

9 December 2020

Reporting data on VAW during COVID-19 in Italy

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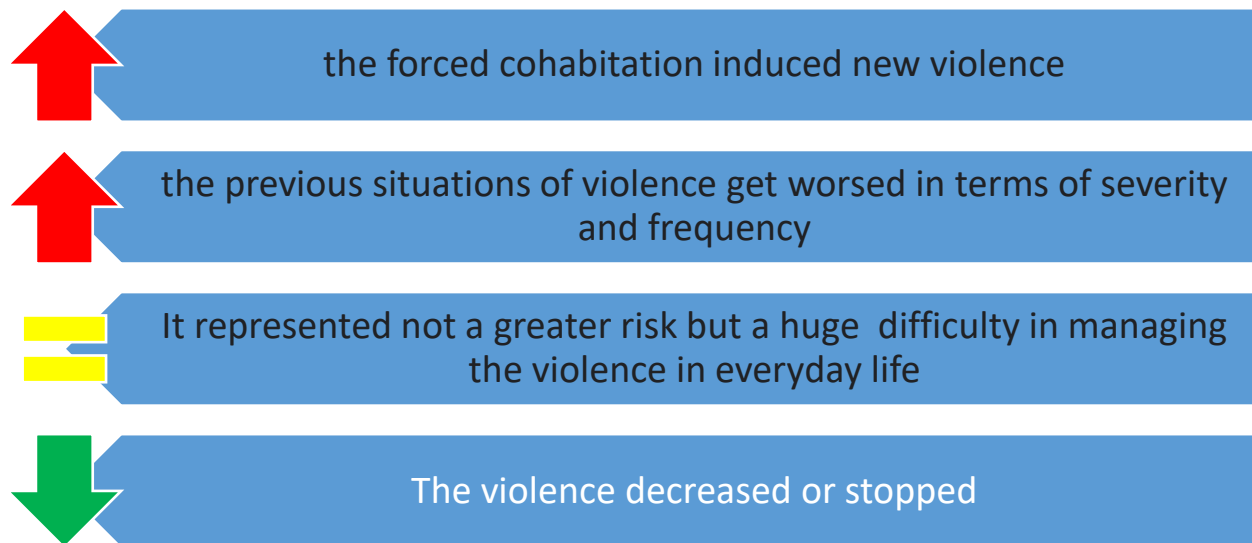
Is violence increased or not during the lockdown?

The answer is not yet possible

Only a prevalence survey will be able to provide the picture of the violence suffered by women during the pandemic:

Istat scheduled it for 2021

4 possible scenarios



Policy measures for the pandemia



Prime Ministerial Decree
no. 18 of 8 March 2020:
Starting lock down in Italy



COVID19 and Violence
against women, 25th of
March 2020



UN WOMEN, COVID-19
and Ending Violence
Against Women and Girls

The existing crisis of VAWG is likely to worsen in the context of COVID-19. Emerging data shows that since the outbreak of COVID-19, reports of violence against women, and particularly domestic violence, have increased in several countries as security, health, and money worries create tensions and strains accentuated by the cramped and confined living conditions of lockdown.

National Statistical Offices was invited to monitor phenomenon and increased vulnerability of victims

During the pandemic: which data?

DIFFERENT SOURCES FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES: BUT ONLY SOME OF THEM ARE AVAILABLE

How to understand what real happened during lockdown?

In real time

- ➔ The calls to the helpline «1522» against violence and stalking app and telephone call
- ➔ Data from the police: reports, the app «youpol», the emergency calls
- ➔ Data from population survey about the relationship in the family during the lockdown

After few months

- ➔ Data from shelters and refugees

For a more complete understanding, but ...

