



**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**  
CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS



## **QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY**

### **The Safety Survey for 2023**

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## 0. Basic information

- Purpose and subject of the survey

The aim of the Survey is to collect data in a statistically representative manner on aspects of personal safety and experiences with unwanted and violent behaviour at work, in society, in partnerships, in the family and in childhood. The results of the Safety Survey include various indicators of violence and subsequent social treatment of victimisation and can be used in the area of creating social and security policies, in various scientific analyses and international comparisons, and, in general, to inform the wider public about the state of personal safety.

- Reference period

Calendar year

- Legal acts and other agreements

The Safety Survey is carried out on the national level on the basis of the following:

- Official Statistics Act (NN, Nos 25/20 and 155/23),
- Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia 2021 – 2027 (NN, No. 29/22),
- Annual Implementation Plan of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia 2023 (NN, No. 35/23),
- Act on the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (NN, No. 3/18).

- Classification system

The classification system is determined according to the Methodological manual for the EU survey on gender-based violence against women and other forms of inter-personal violence, 2021 edition.

- Statistical concepts and definitions

The reference time of experienced violence refers to the period of the last 12 months, a period from 1 to 5 years ago or earlier than 5 years ago. Data covering experiences over the last 12 months and the last 5 years can give an indication of the extent and the nature of current levels of violence and an estimate of the share of people who may require help. Lifetime experiences, by contrast, provide an indication of the share of people affected by various forms of violence.

Violence experienced in adulthood covers violence experienced by a non-partner since the age of 15 and intimate partner violence during a person's lifetime.

Violence experienced in childhood covers, in the first place, violence perpetrated by parents, such as belittling or humiliating a child verbally or serious physical violence (intentional hitting, kicking, beating with an object like a stick or a belt, burning or stabbing). It also covers sexual violence perpetrated against any person before they have reached the age of 15.

Gender-based violence against women is violence directed against a woman because she is a woman or violence that affects women disproportionately.

A perpetrator is a person who perpetrates violence.

Intimate partners are current or former spouses, civil union partners or cohabitants, people in an informal relationship or who are dating, people whose marriage has been dissolved or declared null, or people in engagement.

A current partner is an intimate partner who is the respondent's spouse and with whom the respondent is currently in a civil partnership or relationship. Alternatively, someone who lives together with the respondent, but who is neither in a marriage nor a civil partnership, or someone not cohabiting nor living together with the respondent but who is an intimate partner.

A former partner is any intimate partner with whom the respondent no longer has an intimate relationship. Alternatively, it is someone who cohabited with the respondent without being married or in a civil partnership. It can also refer to someone who did not live together with the respondent but was nonetheless an intimate partner.

Intimate partner violence is a type of domestic violence perpetrated by a current or former spouse or partner in an intimate relationship against the other spouse or partner. It occurs in intimate relationships, and it may occur in heterosexual or homosexual couples, with victims being of either sex, and does not require sexual intimacy between partners. This type of violence covers psychological, sexual and physical violence (including threatening) experienced in the course of a person's life.

Non-partner violence is threatening, physical or sexual violence experienced since the age of 15 and perpetrated by someone who has never had an intimate relationship with the respondent, such as a stranger, an acquaintance, a friend, a colleague, a teacher, a neighbour, or a family member.

Physical violence means the intentional commission of acts of physical violence against another person, bodily harm suffered as a result of the application of immediate and unlawful physical force, violent behaviour resulting in harm and/or fear. Physical violence sometimes includes threatening. It refers to a range of violent types of behaviour or acts involving harm and fear, such as threatening to harm the respondent; pushing or shoving the respondent, pulling their hair, slapping them or throwing something at them; punching the respondent or beating them with an object; kicking; burning (with fire or acid or by some other means); trying to choke or strangle the respondent; threatening to use or actually using a knife, gun, acid or something similar; or using force against the respondent in some other way with the aim of hurting them.

