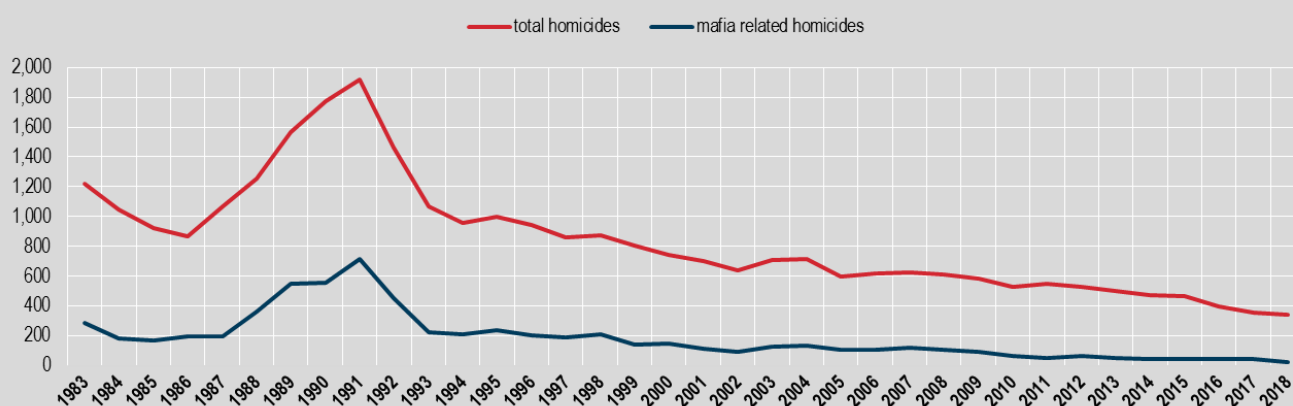
Between 1983 and 2018, 6,681 murders were recorded that could be attributed to mafia organizations. Almost all of them, exactly 95.6%, were committed in Campania, Sicilia, Calabria and Puglia, the historical cradles of Camorra, Cosa nostra, 'Ndrangheta and Sacra corona unita, respectively. The most bloody period was definitively the five-year period around 1990, when mafia-related homicides rose to one third of the about 8,000 homicides committed between 1988 and 1992.

Among victims there were private citizens, officials from public authorities and a spike in killings due to conflicts between rival clans. In those years, homicides committed by mafia organizations outside their regions of origin became statistically relevant, while they were almost absent in other periods. In particular, several killings were recorded to control illicit drug market in Milano, Torino and, in Lazio, in Roma and Latina.

In the following years, mafia-related homicides dropped progressively, but faster compared to total intentional homicides, which also recorded a sharp decrease. Thus, in the five-year period 2013-2017 mafia-related homicides accounted for a smaller share (9.1%) of total victims of homicide than in the past (Table 3 in the Annex). In 2018, in Italy mafia organizations committed 19 intentional homicides, about 1 for every 18 intentional homicides in total.

FIGURE 3. TOTAL HOMICIDES AND MAFIA-RELATED HOMICIDES.

Years 1983-2018, absolute values



Sources: Istat; Ministry of Interior

Declining trend in homicides stronger in the South and Islands area

Since the early 90s the homicide rate in Italy has been gradually decreasing, after an initial sharp drop. In 2018, the national rate was 0.57 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, 0.83 in the South and Islands and 0.43 in the Centre and North. The significant drop reported in some southern regions contributed to reduce the historical gap between the South and Islands, historically characterized by higher incidence of mafia-related killings, and the rest of the country.

The trend in the geographical areas can be analyzed using average rates in the three-year periods 2010-2012, 2013-2015 and 2016-2018. In this latter period (Table 1 in the Annex) the average national rate was 0.61 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, with the highest incidence in Southern regions (0.96), followed by the Islands (0.75 per 100,000 inhabitants).

In the period 2016-2018, the male homicide rate was highest in the South and Islands^v (1.50 homicides per 100,000 males in the South and 1.13 in the Islands) while in all other geographical areas the rates were below the national average (0.79 for male victims). The rate was 0.54 homicides per 100,000 men in the Centre, 0.49 in north-western regions, falling to 0.41 in north-eastern regions.

The general trend shows declining rates over the considered period. For the North-east, which had the lowest male homicide rate compared to all other areas, the average rate for the years 2016-2018 was lower than the previous three years (-9.9%), but its decline was lower than in the rest of the country (on average -29.4%, between the 2013-15 and 2016-18 periods, with a peak of -40.4% in the Centre).

The female homicide rate appeared to be similar in all geographical areas; in the three-year period 2016-2018, it ranged from the highest value in the North-west (0.46 per 100,000 women) to the lowest in the Centre (0.39 per 100,000 women).

