

7. Safety¹

The objective and subjective indicators measuring the evolution of safety in our country in 2019 were at better or stable levels than the situation a decade earlier, with the exception of pickpocketing and robbery, which instead showed an upward trend.

Homicides and predatory crimes (residential burglary, pickpocketing, and robbery), which in the first year of the pandemic touched the lowest values in the entire time series, due to the measures introduced to restrict mobility and social contacts, returned to register a slight increase in 2021; for predatory crimes, the increase continued in 2022.

Despite this growth, crime indicators remain below pre-pandemic values, with the exception of the robbery rate, which returned to the levels recorded in 2019.

Subjective perception indicators show the same trend as objective crime indicators: perceptions of safety when walking in the dark alone increased in 2020, and perceptions of social decay and crime risk decreased. In 2021 these indicators recorded the best performance in the entire time series. In 2022, the indicators of safety perception referring to the area where one lives break the positive trend recorded in the two pandemic years: perception of safety walking in the dark alone decreases and perception of crime risk increases. In contrast, the perception of degradation remains stable. Subjective perception of safety keeps improving.

Table 1. Safety indicators: value for the latest available year and percentage changes for different periods

Indicators	Starting year	Latest available year	Latest available year value	Percentage changes			
				2019 compared with starting year	2021 compared with 2019	2022 compared with 2021	2022 compared with 2019
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000 inhabitants) (a)	2010	2021	0.52	●	●	-	●
Burglary (per 1,000 households)*	2010	2022	7.6	●	●	●	●
Pick-pocketing (per 1,000 inhabitants)*	2010	2022	5.4	●	●	●	●
Robbery (per 1,000 inhabitants)*	2010	2022	1.3	●	●	●	●
Physical violence on women (%) (b)	2006	2014	7.0	-	-	-	-
Sexual violence on women (%) (b)	2006	2014	6.4	-	-	-	-
Intimate partnership violence (%) (b)	2006	2014	4.9	-	-	-	-
Worries of being victim of a sexual violence (%) (b)	2009	2016	28.7	-	-	-	-
Perception of safety walking alone in the dark (%)	2010	2022	60.6	●	●	●	●
Concrete fear of crime (%) (b)	2009	2016	6.4	-	-	-	-
Social decay (or incivilities) (%)	2010	2022	6.9	●	●	●	●
Perception of crime risk (%)	2010	2022	21.9	●	●	●	●

● Better ● Worse ● Stable - Not available

(a) Year 2022 not available. Changes referred to 2019 compared with 2021.

(b) No comparisons are available for the indicators related to violence against women and the indicator related to concrete fear of crime for the reporting periods.

Note: If the relative change between the two years exceeds 1% it is considered positive (green), if it is lower than -1% it is considered negative (red). In the range -1 and +1% the change is considered stable (yellow). The polarity of the indicator was taken into account when calculating the changes to consider the improvement or worsening in terms of well-being.

* 2022 data are provisional.

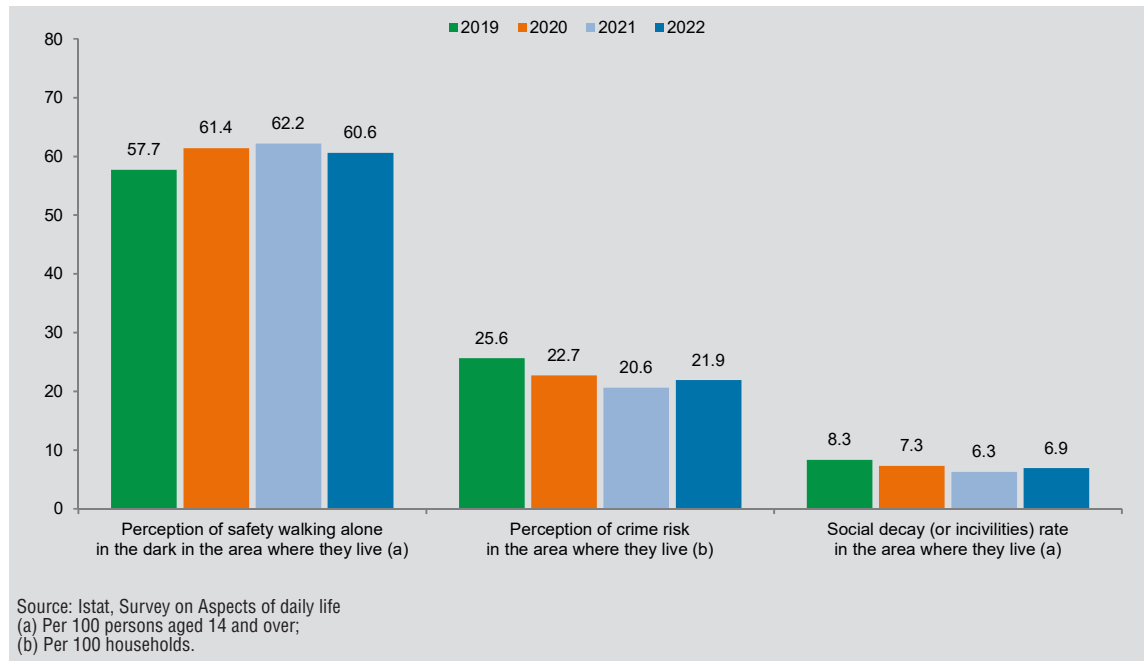
Subjective perception of safety worsens after pandemic

