



19 December 2023

SURVEY ON SAFETY IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES  
2022

## TWO-FIFTHS OF THE POPULATION HAVE EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONE SITUATION OF VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME

The results of the Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces reveal that more than 1.4 million people aged 18 to 74 have experienced violence during childhood (18.6%), up to the age of 15: more than 1.3 million people (17.6%) with both parents have been subjected to some kind of psychological or physical abuse from their parents, and more than 176 thousand (2.3%) have been victims of sexual abuse during childhood by someone.

One in every five people has been the victim of stalking (20.7%), a higher proportion among women (23.8%), the younger population (27.6%) and those with a higher level of education (29.0%).

Considering all contexts of violence throughout life, more than two-fifths of the population (44.8%) have experienced at least one situation of violence. The *Alentejo* region stands out with the lowest proportion (37.8%), while the autonomous regions of *Madeira* (48.1%) and *Açores* (46.9%) and *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (46.8%) have the highest proportions. The prevalence of violence is higher among those with a higher level of education (49.4%).

Considering only violence against women, Portugal generally belongs to the group of European Union countries with the lowest proportions of violence.

Victims of non-partner violence were the most likely to report their experiences of violence (66.8%) and victims of sexual violence during childhood were the most likely to keep silent (29.4%). Around half of the victims in an intimate context spoke to someone or some organisation about what happened.

Psychological and physical consequences as a result of the violence were most frequently mentioned by victims of intimate partner violence.

More than three-quarters of the population (75.8%) consider intimate partner violence against women to be very common. More than two-fifths (42.0%) have a similar opinion of violence against men by female partners.

Awareness of the various support services/structures for victims was lower among the group of people who had already experienced some type of violence.

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In addition to the information published in the [Press Release](#) disseminated on 30 October 2023, Statistics Portugal releases an additional set of results from the Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces (ISEPP) 2022, carried out on a voluntary basis in seventeen Member States<sup>1</sup> (MS) between 2020 and 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> The Member States that carried out this survey with the financial support of Eurostat, within the framework of the European Statistical System, were Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia. In Belgium, the survey was carried out nationally,



Following the set of indicators released by Eurostat<sup>2</sup>, the first results of ISEEP 2022 disseminated by Statistics Portugal focused on the prevalence and characteristics of violence experienced in adulthood, both inside and outside the context of intimacy, as well as experiences of sexual harassment at work among the resident population in Portugal aged 18 to 74. This Press Release presents an analysis focused on other contexts of violence, such as violence during childhood and stalking, as well as other experiences of victimisation, such as assaults, robberies or thefts. This information will be complemented with a global analysis of the prevalence and characterisation of all types of violence observed at ISEPP, the reporting made by victims, the consequences resulting from violence suffered in different contexts, the population's perceptions of violence and awareness of victim support structures and services.

At ISEPP, the prevalence of violence was observed in the following contexts, in the public or private spaces: 1) sexual harassment at work; 2) violence experienced in a context of intimacy, by current and/or former spouses or boyfriends/girlfriends or partners, hereafter referred to as partners; 3) violence experienced with people other than partners; 4) stalking; 5) violence during childhood; and 6) victimisation in general.

The experience of violence in different contexts of people's lives covers specific types of violence: 1) violence in the context of intimacy encompasses acts of psychological violence, physical violence, including threats<sup>3</sup>, and sexual violence; 2) violence experienced with people other than partners encompasses only acts of physical and sexual violence; 3) violence during childhood encompasses acts of physical and psychological violence, or physical and emotional abuse, by parents towards children, and acts of violence or sexual abuse by anyone, inside or outside the family. The acts that correspond to each type of violence are described in the Methodological Note at the end of this Press Release. In addition to the information provided in the data files accompanying the respective Press Releases, Statistics Portugal also plans to make anonymised microdata available for research purposes by the end of February 2024.

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following Eurostat's methodological manual, and already has results published, while Italy has a specific survey on this subject and will subsequently share the data with Eurostat. In order to complete the picture of the European Union on this topic, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) will carry out the survey, following Eurostat's methodology, in the remaining Member States: Czechia, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Romania and Sweden.

<sup>2</sup> Eurostat released results only for women, who are the target population of this survey. Since these are the first official statistics on this subject, Portugal has extended the scope of the survey to include men.

<sup>3</sup> For ease of language, physical violence (including threats) will now be referred to simply as physical violence.



## 1. Violence during childhood

*Around a fifth of the population aged 18 to 74 has experienced violence during childhood.*

More than 1.4 million people (18.6%) aged 18 to 74 reported having experienced some type of violence during childhood (up to the age of 15): more than 1.3 million people (17.6%) with both parents had experienced some type of emotional or physical abuse from their parents, and more than 176 thousand (2.3%) had been sexually abused during childhood by someone.

Violence against children observed at ISEPP includes acts of physical violence and emotional abuse experienced in a family context, with parents or parental figures<sup>4</sup>, as well as acts of sexual abuse that may have occurred in different contexts, including in the child's home, at school, in the community or on the Internet. The perpetrators of this type of violence can be anyone: family members and friends, neighbours or other people with hierarchical power over the child, such as teachers, healthcare professionals, religious figures, strangers or other children.

*Women and the population aged 35 to 54 with a higher prevalence of sexual violence up to the age of 15. Physical and emotional abuse by parents more commonly reported by the older population.*

The proportion of women who reported having been victims of violence during childhood is higher than that of men (19.4% and 17.6% respectively), particularly supported by the difference observed in sexual violence, reported by 3.5% of women, compared to 1.1% of men. In both cases, the perpetrators were essentially men (for 3.3% of women and 0.9% of men).

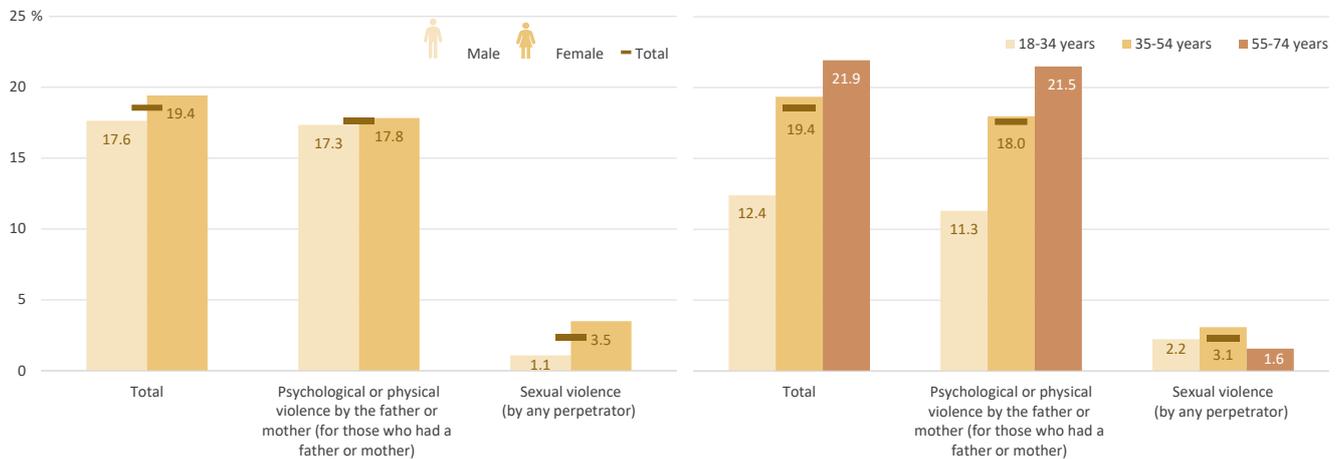
The proportion of people who have been victims of psychological or physical violence by their parents varies in direct proportion to their age, affecting 11.3% of the population aged 18 to 34, and rising to 21.5% for the population aged 55 to 74. The 35 to 54 age group has the highest proportion of victims of sexual violence during childhood (3.1%), followed by the younger population aged 18 to 34 (2.2%).