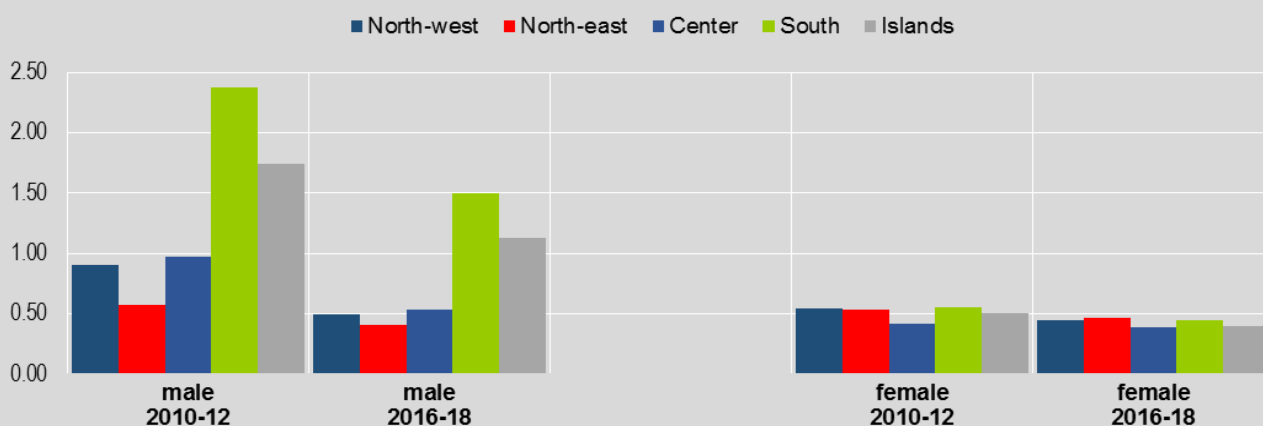
Between 2013-2015 and 2016-2018, the homicide rate of women also fell almost everywhere, but to a lesser extent than that of men, with one exception: in the North-east the homicide rate increased between the reference periods (+23.5%). The other geographical areas over the same period showed an overall 20.5% decrease.

The regions with the highest total homicide rates were Calabria, Campania, Puglia, Sicilia and Sardegna.

The number of homicides showed a downward trend over time, with a few exceptions when the rate remained substantially stable (Table 2 in the Annex). Calabria, while constantly in the first place in the ranking, recorded a sharp fall in homicides, which reduced the gap with all other regions: from 5.23 homicides per 100,000 men in the three-year period 2010-2012 to 1.95 in 2016-2018 (equal to -62.8% against a national average of -39.0%).

FIGURE 4. HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY SEX AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA.

Years 2010-2012 and 2016-2018, rates per 100,000 inhabitants with the same characteristics.



Source: Ministry of Interior

The highest homicide rate of women was found in the autonomous province of Bolzano, which had fluctuating trend over the considered period, mostly due to its limited demographic size, in that small changes in the number of homicides resulted in significant changes in the rate. It is also worth noting the negative course of Sardegna, which in the period 2010-2012 was among the regions with fewer homicides and now occupied the second position in the regional ranking.

In cities homicides less frequent than other crimes

For a more detailed geographical analysis, the 106^{iv} provincial capitals and the 106 areas outside the capital cities (the rest of the province), were considered separately. For each of the 212 total geographical aggregates the homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants was calculated for the three-year period 2014-2018 (latest available data). In the map (Figure 1 in the Annex) the 212 aggregates were classified according to quintiles^{vii}.

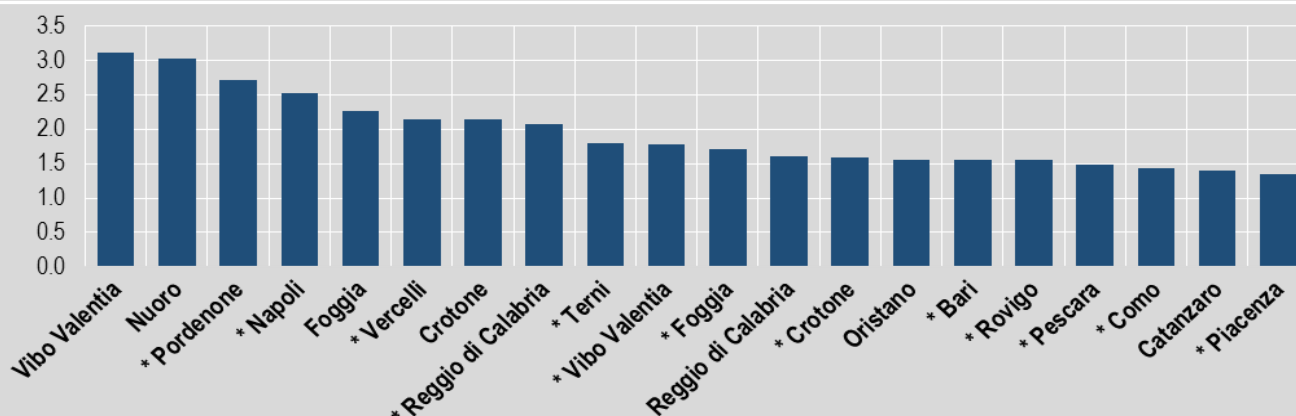
Overall, the provincial capital municipalities had a higher homicide rate than non-capital municipalities (0.81 murders per 100,000 inhabitants compared to 0.62). Moreover, in about a quarter of the Italian provinces (25.5%) the incidence of homicides in capital municipalities was more than double that of the other municipalities in the rest of the province.

