

**Online meeting of the Group of Experts on Gender Statistics, 28–29 September 2021**

**ABSTRACT**

<b>Title</b>	Measuring violence against women during Covid19 period: The Italian experience
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<b>Session</b>	Measuring violence against women in times of crisis

Combating violence against women implies having a good knowledge of the phenomenon and monitoring it constantly, as underlined by the Istanbul Convention. The pandemic period is considered for women suffering violence an emergency in the emergency, and many experts call it a shadow emergency. The pandemic situation itself makes it more difficult to study it since it is not an easy task to reach women without putting them at risk, i.e. by conducting a victimization survey. Nevertheless, the emergency itself may offer innovative and alternative approaches both in terms of helping strategies as well as in terms of data availability and analysis. Within the framework of the integrated system of information on violence against women, Istat decided to further enhance the informative capacity of data based on the requests of help, on the assistance offered by specialized supported services for survivors, and on data regarding homicides.

The database of homicides presents historical annual series of data by sex and victim-perpetrator relationship since 2002, which allows accurate temporal comparisons. The database of the requests to the helpline 1522 (by telephone calls and chat messages), available since 2013, since the pandemic beginning, are analyzed and delivered quarterly. The most important information regards the victims and perpetrators characteristics, type of violence, children involvement as witnesses or victims of violence, reasons for calling and support offered by the helpline. The surveys on specialized services, the antiviolence crisis centers data collection and the residential shelters data collections, are annually repeated since 2018 and in 2020 measured also women asking for help due to Covid situation, as well as, their capacity to take care of victims in the emergency period.

These data sources highlight three main results:

- 1) violence during pandemic seems to be remained stable, at least the most serious forms, and only men took advantage of the decrease of criminality due to the restriction measures against Coronavirus;
- 2) the increase of requests for help shows a new awareness of survivors, also thanks to the public awareness campaigns, as well as an increase of calls from the younger and older women, victimized respectively by parents and children;
- 3) shelters, even if they faced difficulties due to the pandemic, guaranteed the protection of victims seeking help, creating new welcoming ways.