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<sup>4</sup> Father and mother understood in a comprehensive sense, comprising the people the respondents consider to be their father/mother, including stepmother, adoptive mother, stepfather and adoptive father, as well as other people they consider to be maternal or paternal figures.



Figure 1. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 who have experienced some type of violence during childhood (up to the age of 15), by sex, age group and type of violence, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

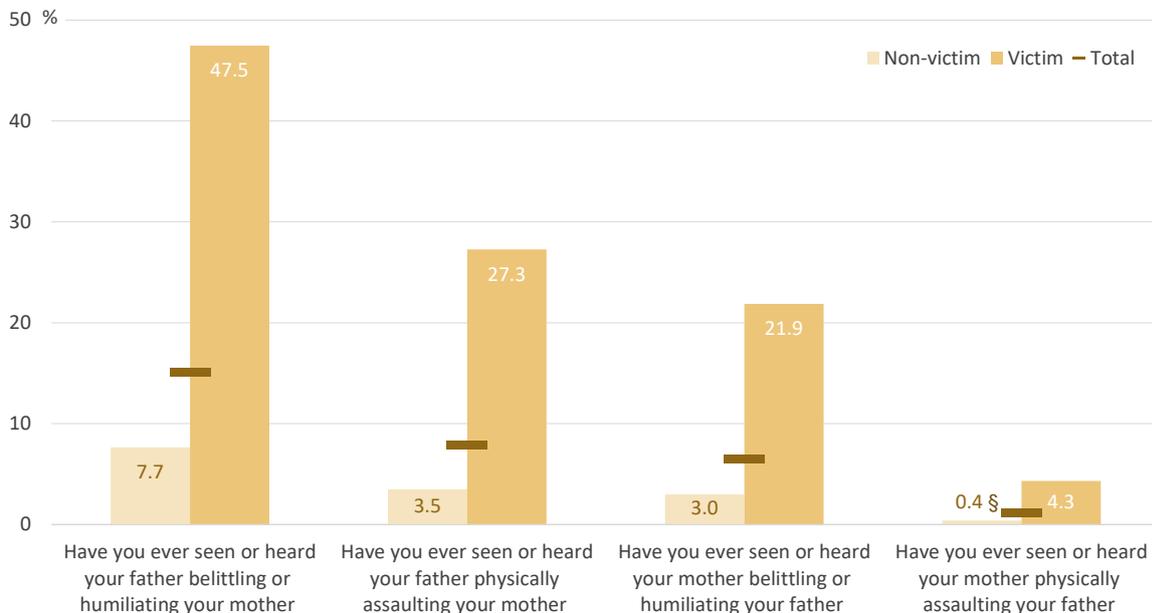
### Family context of violence between parents more common for victims of violence during childhood.

Information on violent experiences witnessed or experienced within the family is a fundamental element in understanding the magnitude and nature of violence throughout life, and is essential for studying the intergenerational transmission of violence. Sexual violence suffered in childhood can also be a predictor of becoming a victim of violence during adulthood.

When asked about their family background, almost half of the victims of some type of violence during childhood witnessed situations of psychological violence in which the father humiliated or belittled the mother (47.5%). Around a fifth (21.9%) witnessed situations in which the mother humiliated or belittled the father. These values contrast with considerably lower proportions in the population that did not experience violence during childhood, 7.7% and 3.0% respectively. More than a quarter of victims of violence during childhood (27.3%) have witnessed physical aggressions from their father towards their mother, and 4.3% from their mother towards their father.



Figure 2. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 who have experienced some type of violence during childhood (up to the age of 15), by violence suffered during childhood, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

## 2. Stalking

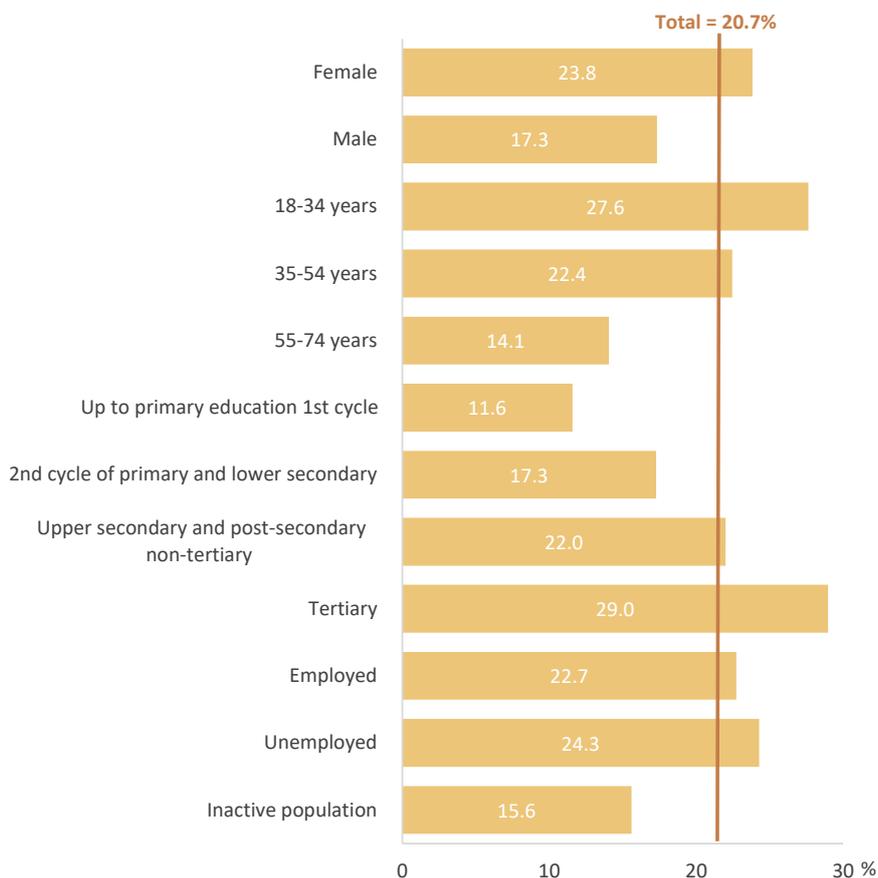
*One in every five people has been the victim of stalking, a proportion that is higher among women, the younger population and those with a higher level of education.*

Around 1.6 million people, or 20.7% of the population aged 18 to 74, have been victims of stalking. Stalking is an intentional behaviour that consists of repeatedly threatening another person, making them fear for their safety, with the aim of intimidating and controlling them. It encompasses situations that can occur in everyday life, where someone repeatedly threatens or offends another person to the point of causing fear or concern for that person's safety, and can be carried out by anyone, male or female, including current or former partners.

The proportion of victims of stalking is higher among women (23.8%) compared to men (17.3%), and also among the younger population, decreasing with age: more than a quarter of the population aged 18 to 34 (27.6%) reported having been stalked, a value that decreases until it affects 14.1% of the population aged 55 to 74. In terms of education level, people with tertiary education (29.0%) were the ones who most often reported having been victims of stalking, followed by those with secondary or post-secondary education (22.0%). The unemployed (24.3%) and the employed population (22.7%) had higher proportions than the inactive population (15.6%).