Psychological violence is intentional behaviour that involves seriously impairing a person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats. This type of violence includes a range of behaviours encompassing acts of emotional abuse and controlling behaviour. It has been expanded to include the notion of economic harm, if it can be associated with psychological violence. Specifically, psychological violence includes behaviours such as emotional abuse and controlling behaviour towards the respondent; belittling and humiliating; forbidding the respondent to see friends or family, or to engage in hobbies or other activities; tracking the respondent via GPS, phone or social network; forbidding the respondent to leave the house without permission or locking the respondent up; constantly accusing the respondent of being unfaithful or getting angry if the respondent speaks to another person; forbidding the respondent to work; controlling the finances of the whole family and the respondent's personal expenses; keeping or taking away the respondent's ID card/passport to control the respondent; yelling and smashing things or behaving in a certain way with the aim of scaring or intimidating the respondent; threatening to hurt the respondent's children or other people close to the respondent; threatening to take away the respondent's children or to deny custody; and threatening to harm themselves if the respondent leaves them.

Sexual violence includes unwanted sexual intercourse through force or physical violence or by exploiting a situation in which the respondent is not able to refuse sexual intercourse because they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It also includes unwanted sexual intercourse which the respondent is too afraid to refuse and cases in which the respondent is forced into unwanted sexual intercourse with another person or persons as well as attempts to carry out any of the above acts or any other unwanted sexual behaviour that the respondent finds degrading or humiliating. Furthermore, this type of violence also covers unwanted sexual touching by non-partners.

Rape relates to a sexual intercourse without consent, which may include physical force, or by putting victims in a situation in which they cannot say no or comply out of fear.

Sexual harassment at work encompasses the following unwanted behaviour (with sexual connotation) that occurs in the working environment: inappropriate staring or leering, exposure to sexually explicit images or videos, indecent sexual jokes or offensive remarks about someone's body or private life, inappropriate suggestions for any sexual activity, unsolicited physical contact, inappropriate advances on social networking websites, inappropriate sexually explicit emails or text messages, threats with unpleasant consequences if sexual proposals or advances are refused, other

similar behaviour at work (with a sexual connotation) that takes place at work or working environment which makes a respondent feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated.

Domestic violence refers to all acts of sexual or physical violence (including threatening) that occur within the family or a household, including violence between intimate partners.

Repeated violence (series of episodes) refers to similar violent episodes repeated by the same person(s), during which similar things are done under the same circumstances more than once.

An incident (event or episode) is a single violent situation during which the respondent experienced one or more different violent acts.

The last incident is the most recent violent episode that has happened within the last five years.

Sex is the combination of biological and physiological characteristics that define a person as either male or female.

Violence (violent behaviour) is behaviour that can cause physical and/or emotional harm to others.

A victim is a person who has experienced violence.

Ever-working persons refers to a person's own perception of their involvement in the labour market in the course of their life. It is a self-assessment and takes no account of any official criteria (such as those established by the International Labour Organization (ILO)).

- **Statistical unit**

The target population in the survey were persons in private households and private dwellings who reached 18 years of age or older and were under 75 years of age on 31 August 2022.

- **Statistical population**

The basic set for the Safety Survey was based on data from the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in 2021. Statistical population includes all persons with their usual residences in private households.

## **1. Relevance**

### **1.1. Data users**

Data obtained in the Safety Survey are used in the area of social policy creation, in various scientific analyses and international comparisons.

National users:

- Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation,
- Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy,
- Ombudswoman for Gender Equality,
- scientific and research entities.

International users:

- European Commission,
- scientific and research institutes, universities (professors/students of graduate and postgraduate studies), research organisations, etc.,
- interested public who often obtain information on statistical data through mass media.

#### 1.1.1. User needs

Science and research subjects use data for national and international scientific and research projects in the field of victimology. The Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy may, among other things, use the results of the Safety Survey for the purposes of preparing reports on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for the Republic of Croatia, etc.

International users: Eurostat uses survey data for a systematic and user-oriented presentation of internationally comparable victimological indicators (for EU Member States).