Many regions, however, presented the opposite situation: in 49 provinces out of 106^v (46.2% of the total) the highest homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants was found in the "rest of the province". The 49 provinces in which the homicide rate of "other municipalities" exceeded that of the capital cities were distributed throughout the national territory (9 in the North-west and as many in the North-east, 7 in the Centre, 13 in the South and 11 out of 13 in the Islands).

Comparing homicide data with those of other crimes, it emerged that some crimes were more widespread in metropolitan areas, such as pickpockets, bag-snatching, shoplifting and robberies. Other kind of crimes were committed more often in non-capital municipalities, such as domestic burglaries (41.5% of total cases), crimes against the person, such as battery(25.5%), culpable injuries (16.0%), as well as violation of drug laws (13.2%).

FIGURE 5. FIRST 20 AREAS (a) WITH THE HIGHEST HOMICIDE RATES IN ITALY.

Annual average rate 2014-2018, per 100,000 inhabitants



Source: Ministry of Interior

(a) Provincial capital cities are marked with a star. Other names refer to the aggregation of all municipalities in the province excluding the provincial capital city.

Eight out of ten women murdered knew their killer

The relationship between the killer and the victim makes it possible to better understand the differences between male and female homicides. They are, in fact, two structurally different phenomena: women are killed in private contexts by partners and family members, men by strangers in public spaces.

More than 80% of the 133 women killed in 2018 were victims of a known person. In particular, 54.9% of them were killed by the current or previous partner, an increase since last year (Table 5 in the Annex).

Women killed by their current partner were 63 (47.4%) and those murdered by ex-partner were 10 (7.5%); 33 women (24.8%) were murdered by a relative. Only in 12.5% of cases the perpetrator was unknown to the victim and in 6.8% of cases the killer was not identified. Even in previous years, despite annual fluctuations, the situation was not particularly different^{vi}.

In 2018 husbands and ex-husbands committed 71.2% of all homicides among partners, with an increase compared to 2017 (when the lowest share was registered, 51.9%). In the previous years, however, murders by spouses and former spouses accounted for 63.2% in 2013, 66.7% in 2014, 77.1% in 2015 and for 69.3% in 2016.

Because of their link with the family sphere, killings of women were not affected by the policies addressing security and organised crime, which instead favoured a sharp reduction in the number of men homicides, 37.7% of which were carried out by an unknown person (80 men) and 33% by an identified perpetrator (70)

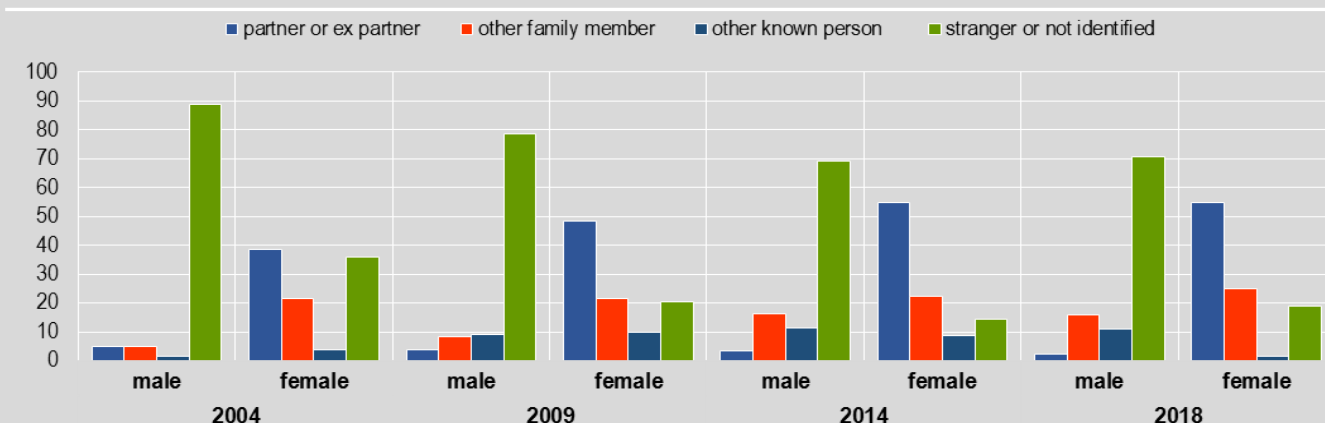
By contrast, the share of men killed by acquaintances was 29.2%, an increase compared to 2017 (24.8%) due to killings by relatives. In particular, 2.4% of men in 2018 were killed by a current partner (5 men), 16% by a relative (34 men), 10.8% by an acquaintance (23 men). No man was killed by former partners.