Figure 3. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 who have been victims of stalking, by sex, age group, level of education and activity status, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

For all victims of stalking (20.7%), the last situation of violence occurred in the following periods: in the 12 months prior to the survey (3.1%), in the last 5 years (8.2%), and more than 5 years ago (12.5%). The majority of victims were stalked by male perpetrators (12.0%), who for 17.6% of the victims were people other than current or former partners<sup>5</sup>. These were responsible for stalking 2.6% of all people who have or have had conjugal relationships.

Following situations of stalking, only 12.8% of victims turned to the police authorities to report the situation, while 6.0% asked for help from victim support associations or sought legal support. Both solutions were adopted by 14.7% of the victims of stalking.

<sup>5</sup> People with a partner - includes people who have current spouses or boyfriends/girlfriends and/or previous spouses or boyfriends/girlfriends.



### 3. An overview of the prevalence and characterisation of violence in different contexts

This section presents an overview of the prevalence and characterisation of violence experienced in the different contexts covered by the ISEPP, with an overall analysis of the incidence of violence according to a set of sociodemographic characteristics, living conditions and health.

Having analysed all the experiences of violence that a person may have had throughout life, from childhood to the context of intimacy in adulthood, from violence experienced outside the context of intimacy to stalking and sexual harassment in the workplace, it is possible to construct an indicator that summarises the experience of at least one situation of violence in these contexts: victims of violence throughout life.

*More than two fifths of people have experienced at least one violent situation in their lives. The Alentejo stands out with the lowest proportion and the autonomous regions of Madeira and Açores and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa with the highest proportions.*

The proportion of the population that has experienced at least one situation of violence in their lifetime is 44.8%. When analysing by NUTS 2 regions, the *Alentejo* (37.8%) stands out as having the lowest value in this indicator, with proportions lower than the national average in any of the contexts of violence analysed. On the other hand, the autonomous regions of *Madeira* (48.1%) and *Açores* (46.9%) stand out, as well as *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (46.8%), with values above the national average.

The autonomous regions of *Madeira* and *Açores* have the highest proportions of intimate partner violence (24.4% and 23.8%, respectively, compared with the total of 19.9%), with violence during childhood also standing out in *Região Autónoma da Madeira* (23.9%), compared to the national average of 18.6%. *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (18.7%) is the only region with a proportion above the national average (16.1%) when it comes to violence by people other than partners. This region also stands out for having the highest proportion of sexual harassment at work (11.1%), along with *Região Autónoma da Madeira* (9.1%), both higher than the national average (8.8%).

When differentiating the territory according to the degree of urbanisation, it is in the predominantly rural areas that the lowest proportion of those who have experienced at least one type of violence throughout their lives is recorded (38.2%), particularly due to the low proportions presented in the indicators of violence exercised by people other than partners (9.7%), sexual harassment at work (4.9%) and stalking (13.9%).



Figure 4. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 who have experienced some type of violence, by context of violence and place of residence (NUTS 2 - NUTS 2013), 2022



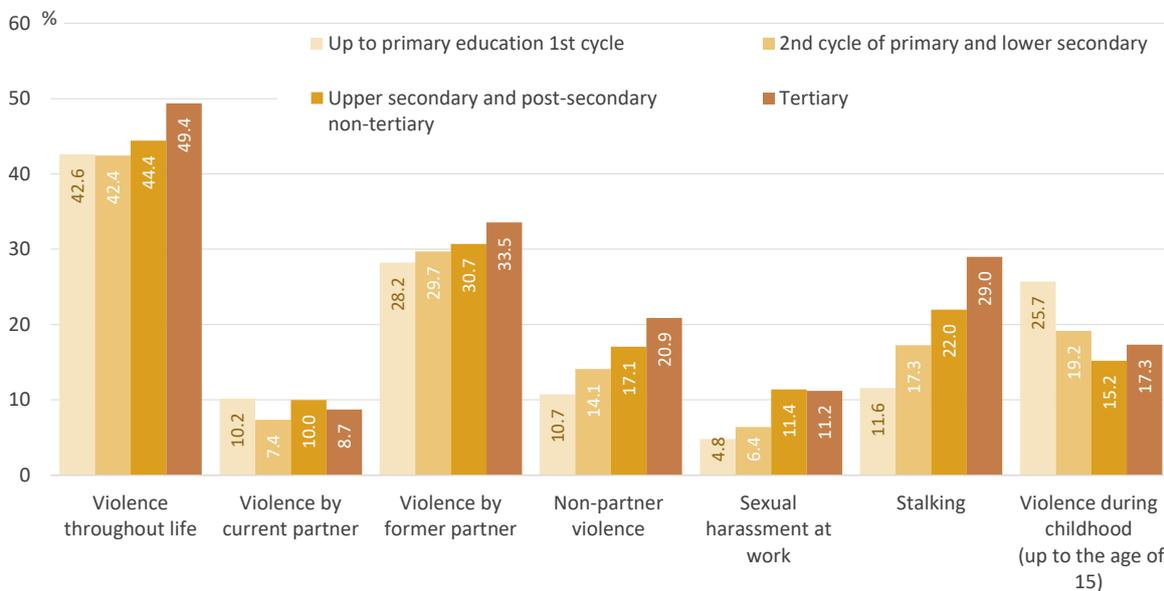
Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.



*The prevalence of violence is higher among the population with a higher level of education.*

The proportion of victims of some type of violence is lower for the population with lower levels of education (42.6% for those with up to primary education), rising to half of the population with tertiary education (49.4%). In general, the population with tertiary education have higher proportions in all contexts of violence, especially stalking (29.0%, compared to 20.7% for the total population) and violence by people other than partners (20.9% to 16.1%, respectively).

**Figure 5. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 who have experienced some type of violence, by context of violence and level of education, 2022**



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

The inactive population has the lowest proportion of victims of some type of violence (40.5%), compared to 46.6% for the employed population and 46.7% for the unemployed. Analysing all the contexts of violence, the inactive population shows below average values, with the exception of violence by current partner (9.7%) and violence during childhood (19.9%).

The unemployed population stands out for having above-average values, particularly for violence by a former partner (36.8%), stalking (24.3%) and sexual harassment at work (13.5%).

Economic (in)dependence is an important factor to consider when analysing experiences of violence. Looking at victims of some type of violence throughout their lives by main source of income, it can be seen that people who depend on subsidies, social integration income, institutions or people outside the household also have the highest prevalence rate in this indicator (46.9%). By context of violence, for these people, the prevalence is particularly high in intimate partner violence (24.7%), mainly due to violence by previous partners (36.4%),