In 2022, the share of people who feel very or fairly safe when walking alone in the dark in the area where they live decreases by 1.6 percentage points compared to 2021, to 60.6% (it was 57.7% in 2019), and over the same period the share of households saying that the area where they live is very or fairly at risk of crime increases by 1.3 percentage points to 21.9% comparing to 2021 (it was 25.6% in 2019).

¹ This chapter was edited by Miria Savioli, with contributions from Isabella Corazziari, Maria Giuseppina Muratore, Lucilla Scarnicchia and Franco Turetta. Boxes are edited by Lucilla Scarnicchia.

The share of the population who say that they have seen people taking or dealing drugs, prostitutes looking for customers or vandalism against public property in the area where they live remains stable at 6.9% (6.3% in 2021, 8.3% in 2019, Figure 1).

Figure 1. Perception of safety in the area where people live: people aged 14 and over feeling very or quite safe walking alone when it is dark, people aged 14 and over who often see elements of social and environmental decay, households declaring a very high or quite high risk of crime. Years 2019-2022. Percentage values



There are significant differences in people's perception of safety according to the size of the town they live in: people living in towns with up to 2,000 inhabitants and in towns with 2,000 to 10,000 inhabitants feel safer, perceive a lower risk of crime and report less social and environmental degradation than those living in large urban areas.

In towns with 2,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, the proportion of people aged 14 years and over who feel very or quite safe walking alone when it is dark in the area in which they live is 21 percentage points higher than in large urban areas (68.4% compared with 51.4%).

The same applies to the perception of the risk of crime (11.2% versus 40.6%) and social and environmental degradation (4.0% versus 13.9% - Figure 2).

Perception of safety is not evenly distributed across the population but varied by gender and age. 70.9% of men feel safe walking alone when it is dark in the area where they live compared to just over half of women (51%). The situation also differs in relation to different age groups: the least safe are the elderly aged 75 and over (41.6%) whereas young people and adults feel more safe (more than 66% between the ages of 20 and 54, Figure 3).

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Figure 2. Perception of safety in the area where people live: people aged 14 and over feeling very or quite safe walking alone when it is dark, people aged 14 and over who often see elements of social and environmental decay, households declaring a very high or quite high risk of crime by municipality size. Year 2022. Percentage values

