

TURKEY

(REPUBLIC OF TURKEY)

GENERAL COUNTRY INFORMATION:

Population: 71,897,000
 Female population: 35,855,000
 Member of Council of Europe: 1949
 Member of European Union: No
 CEDAW ratified: 1985
 CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2002
 CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence: signed: 11 May 2011
 ratified: 14 March 2012



SUMMARY

Since the age of 15, 39% of ever-married women have experienced physical violence, 15% have experienced sexual violence and 44% have experienced psychological violence, according to a survey published in 2009. In the last 12 months, 10% of ever-married women have experienced physical violence, 7% have experienced sexual violence and 25% have experienced psychological violence. National criminal statistics on domestic violence are not publically available in Turkey, nor are national criminal justice statistics. Data on medical interventions related to domestic violence or intimate partner violence is not collected in Turkey's healthcare system. There are two national women's helplines in Turkey, one is run and fully funded by the State and the other is run by an independent women's NGO and fully funded by private donations. There are 103 women's shelters and approximately 38 women's centers in Turkey. There are no centers for women survivors of sexual violence in Turkey.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN STATISTICS:

PREVALENCE STUDY:¹

The most recent prevalence of violence survey carried out in Turkey is the National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey.² The survey was published in 2009.³ The survey is a national domestic violence against women survey. A project page of the survey is available in English, along with findings of the study, summary findings, and press release also available in English.⁴

With the aim of gathering national data on the extent, nature, causes and consequences of domestic violence against women, information was collected from 12,795 women. The overall response rate was 86.1% as originally 14,854 women were chosen for the survey.⁵ Another objective of the research was to provide necessary information needed for relevant stakeholders to take appropriate action in protecting women survivors of violence.⁶ Female respondents were between ages 15-59. The survey studies violence experienced by women from intimate partners as well as from perpetrators other than intimate partners. For intimate partners, all marital and non-marital relationships were considered.⁷ Additionally, the interview questions on violent acts referred to husbands and partners, current or any.⁸ For intimate partner violence, the time period studied for victims' experiences of violence included lifetime experiences of violence and current experiences (last 12 months). The forms of violence and abuse measured were physical violence⁹, sexual violence¹⁰, emotional violence/abuse¹¹ and economic violence/abuse¹². Only prevalence rates for ever-married women are presented for intimate partner violence.¹³ For relative or other perpetrator violence, the survey studied experiences of physical and sexual violence since the age of 15 and sexual violence before the age of 15.¹⁴

The rates of physical, sexual and emotional violence/abuse are listed in the table(s) below:¹⁵

Intimate Partner Violence*					
Physical Violence		Sexual Violence		Emotional Violence/Abuse	
12 Months	Lifetime	12 Months	Lifetime	12 Months	Lifetime
10%	39%	7%	15%	25%	44%

* Victims are female and perpetrators are male

Violence from Relatives or Others (excludes Intimate Partner Violence)*					
Physical Violence		Sexual Violence		Emotional Violence/Abuse	
12 Months	Lifetime	12 Months	Lifetime	12 Months	Lifetime
-	18%	4%	3%	-	-

* Victims are female and perpetrators are male and/or female

Data collection in prevalence survey:

As related to regular data collection, a conclusion on regularity of intervals cannot be reached, however, there are plans to repeat the survey.¹⁶ The data collection in the survey is gender disaggregated for both victims and perpetrators, who are intimate partners. Gender of perpetrators is not evident for domestic violence from relatives or others. Forms of violence including those referred to in the Convention¹⁷ are covered. The entire region of the country was covered, with separate results for each of the 12 regions of Turkey, and distinction between rural and urban areas.¹⁸ Lastly, the survey is publically available.

Prevalence Survey Data Collection				
Sample size	12,795 women	Women 15-59 years old		
Sample scope	National	All regions	Urban and rural	
Data disaggregated by	Gender ¹⁹	Age ²⁰	Relationship	
Perpetrators	Intimate partners	Relatives	Others	
Availability	Accessible on internet	Available in English		
Regularly conducted	Plans to repeat survey			
Forms of violence/abuse	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Economic

NATIONAL CRIMINAL STATISTICS (POLICE):

Protection from domestic violence in Turkey is specified under the 1998 Family Protection Law 4320 (amended in 2007)²¹. The criminalization of domestic violence is done indirectly through the Criminal Code of the Republic of Turkey that presents some provisions in numerous articles on violence that may be applied to domestic violence. This includes an article on injury.²² Additionally, through amendments to the Criminal Code, violence against women is criminalized. The Criminal Code has measures to combat marital rape and what is referred to as honor crimes.²³

Because national criminal statistics on reported domestic violence incidents are not publically available, it is not clear whether such data is collected by the police separately from other criminal statistics. Therefore, any offenses charged under relevant articles may not be disaggregated to show whether the offense occurred within or outside of the domestic context.²⁴

Data collection in criminal statistics:

There is no information available on whether national criminal statistics on domestic violence are collected separately from other criminal offenses. Such statistics are not publically available. As a result, there is no information available on whether such data, if any, is gender or age disaggregated and shows the relationship between victim and perpetrator.

NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS (COURT):

National criminal justice statistics are not publically available in Turkey²⁵ and it is not known, whether information on criminal cases involving domestic violence are recorded separately from other criminal cases.

Information on cases submitted to courts under the 1998 Family Protection Law No. 4320 is available on the UN Secretary-General's Database on Violence against Women, however, the data refers to the issuance of protection orders only, not criminal prosecutions. The source of the data is the General Directorate of Forensic Registers and Statistics.²⁶

Data collection in criminal justice statistics:

National criminal justice statistics on domestic violence are not publically available in Turkey. There is no information on whether national criminal justice statistics on domestic violence cases are collected separately from statistics on other types of cases, and whether the data, if any is gender or age disaggregated and shows relationship between victim and perpetrator.

Further issues related to criminal justice:

As regards criminal justice, an aspect of successfully implementing laws on domestic violence or articles in the Criminal Code involves providing legal counseling or supporting women survivors of violence during the court proceedings. Women survivors of violence are able to apply for protection measures free of charge, however, this does not apply to court fees related to divorce, child custody, child support payment, or fees for maintenance of the protection order. Women who can prove financial difficulty can retain legal advice or legal aid free of charge, however, the appointed lawyers are not always sensitized to domestic violence.²⁷

Another aspect of successful implementation of laws on domestic violence or articles in the Criminal Code involves holding perpetrators accountable. Perpetrators can be sentenced according to the Domestic Law Code or the Criminal Code of the Republic of Turkey. Based on the Domestic Law Code, a perpetrator who fails to observe a protection order issued against him could be sentenced to anywhere from three days to six months in prison, depending on the severity of his original offense. This is seen more as a disciplinary measure. The penalties specified in the Criminal Code are usually not observed by the courts and more often the perpetrators receive suspended sentences. Similarly, the prosecutors often do not even try cases of domestic violence in court.²⁸

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

Data on medical interventions related to domestic violence or intimate partner violence is not collected in Turkey's healthcare system.²⁹

There is no information available on whether national healthcare protocols for dealing with domestic violence or intimate partner violence exist in Turkey and hospitals in Turkey are not set up to provide emergency accommodation for women victims of domestic violence.³⁰

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

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE:³¹

WOMEN'S HELPLINES:

There are two national women's helplines in Turkey. The first helpline is called Social Service Counseling Line for Family, Women, Children and the Disabled. The helpline was established in 2007 and is run by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies. The phone number is (183). The helpline operates 24/7 and is free of charge. Assistance is provided for women survivors of all types and forms of violence. Multilingual support is not provided. The helpline is fully funded by the State.

The second helpline is called the Hürriyet Emergency Domestic Violence Hotline. The helpline is run by an independent women's NGO. The phone number is (0212 656 9696). The helpline operates 24/7 and is free of charge. Assistance is provided for women survivors of all types and forms of violence. Multilingual support is not provided. The helpline is fully funded by private donations.

National Women's Helplines			
Total Number	Calls Free of Charge	24/7 Service	Multilingual Support
2	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No

Based on this information, Turkey meets the Council of Europe Taskforce Recommendations.

WOMEN'S SHELTERS:

There are 103³² women's shelters in Turkey with at least 1,968 shelter places available. The first shelter was opened in 1995 by Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı, an independent women's NGO. In 2011, 17 new shelters were opened in Turkey. Three of the shelters are run by independent women's NGOs, one by an NGO, 51 by the State, and 25 by other organizations. 77 shelters accommodate women survivors of domestic violence, two are for women survivors of trafficking, and one is specialized for accommodating migrant women survivors of domestic violence. No information is available on target groups of other shelters. The shelters accept children of the survivors, but the majority of them have an age limit for boys. The State run shelters allow for

a four to six month stay, while the NGO run shelters accommodate women for more than 12 months if necessary. The shelters are predominantly funded by the State (95 per cent), volunteer work (4 per cent) and private donations (1 per cent).



Women's Shelters

Total Number	Shelter Places Needed	Shelter Places Available	Shelter Places Missing	Funding of Shelters
103	7,190	At least 1,968	Approximately 5,222	State (95%), voluneteer work (4%), private donations (1%)

Based on Council of Europe Taskforce Recommendations, approximately 7,190 shelter places are needed in Turkey. Thus an estimated 5,222 shelter places are still missing. As a result, Turkey fails to meet the Council of Europe Taskforce Recommendations.

