

The National Observatory on Violence Against Women under The Women's Council in Denmark

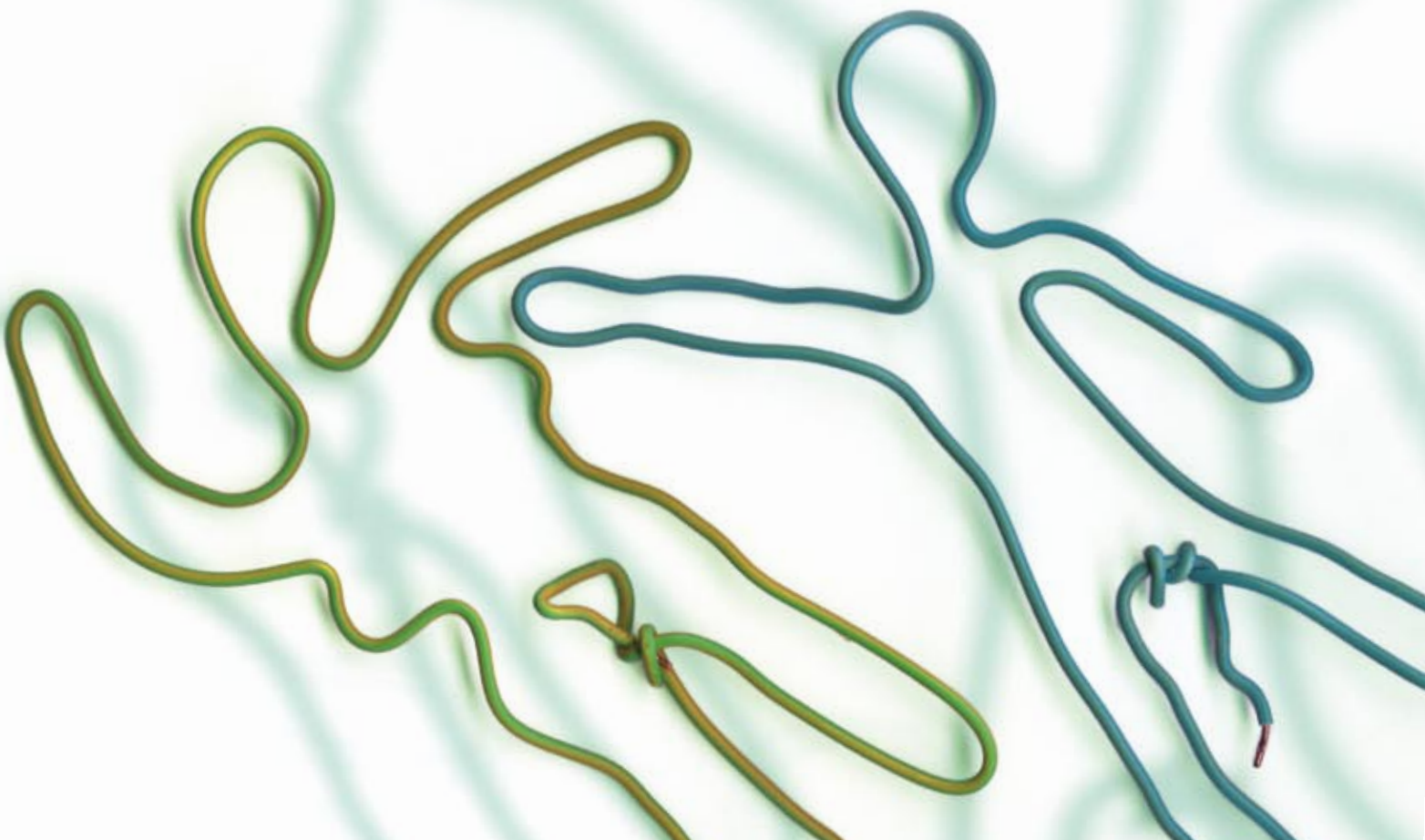
The National Institute of Public Health

The Minister for Gender Equality

# Men's Violence against Women

The Extent, Characteristics and Measures to Eliminate Violence

English Summary



The National Observatory on Violence Against Women under The Women's Council in Denmark

The National Institute of Public Health

The Minister for Gender Equality

# Men's Violence against Women

The Extent, Characteristics and Measures to Eliminate Violence

English Summary

Edited by Karin Helweg-Larsen and Marie Kruse

**Men's Violence against Women  
The Extent, Characteristics  
and Measures to Eliminate Violence**

Edited by Karin Helweg-Larsen and Marie Kruse  
National Institute of Public Health  
November 2004

Published by:  
The National Observatory on Violence Against Women  
under The Women's Council in Denmark  
The National Institute of Public Health  
The Minister for Gender Equality

Graphic design: Gitte Blå Design  
Print: Reproof

The full report can be downloaded in Danish and English from  
[www.kvinderaad.dk](http://www.kvinderaad.dk)  
Printed copies can be obtained  
from the National Institute of Public Health, tel +45 3920 7777

The full text in English is only available in pdf.

