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Measuring femicide: the Italian experience

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Need to map femicide

- To understand → **analysis of homicide helps in defining which kind of policies**
- To monitor → specificity of **homicide against women and femicide, well represent dynamics and characteristics of VAW**, whose they are the peak of the iceberg
- To follow the justice aspects
- To prevent

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Topics

- Definition of femicide
- What there is in our data
- The victim - perpetrator relationship
- Diversity in men and women homicides over time and space
- Diversity in the who, the why and the how
- Suggestions for the policies

Starting from the definition…. UN metadata

- Intentional homicide is defined as the unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury (Source: International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, ICCS 2015)

- In the ICCS intentional homicide is defined as the "Unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury". This definition contains three elements characterizing the killing of a person as intentional homicide:

1. The killing of a person by another person (objective element);
2. The intent of the perpetrator to kill or seriously injure the victim (subjective element);
3. The unlawfulness of the killing, which means that the law considers the perpetrator liable for the unlawful death (legal element).

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/crime/ICCS/ICCS_English_2016_web.pdf

SECTION 01	ACTS LEADING TO DEATH OR INTENDING TO CAUSE DEATH	
0101 Intentional homicide Unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury.	+	Inclusions: Murder;[36] honour killing;[37] serious assault leading to death;[38] death as a result of terrorist activities;[39] dowry-related killings;[40] femicide;[41] infanticide;[42] voluntary manslaughter;[43] extrajudicial killings; killings caused by excessive use of force by law enforcement/state officials[44]
	-	Exclusions: Death due to legal interventions;[45] justifiable homicide in self-defence;[46] attempted intentional homicide (0102); homicide without the element of intent is non-intentional homicide (0103); non-negligent or involuntary manslaughter[47] (01031); assisting suicide or instigating suicide (0104); illegal feticide (0106); euthanasia (0105)
0102 Attempted intentional homicide Attempt to inflict unlawful death upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury.	+	Inclusions: Attempted murder; attempt to inflict death as a result of terrorist activities; attempted infanticide; attempted femicide;
	-	Exclusions: Conspiracy to procure or commit illegal feticide (0106)
0103 Non-intentional homicide Unlawful death unintentionally inflicted upon a person by another person.	+	Inclusions: Involuntary manslaughter, causing death by dangerous driving; apply all inclusions listed in 01031 - 01032
	-	Exclusions: Serious assault leading to death (0101); voluntary manslaughter (0101)

[36] **Murder** is unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury, including when premeditated and/or with malice aforethought.
[37] **Honour killing** is the unlawful killing of a person by relatives or other closely associated persons as a result of avenging a perceived dishonor brought on the family, or with the intent of restoring the honour of the family, related to an actual or assumed sexual or behavioural transgression, including adultery, sexual intercourse or pregnancy outside marriage. (World Health Organization. *Understanding and addressing violence against women*. 2012. Web: <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/77421/1/WHO_RHR_12.38_eng.pdf>.)
[38] **Serious assault leading to death** is understood as unlawful death due to an assault committed with the knowledge that it was probable that death or serious injury would occur.
[39] **Death as a result of terrorist activities** refers to killing due to an act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury by a person who is not a combatant (i.e. party to a conflict), when the purpose of such an act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or international organization to do or abstain from doing any act. (United Nations General Assembly. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. 1999. E/RES/54/109, Article 2(1b).
[40] **Dowry-related killing** refers to the unlawful killing of a woman associated with the giving or receiving of a dowry at any time before, during or after the marriage. A dowry is any property or asset

Kind of source and periodicity

More sources:

a) criminal justice system

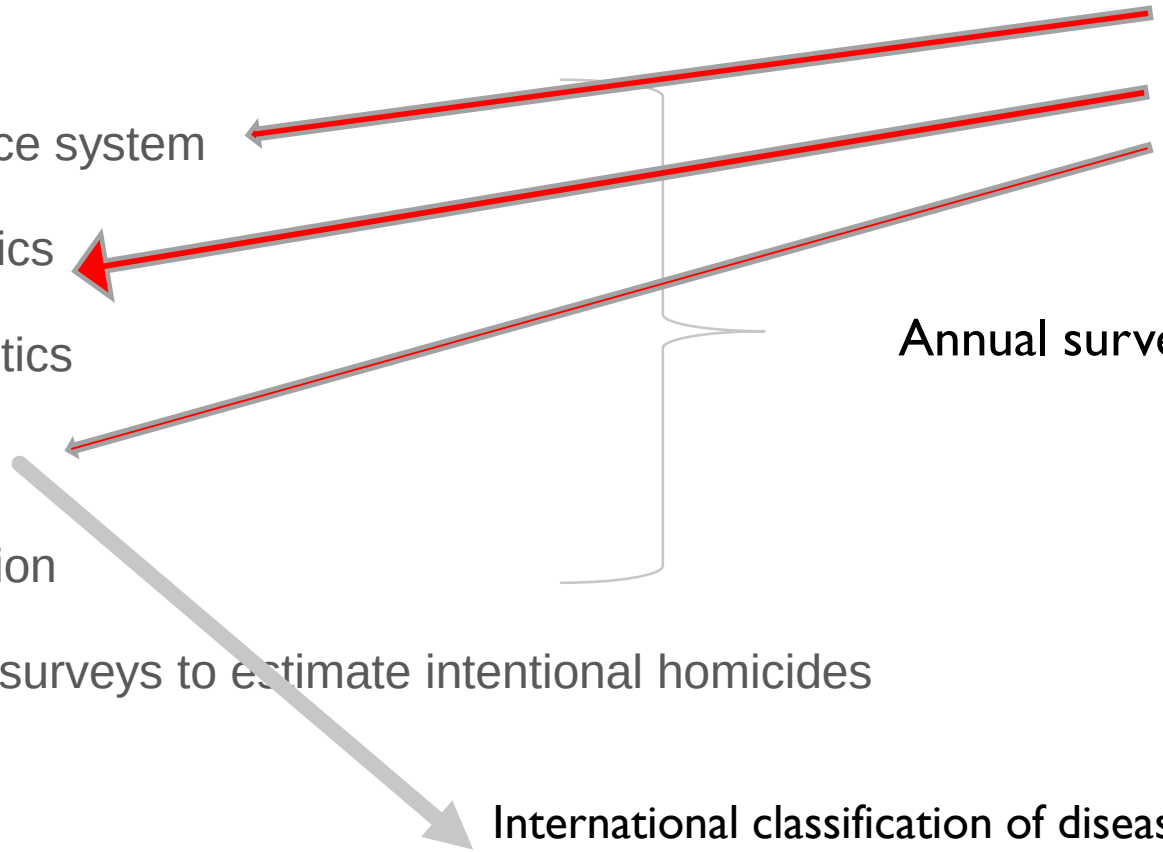
b) Police statistics

c) Justice statistics

d) Public health

e) civil registration

f) If necessary surveys to estimate intentional homicides



IN ITALY

Annual survey

International classification of diseases (ICD-10), which provides a definition of 'Death by assault'