▶ **WOMEN'S CENTERS:**

There are an estimated 36 women's centers for women survivors of violence in Turkey. There is also a number of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors. Majority of the centers are specialized to provide support to women survivors of domestic violence. Two centers provide specialized support to women survivors of trafficking, one to migrant, minority ethnic and asylum seeking women, and one provides specialized support to girls under the age of 18. The centers are predominantly funded by the State (60 per cent), private donations (32 per cent), volunteer work (4 per cent) and foreign donations (3-4 per cent).

▶ **WOMEN'S CENTERS FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE:**

There are no women's centers for survivors of sexual violence in Turkey. Based on Council of Europe Taskforce Recommendations, approximately 179 women's rape crisis centers are needed in Turkey. Thus 179 centers are still missing. As a result, Turkey fails to meet the Council of Europe Taskforce Recommendations.

Endnotes

- ¹ Information provided in the section on prevalence study is based on the summary of findings, not the main report of the study.
- ² *National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey*. (2009). [ICON Institute Public Sector Gmbh, Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies and BNB Consulting Ltd Co]. Ankara.
- ³ See Hagemann-White, Prof. Dr. Carol. (2010). *Protecting Women against Violence: Analytical Study of the Results of the Third Round of Monitoring the Implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 on the Protection of Women against Violence in Council of Europe Member States*. [Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs]. Strasbourg. Pg. 56: Based on information in the study, the 2009 survey is the most recent one conducted in Turkey.
- ⁴ *National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey in 2008*. [Access: 26.1.2013 http://kadininstatusu.gov.tr/upload/mce/eski_site/tdvaw/default.htm]
- ⁵ *National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey Summary Report*. (2009). [ICON Institute Public Sector Gmbh, Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies and BNB Consulting Ltd Co]. Ankara. Pg. 4.
- ⁶ *Ibid.* Pg. 1.
- ⁷ See *Ibid.* Pg. 3: Partners included husbands, boyfriends, fiancés.
- ⁸ *National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey*. (2009). Pg. 262.
- ⁹ See *National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey Summary Report*. (2009). Pg. 5: For intimate partner violence, physical violence acts included: slapping, pushing, throwing objects at the women, hitting, kicking, dragging, choking, burning on purpose, using a weapon, threatening to use a weapon.
- ¹⁰ See *Ibid.* Pg. 5: For intimate partner violence, sexual violence acts included: physically forcing sexual intercourse, having sexual intercourse despite not wanting to due to fear of what partner may do if the woman refuses, forcing degrading or humiliating sexual practices.
- ¹¹ See *Ibid.*: For intimate partner violence, emotional violence/abuse acts included: insulting, cursing at the woman, belittling, humiliating in front of others, scaring, threatening, threatening to hurt someone the woman cares about.
- ¹² See *Ibid.* 5: For intimate partner violence, economic violence/abuse acts included: preventing from working or causing the women to lose her job, not giving money for household expenses, deprived the woman of her income.
- ¹³ *Ibid.* Pg. 6.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.* 3.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.* Pg. 7-15.
- ¹⁶ Hagemann-White, Prof. Dr. Carol. (2010). Pg. 56.
- ¹⁷ See Council of Europe. (12 April 2011). Article 3: a “violence against women” is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life; b “domestic violence” shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim.
- ¹⁸ *National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey Summary Report*. (2009). Pg. 1-2.
- ¹⁹ Victims are female, intimate partners perpetrators are male, gender of other family members perpetrators is not always evident.
- ²⁰ For victims only.
- ²¹ *National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey*. (2009).Pg. 21.
- ²² Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı. (January 2013). [Data provided in WAVE Country Report 2012 Questionnaire]
- ²³ *National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey*. (2009).Pg. 22.
- ²⁴ Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı. (January 2013).
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*
- ²⁶ UN Secretary-General's Database on Violence against Women. (2009). Justice System Data on the Law on the Protection of the Family. [Access: 26.1.2013 <http://sgdatabase.unwomen.org/searchDetail.action?measureId=6636&baseHREF=country&baseHREFId=1326>]
- ²⁷ Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı. (January 2013).
- ²⁸ *Ibid.*
- ²⁹ *Ibid.*
- ³⁰ *Ibid.*
- ³¹ Women against Violence Europe. (2011). *Country Report 2011: Reality Check on European Services for Women and Children Survivors of Violence – A Right for Protection and Support?* Vienna. Pg. 202-204.
- ³² Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı. (January 2013).