# Introduction

Violence against women is a physical and psychological offence. In addition, violence against women is an expression of lack of respect and equality between women and men. It is therefore very much of a gender equality problem.

The present report provides, for the first time in Denmark, an overview over the extent and characteristics of violence against women in Denmark. Register data have been combined in a unique way, enabling us to draw a detailed profile of victims of violence and the perpetrators.

The report present figures on the actual magnitude of the violence, and they are gloomy information. Therefore, the government continue to prioritise the task of breaking the silence of the unseen violence. Only by fighting the taboos we can stop violence against women.

In the government plan of action to combat violence against women, a number of initiatives have been set in motion. The focus of the initiatives is to enable women to take the first step away from the violence. However violence is not eradicated if the violent men are not targeted as well. Therefore, the government has put special attention to developing programmes aimed at violent men.

Disappointingly, violence is still very much of a taboo. Consequently, women should still be informed, that violence is a crime and an assault, which is not acceptable, not even in their own home.

Eva Kjer Hansen  
*Minister for Gender Equality*



# The report

In 2003, The National Observatory on Violence Against Women under the Women's Council in Denmark initiated the establishment of a database regarding Violence Against Women in Denmark. The National Institute of Public Health carried out the project, and this report is among the results. The Department of Gender Equality has financed the project and participated in the compilation of the report. The National Observatory on Violence Against Women has followed the project via a steering group. The members of the group were: Annika Snare, Hanne Behrens, Kenneth Reinicke and Randi Theil Nielsen.

The National Observatory on Violence Against Women consists of experts covering the topic of violence against women in a broad sense. The aim of the Observatory is to exchange experiences and collect information on violence against women, to take initiatives to prevent violence against women in Denmark; to ensure that government bodies meet national and international action plans and to serve as an expert group for The Women's Council in Denmark and the Observatory on Violence Against Women under the European Women's Lobby.

The report is structured around the EU indicators regarding violence against women. It includes a broad description of the data sources applied in the detailed assessment of violence against women in Denmark. The data in the report is gathered from numerous sources, presented in the report and available in the database. The English summary is published together with the full report in Danish. The full report in English is available on the internet, in connection with the database.

The data in the report is compiled and analysed by Marie Kruse, MA (Economics). Karin Helweg-Larsen, MD (Public Health) is the project leader and in charge of the description of data sources and results. The report is edited by Karin Helweg-Larsen and Marie Kruse. The English translation is carried out by Marie Kruse, except for the pages 73 and forwards in the full report.

The description of the victim support is based on information from the Danish Centre for Research on Social Vulnerability, as well as information from rape centres.

The measures aimed at treating the perpetrator are described by Kenneth Reinicke of Roskilde University.

Hanne Behrens and Sissel Lea Nielsen of the Danish Centre for Research on Social Vulnerability have contributed with an assessment of present initiatives to prevent violence against women. The Centre was also in charge of the translation into English of relevant chapters. The initiatives are all part of the government plan of action to combat violence against women.

The Department of Gender Equality under the Minister for Gender Equality has contributed to the description of indicator 6 and 7.

Randi Theil Nielsen  
*The National Observatory  
on Violence Against Women  
under the Women's  
Council in Denmark*

Karin Helweg-Larsen  
*The National Institute  
of Public Health*

Copenhagen, November 2004

	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>The report</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Part 1.</b>	<b>The EU indicators</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>Terminology</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Indicator 1: Profile of the female victims of violence</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Register data</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>Sexual assaults</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>Population based surveys</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Shelter statistics</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Indicator 2: Profile of the male perpetrator</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Police-reported violence</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Sexual assaults</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>Indicator 3: Victim support</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>Indicator 4: Measures addressing the male perpetrator to end the circle of violence</b>	<b>19</b>
	<b>Indicator 5: Training of professionals</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>Indicator 6: State measures to eliminate domestic violence against women</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>1. Legislation</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>2. Political initiatives</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>3. Budget</b>	<b>22</b>
	<b>Indicator 7: Evaluation</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Part 2.</b>	<b>Data sources</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>Register data, surveys and shelter statistics</b>	<b>26</b>
	<b>Annex</b>	<b>29</b>

## Part 1. The EU indicators

The EU has committed the Member States to combat violence against women. According to the Beijing plan of action, violence against women is defined as any gender-based violent act, resulting in or assumed to result in physical, sexual or mental injury on women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or captivity, whether it takes place in public or private premises.

The EU initiatives against violence against women are mainly targeted towards intimate partner violence. That is, violence which mainly takes place in the private residence and is committed by a present or former partner. The violence includes physical, sexual and psychological acts of violence.

During the Danish EU presidency in 2002, it was agreed to analyse the magnitude of the problem, to describe victims and perpetrators and to assess the actual means to combat and reduce violence against women in the different member states.