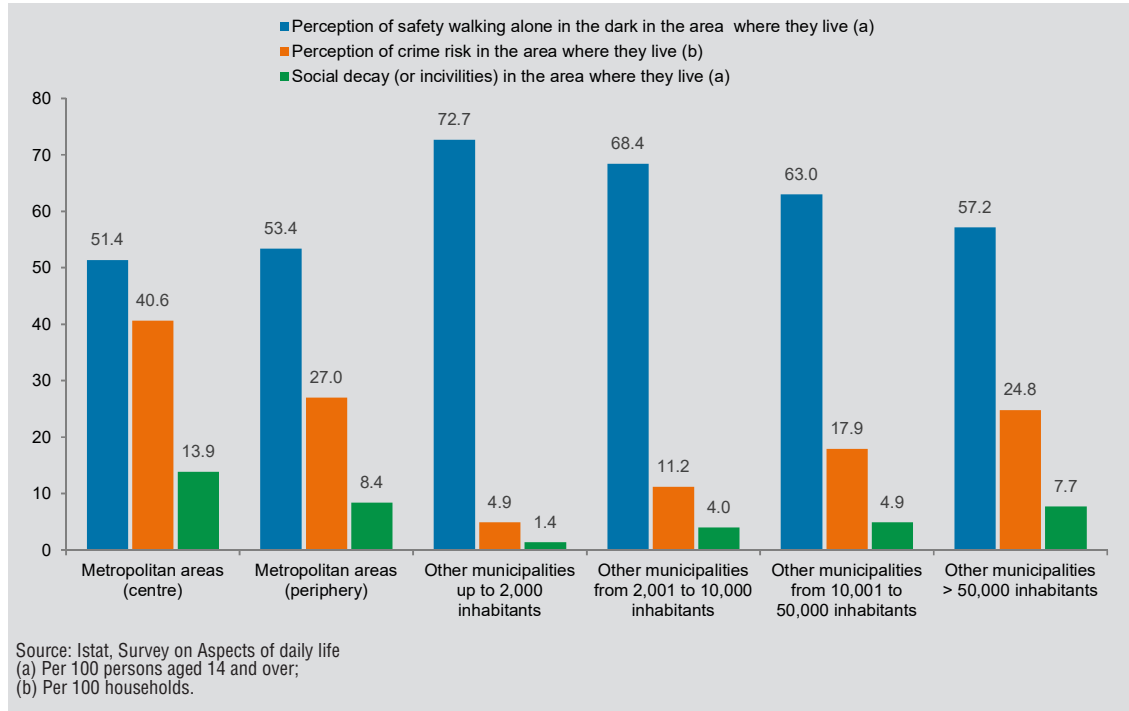
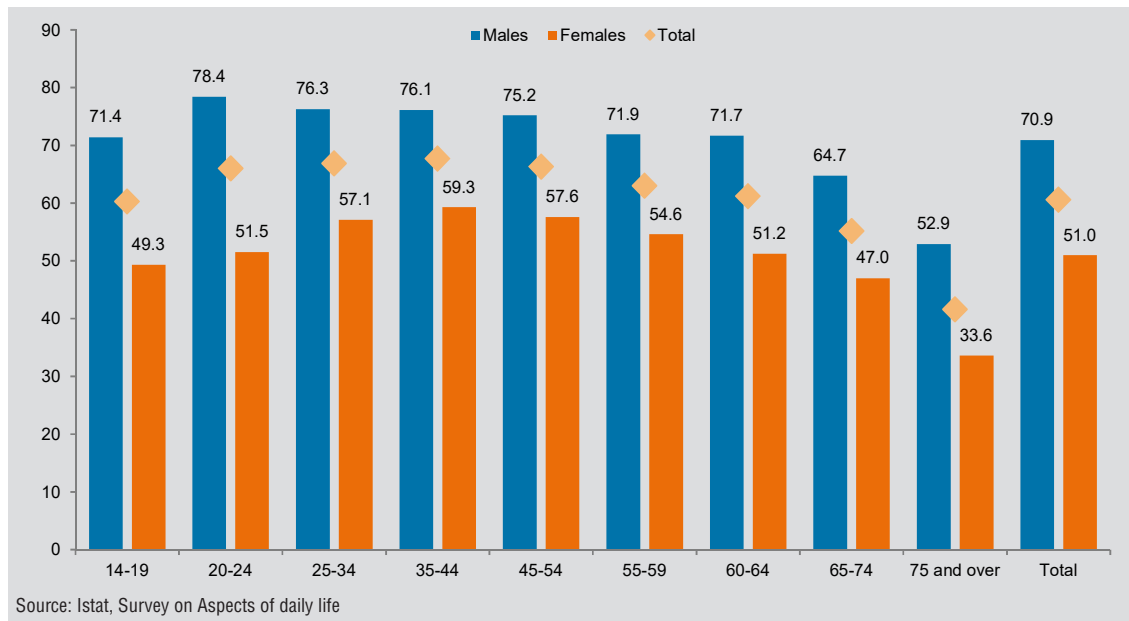