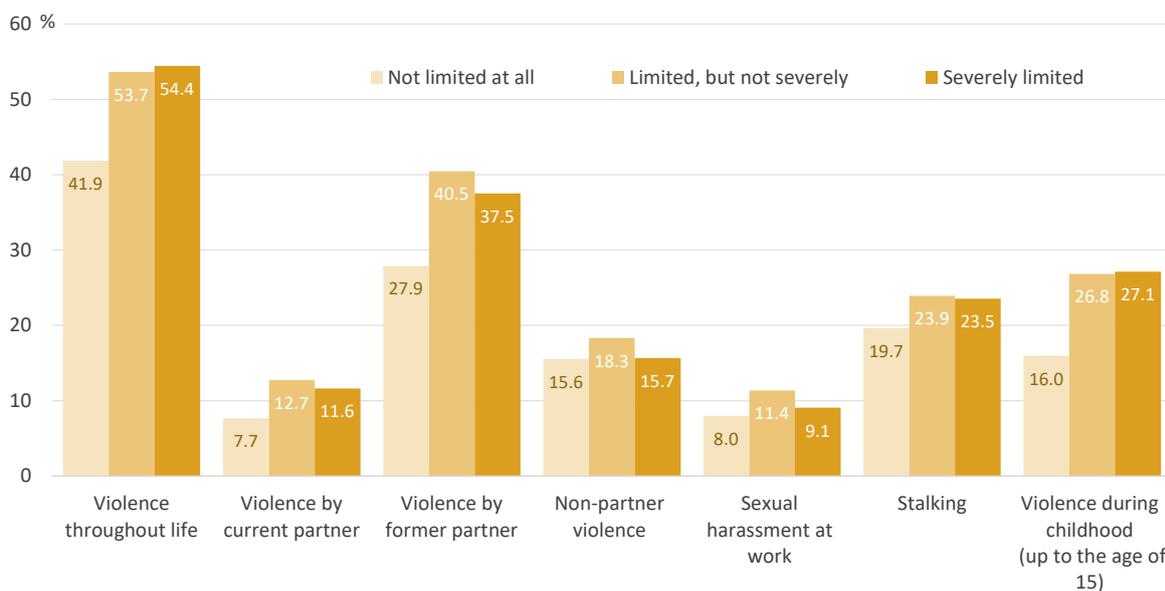


violence during childhood (21.0%) and sexual harassment at work (11.6%). People living in the family had the lowest proportion (38.9%), mainly as a result of a lower prevalence of violence during childhood (13.3%).

*More than half of people with disabilities have experienced some type of violence in their lifetime.*

The ISEPP also included a question to assess the state of disability, measured by the general limitation in carrying out activities that people usually do, due to health problems, at least in the six months prior to the interview. A considerable difference can be observed in the profile of people who said they had no limitations at all, with the lowest proportion of lifetime violence (41.9%), compared to 53.7% for those who said they were limited, but not severely, and 54.4% of those who reported being severely limited. In all contexts of violence, people without any kind of limitation have lower proportions. Also noteworthy is the particularly high proportion of those who reported being limited, but not severely, in violence by previous partners (40.5%).

**Figure 6. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 who have experienced some type of violence, by context of violence and level of disability (activity limitation), 2022**



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.



*Portugal is among the countries with the lowest rates of intimate partner violence against women, non-partner violence, sexual harassment at work and sexual violence during childhood.*

When compared with the eighteen European Union (EU) Member States for which the survey results are available, and for the population that constitutes the survey's target audience at European level (women aged 18 to 74), it can be seen that, of the eighteen countries, Portugal only has higher prevalence rates than Bulgaria and Poland, both in relation to intimate partner violence and non-partner violence, i.e. violence caused by people other than partners.

With regard to sexual harassment at work, and as observed for violence inside and outside the context of intimacy, Portugal also has the third lowest value, only above Bulgaria and Latvia.

As for stalking, Portugal has the sixth highest prevalence rate of stalking among the European countries that took part in the survey, placing it in the top half of the table.

With regard to violence during childhood, which in the context of the European indicators is limited to the prevalence of sexual abuse up to the age of 15, Portugal is in the group of countries with the lowest values for this indicator, only above Poland, Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania.

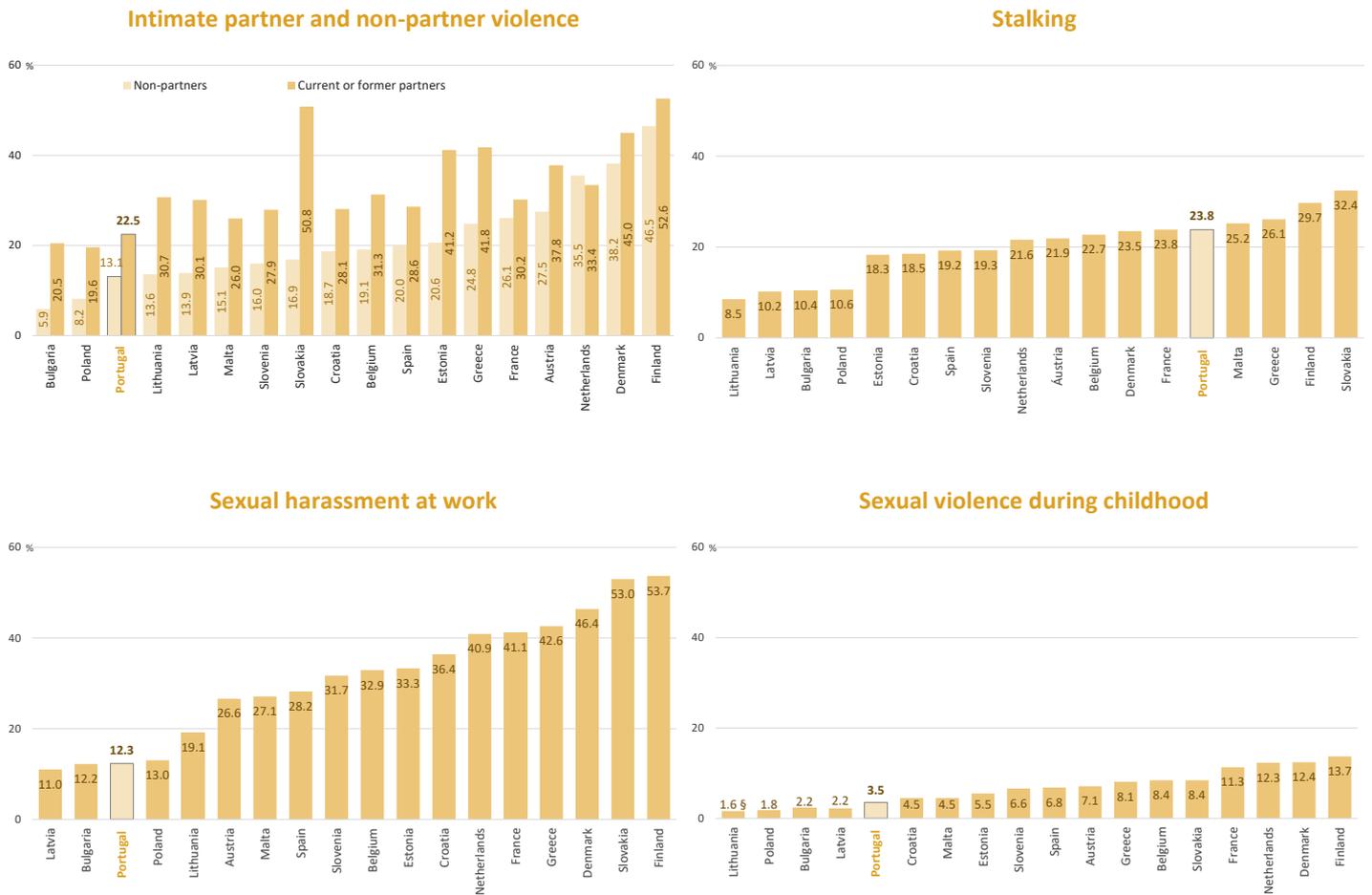
Finally, it should also be noted that the Nordic countries tend to have higher rates of all types of violence, especially Finland.

The comparative analysis of these results must, however, take into account the specific cultural and social background of each country, as well as the levels of tolerance that each society may have for certain acts of violence<sup>6</sup>. The individual's willingness and ability to disclose any act of experienced violence must take into account the extent to which violence is tolerated in the community at large. There will be contexts and population groups, even within each country, where there is less normalisation of violence than in others, for example among the younger or more educated population, which may be reflected in different levels of reporting.

<sup>6</sup> The details of this subject can be found in Eurostat's first report analysing the first results of this survey at European level (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-reports/w/ks-ft-22-005>).



Figure 7. Proportion of women aged 18 to 74 who have experienced some type of violence, by context of violence, 2022



Source: Eurostat, EU survey on gender-based violence (GBV) [gbv\_database].

