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Knowing by collecting data: A circular process.

The case of the Istat's Surveys on Antiviolence centers and Shelters for women victims of violence.

Collecting data on violence against women, given the sensible and multi-faceted nature of the phenomenon is not an easy task. Istat, in collaboration with the National Department for Equal Opportunities, developed an integrated informative system, which adopts a multi-source approach to collect, analyze and publish data from different sources, including administrative ones.

Within this framework and in line with the 3P Model (Prevention, Protection and Prosecution) of the Istanbul Convention, a pivotal role is played by data underlining the services offered by specialized services for women victims of violence, such as antiviolence centers and shelters. These data do not solely highlight the "protection side" of the phenomenon. Rather, they have a valuable informative capacity also in terms of exploring the characteristics of the phenomenon. To this aim, Istat, together with representatives of Antiviolence Centers and Shelters, Associations and national and regional Institutions, implemented a set of dedicated surveys. This paper aims to highlight the main procedural and methodological steps that have led to the surveys design and the data collection management. In this regard, a particular focus will be devoted to the role of the continuous collaboration and communication with respondent to update content-related and methodological issues of the surveys.