The Danish EU Presidency thus proposed seven indicators with a view to a future follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action as regards domestic violence against women and invited future Presidencies to follow-up the indicators. Among the aims of the indicators is the collection of comparative data on violence against women.

**The seven indicators are:**

- 1. Profile of female victims of violence**
- 2. Profile of male perpetrators**
- 3. Victim support**
- 4. Measures addressing the male perpetrator to end the circle of violence**
- 5. Training of professionals**
- 6. State measures to eliminate domestic violence against women**
- 7. Evaluation**

Each of the seven indicators is described in the annex.

Based upon different data sources, this report describes the magnitude and characteristics of physical violence and sexual assaults against women in Denmark, including partner violence as well as other forms of violence. The data do not cover psychological violence such as verbal assaults, threats and fear of recurrence. Although the scope is not confined to intimate partner violence, it is aimed to estimate the magnitude of this type of violence as well.

Multiple data sources are used to sketch a profile of the victims and perpetrators in the cases pertaining to physical violence and sexual assaults committed by men against women. Register based information from emergency departments and police reports cover in particular severe physical violence and sexual assaults. Whereas, data in population based surveys, the self reported violence, include all types of violence.

We find major differences in the extent and characteristics of the police-reported violence and hospital treated violence on the one hand and the self-reported violence on the other. The description of data will therefore treat data from the three data sources separately, while the summary is based on the information from all data sources in combination.

Register data and surveys enable to a certain degree a description of the prevalence of physical partner violence. However data do not cover the extent of psychological violence such as verbal aggression, threats and fear of repeated physical violence, which also may influence severely upon women's well-being and health.

The indicators 3 through 7 are examined with an overview of existing activities aimed at victims and perpetrators, as well as activities arising from the Danish plan of action to combat violence against women. The plan of action was launched in March 2002.

## Terminology

The term domestic violence is not equal to intimate partner violence. However, the present information on place of occurrence allows us to estimate the amount of domestic violence, being violence against women taking place in a private residence. Most often the perpetrator in these cases could be a former or present partner, in some cases however it could be another person known by the victim, such as a friend, father, brother or other relative.

The term single woman refers to a woman who is not married or living with a partner. However, a single woman can be subject to intimate partner violence, if the perpetrator were the woman's ex-partner, or a boyfriend not cohabiting with her, the violence would still be defined as intimate partner violence.

# Profile of the female victims of violence

During one year, 0.3 percent of all adult women experience physical violence, which is either reported to the police, treated in an emergency department, or both. In half of these cases, the perpetrator was a present or former partner.

4 percent of all adult women (approximately 64,000 women) report to have been exposed to physical violence during one year. Two thirds of these cases were intimate partner violence and less than 10 percent was violence in the workplace.

More than half of the self-reported violence is minor physical assaults.

The socio-economic characteristics of victims, according to register-based information are different from the characteristics derived from survey data.

The female victim of violence is most frequently a young, single woman. Police-reported violence is most frequent among women not in the labour market and women in low-paid jobs. Self-reported violence is more frequent among highly qualified women than lower educated women.

This indicator describes the actual occurrence of violence against women, including intimate partner violence and the relation between victim and perpetrator, age and marital status for victims, as well as other social features.

The information is derived from a number of national registers, from surveys and from shelter administrative information. The register data comprises generally the more severe violence, that is, violence reported to the police or violence with resulting hospital treated injury. Surveys reflect the victim's own interpretation of assaults and violent experiences, and will thus include minor assaults and less severe violence. The interpretation of violence (the threshold) differs along age and social status. Data from shelters describe a specific segment of victims, that is, mainly women exposed to violence from a present partner in their own home.

Sexual assaults are described by register data (police reports), data from rape centres, and surveys. Sexual assaults, rape and attempted rapes often include physical violence. In some cases the perpetrator is a present or former partner, and often sexual assaults are part of physical partner violence. Despite this overlapping, the profile of victims of physical violence and the profile of victims of sexual assaults are described separately, as major differences persist.

## Register data

### Physical violence 1. Police-reported violence

- a. In 2002, a total of 57 homicides and attempted homicides with female victims were reported.
- b. Approximately 25 women aged 15 and older die each year in Denmark from violent injuries, thus approximately half of the attempted homicides result in the death of the victim.
- c. Half of the homicides are committed by a present or former partner.
- d. Each year 0.1 percent of adult women in Denmark are exposed to violence that is brought to the knowledge of the police.
- e. The frequency of police-reported violence is 3 times as high among women aged 20-24 than among the entire adult female population.
- f. Single women report violence more often to the police than married or cohabiting women.
- g. Police-reported violence against women is in half of the cases committed by a present or former partner. In every fourth case, the victim and perpetrator live together or have lived together within the past 7 years. In most remaining cases, the perpetrator is a person closely known by the victim, and in 60 percent of cases, the violence has taken place in a private residence.
- h. Women not in the labour market experience violence more frequently, according to police reports.

