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ABSTRACT

Title	Intimate partner violence during Covid-19 in Finland, preliminary findings
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In spring there was news that police home alerts had increased in Finland. Statistics also supports this: assault offences made in private residences increased compared to previous years. However, this increase was in January-March and not so much in April-June. Since four out of five victims of intimate partner violence are female, this is a gender issue. Like those assaults in private residences, the number of reported domestic and intimate partner violence increased more in the first quarter than in the second quarter. Increase in co-habiting partner violence is higher in second quarter and those of married partners is higher in first quarter. In all number of offences made by co-habiting partner increased nearly 70 per cent and offences made by married partner increased about 20 per cent. On the other hand, closing restaurants and all other corona measures seems to have made decrease in offences made by former co-habiting partners. Number of these cases decreased 70 per cent. This might also be register issues, since most of the registers regarding marital and habitat statuses and used in this study are from the end of 2019 and are not updated until next year. Domestic and intimate partner cases reported to the police have been increasing in recent years and this increase has usually been a bit higher in second quarter than in first quarter. This year seems to be an exception, at least when comparing preliminary data. Increase in reported cases might not signal that the intimate partner violence is more common, but rather that it is not tolerated as much as it used to be. It remains to be seen if this social lock-down caused by covid-19 influenced this positive trend of reporting offences to the police.