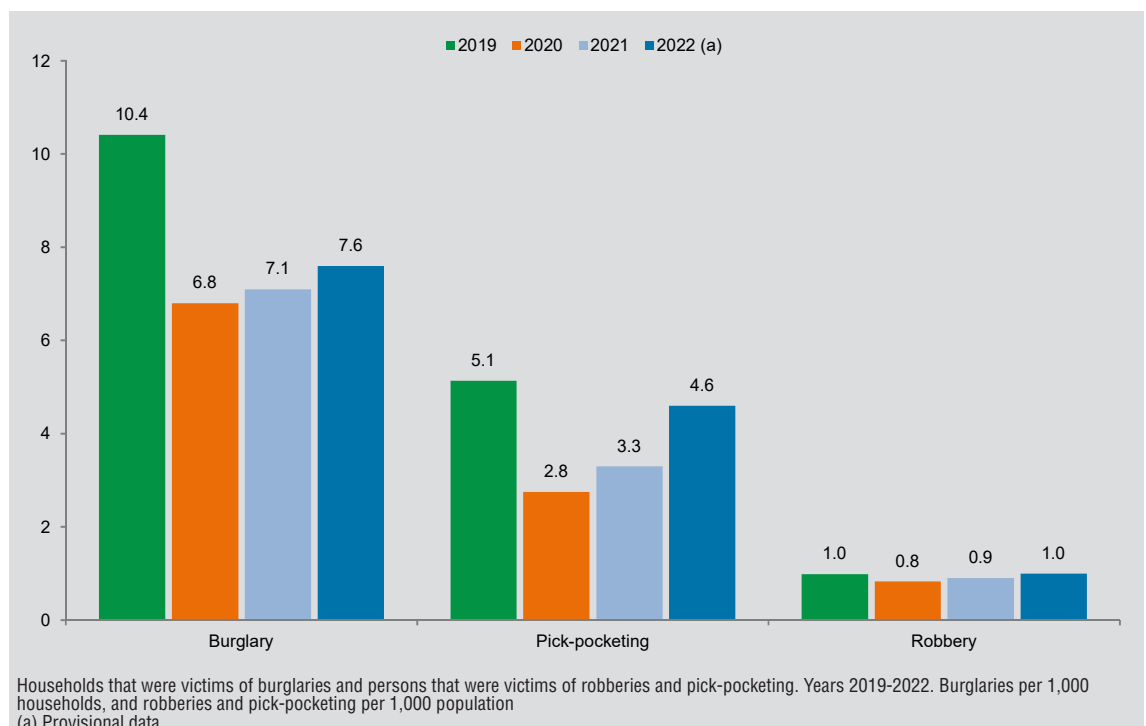
Figure 3. People aged 14 and over feeling very or quite safe walking alone when it is dark in the area where they live by gender and age group. Year 2022. Percentage values



Predatory crimes rise

After the sharp reduction in predatory crimes as a result of the restrictive measures imposed in 2020, the growth trend started in 2021 continues in 2022. The rate of victims of residential burglaries stands at 7.6 per 1,000 households (compared to 7.1 in 2021); the rate of victims of pickpocketing is 4.6 victims per 1,000 inhabitants (compared to 3.3 in 2021) and the rate of victims of robbery is one victim per 1,000 inhabitants (it was 0.9 in 2021). Despite the growth, the rates of residential burglaries and pickpocketing remain below pre-pandemic levels, while the rate of robberies has returned to the levels recorded in 2019, Figure 4).

Figure 4. Households that were victims of burglaries and persons that were victims of robberies and pick-pocketing. Years 2019-2022. Burglaries per 1,000 households, and robberies and pick-pocketing per 1,000 population



Predatory crimes are distributed unevenly across the Country. The highest rates of victims of pick-pocketing is found in the Centre and the North-west with respectively 7.4 and 6.7 victims per 1,000 inhabitants, compared to 1.8 victims per 1,000 inhabitants in the South and Islands (2.1 in the South and 1.3 in the Islands).

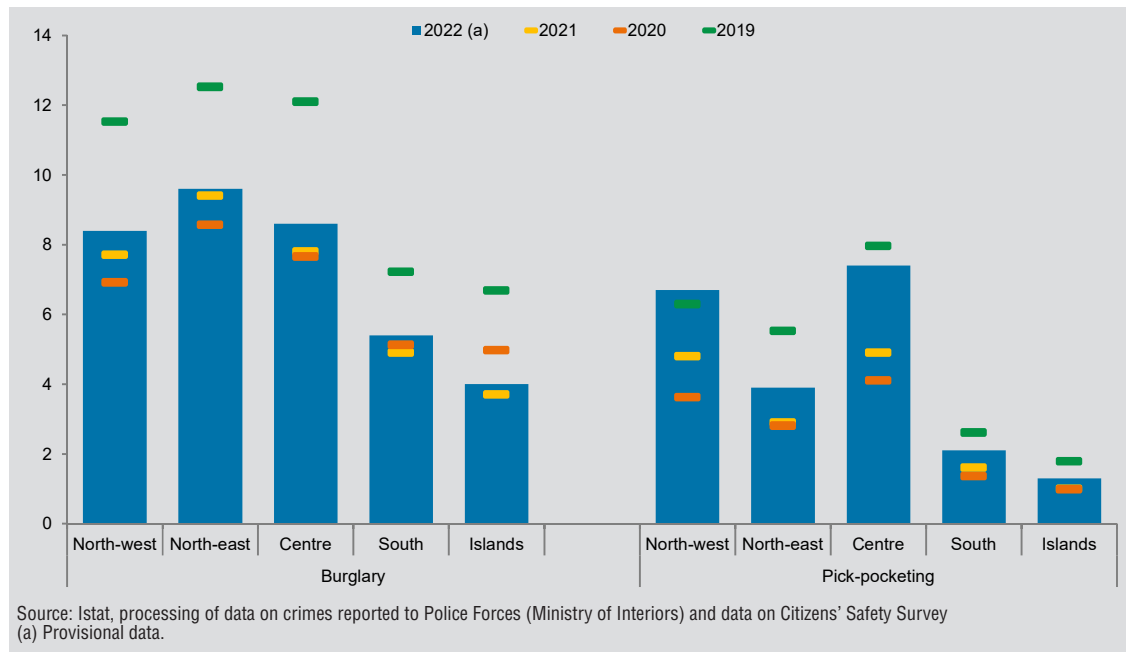
Burglary is more widespread in the Centre-North and in particular in the North-east, where there were 9.6 victims per 1,000 households, whereas in the South and Islands the figure is 5.4 and 4.0 victims per 1,000 households, respectively.