- ➔ Data from prevalence surveys, but due to the lack of time these surveys do not allow collect data and information especially during specific and dramatic periods

Istat: Social surveys during the pandemia

The social survey to monitor relationship during the pandemia assessed that:

- 81.3% said relations in the family during the lockdown remained the same of before; 15.6% said were bettered comparing to the pre-Covid situation, but the 2.6% worsen

In general, there was a serene and positive family climate, but the fragility of some situations during the restrictions imposed by the lockdown should not be undervalued. For **9.1%** of the population, (about 3 million people), the family climate was difficult to the point of generating fear of saying or doing something

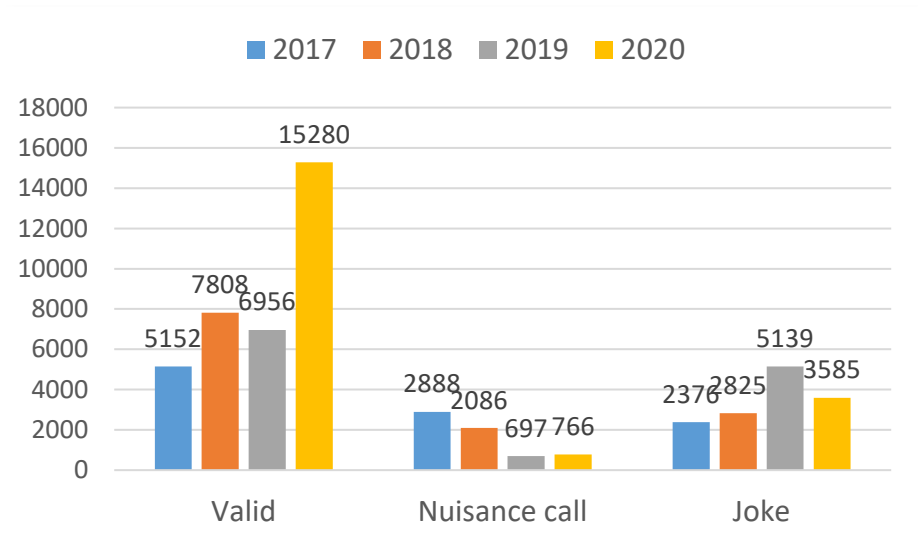
The national helpline 1522

- ➔ 1522 is the helpline provided by the Department for equal opportunities of the Presidency of the Council to **support and help victims of gender-based violence and stalking**.

- ➔ The analysis of data from calls to 1522, especially when compared with the same period of previous years, provide useful information on the evolution of the phenomenon during the lockdown.

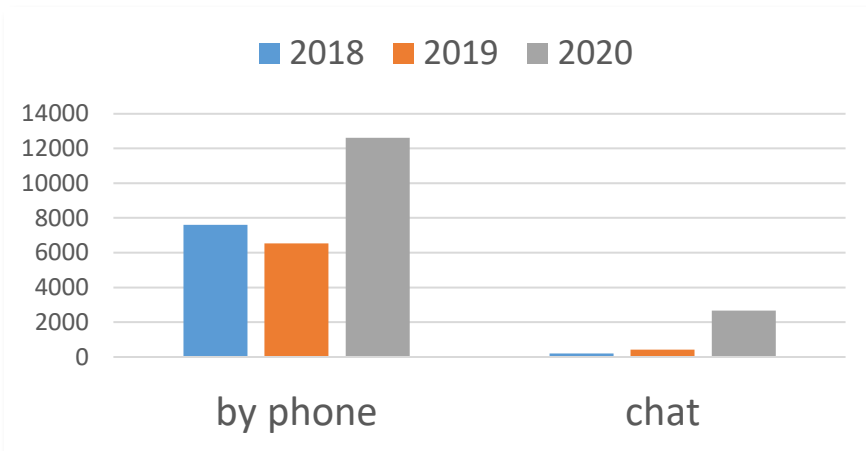
- ➔ ISTAT delivered monthly data, looking at differences with the same periods of previous years:
 - From 1° of March to 16th of April 2020 in May
 - From 1° of March to 30th of May in June
 - From 1° of March to 28th of June in August
 - From 1° of March to 30th of October in November.