### 2. Violence according to emergency department records

- a. 0.2 percent of all adult women are treated each year in a hospital emergency department, for injuries resulting from violence. This corresponds to around 5000 different women.
- b. The highest occurrence is found among women aged 15-19, in this age group 0.6 percent of all women contact an emergency department due to injuries caused by violence.
- c. The number of emergency department contacts caused by violence has increased by 25 percent from 1995 to 2003. Among the young (15-19 years of age) women – the increase is 77 percent.
- d. The increase may be due to an improved registration of the cause of injury. Another explanatory factor for the increase is a worsening of the severity of injuries. It seems that the amount of injuries caused by violence outside domestic areas has risen. The frequency of domestic violence shows no significant development.

- e. A present or former partner is the offender in one third of the cases. In around 60 percent of cases, the violence took place in a private residency; in almost 40 percent of the cases it was the home of the victim herself.

### 3. Cases of violence against women reported to the police and hospitals.

- a. Half of the victims, who reported violence to the police in 2001-02, were also treated for their injuries in emergency departments.
- b. Every third victim of violence treated in hospitals for their injuries, also reported violence to the police.

In total, 6,500 women were exposed to violence in 2002 and hence contacted either police or hospital or both, as a result. Consequently, 0.3 percent of all adult women living in Denmark are exposed to violence to a degree that leads to either police report or treatment in hospital, each year.

## Sexual assaults

### 1. Police-reported assaults

- a. Around 400 cases of rape and attempted rape among adult women are each year reported to the police. The victims were aged 15 and above.
- b. One third of the cases are among 15-19-year olds.
- c. A present or a former partner is the offender in less than 10 percent of the assaults.

### 2. Contacts to the national rape centres at hospitals

- a. 500 women contact one of the rape centres each year.
- b. 66 percent of the victims are under 25 years of age.
- c. 80 percent live alone.
- d. In 33 percent of the offences, there exist a close relationship between the victim and the offender.
- e. About 66 percent of victims report the sexual offence to the police.

## Population based surveys

### Physical violence 1. Danish National Health Interview Survey 2000

- a. Almost 4 percent of adult women report, that they have been exposed to at least one form of physical violence during the past year. The figure corresponds to 64,000 Danish adult women per year.
- b. The occurrence is highest among women aged 16-20 (13 percent) and women aged 21-30 (7 percent).
- c. Around half of the reported physical violence concerns minor assaults (being pushed, slapped in the face).
- d. 5 percent have experienced severe physical violence.
- e. Among victims of violence, severe violence is more common among the older women than among younger women.
- f. 66 percent of reported violence is committed by a present or former partner, or by another person closely related to the victim. From these figures, it can thus be deduced that 2.5 percent of Danish women experience intimate partner violence each year.
- g. 4 percent of the women, who report physical violence during the last year, were treated in an emergency department during the same period. This corresponds to 2,600 women.

### 2. Youth Survey 2002

- a. 9 percent of girls and 6 percent of boys aged 15-16 report, that their mother had been exposed to violence at home.
- b. 9 percent of girls aged 15-16 report, that they have been exposed to physical violence during the last year.
- c. The frequency of violence against mothers and adolescent girls is higher among those with a non-western background.

## Shelter statistics

### The amount of victims of violence in shelters

- a. Each year, 2000 women and 2000 children stay for shorter or longer periods in shelters.
- b. The number of women using these facilities more than once is not fully known.

- c. Women with another ethnic background (immigrants or descendants) are over-represented (40 percent). The main explanatory factor for this is the absence of a social network (family and friends) able to assist the woman when she wishes to escape the violent partner.
- d. 75 percent of the women were victimised by a present partner, and 15 percent by a former partner.
- e. Most of the women are married or cohabiting.
- f. Among victims with another ethnic background, the perpetrator was in some 15 percent of cases a Danish man.

## Indicator 2: Profile of the male perpetrator

0.1 percent of adult men are each year charged with violence against women. Half of these cases concern intimate partner violence.

The perpetrator is older than the victim, he is often outside the labour market, and in one fourth of cases, he has lived together with the victim.

Surveys indicate that a present or former partner is the offender in two thirds of cases of physical violence against women. Rape and attempted rape are committed by a stranger or brief acquaintance in around 50 percent of cases.

There are no available survey data (self-reported) on the amount of men committing physical violence or sexual assaults against women in Denmark.

In police-reported cases of violence men of poor social status are over-represented among perpetrators.

This indicator describes the number of perpetrators in the crime statistics, the number of perpetrators attending programmes of treatment or counselling, and the number of perpetrators according to victims in survey data. The perpetrator age and social characteristics are part of the indicator.

The available information about perpetrators is less precise and vast than information about victims. For example, no surveys have been performed that include questions on violence committed against women. The crime statistics only include information on men with reports or charges concerning violence. The crime statistics may conceal a social and ethnic bias, which in turn renders conclusions on perpetrator profile difficult to draw.