Note: § - Estimate with low reliability.



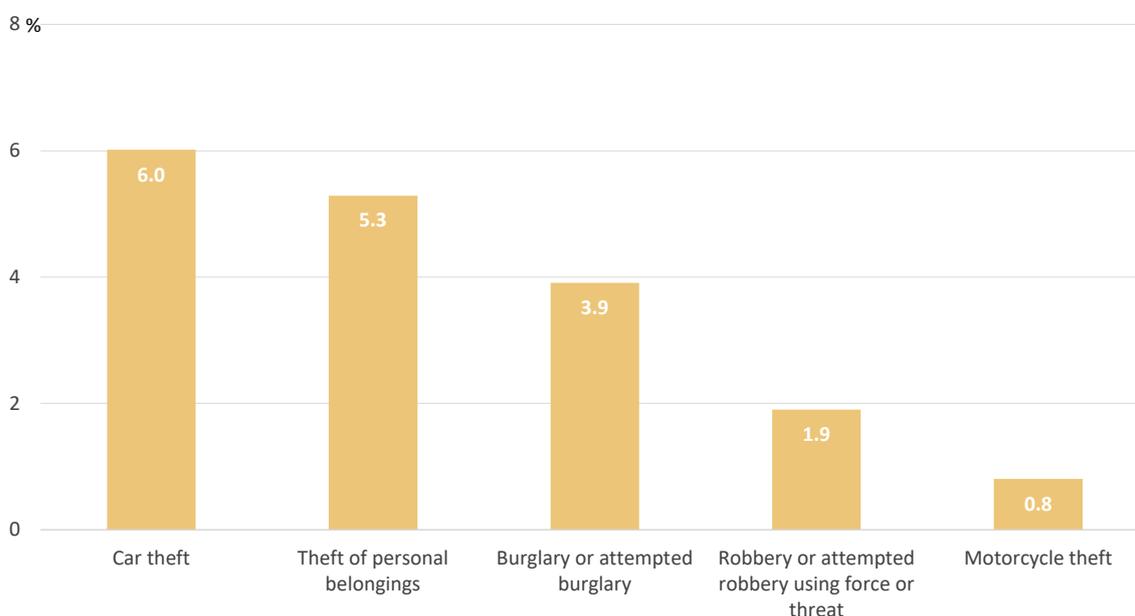
### 3.1. Victimisation in general

The survey also included a set of questions to observe the prevalence of other types of victimisation experiences among the population, such as theft of a car or motorcycle, burglary or attempted burglary, robbery or attempted robbery, with the use of force or threats, and theft of personal belongings. 6.0% of people aged 18 to 74 said that, in the five years prior to the interview, they had been assaulted or robbed<sup>7</sup> of a car or van used by themselves or someone in their household, and for 1.8% of the population this had happened in the previous 12 months

More than 400 thousand people (5.3%) had experienced the theft<sup>8</sup> of personal belongings such as handbags, wallets, items of clothing, jewellery or mobile phones in the five years prior to the interview.

Burglary or attempted burglary at home was reported by 3.9% of the population aged 18 to 74, while 1.9% had themselves been the target of robbery or attempted robbery using force or threats. The theft of motorcycles or motobikes in the previous five years was mentioned by 0.8% of the population.

**Figure 8. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 by experience of car theft, motorcycle theft, burglary or attempted burglary, robbery or attempted robbery using force or threat and theft of personal belongings, 2022**



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Assault refers to a sudden attack, whether or not force or threats are used, with the aim of stealing or robbing. Robbery is the taking of movable property by violence or threat with imminent danger to the life or physical integrity of the victim.

<sup>8</sup> Theft is the taking of movable property without the use of violence and/or threats.



#### 4. Reporting and consequences of violence

*Victims of non-partner violence were the most likely to report their experiences of violence and victims of sexual violence during childhood were the most likely to keep silent. Around half of the victims in an intimate context spoke to someone or some organisation about what happened.*

One of the aspects observed in the ISEPP results relates to whether or not the victims reported their experiences of violence and, if so, the organisations or people with whom they reported their experiences in the various contexts of violence. The entities considered for this purpose vary according to the context of victimisation, but are generally more formal, such as police authorities, social and/or health services, formal structures in the workplace or school and victim support institutions. With a less formal character, family members and friends are essentially considered.

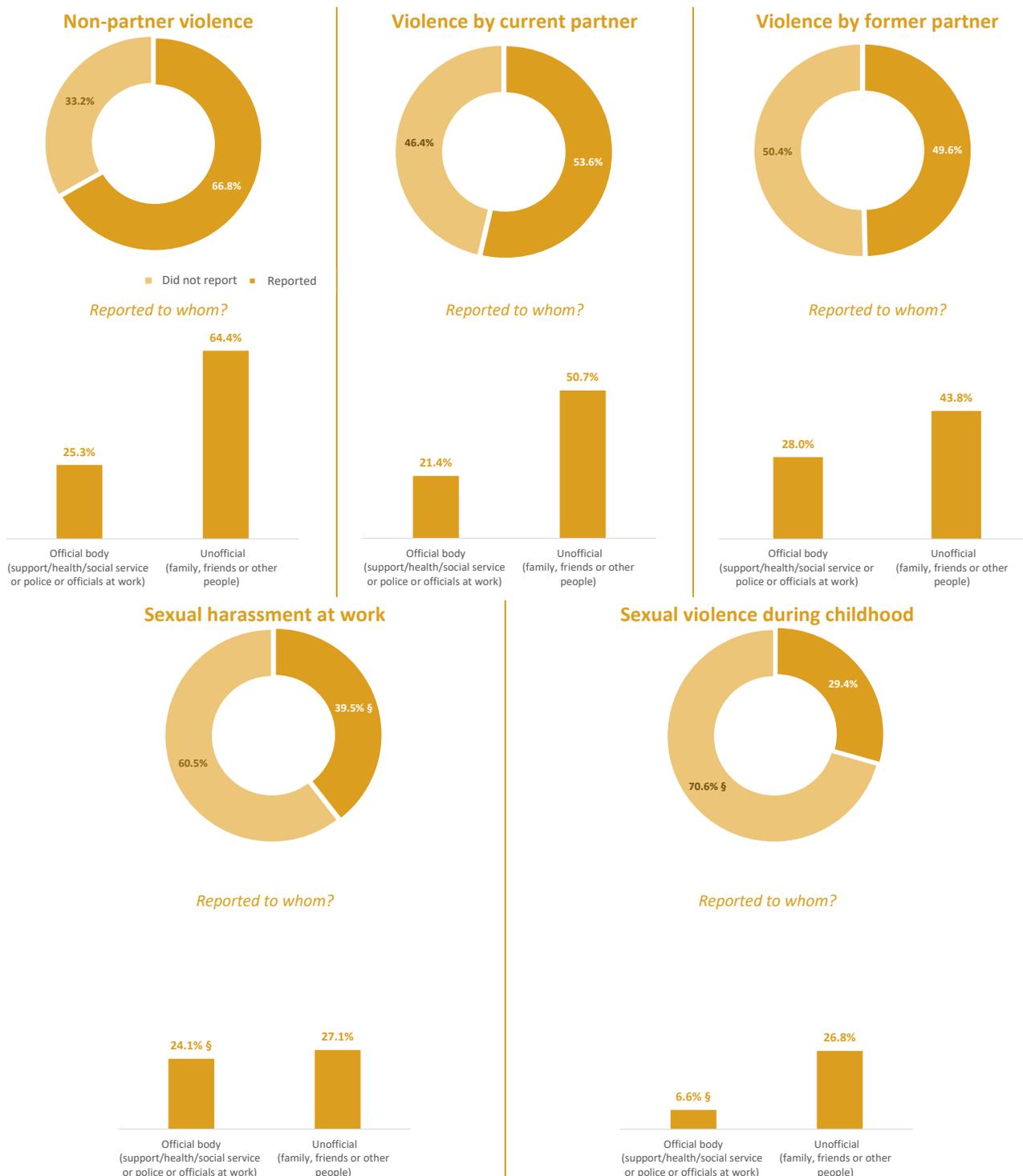
The ISEPP results show that less than a third of victims of violence during childhood (29.4%) have spoken to someone or some entity about what happened. On the other hand, more than two thirds of victims of violence by people other than partners (66.8%) have spoken to someone or some entity; this is followed by people who have experienced intimate partner, by current (53.6%) and former (49.6%) partners.