1522 calls 2020: an exponential increase in valid calls



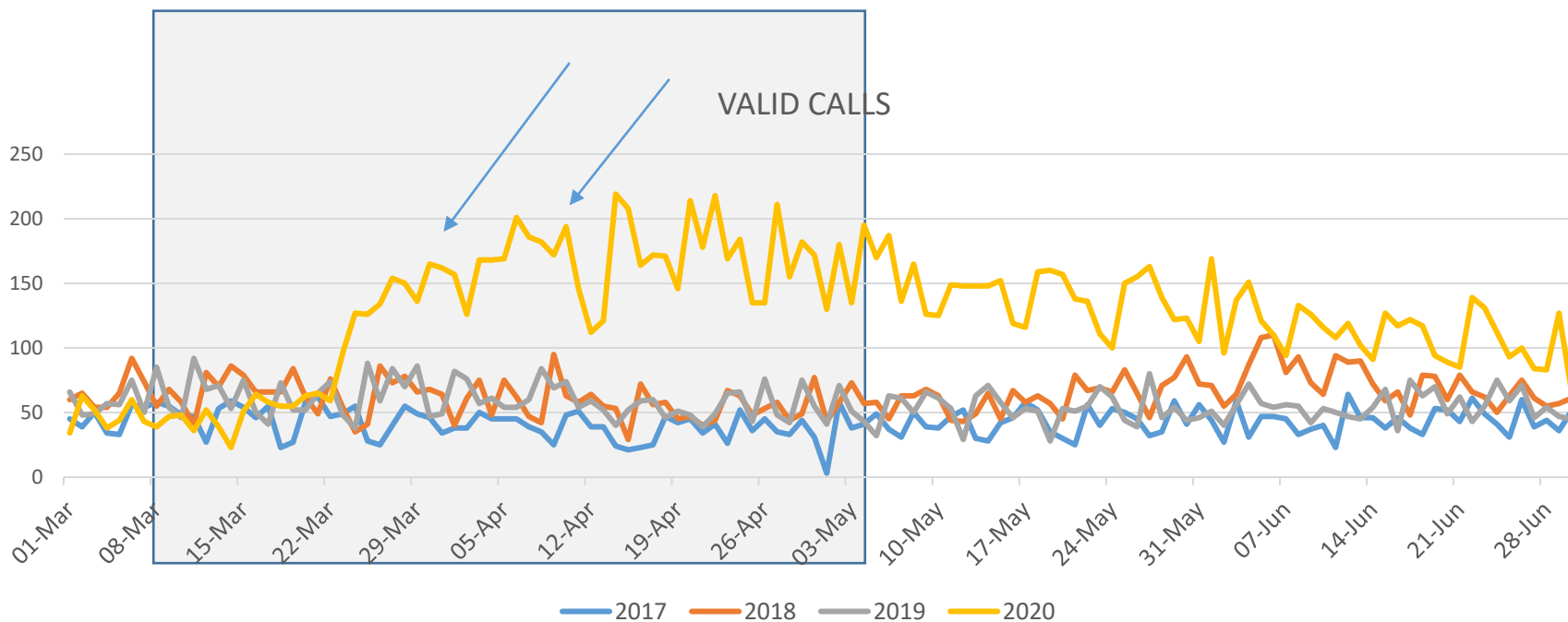
- ✓ Compared with the period 1 March - 28 Jun of the previous year (2017-2018-2019), requests for help registered a marked increase.
- ✓ **(+119,6%)** going from 6.956 to 15.280 **Valid telephone and chat calls**
- ✓ Not valid call decreasing
- ✓ Joke and harass **(-30%)** going from 5.139 to 3.585

Chat help requests has increased **fivefold (+539%)** going from 417 to 2.666 **Chat request**