### Police-reported violence

1. Each year more than 3000 cases of violence against women are reported to the police, and in the vast majority of these cases the perpetrator is a man. This corresponds to a perpetrator share of 0.1 percent of the adult male population, taking into account that a single man can commit several acts of violence.
2. Each year, court cases regarding violence are settled against approximately 7000 men and 600 women. Most cases concern violence against men. Thus, the perpetrator in cases of violence is a man in ten out of eleven cases.
3. Only men are charged with rape or attempted rape. Among 400 police-reported rapes and attempted rapes in 2003, all were committed by men.

### Men receiving counselling/treatment

1. "Dialog mod vold" [dialogue against violence] has in its almost 2 years of existence treated 90 men.
2. "Manderådgivningen"[Men's counselling] has from 1999 to 2003 treated a total of 311 men, of which 51 were treated in 2003.
3. "Alternativ til vold" [Alternative to violence] has only existed for 6 months during which it has been contacted by almost 20 men.

### The victim-perpetrator relation

1. Police-reported violence against women is committed by a present or former partner in half of the cases. In emergency departments in hospitals the figure is around one third of cases.
2. The violence reported in surveys is in two thirds of cases committed by a present or former partner, or another person closely known by the victim.
3. In shelters, most perpetrators are present or former partners of the victims.

### The perpetrator age distribution

In court cases of violence against women, every third accused person is younger than 30 years and every third is aged 30-39 years.

### Social status

1. According to crime statistics, half of perpetrators are unemployed, or outside the labour market. Among those in employment, unskilled workers and men in low-paid jobs are overrepresented.
2. According to shelters, Danish men frequently commit violence against immigrant women.

## Sexual assaults

Among assaults reported to the Centre for Rape Victims in the State University Hospital it was found that:

1. 10 percent of assaults were committed by a present or former partner.
2. 25 percent of assaults were committed by a person known to the victim for at least 24 hours.
3. One third of assaults were committed by a brief and recent acquaintance.
4. Around 30 percent of assaults were committed by a stranger.

## Indicator 3: Victim support

The indicator describes current measures in support of female victims of violence.

Since March 2002, the government plan of action to combat violence against women has set in motion a number of activities, such as information campaigns, web pages, leaflets etc. in order to inform women of available options such as counselling, support and treatment. The information is generally available in Danish and 5 other languages.

### Counselling centres

1. The web page [www.voldmodkvinder.dk](http://www.voldmodkvinder.dk) includes hotline, telephonenumber and information on shelters
2. The hotline is open 24 hours and employs professional counsellors.
  - a) 37 shelters provide counselling and offer temporary residence for female victims of violence.
  - b) The shelters have room for 272 women, corresponding to 0.2 percent of women in the younger age groups.
  - c) In 2003 there were about 2000 requests for shelter, 98 percent eventually got shelter, although 40 percent were rejected initially.
  - d) The shelters are almost 100 publicly financed.
3. Leaflets, websites and hotlines are available for everybody. Information on these services has been provided through national campaigns, advertising, etc.

### Public support and counselling

1. The police are generally well informed and trained, as violence against women is a compulsory part of the police academy curriculum.
2. Everyone reporting an assault is entitled to advice and aid, free of charge, from a lawyer.
3. The internet based information on violence against women is provided by the government centre for development and communication, whose tasks also include analysis and statistics about violence against women.

### The health care sector

1. Access to emergency department, on-duty doctors and GPs is easy and free of charge.
2. Most emergency departments follow specific guidelines when dealing with victims of violence. The guidelines include referral to social workers or shelters, if necessary.

3. Health-care professionals have access to education about problems related to violence against women, however it is not compulsory.
4. Violence against women and health-related consequences is a topic in intermediary training for some health-care professionals.
5. There are 8 centres for rape victims in hospitals nationwide.

### **Support for specified target groups**

Disabled women exposed to violence have specific needs. Some shelters account for these needs and disabled women are referred to these shelters.

## Indicator 4: Measures addressing the male perpetrator in order to end the circle of violence

This indicator describes measures aimed at male perpetrators in order to prevent recurrence. Only recently specific counselling and treatment measures aimed at perpetrators have been launched in Denmark. Three measures related to the government plan of action to combat violence against women, were introduced with public financial support.

### Counselling

1. "Manderådgivningen" [The Counselling for Men] in Ålborg was launched as an experiment in 1994, but has since then gathered permanent status.
  - a. Offers free personal sessions for men wishing to change violent behaviour.
  - b. An entire treatment includes regular sessions over a period of 5-12 months.
2. "Dialog mod vold" [dialogue against violence] was launched in 2002 as part of the government action plan to combat violence against women.
  - a. Free and anonymous treatment.
  - b. Referral of violent partners from shelters, social workers, police and GPs.
  - c. Focuses on the entire family and offers to include the partner in the treatment.
  - d. An entire treatment includes regular sessions over a period of one year.
3. "Alternativ til vold" [Alternative to violence] was launched in December 2003.
  - a. Treatment free of charge.
  - b. Based on Norwegian experiences.
  - c. The target group is men over the age of 18 with problems of violence towards their cohabiting partner.
  - d. Treatment in groups for a period up to two years.