Considering only victims by current and former partners and by people other than partners, it can be seen that only 21.4%, 28.0% and 25.3% of victims, respectively, have reported their experiences of violence to more formal entities.

The situations experienced are mostly reported to family and friends, which is particularly noticeable among victims of non-partner violence (64.4%), victims of violence by current partner (50.7%) and victims of violence by previous partner (43.8%).



Figure 9. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 who have experienced violence, by context of violence, report and person/support service to whom violence was reported, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

Note: § - Quality standard deviation/Extremely unreliable value.



*Victims of intimate partner violence are the most likely to report psychological and physical consequences as a result of the violence.*

Violence, in its various forms, affects the victims in particular, but also society as a whole, directly or indirectly. It can result in injuries, death, physical and psychological damage that affects individuals, and jeopardises security, human rights and fundamental freedoms at a general level.

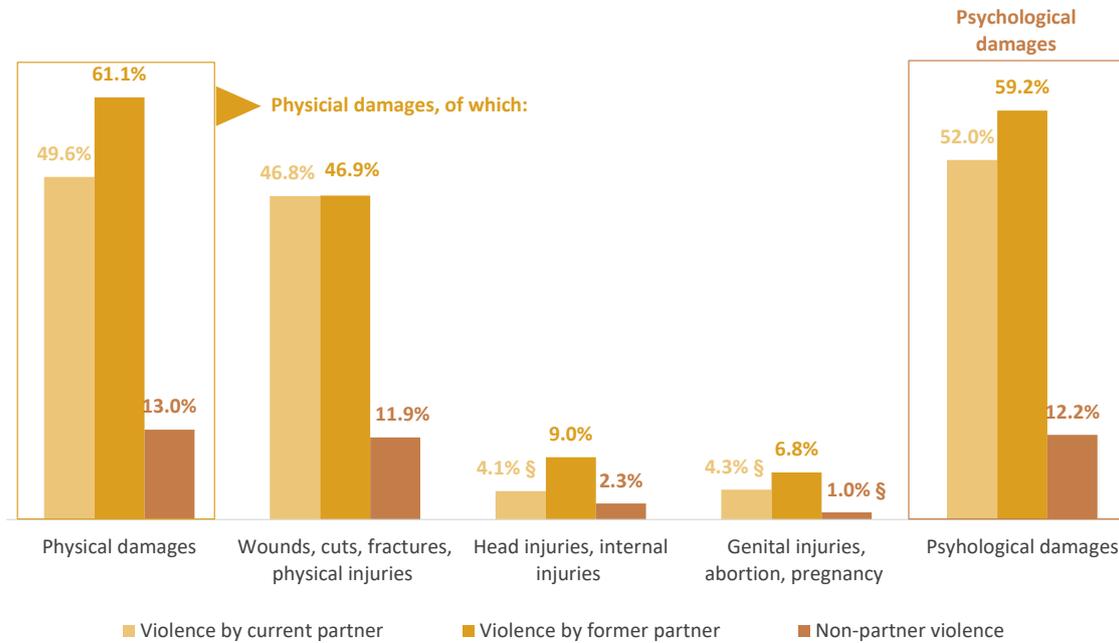
The consequences of the violence were only analysed for victims of intimate partner violence and of non-partner violence. It is the victims of intimate partner violence who most often report having suffered consequences as a result of the situations they have experienced. For more than half of the victims, both by current (52.0%) and former (59.2%) partner, the experienced violence had psychological consequences<sup>9</sup>. The physical consequences of violence affect 61.1% of victims of violence by a former partner and 49.6% of victims by a current partner. Among the most frequently mentioned physical consequences are wounds, cuts, fractures and physical injuries, which affect 46.9% of victims of violence by a former partner and 46.8% of victims of violence by a current partner.

Violence by people other than partners left victims with physical and psychological consequences in very similar proportions, 13.0% and 12.2% respectively. There is also a higher prevalence of consequences such as wounds, cuts, fractures and physical injuries, affecting 11.9% of victims of this type of violence, compared to considerably lower proportions of victims who report having suffered other types of injuries.

<sup>9</sup> Psychological consequences include, for example, depression, panic attacks, concentration problems, sleep or eating problems.



Figure 10. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 who have experienced violence, by context of violence, existence of physical consequences and of psychological consequences as a result of violence, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.

Note: § - Quality standard deviation/Extremely unreliable value.

## 5. Awareness of victim support services and perceptions of violence

The survey also aims to observe the level of awareness that the population, in general, and victims, in particular (in this case, victims of threats, physical or sexual violence from partners or non-partners), had about the technical, legal and psychological support services and structures dedicated to supporting victims of violence, provided by public entities or non-profit organisations. In addition, the survey also included general perception questions about how common people consider violence by men against women and by women against men to be, as well as about sexual harassment in the workplace.

*Shelters and NGO helplines are the most well-known victim support services or structures. Knowledge of the various support services/structures is lower among victims.*

Shelters, institutions that offer free accommodation to victims of domestic violence, and the victim helplines of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO)<sup>10</sup> are the most well-known victim support services/structures among the population aged 18 to 74: more than four fifths of people said they were aware of them (85.3% and 81.6%

<sup>10</sup> Such as the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV), the Union of Women for Alternative and Response (UMAR), and the Association of Women Against Violence (AMCV).