Daily calls - 1 March 28 June

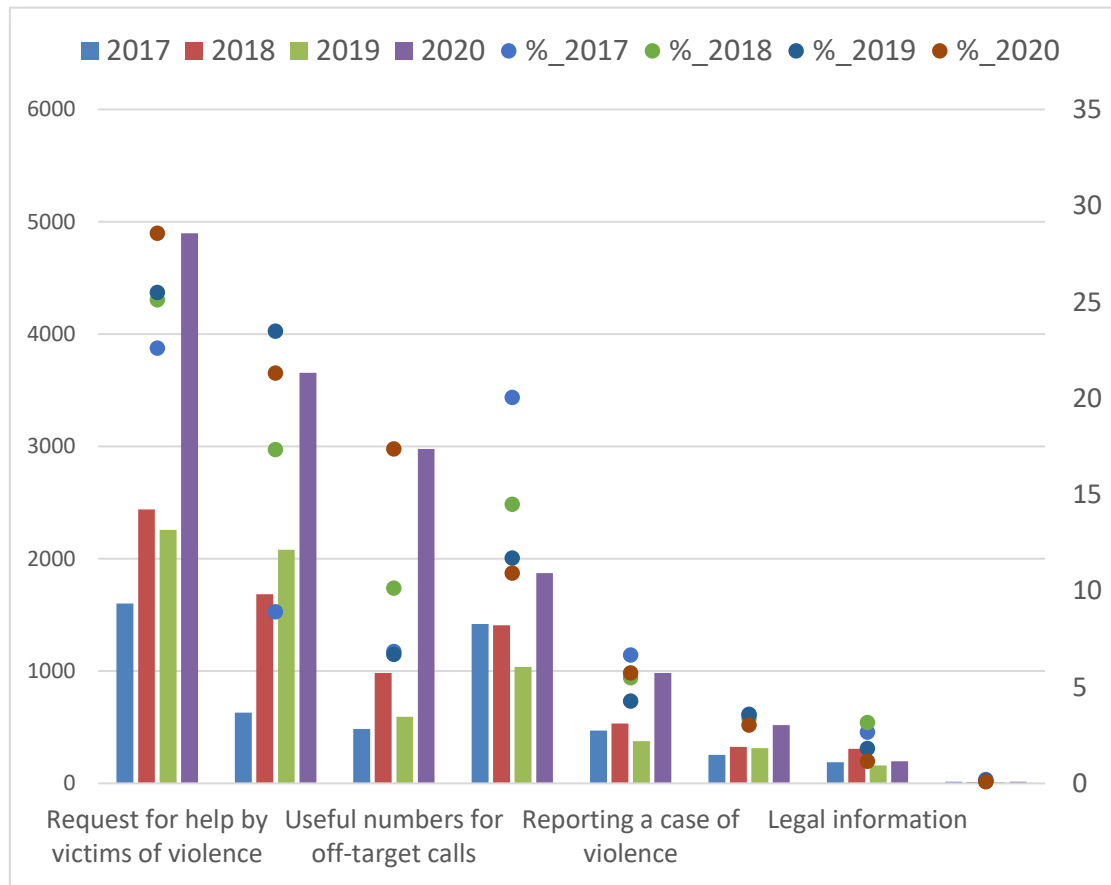
Compared with the period 1 March - 28 June of the previous year (2017-2018-2019), requests for help registered a **marked increase** concentrated in particular on the period **22 March to 30 of May**.



Also effect of the awareness campaign of department of equal opportunity, by television and social media « #liberapuoi »




Why? Reasons for calling



Compared to the same period of the previous year

- **(+ 117%)** from 2.257 to 4.899 requests from **victims of violence**
- **(+64%)** going from 315 to 519 requests for help from **victims of stalking**
- **(+75%)** jump from 2.080 to 3.655 requests of **information on 1522 service**
- **(+80%)** grown up from 1.037 to 1.872 requests of **information on anti-violence centres**
- **(+402,3%)** from 593 a 2.979 information and advice to various and **heterogeneous needs for help**

Looking for safety...

- ✓ Slightly increase of the calls in the night and in the early morning
- ✓ More interruption during the call
- ✓ More children call for help
- ✓ More fear 

Changes in behaviour by victims following the violent act:

Serious intimidation (23.6%) **+ 6%**

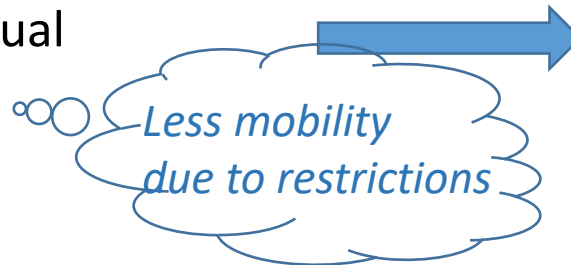
Fear for one's own safety (41.6%) **+ 2,6%**