### Psychological/psychiatric treatment

Is primarily offered to men convicted for sexual assaults towards children and adolescents. The treatment was launched on an experimental basis in the late 1990-s. It assumed permanent status in 2003. The treatment is only offered in relation to imprisonment.

## Indicator 5: Training of professionals

This indicator describes the type of training offered to professionals working with female victims of violence.

It is a part of the government plan of action to combat violence against women to train professionals in counselling and treating victims of violence and preventing consequences of violence against women. The nationwide campaigns regarding violence against women are also aimed at improving knowledge among decision makers and authorities.

### Training measures:

1. Workshop-days with a focus on communication, opinions and beliefs.
  - a. The target group is professionals in social authorities and decision-makers.
  - b. Approximately 2,500 participants.
  - c. Focus on the family of the victim and perpetrator.
2. Training of shelter personnel.
  - a. Problems related to ethnicity.
  - b. The dimension of the training.
  - c. Problems related to disability.

### Violence against women as an integrated subject in existing education

1. Compulsory subject in the curriculum for medical doctors, public health professionals and nurses.
2. Subject in post graduate training for MDs specialising in:
  - a. Gynaecology
  - b. General Medicine
3. Compulsory subject in the police academy curriculum.
4. Special topic in the additional training at the police academy.

## Indicator 6: State measures to eliminate domestic violence against women

This indicator describes the initiatives taken by the government bodies within the past three years regarding legislation, research, and plans of action, campaigns and other political initiatives.

### 1. Legislation

According to Danish law, any assault on another person is illegal. This also applies to assaults and rape within the family and between spouses.

### 2. Political initiatives

The Danish plan of action to combat violence against women with a specific view to intimate partner violence was adopted in March 2002. In December 2002 the plan of action aimed at trafficking was adopted.

The plan of action against intimate partner violence includes:

1. Victim support
2. Initiatives aimed at perpetrators
3. Initiatives aimed at professionals
4. Knowledge and information

Item 1 through 3 is described above.

The government each year observes the UN International Day Against Violence Against Women. On November 25<sup>th</sup> a conference on the topic is organized; in addition national campaigns, workshops etc. are set up.

The government has recently put focus on youth and violence. In this context, a magazine and a report were published, and several conferences for the target group were held.

#### Knowledge and information

Financial support has been granted to enhance knowledge of the following:

1. In-depth information on women attending shelters.
2. Statistics regarding children in shelters.
3. Investigation of the training and education about violence against women.
4. Information on specific problems in relation to disabled victims of violence.
5. Assessment of the shelter capacity.

6. Analysis of the motives behind men's purchase of foreign women with a view to marriage.
7. Analysis of violence against women based on telephone interviews with a focus on the crime aspects of violence. To be published in 2004.
8. Ministry of Justice analysis of violence against women. Nationwide. Focus on magnitude, characteristics and crime aspects of violence.

## Budget

- a. The government plan of action has a budget of 100 million DKK over the 3-year period.
- b. The public expenditure to shelters amount to an annual 90 million DKK.
- c. Under several departments, a budget is allocated towards analysis and examination of violence against women.
- d. In addition, funds are allocated towards training of professionals.

## Indicator 7: Evaluation

This indicator describes the lessons learned and what lies ahead.

### Results from the documentation of the efforts to combat violence against women

1. The number of emergency department contacts and police reports due to violence against women has increased during recent years. Indications are that part of the increase is due to an increase in the amount of severe violence, while the remainder may be explained by violence against women being less of a taboo, thus lowering the threshold for violence acceptance.
2. While the existing plan of action has been in motion, each year the progress has been evaluated and the goals accomplished have been listed. When the plan of action is terminated at the end of 2004, progress and accomplished goals will also be assessed. This evaluation will serve as an important input to the forthcoming plan of action.
3. Furthermore, the plan of action includes follow-up on the Beijing conference and the EU indicators regarding violence against women. According to this, 776.000 DKK was assigned to the development of a database based on the EU indicators. The results of the database are included in this report; both are being published at an international conference on November 25th 2004. The report covers statistical information regarding the indicators and thus provides an overview of the development of violence against women.
4. The presented statistics will be updated regularly in order to maintain knowledge and document the development.

### The experience gathered

The experience gathered through the present plan of action demonstrate the necessity of:

1. Development of a targeted plan of action, showing clearly which initiatives are to be put in motion at what times, and showing clearly who is responsible and from where funds are available.
2. Government bodies working together, enhancing quality and adding more than one dimension to the problem.
3. A close cooperation with NGOs in the field. The NGOs should be included early in the process, when developing a plan of action, as they are important players in the field. This also enables NGOs to contribute with important knowledge and inputs to forthcoming initiatives.
4. Sufficient resources, for example provided as a grant with a longer time perspective.



