



Police Service
of Northern Ireland



Statistical note on the Incorrect Publication of Northern Ireland Homicide Figures in Eurostat Tables

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This Statistical Note has been updated to outline the current position by incorporating actions taken since initial publication on 31st January 2022
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European comparisons of Intentional Homicide where the victim-offender relationship is ‘intimate partner’ (ie Domestic Abuse Homicide involving partner/ex partner)

A figure placing Northern Ireland as ‘the most dangerous place in Europe for women’ has been quoted in a range of forums. The source of this information is a set of tables on Intentional Homicide that are available on the Eurostat website [Statistics | Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat).

In 2019 the BBC wrote an article using these Eurostat figures, [Femicide: The murders giving Europe a wake-up call - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-51484444) which included a chart showing both Romania and Northern Ireland as having the highest rate in Europe of murders committed by a partner, quoting a figure of 0.43 per 100,000 inhabitants.

However the rate of 0.43 in relation to intimate partner intentional homicide in Northern Ireland has been published incorrectly in the Eurostat tables. Further details are provided below.

Eurostat Tables

The quoted figure of 0.43 is sourced to a set of Eurostat tables providing calendar year figures on victims of Intentional Homicide by victim-offender relationship, where this relationship is split into ‘intimate partner’ and ‘family and relatives’. These Eurostat figures represent domestic abuse homicide¹ and are the calendar year version of *Table 3.9 Domestic abuse homicides recorded by victim gender and relationship to offender*, as published in the Domestic Abuse Annual Trends in Northern Ireland bulletin. (<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/>).

Figures for the overall number of Intentional Homicides were provided to Eurostat by PSNI’s Statistics Branch, prior to the UK’s exit from the European Union. While the total number of domestic abuse homicides was provided as a subset of all intentional homicides, a split by intimate partner/family and relatives was not included.

At the time the BBC article was written, the only calendar year published in the Eurostat table for Northern Ireland was 2017. The figure provided to Eurostat for the **total** number of intentional homicides by victim-offender relationship for this year was correctly inserted into the ‘All Victims’ table but incorrectly inserted into the ‘Intimate Partner’ table which should have been left blank for Northern Ireland. Therefore, while the figure of 0.43 per 100,000 inhabitants is correct for all victims of domestic abuse homicide in 2017, it is incorrect in respect of domestic abuse homicide involving an intimate partner.

PSNI’s Statistics Branch contacted Eurostat in January 2022 to ask them to fix the error, and provided Eurostat with figures for each calendar year 2008 to 2020, including a breakdown by intimate partner / family and relatives. In June 2023 EuroStat updated their data table with figures for 2015 to 2018. Data for the United Kingdom has not been updated for any year after 2018.

Tables 1 and 2 present the number and rate of intentional homicide victims by victim-offender relationship in Northern Ireland for each calendar year 2008 to 2021. The full financial year data series is published in the Domestic Abuse Annual Trends bulletin.

Table 3 presents a comparison of Intentional Homicide victims where the victim-offender relationship is ‘intimate partner’, per 100,000 inhabitants, taken from the Eurostat tables [Statistics | Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat). When this note was first published in January 2022 the latest available year was 2019. The Eurostat tables now display the correct figures for Northern Ireland (highlighted in yellow in this table); 2019 has been added to the Northern Ireland row in this table to complete the data series.

¹ Homicide includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, infanticide and corporate manslaughter. In relation to the domestic abuse homicide figures provided in Tables 1 and 2, all are offences of either murder or manslaughter.

Table 1: Intentional homicide victims by victim-offender relationship and sex (number), Northern Ireland, 2008 to 2021

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 ¹
Female victims	Intimate partner	1	3	5	2	1	5	3	1	1	3	2	2	4	4
	Family and relatives	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2
	Total	1	4	5	3	1	5	5	3	1	5	4	4	6	6
Male victims	Intimate partner	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
	Family and relatives	2	3	1	2	1	3	3	0	1	2	1	1	1	2
	Total	4	7	1	3	1	3	3	0	1	3	1	2	2	2
All victims	Intimate partner	3	7	5	3	1	5	3	1	1	4	2	3	5	4
	Family and relatives	2	4	1	3	1	3	5	2	1	4	3	3	3	4
	Total	5	11	6	6	2	8	8	3	2	8	5	6	8	8

Table 2: Intentional homicide victims by victim-offender relationship and sex (rate per 100,000 population)¹, Northern Ireland, 2008 to 2021

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 ²	2018	2019	2020	2021 ¹
Female victims	Intimate partner	0.11	0.33	0.54	0.22	0.11	0.54	0.32	0.11	0.11	0.31	0.21	0.21	0.41	0.41
	Family and relatives	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.21	0.00	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21
	Total	0.11	0.44	0.54	0.32	0.11	0.54	0.53	0.32	0.11	0.52	0.42	0.41	0.62	0.62
Male victims	Intimate partner	0.23	0.46	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.11	0.00
	Family and relatives	0.23	0.34	0.11	0.22	0.11	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.11	0.22	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.21
	Total	0.46	0.80	0.11	0.34	0.11	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.11	0.33	0.11	0.21	0.21	0.21
All victims	Intimate partner	0.17	0.39	0.28	0.17	0.05	0.27	0.16	0.05	0.05	0.21	0.11	0.16	0.26	0.21
	Family and relatives	0.11	0.22	0.06	0.17	0.05	0.16	0.27	0.11	0.05	0.21	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.21
	Total	0.28	0.61	0.33	0.33	0.11	0.44	0.43	0.16	0.11	0.43 ³	0.27	0.32	0.42	0.42

¹ Following consultation with the Home Office lead for crime recording, one murder offence with a female victim was cancelled and removed from the figures in January 2025 as it was recorded in error.