#### 1.1.2. User satisfaction

The first user satisfaction survey of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics was conducted in 2013, the second one in 2015, and the last one at the end of 2022. The survey results can be checked on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics <https://dzs.gov.hr/highlighted-themes/quality/user-satisfactionsurveys/686>.

### 1.2. Completeness

The Survey is in line with the Eurostat's methodological recommendations and international standards and classifications.

#### 1.2.1. Data completeness rate

The data completeness rate is 100%.

## 2. Accuracy and reliability

### 2.1. Sampling error

The sampling error shows the precision of estimates of sample-based population parameters.

The target population in the survey were persons in private households and private dwellings who reached 18 years of age or older and were under 75 years of age on 31 August 2022.

The frame contained 2 826 052 persons, from whom a sample was selected and stratified into four statistical regions according to the HR\_NUTS 2021 – HR NUTS 2 (Pannonian Croatia, Adriatic Croatia, the City of Zagreb and North Croatia) and according to an additional division into "urban" and "other".

After the stratification was conducted, a total of eight strata were obtained.

The sample allocation was proportional to the number of persons in the stratum within the population, while the sample size of the stratum "City of Zagreb – other" was extended.

A sample of 42 977 persons was selected using the systematic random sampling method, with implicit stratification carried out, meaning that persons within each stratum were classified by age groups and sex, so that the final sample would be representative for entire Croatia.

The response rate was 42.2%.

ESTIMATES AND PRECISION MEASURES FOR THE INDICATOR "PERSONS IN AGE GROUP 18 – 74 WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL (INCLUDING THREATS) OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY ANY PERPETRATOR"

	Estimate	Standard estimation error	Confidence interval (95%)	Variation coefficient
Total	22,7	0,5	21,6; 23,8	2,4
Women	25,3	0,8	23,8; 26,8	3,0
Men	20,0	0,8	18,4; 21,5	3,9

ESTIMATES AND PRECISION MEASURES FOR THE INDICATOR "PERSONS IN AGE GROUP 18 – 74 WHO HAVE EVER BEEN IN AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP AND EXPERIENCED PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL (INCLUDING THREATS) OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER"

	Estimate	Standard estimation error	Confidence interval (95%)	Variation coefficient
Total	25,4	0,6	24,3; 26,6	2,3
Women	28,1	0,8	26,6; 29,7	2,9
Men	22,5	0,9	20,8; 24,1	3,8

### 2.1.1. Sampling error indicators

The response rate was 42.2%.

## 2.2. Non-sampling error

Non-sampling errors are other errors that are not connected with the sample selection.

They can be divided into the following categories:

- coverage errors,
- non-response errors,
- processing errors,
- measurement errors.

### 2.2.1. Coverage error

Coverage errors occur by aberrations from the sample frame, and are measured by the over-coverage rate, which represents a share of sample units that are not a part of the target population. The sample frame for the Safety Survey was based on data from the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in 2021.

### 2.2.2. Over-coverage rate

Over-coverage rate in the telephone directory is 35.63%

### 2.2.3. Measurement errors

Measurement errors are considered all errors that can emerge during the collection or entering data into survey forms or in programme application of the questionnaire. There is a tendency to minimise such errors by correctly defining the survey questions, by regular training of interviewers and by applying an adequate data collection method, implementing controls into the electronic questionnaire and by checking the collected survey data during and after fieldwork. The control of the collected data includes logical data control and logical connections between answers, etc.

#### 2.2.4. Non-response errors

Non-response errors refer to information on how many statistical units did not provide responses to the questionnaire, i.e. on the number of households that did not accept participation in the Survey. The non-response rate at the household level was 57.78%.

#### 2.2.5. Unit non-response rate

Unweighted non-response rate is 57.78%.

#### 2.2.6. Item non-response rate

The indicator is not applicable.

#### 2.2.7. Processing errors

In data processing, logical and computational checks are run for particular variables and questionnaire modalities.