- ✓ More transfer of the calls to services, above all shelters and refugees

Which kind of violence increased

✓ **More physical and psychological** violence, small increase of sexual violence

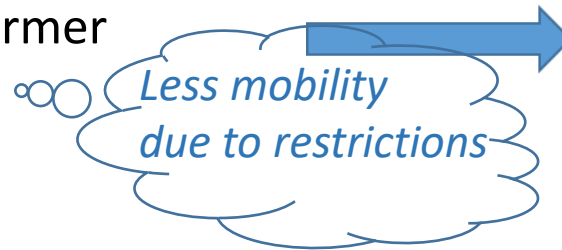
✓ Less threats, mobing and sexual harassment



Decreasing also in police reports for these crimes

✓ Stable violence from current partner

✓ Decreased violence from former partner



Decreasing also in police reports for stalking

✓ **Increased violence** from other **family members**: by parents and by sons; above all on victims more than 65, but also between 55 and 64 years old.

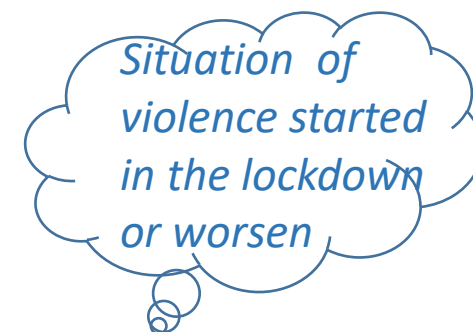
Which kind of violence increased

74.0% Violence had lasted for years

Data are stable over time!

18.2% Violence lasted for months

And very few that lasted few episodes or happened once

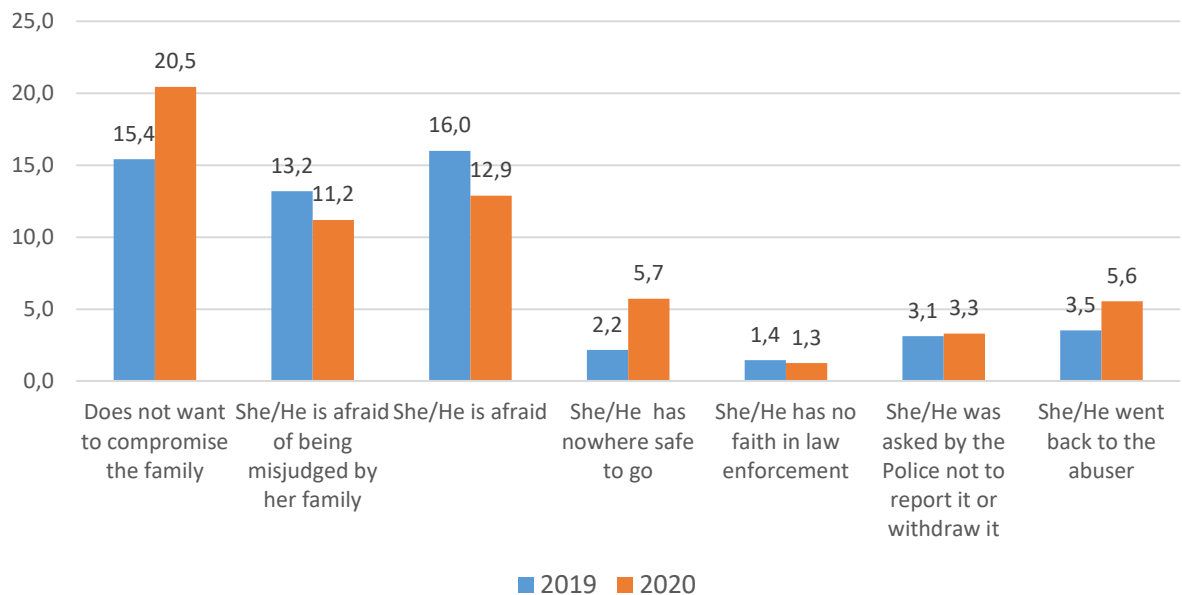


Increase of short stories of violence during the pandemic period

Reports of abuse are still few...