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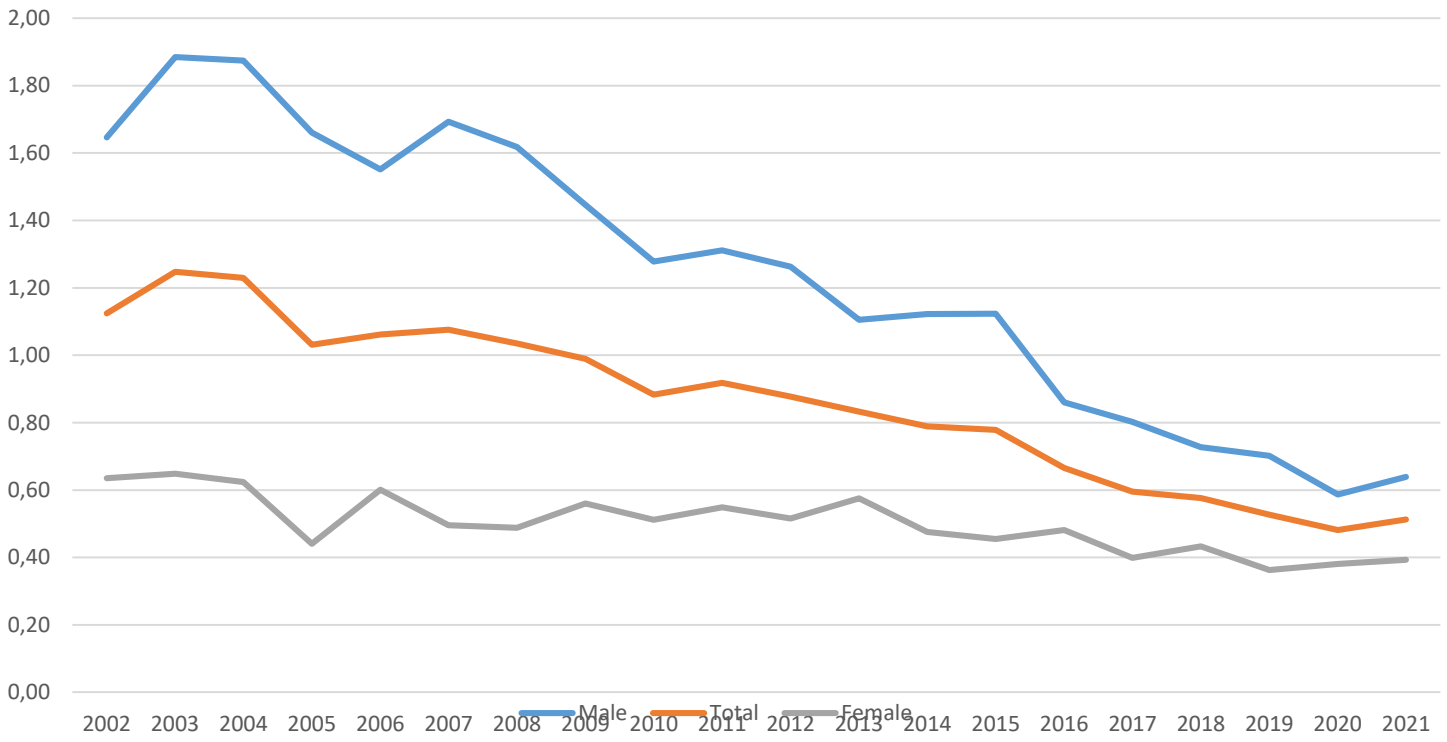
Problematic issues

- DIFFERENT SOURCES different advantages and disadvantages
- In general different outputs and numbers
- How to count? Victims or crimes?
- Needs for inter-institutional cooperation

UNODC collects and publishes data from criminal justice systems through its long-lasting annual data collection mandated by the UN General Assembly (UN Crime Trends Survey, UN-CTS);

Homicide against women in Italy: a constant phenomenon

VICTIMS OF VOLUNTARY HOMICIDE BY GENDER. Years 2002-2021 (values per 100.000 inhabitants)



The false alarm of the "emergency homicide" of women"

- Women were the 11% of all violent death in '90, now they are the 30-35%.
- Not because the homicide of women increased, but because the murders of men decreased.
- Problem in reading the data
- The media need training