Similar results are shown in the Global Study on Homicide Report, compiled by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Unodc). Based on data from the 2016 Crime Trend Survey, women are murdered mainly by intimate partners or other family members.

Worldwide, women accounted for 20% of total homicide victims, but when considering the relationship with their killer, women accounted for 64% of family murders and 82% of homicides by intimate partners. The rate of women killed by a partner or other family members was 1.3 per 100,000 women, with strong differences across continents: Africa registered the highest rate (3.1), followed by the Americas (1.6) and Europe with the lowest rate (0.7). In Italy in the same year it was 0.35. Despite slight fluctuations, these data remain stable over time and confirm the structural difference between homicides of men and women.

FIGURE 6. HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP AND SEX

Years 2004, 2009, 2014, 2018 (a), percentage.



Source: Ministry of Interior, DCPC dedicated database of intentional homicides of the criminal police
 (a) Data on the victim-offender relationship are extracted from the homicides database of the Ministry of Interior (DCPC). Data are used for operational purposes and therefore may change in following extractions.

In the North more women killed by their partners

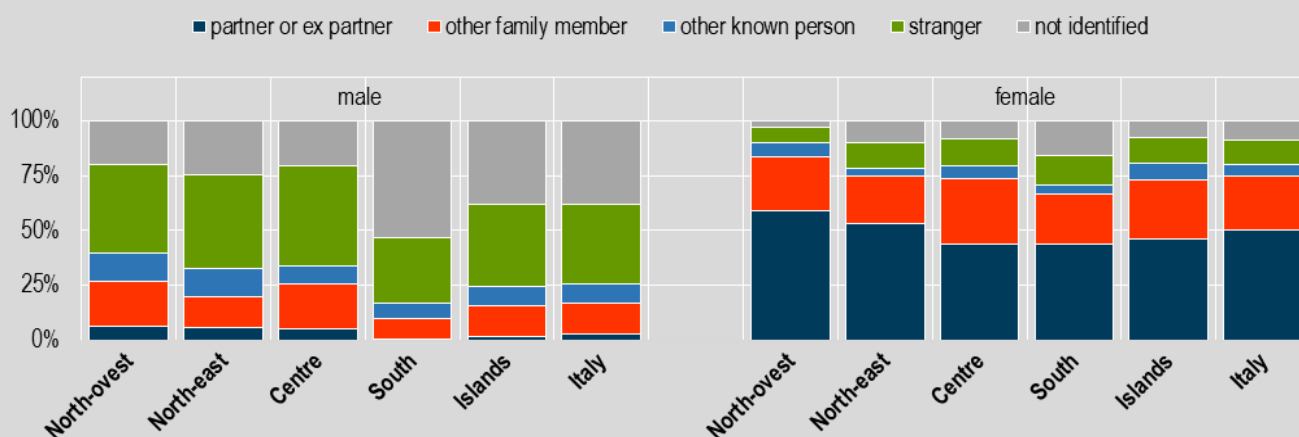
The South and Islands area recorded the highest rate of homicides by unknown and unidentified perpetrators (Table 6 in the Annex). In the three-year period 2016-2018, Campania, Puglia and Calabria (with 1.01, 0.90 and 0.73 per 100,000 male population, respectively) registered the highest rates of homicides committed by unidentified perpetrators. Calabria also showed a high rate of men killed by strangers (0.87), followed by Puglia (0.51), Basilicata (0.48), Sardegna (0.45) and Sicilia (0.41).

However, compared to the three-year period 2013-2015, the average male homicides committed by unidentified persons in 2016-2018 showed a sharp decrease in Calabria (from 1.90 to 0.73 per 100,000 men) and Sardegna (from 1.19 to 0.40).