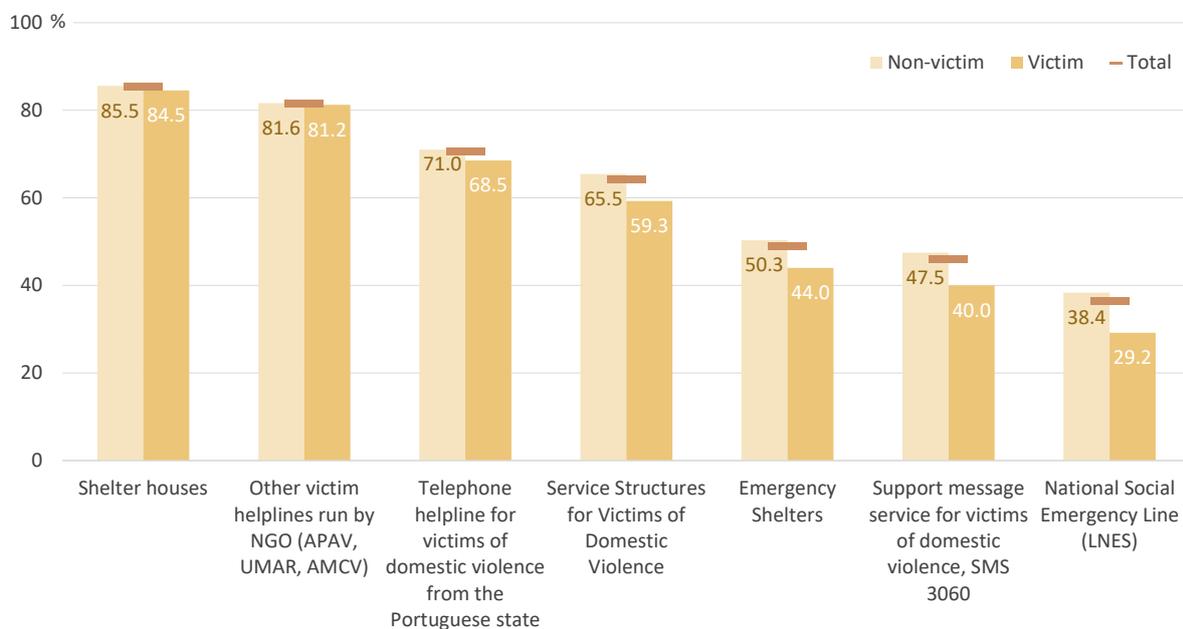


respectively), with very similar proportions between victims and non-victims. This is followed by the *Telephone helpline for victims of domestic violence from the Portuguese state*, which is known by 70.5% of the population, slightly more among people who are not victims (71.0%) than those who are (68.5%). The *structures assisting victims of domestic violence* are known by 64.2% of the population, showing a similar pattern, i.e. with a higher proportion of awareness among non-victims (65.5%) than among victims (59.3%).

More than half of the population is not aware of the other support services/structures for victims: 49.0% said they were aware of the *Emergency Shelter*; 46.0% of the *Support message service for victims of domestic violence, SMS 3060*; and 36.5% of the *National Social Emergency Line (LNES)*, for support in urgent social protection situations. In all these cases, the proportion of people who know about these services is higher among non-victims.

In general, the proportion of those who know about support services/structures increases with age. The same is true regarding the awareness that in Portugal victims of domestic violence are entitled, among other things, to free legal aid, a fact known by 62.9% of the population, increasing with age: 53.9% in the 18 to 34 age group; 65.7% in the 35 to 54 age group; and 66.1% in the 55 to 74 age group. Also in this respect, the proportion of non-victims (63.6%) who know about this support is higher than that of victims (59.9%).

Figure 11. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 by type of victimisation and awareness of victim support services, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.



**More than three-quarters of the population consider intimate partner violence against women to be very common. More than two-fifths have a similar opinion of violence against men by female partners.**

The survey included general opinion questions on the incidence of intimate partner violence against women (by husbands, partners or boyfriends) and men (by wives, partners or girlfriends), as well as on sexual harassment in the workplace.

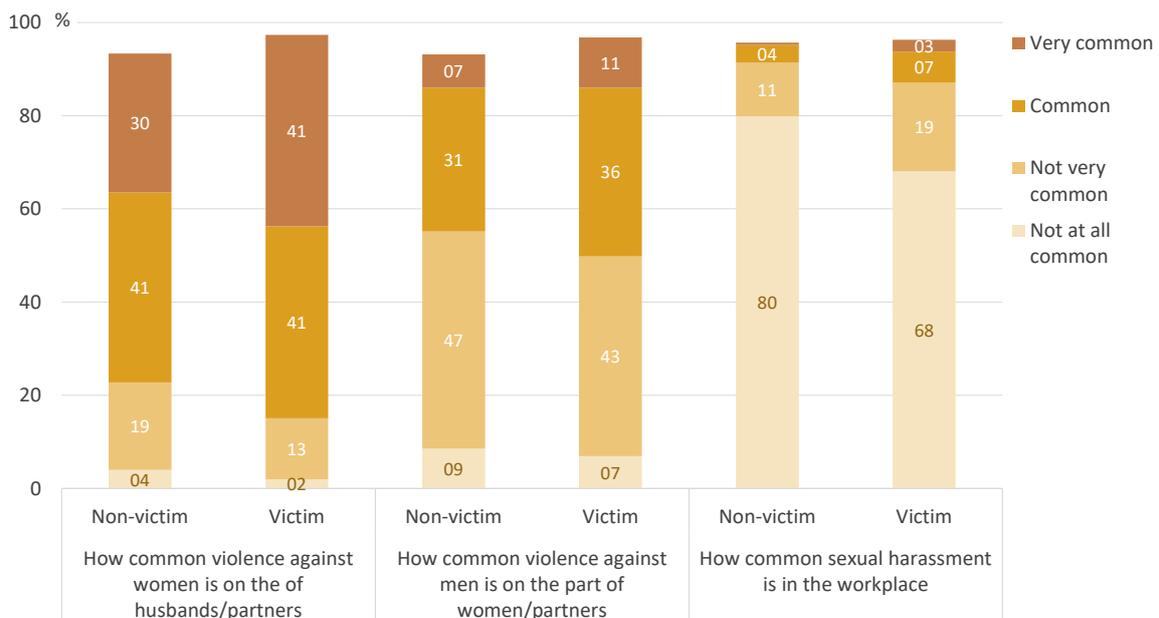
In the case of an intimate context, the aim was to observe the perception that victims of some type of violence and non-victims had of how common they considered violence by men against women and by women against men to be. In the case of sexual harassment in the workplace, the aim was to understand how common victims and non-victims of some type of violence, who work or have worked, consider this type of violence to be in the workplace.

More than three quarters of the population (75.8%) consider violence against women by husbands/partners/boyfriends to be *very common/common*. On the other hand, more than two-fifths (42.0%) have a similar opinion about violence against men by their wives/partners/girlfriends.

The general population considers sexual harassment in the workplace to be *not at all common* (74.4%), and only 6.6% consider this form of violence to be *very common/common*.

The perception of these different types of situations being *very common/common* is always higher for people who have been victims of any type of violence throughout their lives.

**Figure 12. Proportion of people aged 18 to 74 by type of victimisation and perceptions of violence in various contexts, 2022**



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2022.



## METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces (ISEPP), carried out in 2022, aims to contribute to the consolidation of a European statistical information system on gender-based violence and domestic violence. It is a statistical operation funded by the European Commission (EC), and is part of the European Statistical Programme for 2021-2027.

Combating gender-based violence and domestic violence and improving knowledge on the subject to support the definition of policy measures is a priority of the EC, expressed in particular in the Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019 and, more recently, in the European Strategy for Gender Equality 2020-2025.

This issue has also received particular attention at national level, requiring data to define and monitor policy measures in this area. In particular, the Action Plan for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (PAVMVD), which is part of the National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination (ENIND) - Portugal + Igual<sup>11</sup>, sets out major global and structural action targets until 2030 for the pursuit of equality and non-discrimination, defining strategic and specific objectives in terms of preventing and combating all forms of violence against women, gender-based violence and domestic violence.

In addition, article 11 of the 2011 Istanbul Convention, to which Portugal has been a signatory since 2013, introduces the obligation to regularly collect data on gender-based violence and domestic violence through population surveys covering all the forms of violence mentioned in the Convention (physical, sexual, psychological and economic).

In this context, a Eurostat working group was set up, in which Portugal is represented by Statistics Portugal, to develop a Europe-wide survey focussing on gender-based violence issues. The aim of this working group was to develop and test the methodology of a population survey to collect representative statistics on the prevalence and characterisation of gender-based violence in the Member States, in line with the requirements set out in the Istanbul Convention.

To this end, a pilot survey was carried out in 2019 to test the methodology in terms of interview methods and scope (rural and urban areas; men and women; and the adult population, with no upper age limit). The reference population for the pilot survey consisted of individuals aged 18 and over living in three regions: *Norte*, *Centro* and *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa*. Three interview modes were tested: CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview); CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interview); and CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interview). The results of the pilot survey supported the development of a more complete questionnaire adopted at European level in the main statistical operation. The Eurostat working group developed a proposal for a methodology and questionnaire on the subject of gender-based violence and domestic violence, implemented on a European scale, with a view to obtaining harmonised and comparable data at European level. This is the context of the current survey, whose main concepts and definitions, as well as technical and methodological guidelines for data collection, follow the recommendations set out in the Methodological Manual developed by Eurostat for this purpose<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> The National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination (ENIND) - Portugal + Igual was approved in Council of Ministers Resolution no. 61/2018 of 21 May (<https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/resolucao-conselho-ministros/61-2018-115360036>).