For robbery, on the other hand, the differences are much smaller, with the highest value in the North-west (1.3 victim per 1,000 inhabitants) and the lowest in the Islands (0.5 victims per 1,000 inhabitants - Figure 5).

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Figure 5. Households that were victims of burglary and persons that were victims of pick-pocketing by geographic breakdown. Years 2019-2022. Burglaries per 1,000 households and pick-pocketing per 1,000 population



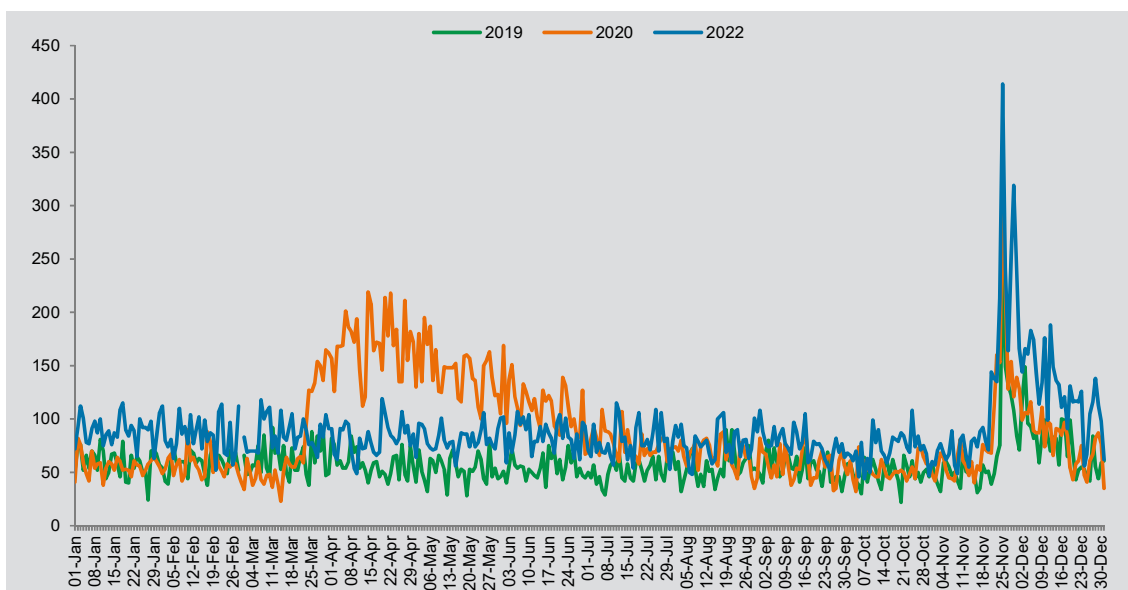
Calls to the 1522 helpline decrease in 2022

The 1522 helpline² against violence and stalking, provided by the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, is a very supportive tool for victims of violence.

In 2022, the number of valid calls declines comparing to 2021 but continues to remain higher both comparing to the same period in 2020, except for the lockdown months, and comparing to 2019 (Figure 6).

² The 1522 number is active 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and can be reached toll-free throughout the nation on a land-line or cell phone. The helpline is available in Italian, English, French, Spanish and Arabic. The telephone operators working for the service provide a first response to the needs of victims of gender-based violence and stalking, offering useful information and an introduction to the anti-violence centres and public and private social/healthcare services available everywhere in Italy and listed on the DPO's official map.