Source: Istat analysis on Ministry of Interior data

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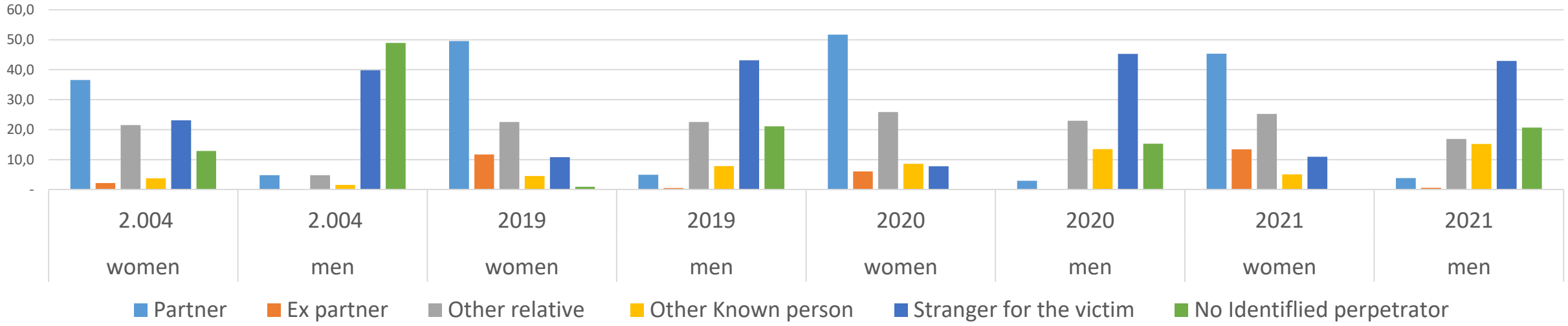
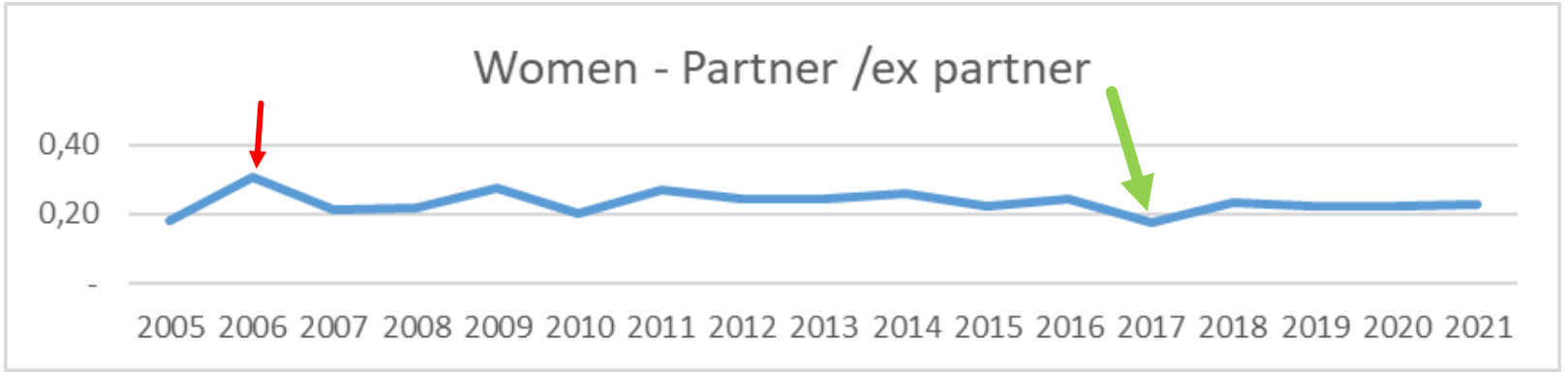
Why homicides of women has not decreased, like those of men?

When data speak by them-selves…….

Homicides by sex of the victim and victim-perpetrator relationship



Between 0,17 and 0,27



Source: Istat analysis on Ministry of interior data

The new classification system on femicide

- UN Statistical Commission (March 2022) approved the contextual framework on femicide
- “(t)he killing of a woman by an intimate partner and the death of a woman as a result of a practice that is harmful to women” European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE, 2017)
- Homicide of a woman because she is a woman. Istanbul Convention on eradication of Gender-based violence (2011)

The new classification system on femicide

- Murders of women by partners
- Murders of women killed in the family
- Murder related to sexual violence or sexual context
- Femicide of women over the age of 65
- Femicide for homophobic reasons
- Murders linked to traditional norms, such as that of honor or inherent in dowry or linked to harmful practices (such as female genital mutilation)
- Murders linked to the criminal context, such as women killed as victims of trafficking or prostitution or in any case in the context of criminal exploitation.

MINIMUM SET OF VARIABLES FOR THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR GENDER STATISTICS (CEGS)

the characteristics of the victims (21 variables), socio-demographic variables, sexual orientation, if she was a victim of sexual violence, if she was pregnant, if she was a prostitute, etc.

the victim-perpetrator relationship (9 types of relationship), including partner, ex partner, family member, acquaintance, colleague, friends, strangers, person belonging to the armed forces and the police force, etc,

circumstances (9 variables), including if there was sexual violence, body mutilation, if the murder is connected to an organized crime, etc.

the characteristics of the perpetrator (18 variables), including the socio-demographic variables, criminal records, previous histories of violence, etc.

modus operandi (5 variables), including cruelty on the body and type of weapons used, vilification of the corpse, etc.

gender motivation (14 variables), including victim's intention to separate, pregnancy, child custody conflict, jealousy and possessiveness, honor reasons, sexual identity of the victim, past domestic violence, the criminal activities involved

United Nation Statistical framework femicide,2002

Statistical_framework_femicide_2022.pdf 12 / 29 175%

Figure 3: Characteristics indicative of gender-related motivations of killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)

To measure femicide out of IPV and family relations

How many femicide in Italy? …. First estimates

- Since 2020, we have the motives of homicide

Estimate 2020

106 femicides (almost 9 per month) out of 116 murders of women.