Based on what victims told to the 1522 operators :

Victims that **DID NOT report** increased **(+3,5%)** → from **80,4%** in 2019 to **83,9%** (4.738) in the same period of 2020 (2.212)



Why victims doesn't report?

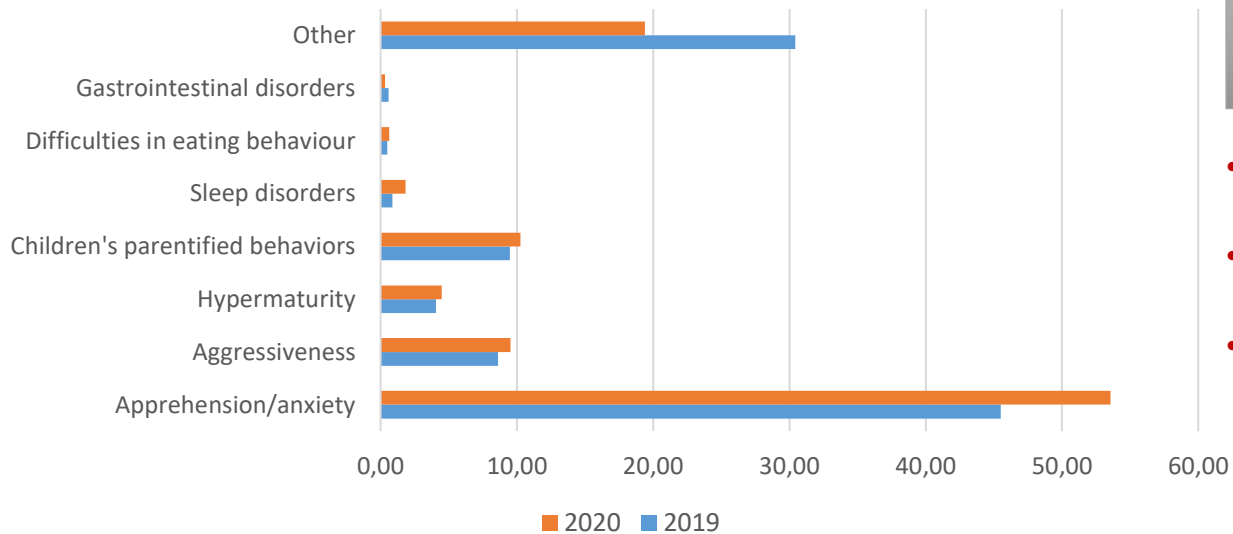
- **She/He has nowhere safe to go** ⇒ + 5%
- **Does not want to compromise the family** ⇒ + 3,5%
- **She/he went back to the abuser** ⇒ + 2,3%

Children witness violence

59,4% of the requests for help comes from victims with children

50.6% of the victims with children reported cases **of violence witnessed**

9,4% of victims report cases of violence suffered by children




Type of reaction of the children

- **Apprehension/anxiety** → + 8,1%
- **Aggressiveness** → + 1%
- **Sleep disorders** → + 1%

Data from administrative sources: the police statistics

- ✓ Data were decreasing during the lockdown: maltreatment, sexual violence, stalking reports

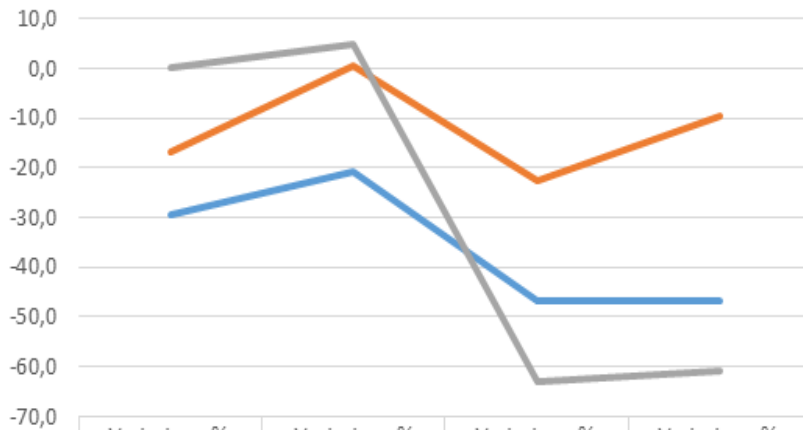
 *But increased again in May and June*

- ✓ Homicide decreased for both men and women

 *But homicide of women decreased less than those of men, especially those perpetrated by partners and family members*