Women run the greatest risk of falling victim to homicide perpetrated by an intimate partner or former partner in Northern-west and Northern-east Italy (in both areas the rate is 0.25 per 100,000 women) while the lowest risk is in Central Italy (0.17). Over the considered three-year period (2016-2018), the rate of killings by partners was almost double in Bolzano (0.50) and in Friuli-Venezia Giulia (0.43) compared to the rate in the North-east.

The homicide rate was also high in Liguria (0.41) and above the national average in Toscana, Piemonte and Sardegna. In recent years, it decreased in Umbria and Emilia Romagna. Female homicide rates decreased compared to the previous three years (2013-2015) in some regions, with the exception of Valle d'Aosta, Liguria, autonomous province of Bolzano, Veneto and Sardegna, where homicides by partners or family members recorded an increase.

FIGURE 7. HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP, SEX AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA.
Years 2016-2018, percentage.



Source: Ministry of Interior, DCPC dedicated database of intentional homicides of the criminal police

Young boys and girls and the elderly are the most frequent victims of family homicides

In 2018 the most frequent victims of family homicides were young people of both sexes aged 18-24 (1.10 per 100,000 males and 0.65 per 100,000 females), while in 2017 the highest rate was observed in the 45-54 age group. The homicide rates were still high among men aged 35-44 years (1.09) and those aged 25-34 (0.98), whereas among women the risk was higher for those aged 65 and over (0.61 per 100,000 women).

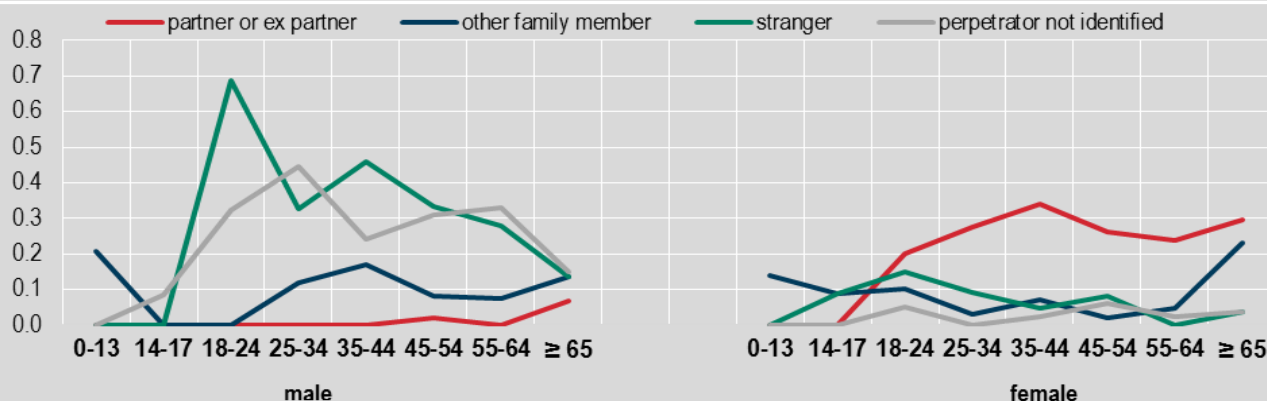
Analysing the relationship between victims and their persecutors, the situation was quite different: women aged 35-44 and those aged 65 and over run a higher risk of being murdered by current or former partner (0.36 and 0.30 per 100,000 women, respectively). The highest male homicide rates are registered among middle-aged men and those in the 18-24 age group, and homicides were mostly committed by unknown or unidentified persons.

Girls and boys under 14 and women and men aged 65 and over are mostly killed by a family member (parents, children and other relatives)^{vii}. Elderly men were mostly murdered by unknown or unidentified persons, while the rate of homicides by partners was highest among elderly women. Women aged over 18 are mostly murdered by current and former partners.

In 2018 the few men murdered by intimate partner were mostly aged over 64 (4 cases out of 5).

FIGURE 8. HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP, SEX AND AGE.

Year 2018, rates per 100,000 male population and 100,000 female population in the same age group



Source: Ministry of Interior, DCPC dedicated database of intentional homicides of the criminal police

Foreign women are more often killed by their intimate partners.

Among women, the percentage of foreign victims was slightly higher (39.5% of total foreign homicides) than that of Italian women (38.6% of total Italian victims), while in 2017 the share was higher (about 40% the former and 30% the latter). Among Italians, the proportion between male and female victims is 10 to 6 (up on 2017 when it was 10 to 5), among foreigners 10 to 7.

The victim-offender relationship highlights other differences. Foreign women were murdered by a partner or ex-partner more often than Italian women (60% and 53.4%, respectively) and less often by other relatives (10% of foreign women and 29.1% of Italian women), probably also because of the general distance with other family members. In many cases, foreign women migrated together with the closest family members and did not have a network of family and friends in Italy. Moreover, foreign women were more often victims of unknown or unidentified killers.

