VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN STATISTICS:
PREVALENCE STUDY:

The most recent prevalence of violence survey carried out in Malta is the Nationwide Research Study on the Prevalence of Domestic Violence against Women in Malta and its Impact on their Employment Prospects. The survey was published in 2011. The study is a national prevalence of domestic violence and violence against women survey, as data was obtained on violence against women by their partner or former partner and others. The survey findings are available in English. Aiming at assessing the prevalence of domestic violence within intimate partner relations in Malta, data was collected from 1,200 women ages 18-59 from each of the six Maltese regions. The data is gender disaggregated for victim and perpetrator, and includes data on ages and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. The time period studied for victims’ experiences of violence included lifetime experiences of violence and current experiences (12 months prior to interview). The forms of violence measured were physical violence, sexual violence and emotional abuse.

The survey found that 26.5% of ever partnered women have experienced one or more acts of physical, sexual or emotional violence perpetrated by a current or former partner, 9% of whom had experienced violence in the last 12 months according to a survey published in 2011. There were 848 reported incidents of adults experiencing domestic violence in Malta in 2011. National criminal statistics on domestic violence are collected by the police but are not published by them. They are available upon request. Some data is available in the reports of the National Statistics Office. National criminal justice statistics on domestic violence are not publicly available. There is no information available on whether data on medical interventions related to domestic violence or intimate partner violence is collected in Malta’s healthcare system. There is no specialized national women’s helpline in Malta, but a general national helpline primarily supporting women survivors of violence. There are three women’s shelters and one women’s center in Malta. There are no centers for women survivors of sexual violence in Malta.
Data collection in prevalence survey:
As related to regular data collection, a conclusion on regularity of intervals cannot be reached, and there is no information available on whether plans exist to repeat the survey. The data collection in the survey is gender disaggregated for both victim and perpetrator. The relationship between victim and perpetrator is evident. Age of victims is also provided and forms of violence including those referred to in the Convention are covered. All regions of Malta were covered. Lastly, the survey is publically available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevalence Survey Data Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample size</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample scope</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data disaggregated by</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perpetrators</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Availability</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regularly conducted</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forms of violence/abuse</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NATIONAL CRIMINAL STATISTICS (POLICE):
Domestic violence in Malta is specified under the Criminal Code of Malta in Chapter 9, in the Civil Code under Chapter 16 and in the Domestic Violence Act in Chapter 481.¹² Provisions include protection orders, restraining orders, ex officio prosecution and inclusion of harassment as a criminal act. The Criminal Code of Malta also presents some provisions in numerous articles that may be applied to domestic violence including the introduction of harsher penalties if the criminal act falls under the domestic violence definition. Furthermore, several of these provisions (such as restraining and protection orders) can also be applied in the Civil Courts.

National criminal statistics are collected by the police. The data is collected separately from other criminal statistics. The data can be provided on request from the police, at their discretion. Criminal statistics, including some domestic violence statistics are published on the website of the National Statistics office.¹⁰ The data is gender disaggregated for victims, but, from the information available, it is not possible to establish whether this also includes the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, therefore statistics on intimate partner violence are not available.¹¹ Data is collected on the number of incidents or reports as well as number of victims.¹² Forms of violence include psychological, physical, sexual harassment and stalking.¹³ In 2011 there were 848 incidents reported, including 312 incidents of psychological harm and 468 reported incidents of slight physical harm.¹⁴ Between 2008 and 2011 there were a total of 2,500 incidents of domestic violence.¹⁵ In the table below, crime statistics on domestic violence from 2011 are presented:¹⁶

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victims of Domestic Violence*</th>
<th>Gender of perpetrator not specified</th>
<th>Male perpetrator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
<td>715¹⁷</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
<td>210¹⁸</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims of Intimate Partner Violence</td>
<td>Gender of perpetrator not specified</td>
<td>Male perpetrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicides resulting from Domestic Violence</td>
<td>Gender of perpetrator not specified</td>
<td>Male perpetrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Homicides resulting from Intimate Partner Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender of perpetrator not specified</th>
<th>Male perpetrator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Victims are ages (all ages) and perpetrators are ages (not specified)

Data collection in criminal statistics:
Data is collected on a regular basis by the police. Criminal statistics are available upon request from the police, but some data is also published in the National Statistic Office reports. The data collected is gender disaggregated for the victim only and information is not available on the relationship between victim and perpetrator.

NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS (COURT):

Data collection in criminal justice statistics:
National criminal justice statistics on domestic violence are not collected in Malta by the law courts and are therefore not publically available.22

Further issues related to criminal justice:
Part of successfully implementing laws on domestic violence involves providing legal counseling to women survivors of violence or supporting women survivors of violence during the court proceedings. Women in Malta can access some form of legal advice that is free to persons who qualify for it,23 although the extent of services and support provided must also be considered, as often such services may be limited.

Another aspect of successful implementation of laws on domestic violence involves holding perpetrators accountable. Information is not available on the sentencing of perpetrators for crimes of domestic violence against women in Malta.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM’S ROLE IN COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DATA COLLECTION:

There is no information available on whether data on medical interventions related to domestic violence or intimate partner violence is collected in Malta’s healthcare system.