Figure 6. Number of valid calls to the 1522 number. Years 2019, 2020 and 2022 (daily data). Absolute values



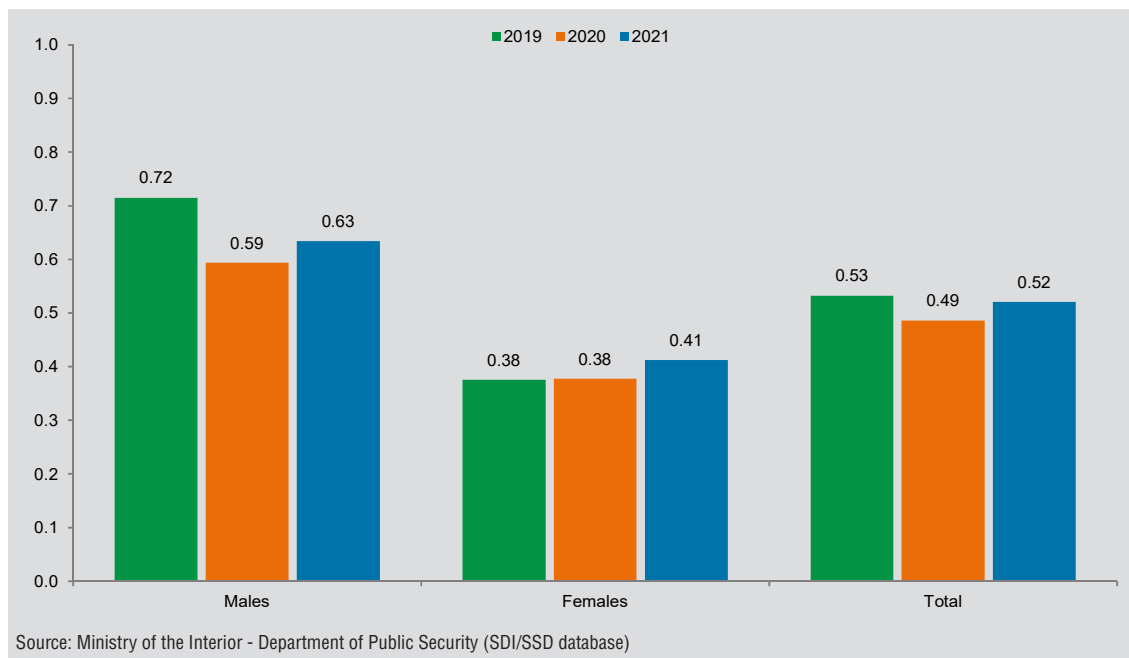
Source: Istat, Processing on data from the Department for Equal Opportunities

Homicides return to values close to the pre-pandemic period

In 2021, 308 homicides were committed in Italy, that is 0.52 per 100,000 inhabitants. The homicide rate shows a slight increase compared to 2020, when it stood at 0.49 per 100,000 inhabitants (for a total of 289 homicides), returning to values close to 2019 (0.53).

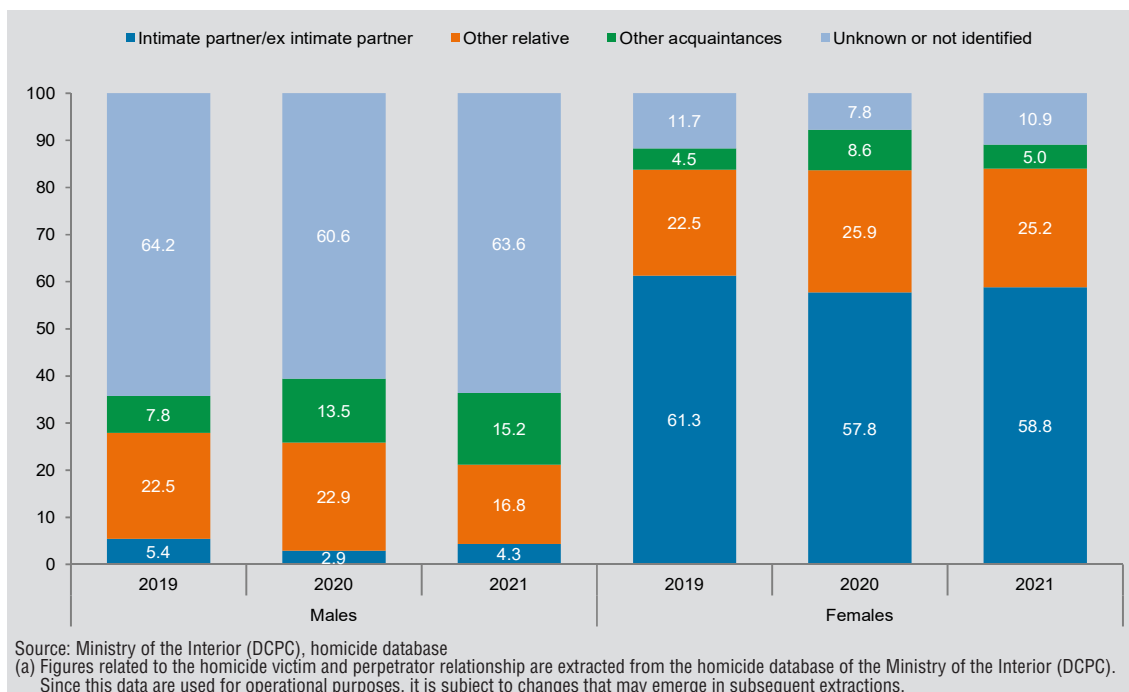
In 2021, there were 183 male and 125 female homicide victims (0.63 and 0.41 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants of the same sex, respectively). Between 2020 and 2021, there was a slight increase in the homicide rate for men (it was 0.59 in 2020), but the value remains lower than the pre-pandemic period (0.72 in 2019). The homicide rate for women, which had remained stable in 2019-2020, increases slightly in 2021 compared to the previous two years (0.38 in 2019 and 2020, Figure 7).