## Part 2. Data sources

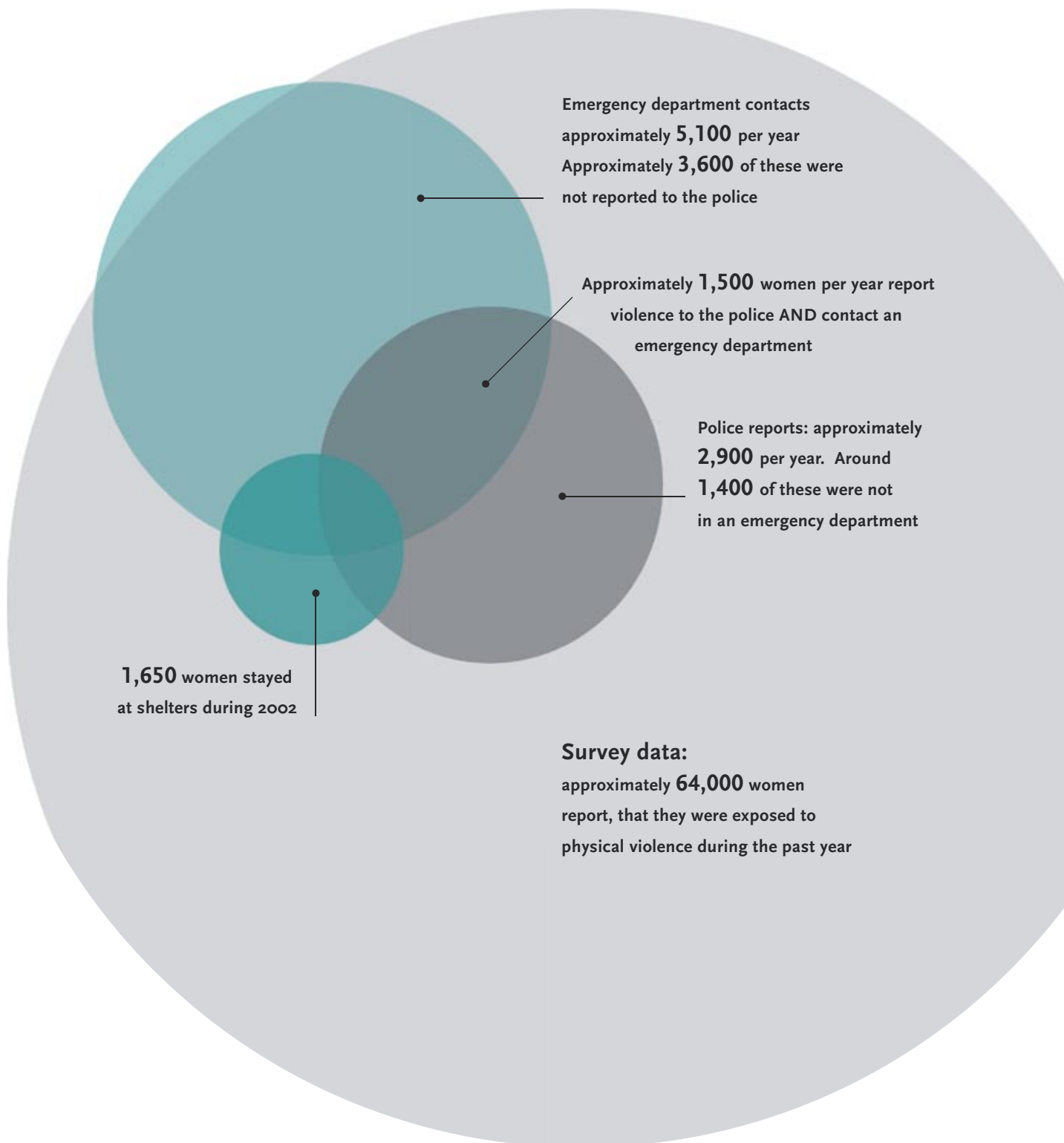
This report describes the data sources and assessments used for the estimation of the magnitude of violence against women in Denmark. Each data source contains information on different aspects of violence. Used individually, none of the data sources can sufficiently describe the victim or perpetrator. However in combination the data sources provide a complete and up to date image of the magnitude and characteristics of violence against women, as well as the victim and perpetrator profile.

In March 2002, the Government launched a plan of action to combat intimate partner violence. The present report focuses on physical violence against women within and outside the domestic area, and, to a lesser extent, on sexual assaults. Threats of violence, fear of replication, and coercion or captivity can have as severe consequences for the victim as has the criminal act. However, the latter types of violence are to a large extent immeasurable, and have not been included in the present assessment of violence against women.