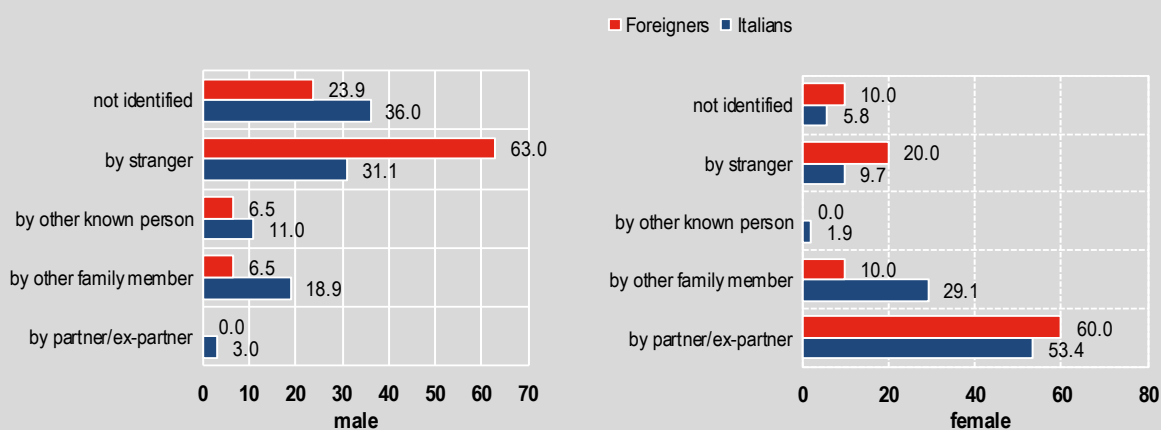
Similarly, Italian men were killed by family members or acquaintances 9 times more often than foreign men, while the latter were killed by unknown perpetrators twice as many times as the Italians.

Foreign victims were on average younger than Italian victims, especially women. In 2018 no foreign male victim was over 64 and 93.8% of them was 54 and under (65.2% for the Italians).

The same happened among women, although there were 3 women over 65 killed, all by their partners. The age composition of foreign female population, moreover, was much younger: 90% of the victims were not older than 54 compared to 37.4% of Italian women of the same age.

FIGURE 9. HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP, SEX AND CITIZENSHIP.

Year 2018, per 100 Italian victims and 100 foreign victims of the same sex



Source: Ministry of Interior, DCPC dedicated database of intentional homicides of the criminal police

Intentional homicides were less frequent in Italy than in the European Union

On the basis of 2017 data, it is possible to compare the Italian situation with the European context. The homicide rate in Italy (0.59 per 100,000 inhabitants) was among the lowest in the Eu Member States, slightly lower than those of the Czech Republic and Spain (0.62 and 0.66, respectively). The only Eu country with a better situation than Italy was Luxembourg, where only two intentional homicides were committed in one year (0.34 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants). The Eu average rate was 1.03 and varied according to the countries.

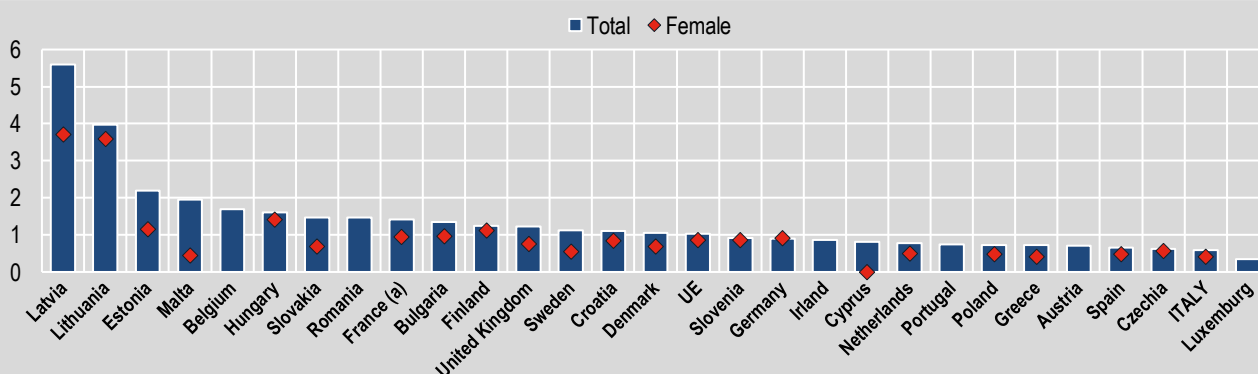
Particular attention should be paid to the Baltic States, historically characterised by higher homicide rates compared to the European partners. Although it remained high, the homicide rate in Lithuania (3.97 murders per 100,000 inhabitants) and, especially, in Estonia (2.20) dropped sharply in the last ten years (by 55% and 68%, respectively). Over the same ten-year period, however, Latvia (5.59), which in 2007 showed a much more favourable situation compared to the other two Countries, recorded a 6% increase.