Figure 7. Homicide rate by gender. Years 2019-2021. Per 100,000 inhabitants of the same gender



In 2021, 89.1% of female homicides were committed by a person the victim knew. This figure is slightly lower than in 2020 (92.2%), but remains higher than in 2019 when it stood at 88.3%. Specifically, in 2021, approximately six out of 10 women were killed by their current or previous partner, 25.2% by a family member (including the children and parents) and 5% by another person the woman knew (friends, colleagues, etc.). The situation is very different for men: in 2021, 36.4% were killed by a known person and only 4.3% by a partner or ex-partner; while 63.6% were killed by a stranger or perpetrator not identified by the police (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Victims of homicide by relationship with the murderer and gender. Years 2019-2021 (a). Per 100 victims of the same gender



PATHS OUT OF VIOLENCE

In 2021 just under 19,600 women started a customised pathway out of violence at the Anti-Violence Centres¹.

Of these, 81.4% started the pathway in the same year, while the remaining share started it in 2020. In 30.3% of the cases, these were foreign women.

19.1% of women started the path out of violence in an emergency situation, that is, their safety was at risk.

54.9% of women who decided to start a pathway out of violence were between 30 and 49 years of age, 20.4% were under 30s, 16.8% were aged between 50 and 59, and 7.9% were 60 years or older.

HOMICIDES OF WOMEN ARE PREDOMINANTLY “FEMINICIDES”

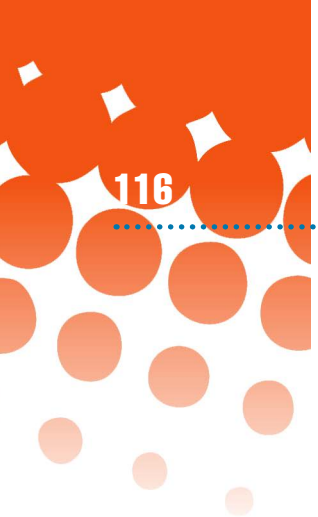
In March 2022, the 53rd session of the Statistical Commission approved the “Statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls (also referred to as “femicide”)².

In this context, gender-based homicides, commonly referred to as femicides, are defined as those involving the killing of a woman as a woman. The variables needed to identify a femicide are many and involve both the victim, the perpetrator, and the context of the violence.

In Italy, not all the information needed to identify a femicide is available. However, it is possible to sketch an initial picture from the available information: in 2021, 70 women were killed within the couple, by their partner or ex-partner; 30 women were killed by another relative; and four women were killed by acquaintances in an emotional or relational context. In total, this is 104 alleged femicides, out of 119 homicides with a female victim. Based on the same analysis, the number of alleged femicides in Italy was 101 in 2019 and 106 in 2020.

1 According to the State, Regions and Autonomous Provinces Agreement of 2014, Anti-Violence Centres are “facilities that welcome women of all ages and their minor children - free of charge - who have suffered violence, regardless of their place of residence”.

2 https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Statistical_framework_femicide_2022.pdf.