- ✓ Increase of calls to “youpol” for violence cases
- ✓ Increase of the calls for intervention to the operating rooms of the Police: **+ 8.3%** in the first four months of 2020 compared to the same months of 2019.
- ✓ Increase of emergency removals from the family in 2020, with a positive peak in March (**+ 66.7%**), while the number of those implemented in April remained unchanged compared to 2019

What happened in reports?

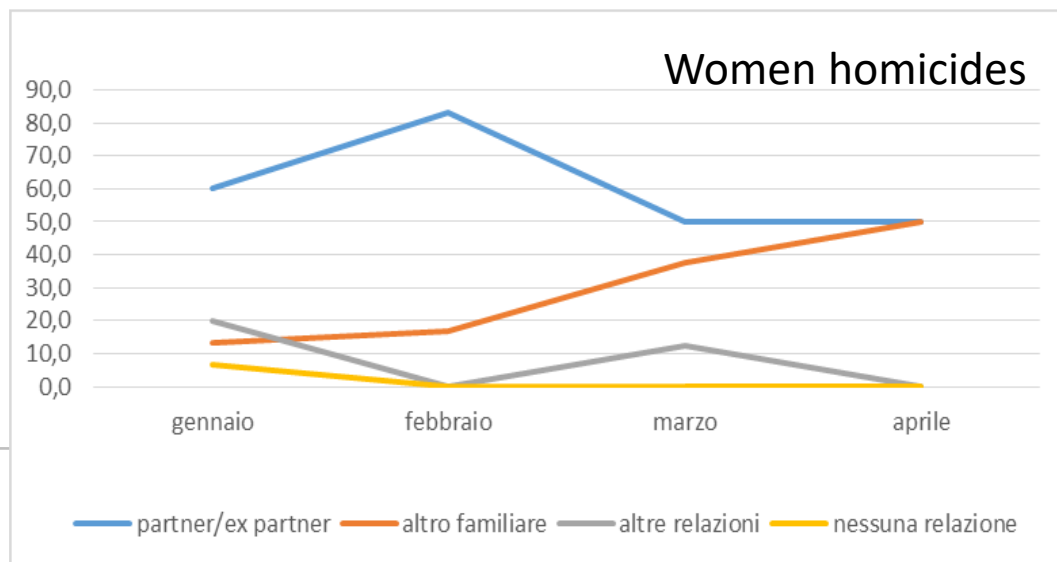


	Variazione % gennaio	Variazione % febbraio	Variazione % marzo	Variazione % aprile
Atti persecutori	-29,5	-20,7	-46,9	-46,8
Maltrattamenti contro familiari e conviventi	-17,0	0,3	-22,5	-9,8
Violenze sessuali	0,3	4,8	-63,2	-60,7

All crimes decreased during the lockdown!

Women do not benefit from remain at home

Homicides decreased in the first semester 2020, but while for men decreased of 50%, for women remained the same, because of the peak in January (+114,3%). The minimum peak was in March for men (-76,9%) and for women in April (-40,0%)



Data from shelters and refugees

- ✓ Annual Census of services provided by shelter and refugees for survivors from 2018. Agreement between Istat and the Department of Equal Opportunity (DEO) – Italian Presidency of Council

Istanbul Convention
Recommendation

*Action Plan Against
Violence 2017-2020*

- ✓ Last survey in 2020: also questions about women requests during the lockdown and strategies to cope with pandemic problems
- ✓ On January 2021 report on the shelters and residential shelters during the lockdown
- ✓ The very important role of the network and above all during the emergency period
- ✓ The very important role of Institutions to help women in going out from violence: an outcome from the Istat 2006 and Istat 2014 VAW surveys