#### 2.2.8. Imputation rate

The indicator is not applicable.

#### 2.2.9. Model assumption error

The indicator is not applicable for this survey.

### 2.3. Data revision

#### 2.3.1. Data revision – policy

Data are published in the First Release of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, while the release data are available in the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues. The users of statistical data are informed about revisions on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics on the link [General Revision Policy of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics](#).

#### 2.3.2. Data revision – practice

Provisional data are not published in this survey and therefore there are no data revisions.

#### 2.3.3. Data revision – average size

The indicator is not computed.

### 2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable.

## 3. Timeliness and punctuality

### 3.1. Timeliness

Timeliness shows the length of time between the end of the reference period to which the data relate and the time when the data are released, expressed in the number of months.

#### 3.1.1. Timeliness – first results

The indicator is not computed.

#### 3.1.2. Timeliness – final results

Timeliness of final results is T + 22 (number of months after the end of the reference period until the release of final results).

### **3.2. Punctuality**

Punctuality is defined as a period from the actual publishing date and the target publishing date according to the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues. All planned publications for the Safety Survey 2025 have been released in line with the Publishing Programme.

#### **3.2.1. Punctuality – delivery and publication**

The Survey results are released 22 months after the end of the reference period to which the data relate. In line with the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues, the Safety Survey results were issued in a First Release on 31 December 2024.

## **4. Accessibility and clarity**

Survey results are available in electronic format on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

### **4.1. News releases**

[Results of the Safety Survey](#)

### **4.2. Online database**

Not available.

### **4.3. Microdata access**

Conditions under which certain users can have access to microdata are regulated by [the Ordinance on Conditions and Terms of Access and Use of Confidential Statistical Data of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for Scientific Purposes](#) (NN, No. 5/23).

### **4.4. Documentation on methodology**

Basic Notes on Methodology are included in every First Release, Statistical Report and Statistics in Line.

A more detailed description of the methodology of the national survey is released in the Eurostat's Methodological Manual on the link <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-gq-21-009>.

## **5. Coherence and comparability**

### **5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics**

The indicator is not applicable for this survey.

### **5.2. Comparability over time**

The Safety Survey was carried out for the first time, while the expected periodicity is five years.

#### **5.2.1. Length of comparable time series**

The Survey was carried out only once, and the length of comparable time series is 1 (in years).

#### **5.2.2. Reasons for break in time series**

The indicator is not applicable for this survey.



### **5.3. Coherence – short-term and structural data**

The indicator is not applicable.

### **5.4. Coherence – national accounts**

The indicator is not applicable.

### **5.5. Coherence – administrative sources**

The indicator is not applicable.

## **6. Cost and burden**

### **6.1. Cost**

The Safety Survey was conducted with the financial assistance of the European Union <https://dzs.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti%20EN/Finalised%20projects%20funded%20by%20the%20EU%2012.pdf>.

Pursuant to the Article 27 of the Official Statistics Act (NN, Nos 25/20 and 155/23) and other applicable legal regulations, public procurement was carried out, and certain aspects of the preparation and implementation of the Safety Survey were carried out by a selected business entity through public procurement.

This includes the following:

- the application of EU methodology for conducting research in cooperation with the Croatian Bureau of Statistics,
- the development of program support for data collection and processing in accordance with the EU methodology and using technological solutions with the consent of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics,
- the preparation for data collection, data collection and research management,
- the delivery of all necessary reports and data, as well as source codes of developed software solutions.

Public procurement costs amounted to 261 320.42 euro.

### **6.2. Burden**

The average duration of the survey was calculated only for those surveys that were completed in one attempt, i.e. without interruption, using the CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing) and CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) methods. Surveys that are conducted in multiple attempts have excessively long durations due to the characteristics of the technical variables used to measure the duration of each survey. Therefore, the average duration was calculated on 4832 completed surveys. The average duration of the survey using the CAWI method was 29.6 minutes, while the average duration using the CATI method was 31.5 minutes.