Estimate 2021

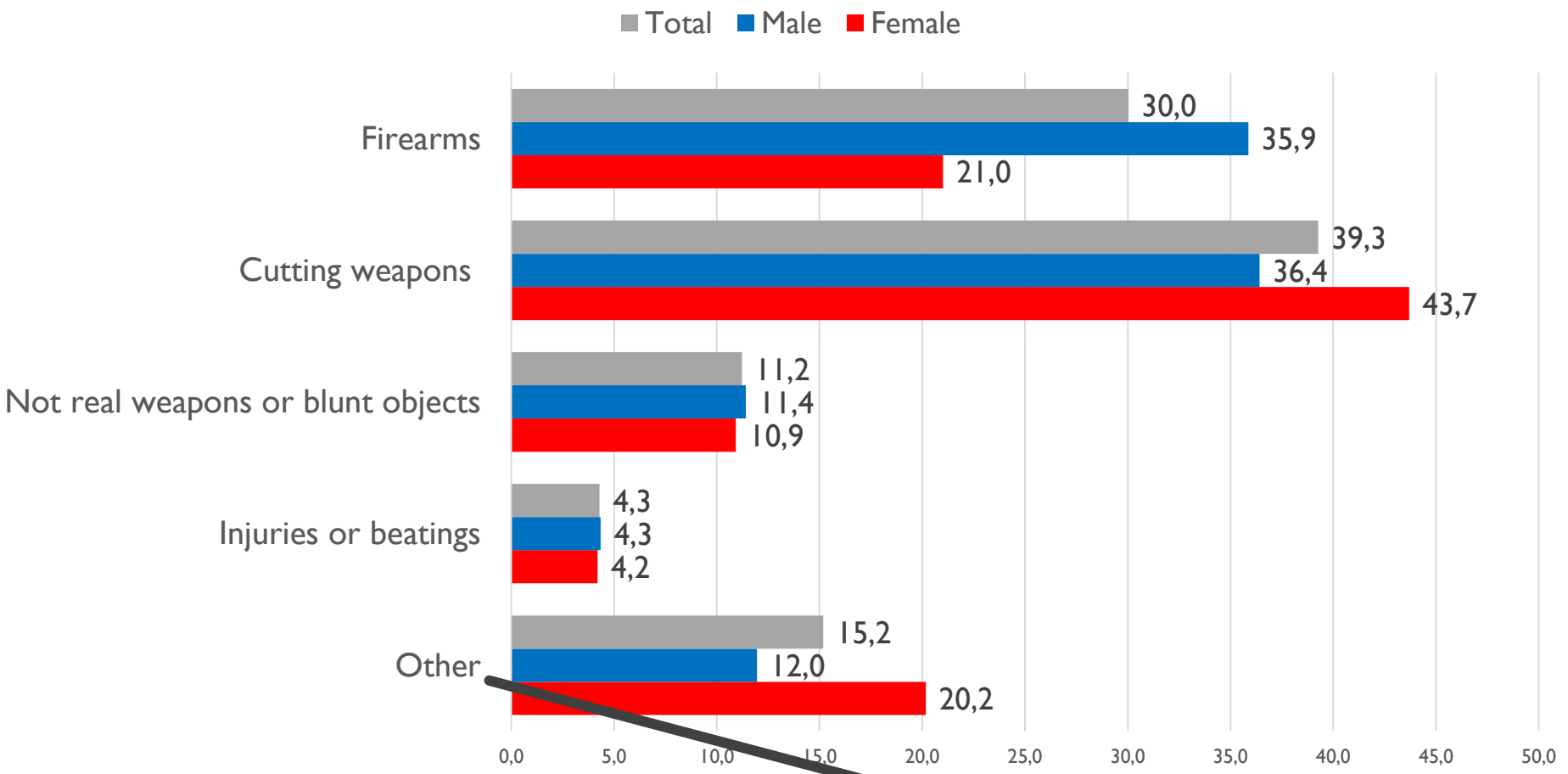
104 femicide, 87.4% of all female homicides

70 women were killed by their partner or former partner; 30 women were killed by another relative; 4 were killed by acquaintances in the emotional or relational sphere.