The importance of local network to support shelters work

The surveys that Istat conducted on behalf of the Department for Equal Opportunities show how important it is not only the work of the Anti-violence Centers to help women in the paths of exit from violence, but also how useful is the **interaction and synergies of these with other services** and in particular with the **territorial networks against violence established and active at local level.**

Almost all the Centers are part of a territorial network against violence (**82.9% in 2018**), while **13.2%** of the CAVs report precisely the **inexistence** of the **Network** in their territories.

A cluster analysis on shelters

The 6 groups of specialized services

Group 1	The centres of medium-sized, integrated into the violence network	12.6%
Group 2	The medium-small centres, supported by the network	15.8%
Group 3	The centres with a strong and independent presence that also act together with the network	34.8%
Group 4	Small centres, but not isolated from the network	17.8%
Group 5	Small centres, which provide only basic services	4.7%
Group 6	The small centres, recently born, which provide few essential services, where the network does not exist	14.2%

Even in the absence of the network, however, there are significant exchanges with local services:

- Many women are referred to the Centres by the services themselves
- Many Centres need general services to care victims.

For more information....

VERSIONE IN ITALIANO

Istat Istituto Nazionale di Statistica

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HOME > VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Italian National Statistical Institute and the National Department of Equal Opportunity are publishing an integrated system of information concerning the violence against women in Italy.

The aim is to provide an overview of this phenomenon through information, quality indicators and integrated data gathered from several sources as Istat, the Department of Equal Opportunity, Ministries, Regions, anti-violence centers, shelters and other services as the dedicated national helpline 1522.

Together with statistics and analysis reports, here are available documents about Italian and European policies to combat violence and focus on prevention, training activities at schools and for health workers, police, lawyers, judges.

This integrated system originated from the National Plan to fight violence against women and will become a privileged observatory for the government bodies and all the public and private stakeholders to monitor several aspects of the phenomenon, to fight violence against women with effective means and to progressively achieve the objectives of the Istanbul Convention.

POLICIES AND DEFINITIONS
SURVEY RESULTS
THE WAY OUT
THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE CHAIN
THE PREVENTION
INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

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<https://www.istat.it/en/violence-against-women>

Gender-based violence during Covid-19

PHONE CALLS TO 1522 | 1 MARCH - 30 JUNE 2020

IstatperilPaese

HELPLINE 1522

Public service promoted by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers to welcome the request for help and support of victims of violence and stalking

REASONS FOR PHONE CALLS

- 32.1% VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE SEEKING FOR HELP
- 23.9% INFORMATION ABOUT THE HELPLINE 1522
- 19.5% USEFUL NUMBERS FOR OUT OF TARGET CALLS
- 12.3% INFORMATION ON ANTI-VIOLENCE CENTRES
- 6.4% REPORTING OF VIOLENCE
- 3.4% VICTIMS OF STALKING SEEKING FOR HELP
- 2.4% OTHER

INCREASING PHONE CALLS, CONTACTS AND VICTIMS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 2019

- 15,280 VALID PHONE CALLS (+119.7%)
- 6,490 VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE (+115.1%)
- 2,666 APP MESSAGES (+539.3%)
- 3,004 PHYSICAL VIOLENCE (+125.7%)
- 2,285 PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE (+100.3%)

- 92.5% HOME AS A PLACE OF VIOLENT ACT
- 45.7% VICTIMS FEAR FOR ONE'S OWN SAFETY
- 12.8% COMPLAINING VICTIMS
- 3,801 VICTIMS WITH CHILDREN (WITNESSING VIOLENCE)



<https://www.istat.it/en/archivio/246618>

- **A multisource approach is very important to understand the violence situation**
- **It is very important to establish a good relationship with stakeholders**
- **It is very important to improve administrative data**
- **It is very important to have timely data**
- **It is very important to evaluate the planned and implemented policies**
- **It is very important to have an open approach**