National healthcare protocols for dealing with domestic violence do not exist in Malta.24 Furthermore, there is no information available on whether hospitals in Malta are set up to provide emergency accommodation for women survivors of domestic violence.

One topic related to the healthcare system’s response to violence against women is access to health for undocumented migrant women, at the least in access to essential healthcare services. Because undocumented migrant women are often afraid to report their situation to the authorities, visiting a healthcare service may be their only option to receive support as means of protection. At this time, there is no information available on this topic.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE:

Malta does not have a specialized national women’s helpline.25 There is a general helpline, run by Appogg Agency called SL179 (Support line 179) that provides a range of support including for women and girls survivors of all forms of violence. The helpline is free of charge and open 24/7. Support is available in Maltese and English. The helpline is partially funded by the State with the support of two full time staff and approximately 100 volunteers.26

WOMEN’S HELPLINES:

There is no women’s helpline in Malta.27 28

Based on this information, Malta fails to meet the Council of Europe Taskforce Recommendations.
WOMEN’S SHELTERS:

There are three women’s shelters in Malta.  
One emergency shelter for women and their children; one emergency shelter that was also a domestic violence shelter but due to lack of resources elsewhere now occasionally takes in unaccompanied minor young women, not necessarily domestic violence survivors. There is also a second stage shelter for women and their children. In total these three shelters provide approximately 61 shelter places.  
There are also two hostels in Malta that take women when the shelters are full, or act as a moving-on place to free up spaces in the shelters providing an additional 36 bed spaces. The shelters are run by an independent NGO, a church and the State. The shelter Merhba Bik was established in 1980’s, Ghabex was set up in 2000, and Qalb ta Gesu was established in 2001. The shelters accommodate women survivors of domestic violence. The shelters accept children of the survivors, with some having an age limit for boys of 16 years. Women can stay for up to 12 months or longer. The shelters are predominantly funded by the State (90 per cent).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women’s Shelters</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
<th>Shelter Places Needed</th>
<th>Shelter Places Available</th>
<th>Shelter Places Missing</th>
<th>Funding of Shelters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Approximately 61</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>State (90%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on Council of Europe Taskforce Recommendations, approximately 40 shelter places are needed in Malta. With 61 shelter places available, Malta meets the Council of Europe Taskforce Recommendations.

WOMEN’S CENTERS:

There is one centre in Malta, the Domestic Violence Unit, supporting women survivors of violence. The Domestic Violence Unit is part of the Agenzija Appogg which is a State run social work unit working with victims of domestic violence. It is not advertised as for women only but approximately 93-97% of its clients are women. The center provides a range of support including information and advice, advocacy and outreach. The centre is funded by the State. The shelters also provide non-residential support. 1,437 women were supported by the center in 2009.

WOMEN’S CENTERS FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

There are no women’s centers for survivors of sexual violence in Malta.

Based on Council of Europe Taskforce Recommendations, approximately one women’s rape crisis center is needed in Malta. Thus one center is still missing. As a result, Malta fails to meet the Council of Europe Taskforce Recommendations.
Endnotes


2 Fsadni, M and Associates. (2011). The Prevalence of Domestic Violence against Women in Malta. Commission on Domestic Violence. [https://secure2.gov.mt/socialpolicy/SocProt/family/domesticviolence/publications.aspx]. The study, which is the first and only of its kind, was made possible with European Social Fund (ESF) funding.

3 Other family members and/or strangers.


5 Ibid. Pg. 5.

6 Ibid.

7 See Council of Europe. (12 April 2011). Article 3: a “violence against women” is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life; b “domestic violence” shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim.

8 For victims only.


12 Document from the Police Incident Reporting System (PRS). Cases of Domestic Violence Reported to the Police during the Period between Year 2008 and 2011: Document provided by Malta Commission on Domestic Violence.


14 Data on grievous bodily harm was not available.

15 Document from the Police Incident Reporting System (PRS). Cases of Domestic Violence Reported to the Police during the Period between Year 2008 and 2011: Document provided by Malta Commission on Domestic Violence.

16 Ibid.

17 Includes 37 victims under 18 years old and 668 victims 18 years or older.

18 Includes 43 victims under 18 years old and 167 victims 18 years or older.

19 Information on the numbers of fatalities and data on femicides is available on request from and at the discretion of the Maltese Police Force.

20 For victim only.

21 For victim only.


23 European Institute for Gender Equality. (2012). Pg. 47.

24 Ibid. Pg. 49.

25 Ibid. Pg. 39.


28 The helpline was originally set up to provide support for women survivors of domestic violence, however given the small population of Malta, it was extended to be a general helpline.

29 European Institute for Gender Equality. (2012). Pg. 120.

30 Ibid.


32 Victim Support Malta also offers counseling for all victims of crime including domestic violence and violence against women.


34 Ibid.

35 Women against Violence Europe. (2011). Pg. 141: A Taskforce on Sexual Violence has been planned for in the last three years , money for which was budgeted in the last national budget, but this was then put on hold due to the national elections due in March 2013.