Based on data by victim's gender available as of 2017, Italy was the Eu country with the lowest levels of female homicides. The rate of female intentional homicides was, in fact, 0.40 per 100,000 women (an almost identical value was observed in Malta and Greece), while the average in the Eu was 0.86, with Latvia reporting the highest rate of 3.70 female homicides per 100,000 women.



TOTAL INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES AND FEMALE VICTIMS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Year 2017, rate per 100,000 inhabitants of the same sex



Source: Eurostat, database [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/crim_esms.htm] (a) Data on female victims refer to metropolitan France. Data on total victims include also overseas departments.

Glossary

Simple criminal conspiracy: applies when three or more persons conspire to commit offences.

Mafia organization: is an organization whose members use the power of intimidation deriving from the bonds of membership and the atmosphere of coercion and conspiracy of silence that it engenders to commit offences, to acquire direct or indirect control of economic activities, licences, authorizations, public procurement contracts and services or to obtain unjustified profits or advantages for itself or others, or to prevent or obstruct the free exercise of the right to vote, or to procure votes for itself or others at elections

Judicial authority: public authorities with the judicial function in the matters of ordinary civil, criminal and administrative law.

Law enforcement agencies: state bodies in charge of, among other duties, maintaining the public order and security. Today in Italy there are 4 national police forces and a number of local police forces. Two national police forces are organized on the basis of civilian laws: the Polizia di Stato, led by the Ministry of Interior, and the Polizia penitenziaria, led by the Ministry of Justice. Two national police forces are military forces: the Arma dei Carabinieri, led by the Chief of the Defence General concerning the military duties and by the Ministry of Interior concerning duties of public order and security, and the Corpo della Guardia di Finanza, led by the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The Arma dei Carabinieri was designed as an armed force in 2000 and in 2016 took over the Corpo forestale dello Stato, previously a police force on the basis of civilian laws led by the Ministry of policies on agriculture, food, and forestry.

Intentional homicide: crime committed by who causes death of a person. It can be the consequence of an action or of lack of a required action (in the cases recognized by law) and there must be the awareness and the intent to kill.

Geographic breakdown of Italy:

North-west: includes Piemonte, Valle d'Aosta, Lombardia and Liguria

North-east: includes Trentino-Alto Adige (the autonomous provinces of Bolzano and Trento), Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Emilia-Romagna

Centre: includes Toscana, Umbria, Marche and Lazio

South: includes Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata and Calabria

Islands: includes Sicilia and Sardegna

Methodological note

Introduction

The sources of data are the databases of the Ministry of Interior: the Investigation System (Sistema di indagine SDI) and the dedicated database of intentional homicides of the criminal police (Direzione centrale della polizia criminale DCPC). Based on the methodology used for the data collection, each victim corresponds to one homicide, therefore an occurrence with several victims is translated in the same number of homicides as the number of victims.

Databases are used for operational purposes and therefore data may change in following extractions. A possible change may be the classification of the crime during the investigation, although should be noted that only the judicial authority will define its precise legal classification through the judicial chain. For example a case initially classified as completed homicide can be designed as unintentional homicide after further investigations or a case recorded by the police forces as attempted homicide can become a committed homicide due to the following death of the victim.

The definition of homicide

Based on the Italian legal system, for statistical purposes homicides can be grouped in three main categories. There is the intentional homicide when the perpetrator has the intent of killing; the homicide is unintentional when injuries lead to an unwanted death and the last category relates to involuntary homicides. Homicides belonging to the first two types can be attempted or completed.

The data here described relate only to completed intentional homicides.

Data from some other countries here considered may include other crimes, for example infanticides and unintentional homicides, depending on the national laws, the availability of data and also because of the implementation of international recommendations¹. Across countries differences exist in judicial systems, in data collection methodologies and in the socio-cultural contexts. This impair an accurate comparability of data on criminality at international level, however definitions of homicide differ less than those of other types of crimes making homicide data accurate and comparable².

Data collection

Data on felonies and persons who were reported by the police forces to the judicial authority have been collected since 1955. Since 2007 the data collection include also some characteristics of the perpetrators and the victims of crimes.

Police forces record information on the crimes, the persons involved and their circumstances in the Investigation System database (Sistema di indagine SDI). Data include information gathered through reporting of crimes by the citizens but also information gathered during the investigation activities. Data on homicides are also recorded in the dedicated database of intentional homicides of the criminal police (Direzione centrale della polizia criminale DCPC). The latter database, built in 2002, include more detailed information, such as the alleged motives, the distinction between common criminality and mafia related homicides and the crucial information on the victim-offender relationship.