Indicators

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

Indicators by region and geographic area

REGIONS GEOGRAPHIC AREAS	Intentional homicide rate (a)	Burglary (b)	Pick- pocketing (c)	Robbery (c)	Physical violence on women (d)	Sexual violence on women (d)
	2021	2022 (*)	2022 (*)	2022 (*)	2014	2014
Piemonte	0.5	8.0	5.7	1.2	6.3	6.2
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	1.6	2.8	0.5	0.3	7.0	3.9
Liguria	0.3	5.5	4.2	1.4	7.8	7.6
Lombardia	0.4	9.2	7.5	1.4	6.1	6.6
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	0.5	5.5	2.1	0.9	6.8	5.1
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>5.9</i>
<i>Trento</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>4.3</i>
Veneto	0.4	10.3	3.9	0.8	5.0	6.2
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	0.2	6.2	1.1	0.5	5.9	5.9
Emilia-Romagna	0.7	10.6	5.1	1.3	8.2	6.7
Toscana	0.3	10.8	5.3	1.4	8.9	4.5
Umbria	0.5	10.4	2.0	0.5	8.0	6.9
Marche	0.3	6.3	1.4	0.5	7.8	5.0
Lazio	0.6	7.6	11.1	1.1	9.1	6.8
Abruzzo	0.3	7.7	1.2	0.4	9.3	9.1
Molise	0.3	5.5	0.7	0.2	7.7	7.1
Campania	0.8	5.6	3.7	1.8	8.4	8.8
Puglia	0.7	5.7	1.2	0.6	6.8	5.3
Basilicata	0.2	4.0	0.4	0.2	4.3	6.5
Calabria	0.5	3.0	0.4	0.2	4.6	4.7
Sicilia	0.7	4.6	1.4	0.6	5.7	5.2
Sardegna	0.9	2.6	0.7	0.3	6.6	5.2
North	0.5	8.9	5.5	1.2	6.4	6.4
North-west	0.4	8.4	6.7	1.3	6.3	6.6
North-east	0.5	9.6	3.9	0.9	6.5	6.3
Centre	0.4	8.6	7.4	1.1	8.8	5.9
South and Islands	0.7	4.9	1.8	0.8	6.9	6.5
South	0.7	5.4	2.1	1.0	7.3	7.2
Islands	0.7	4.0	1.3	0.5	5.9	5.2
Italy	0.5	7.6	4.6	1.0	7.0	6.4

(a) Per 100.000 inhabitants;

(b) Per 1.000 households;

(c) Per 1.000 inhabitants;

(d) Per 100 women aged 16-70;

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

(f) Per 100 persons aged 14 and over;

(g) Per 100 households;

(*) Provisional data.

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Intimate partnership violence (e)	Worries of being victim of a sexual violence (f)	Perception of safety walking alone in the dark (f)	Concrete fear of crime (f)	Social decay (or incivilities) (f)	Perception of crime risk (g)
2014	2016	2022	2016	2022	2022
4.7	33.7	64.0	2.6	6.7	20.0
3.6	16.3	79.0	4.7	2.4	5.5
6.2	26.1	66.7	5.0	6.3	18.3
4.6	32.4	57.9	9.5	9.7	24.2
4.5	19.5	74.3	4.6	4.0	10.1
4.9	20.3	71.6	5.0	3.5	10.7
4.2	18.6	77.0	4.3	4.6	9.5
4.4	29.9	59.0	7.6	5.1	18.4
3.0	26.0	68.2	4.3	1.5	9.4
5.9	28.5	61.2	8.5	7.3	17.8
4.9	29.1	65.3	6.4	7.2	20.4
5.2	26.5	63.0	5.0	4.9	25.1
4.3	19.7	66.7	6.5	4.2	13.9
5.7	37.8	56.3	7.9	10.4	31.5
7.6	28.5	64.3	4.9	4.5	16.3
6.9	23.1	72.5	4.6	3.2	8.1
5.8	23.1	51.8	5.2	6.3	33.6
4.6	22.2	59.4	5.8	6.5	26.6
4.4	24.6	74.0	6.9	3.2	14.4
2.4	34.4	64.1	4.7	4.4	16.2
4.6	24.1	60.1	4.3	5.0	17.5
4.4	23.0	68.4	3.8	5.8	13.2
4.8	30.3	61.2	7.2	7.2	19.8
4.8	31.9	60.5	7.1	8.5	22.3
4.8	28.0	62.2	7.3	5.5	16.4
5.2	31.9	60.9	7.0	8.2	25.5
4.9	24.6	59.5	4.9	5.5	22.7
5.1	25.0	58.3	5.3	5.7	25.9
4.5	23.9	62.2	4.2	5.2	16.4
4.9	28.7	60.6	6.4	6.9	21.9