<sup>12</sup> Methodological manual for the EU survey on gender-based violence against women and other forms of inter-personal violence (EU-GBV), Eurostat, 2021 (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-gq-21-009>).



The ISEPP is a sample survey, whose information was collected directly from the observation units - men and women aged 18 to 74, living in dwelling units of main residence - using a mixed sequential data collection modes, combining web interviews (CAWI), with telephone (CATI) and face-to-face (CAPI) interviews for the accommodation units that didn't respond via the web.

The survey was applied nationwide between July and early October 2022 to a sample of 21,030 dwelling units. Only one person per dwelling was interviewed, selected by the method of the last anniversary in the dwelling. A total of 11,346 complete interviews were obtained.

For a more detailed analysis of the methodology followed, we suggest reading the [ISEPP 2022 methodological document](#) (only in Portuguese), available at Statistics Portugal website.

## MAIN CONCEPTS

**Threat:** Harm announced with a view to provoking in the person threatened a feeling of fear or unease, or jeopardising their freedom of determination.

**Sexual harassment:** Any unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature aimed at violating a person's dignity, particularly when this conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

**Rape:** An offence committed by anyone who, by means of violence or serious threat, or after having rendered the person unconscious or unable to resist, forces another person to suffer or perform an act of a sexual nature.

**Gender-based violence:** Violence directed at a person on the basis of their gender, gender identity or gender expression, or which disproportionately affects people of a particular gender, and may result in physical, sexual, emotional or psychological harm, or economic loss to the victim.

Note: Gender-based violence is considered a form of discrimination and a violation of the victim's fundamental freedoms, and includes violence in intimate relationships, sexual violence (including rape, assault and sexual harassment), human trafficking, slavery and different forms of harmful practices such as forced marriages, female genital mutilation and so-called honour crimes.

**Domestic violence:** The act of inflicting, repeatedly or not, physical or psychological abuse, including corporal punishment, deprivation of freedom and sexual offences on a spouse or ex-spouse; a person of the other or same sex with whom the perpetrator maintains or has maintained a relationship similar to that of spouses, even without cohabitation; the parent of a common first-degree descendant; a person who is particularly defenceless due to age, disability, illness, pregnancy or economic dependence, and who cohabits with the perpetrator.

**Physical violence:** Action or omission that endangers or causes harm to the physical integrity of a person.

**Psychological violence:** Intentional behaviour that seriously damages a person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats.

Note: This includes a range of behaviours that include acts of emotional abuse and control, as well as the economic damage that can be associated with psychological violence.



**Shelter:** A social response consisting of a residential unit designed to provide accommodation for women victims of violence, whether they are accompanied by minor children, who cannot remain in their homes for safety reasons.

**Sexual violence:** Action that forces a person to have sexual, physical or verbal contact with the use of force, intimidation, manipulation, threats or any other mechanism that cancels or limits personal will.

**Stalking:** The intentional conduct of repeatedly engaging in threatening conduct directed to another person, causing them to fear for their safety.

**Victim:** A person who has suffered harm, namely an attack on their physical or mental integrity, moral damage or material loss, directly caused by actions or omissions that contravene criminal legislation.

**Victim support services:** Confidential services that promote and contribute to the information, protection and support of citizens who are victims of criminal offences.

**Victimisation:** exposure of an individual to a crime or attempted crime by one or more people.

## ACTS OF VIOLENCE OBSERVED AT ISEPP, BY TYPE OF VIOLENCE

TYPES OF VIOLENCE	ACTS OF VIOLENCE
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Looking inappropriately or maliciously to the point of intimidation
	Showing sexually explicit images or photos to the point of offence, humiliation or intimidation
	Making indecent sexual jokes or offensive comments about your body or private life
	Making inappropriate suggestions about going on a date to the point of offence, humiliation or intimidation
	Making inappropriate suggestions about sexual practices
	Touching in a sexually explicit way without consent or trying to kiss or hug against their will
	Making inappropriate, humiliating or intimidating comments or taunts on social networks
	Sending emails or messages with sexually explicit content
	Threatening retaliation if you don't accept sexual proposals
	Engaging in sexual behaviour other than that mentioned, to the point of offence, humiliation or intimidation
PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE	Belittling, humiliating or name-calling when alone or in the presence of other people
	Preventing you from spending time with friends or engaging in hobbies or other activities
	Preventing you from being with family members
	Insisting on knowing where you were, in a controlling way, or watching your steps via GPS, mobile phone, social networks, etc.
	Getting angry at you for talking to another man/woman or suspecting you of being unfaithful for no reason.
	Demanding that you ask permission to leave the house or locking you in against your will
	Forbidding you to work outside the home
Managing the family budget alone and over-controlling expenses	



Keeping or removing your ID card, identity card or passport against your will in order to control you

Doing something to scare or intimidate on purpose, for example by shouting or breaking objects

Threatening to harm your children or someone you care about

Threatening to take away or deny custody of your children

Threatening to harm themselves if they leave you

## THREATS

Threatening to harm with violence in a way that frightens or intimidates

Pushing hard or pulling hair on purpose in a way that hurts or frightens

Throwing an object or slapping on purpose in a way that hurts or frightens

Punching, hitting with an object or kicking on purpose in a way that hurts or frightens

## PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Burning on purpose

Trying to suffocate or strangle on purpose

Threatening or using a knife, gun or other weapon or dangerous substances against the person

Using other physical violence in a way that hurts or frightens

Forcing you to perform a sexual act under threat, by holding you down or hurting you in any way

Forcing you to perform a sexual act when you were unable to refuse because you were under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Forcing you to perform a sexual act against your will because you are afraid of what might happen if you refuse

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Forcing you to have sex with another person, using force, threats or blackmail (in exchange for money, goods or favours)

Trying to force you to perform a sexual act under threat, by holding you down or hurting you in some way, but the sexual act did not materialise

Forcing an unmentioned sexual act that was degrading or humiliating for the person

Touching intimate parts against their will

Sending unwanted messages, emails, phone calls or gifts

Making obscene, threatening, annoying, silent, or anonymous phone calls

Persistently trying to get in touch, waiting for the person or hanging around outside their home, school, or work

## STALKING

Following or spying

Intentionally damaging someone else's things (e.g. car, bicycle, email inbox), or those of someone they care about, or mistreating their animals

Making embarrassing or offensive comments about others, inappropriate proposals on the internet or social networks

Publishing photographs, videos, or personal information about someone else

## PHYSICAL ABUSE (PHYSICAL VIOLENCE) IN CHILDHOOD BY PARENTS (up to the age of 15)

Slapping, pulling hair, hitting with objects in a violent way, punching, kicking, burning, or stabbing



**EMOTIONAL ABUSE  
(PSYCHOLOGICAL  
VIOLENCE) IN  
CHILDHOOD BY  
PARENTS  
(up to the age of 15)**

Belittling or humiliating with words

**SEXUAL ABUSE (SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE) IN  
CHILDHOOD, BY  
ANYONE  
(up to the age of 15)**

Forcing to pose naked in front of someone, or to be photographed or filmed, against the person's will

Touching in private parts against the person's will

Forcing to touch someone's private parts against the person's will

Forcing a sexual act against the person's will