The information in the databases are continuously updated according to new findings in the investigation and to the activities of the judicial authority. The data provision to Istat has a fixed periodicity and relate to a subset of data processed by the Ministry of Interior. Statistics refer to felonies and persons who were reported by the police forces to the judicial authority and data on the number of alleged offenders and victims. After validation, data are released on annual basis.

Data on homicides are also historically gathered from the Survey on causes of death. This was the first data source making available the sex of the victims and the first allowing rates comparable at international level.

Statistics based on this source are in line with those based on the Ministry of Interior data, with some exceptions. In general figures recorded by the police forces are higher, probably because of the need to report to the judicial authority all cases where there are some doubts to be verified through investigations.

Coverage and geographical detail

The data collection has a full coverage.

¹ The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Uunodc) introduced in 2015 the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (Iccs). The Statistical Offices and the National Authorities concerned have to classify the crimes, defined by the national laws, according to the shared classification, in a way as accurate as possible. One of the aims of the classification is improving the comparability of crime statistics at international level.

² In general, intentional homicide is defined as the unlawful death (not requested by the judicial authority) inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury. More details are available on [Eurostat website](#):

Data are available for:

- the entire national territory
- five geographical areas (North-west, North-east, Centre, South and Islands)
- regions
- provinces
- provincial capital cities

Statistics on crime in municipalities other than provincial capitals are collected by the Ministry of Interior, but they are not released. When adding crimes in several territories, the number may not correspond to the number of crimes in the corresponding geographical aggregate i.e. the sum of crimes in the provinces may not correspond to the number of crimes in the corresponding region. The reason is that in some cases the geographical attribution may be not possible in detail, but only with reference to a wider area.

Dissemination

Analysis are released in ad hoc publications and, on annual basis, in broader Istat publications: The measurement of well being BES, Annuario statistico italiano, Noi Italia, Italia in cifre, Indicators for the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs). The Ministry of Interior release on annual basis the Annuario delle statistiche ufficiali dell'amministrazione dell'interno. Data are regularly provided to Eurostat, UNECE and UNODC (Crime Trend Survey).

Crime statistics: <http://dati.istat.it/?lang=en&SubSessionId=3a566699-f3d8-4f1b-af8e-4377f0a489e5>

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

Time series: <http://seriestoriche.istat.it/> http://seriestoriche.istat.it/index.php?id=1&no_cache=1&L=1

ⁱ Source Istat, Statistics on causes of death.

ⁱⁱ Act No 646 of 13 September 1982 identifies the offence of membership in a mafia organization (introducing art.416 bis "Associazioni a delinquere di tipo mafioso"): "A mafia organisation is an organisation whose members use the power of intimidation deriving from the bonds of membership and the atmosphere of coercion and conspiracy of silence that it engenders to commit offences, to acquire direct or indirect control of economic activities, licences, authorisations, public procurement contracts and services or to obtain unjustified profits or advantages for itself or others, or to prevent or obstruct the free exercise of the right to vote, or to procure votes for itself or others at elections".

ⁱⁱⁱ The latter are estimated to be 90% of total victims, since Italy was unified in 1861, only with reference to "cosa nostra" organization, in the national context mainly rooted in Sicily. Source: [Osservatorio per la legalità e la sicurezza](#)

^{iv} For Sardegna, the analysis includes only the municipalities of Cagliari, Nuoro, Oristano and Sassari, because in the 4 multicapital provinces (Olbia-Tempio, Ogliastra, Carbonia-Iglesias and Medio Campidano), which were instituted some years ago the provincial offices of the Ministry of Interior were never operational. For the province of Barletta-Andria-Trani, Barletta has been considered as the provincial capital and for the province of Pesaro-Urbino the city of Pesaro.

^v In one province (province of Belluno) there was no cases of intentional homicide in the five-year period.

^{vi} The collection of data on homicides by victim-offender relationship has been carried out by the Ministry of Interior since 2002. Data referring to the first years (especially 2002 and 2003) can be considered as experimental, as it is can be seen from the lack of categories "former partner" and "other person known to the victim". However, being crucial data, it was considered preferable to publish the whole data series, starting with the first year of collection.

^{vii} Based on Istat data from the Survey on causes of death, between 2004 and 2015, 159 girls and boys aged 14 or under died due to violence or maltreatment, accounting for 0.5% of total deaths in the age group 0-14. Among external causes of death, thus excluding deaths due to illness, maltreatment accounted for 6.4% of causes of deaths. Data remained broadly stable over time for the considered age group.

Further information on the methodology

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