The remaining **15** female victims includes: 2 women over the age of 65 who were robbed by a stranger, 2 others were killed by acquaintances due to neighbourhood problems or other reasons, while another 11 were killed by unknown persons for various reasons.

For these 15 cases, only more detailed information would allow us to define whether they are gender related killings.

Different ways to die



as asphyxiation, strangulation, suffocation

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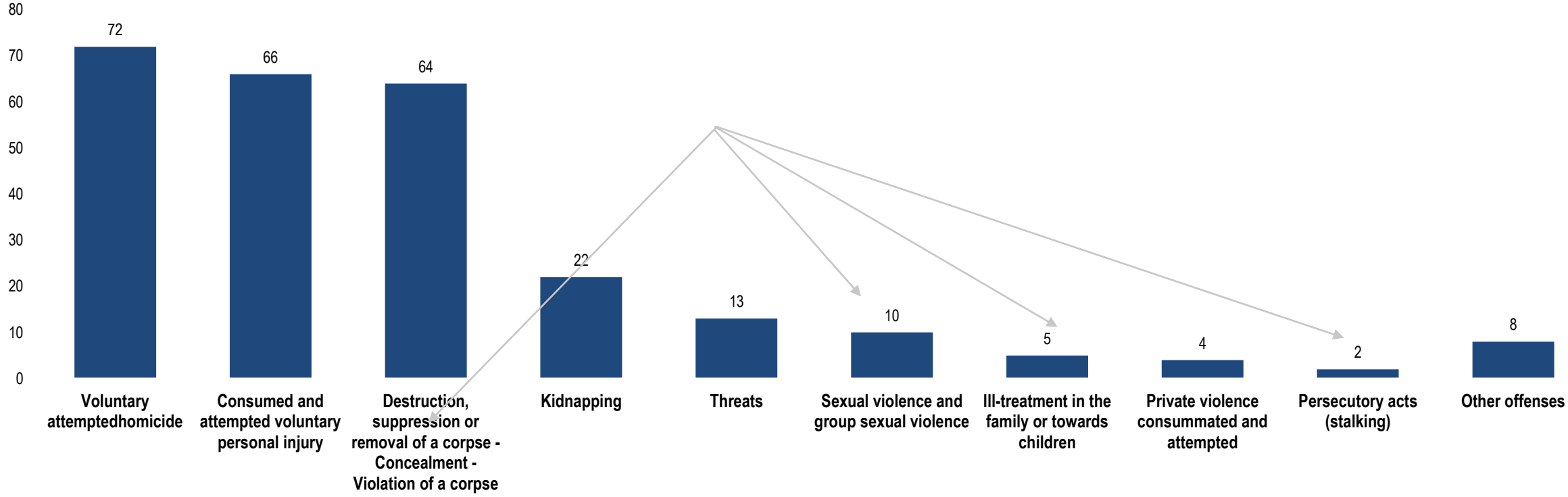
237 convictions for homicide linked to violent crime in the relational context

SOME VIOLENT CRIMES SENTENCED IN THE CONTEXT OF JUDGMENT DEVICES WITH AT LEAST ONE CONVICTION FOR CONSUMED VOLUNTARY MURDER. Year 2018, absolute values



Istat, Data collection on convicted persons, as reported by .the Casellario Giudiziale Centrale

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Plan for the future

- Implementation of the new law on the measurement of gender-based violence and violence against women (53/2022)
- Implementation of agreements with the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice (2021)
- Creation of an inter-institutional observatory on femicides
- Continuous work on the implementation of the international classification of femicides
- Work on sentences, Senate Commission on Femicide

https://www.istat.it/it/violenza-sulle-donne/il-fenomeno/omicidi-di-donne

More information from data referring to shelters, antiviolence crisis centers, health services