² The 2017 population rates have been calculated using the NISRA 2024 Mid-Year Population Estimate. This has resulted in a slight discrepancy with the population rate published on EuroStat which uses unrevised population figures.

³ The rate of 0.43 for Northern Ireland in 2017, as quoted in media articles, reflects **all** intentional homicide victims where the victim-offender relationship was 'intimate partner' or 'family and relatives'. For female victims of intimate partner intentional homicide in 2017, the rate was 0.32 per 100,000 of the female population.

Below is an extract from the Eurostat tables on Intentional Homicide victims where the victim-offender relationship is 'intimate partner', presented per 100,000 inhabitants (data as per February 2026). The incorrect 2017 rates for Northern Ireland have now been corrected (0.21/100,000 for all victims instead of 0.43), and the Northern Ireland rate for 2019 has been added below to complete this data series (row highlighted in yellow). Countries with a higher 2017 rate than Northern Ireland have been highlighted in grey.

Table 3: Intentional Homicide victims where the victim-offender relationship is 'intimate partner', presented per 100,000 inhabitants.

	Female victims					Male victims					All victims				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Czechia	0.22	0.32	0.24	:	0.22	0.15	0.06	0.10	:	0.02	0.19	0.19	0.17	:	0.12
Germany	0.34	0.39	0.37	0.30	0.29	0.06	0.04	0.09	0.07	0.08	0.20	0.22	0.23	0.19	0.19
Greece	0.20	0.23	0.13	:	:	0.09	0.11	0.08	:	:	0.14	0.17	0.10	:	:
Spain	0.25	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.19	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.10
France	0.24	0.27	0.30	0.23	0.32	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.06	0.15	0.17	0.18	0.15	0.19
Croatia	0.50	0.51	0.42	0.19	0.24	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.05	0.31	0.29	0.24	0.15	0.15
Italy	0.23	0.25	0.18	0.24	0.22	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.14	0.14	0.11	0.13	0.13
Cyprus	:	:	0.00	:	:	:	:	0.00	:	:	:	:	0.00	:	:
Latvia	0.47	0.09	0.47	0.29	0.29	0.44	0.22	0.11	0.22	0.23	0.30	0.15	0.31	0.26	0.26
Lithuania	0.83	0.51	0.20	0.26	0.60	0.45	0.53	0.30	0.46	0.39	0.65	0.52	0.25	0.36	0.50
Hungary	0.06	0.25	0.21	0.16	0.29	0.06	0.04	0.11	0.06	0.21	0.06	0.15	0.16	0.11	0.26
Malta	0.46	0.89	0.00	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.44	0.00	0.42	0.00
Netherlands	0.26	0.22	0.20	0.32	0.26	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.17	0.16
Romania	:	:	0.52	:	:	:	:	0.33	:	:	:	:	0.43	:	:
Slovenia	0.19	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.19	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.19	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.14
Slovakia	0.04	0.18	0.14	0.07	0.14	0.08	0.08	0.34	0.15	0.15	0.06	0.13	0.24	0.11	0.15
Finland	0.25	0.43	0.57	0.57	0.54	0.19	0.48	0.11	0.37	0.15	0.22	0.53	0.35	0.47	0.34
Sweden	:	:	0.20	0.44	0.31	:	:	0.02	0.08	0.04	:	:	0.11	0.26	0.18
Iceland	0.00	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
Liechtenstein	0.00	0.00	:	:	:	0.00	0.00	:	:	:	0.00	0.00	:	:	:
Switzerland	0.36	0.33	0.26	0.37	0.33	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.23	0.17	0.13	0.20	0.18
England and Wales	0.26	0.27	0.21	0.27	:	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.05	:	0.16	0.16	0.12	0.16	:
Scotland	0.22	0.14	0.25	0.32	:	0.12	0.08	0.08	0.04	:	0.21	0.11	0.17	0.18	:
Northern Ireland (UK)	0.11	0.11	0.32	0.21	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.21	0.11	0.16
Montenegro	0.64	0.32	0.32	0.64	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.30	0.32	0.16	0.16	0.32	0.80
North Macedonia	0.29	0.29	0.00	:	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.39	:	0.10	0.14	0.14	0.19	:	0.19
Albania	0.63	0.56	0.35	0.28	:	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.21	:	0.38	0.35	0.24	0.24	:

: not available (Ireland, Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina are not included in the table as they have no figures available for the years presented)