Register based information on violence against women comprises the acts of violence known by public authorities, while survey data describe what women themselves experience as being violence. The two different types of data sources thus present different aspects of violence. The most severe violence is reported to the police, and leads to contact to a hospital. Several women exposed to intimate partner violence do not report the assault to the police, and do not state violence as the reason for their injuries when they contact an emergency department. This is among the reasons for the major difference in the magnitude of police-reported violence and the magnitude of violence derived from survey data. It could also be part of the explanation for the fact, that the social profile of victims in police reports is different from the social profile of victims in survey data. Women with a strong network (family and friends) may need less help from public authorities than women with few or no such networks. An example of this may be immigrant women.

In combination, the Danish register data and survey data provide a detailed picture of victims of violence. The victim profile thus becomes rather precise. The knowledge regarding perpetrators is unfortunately less detailed. No survey data on perpetrators exist. The perpetrator profile is based on judicial information, from police records and conviction information. It is possible, that these data conceal a social bias.

## Register data, surveys and shelter statistics



The figure demonstrates the data sources used in this report and to what extent the different data sources describe the same victim.

The Danish national registers include data on the victims of violence, the offenders, the relationship between victims and offenders, their socio-economic status and the health-care contacts among victims of violence. The Causes of Death Register contains information about all death in Denmark. Deaths due to violence can be identified by the specific mechanism and cause of death. Any hospital contact, including contacts to emergency department, is registered in the National Patient Register by reason of contact (illness, accident, violence or self-harm) and by diagnoses. In the Central Crime Register, all police reports are registered according to the specific violation of the Penal Code. The registration includes information about the alleged perpetrator and the legal outcome. In the case of interpersonal crime, such as violence and rape, data regarding the victim is recorded as well.

National register data are organized according to the personal identification number, which has made it possible to combine information from different registers, e.g. the Crime Register and the National Patient Register. In addition, data from Statistics Denmark concerning employment were added to the profiles of victims and perpetrators.

Each of the national registers describes different aspects of violence against women. In combination, register and survey data render it possible to estimate how many women are exposed to violence, the profile of victims, and the type of violence they are exposed to and the consequences of the violence. Information from shelters and centres for rape victims put another dimension to these data.

The data used for the perpetrator profile are fewer and stem from a smaller amount of data sources. In general, crime records provide the most valuable information in this field, whereas, survey data provide very little information. However, treatment programs for perpetrators collect data about the clients, and this information is included in the perpetrator profile.

The figure demonstrates the main data sources used in this report, and to what extent the different data sources describe the same victim.

Survey data (self-reported violence) report a much higher number of female victims of physical violence than the number identified in the national registers. 4 percent of all adult women, approximately 64,000 women are each year victimised by any form of physical violence compared to 5,100 hospital contacts due to violence and 2,900 police-reported cases of violence, annually. Around 2,600

of the self-reported cases of violence had also been in contact with an emergency department with injuries due to violence, within the past year.

1,500 of the 5,100 women treated in emergency department for injuries due to violence have also reported the violence to the police, and vice versa. Every fourth woman attending a shelter will also report the violence to the police.

Police-reported violence in general comprises the most severe violence, and perhaps a lower share of intimate partner violence than the true share, since victims of intimate partner violence may hesitate to report the case to the police. Emergency department contacts due to violence are likely to be dominated by severe violence causing injuries that require medical treatment. This is contrary to the self-reported violence, which is influenced by the woman's own threshold and interpretation of violence, and which also includes less severe physical violence.

The trend in register data on violence against women will reflect – among other things – changes in values and norms within the police, authorities, and the society as a whole. These factors perhaps also influence the degree of self-reporting in surveys. As society, values and norms change over time, it is difficult to draw strong conclusions on the development in violence against women.

# Annex

## The Seven EU-Indicators in Combating Domestic Violence.

### 1. Profile of female victims of violence

- a. The number of victims according to criminal statistics
- b. The number of victims according to surveys
- c. The number of fatalities as a result of domestic violence
- d. The proportion of domestic violence as a percentage of all violent crimes
- e. Any other relevant statistical data concerning female victims and the existence of dependant children
- f. Characteristics of the victim:
  - i. Relation of victim to the perpetrator
  - ii. Age
  - iii. Marital status
  - iv. Citizenship
  - v. Any other relevant background information, e.g. educational background, labour status

### 2. Profile of male perpetrators

- a. The number of perpetrators according to the criminal statistics
- b. The number of perpetrators seeking assistance through official or voluntary programmes
- c. The number of perpetrators according to surveys
- d. Any other relevant statistical data; e.g. the number of perpetrators seeking assistance in the health system
- e. Characteristics of the perpetrator
  - i. Relation of victim to the perpetrator
  - ii. Age
  - iii. Marital status
  - iv. Citizenship
  - v. Any other relevant background information, e.g. educational background, labour status

### 3. Victim support

- a. Counselling-centres
- b. Emergency services
- c. 24-hours hotline

- d. Women Crisis Centres
  - i. number of shelters per population
  - ii. number of requests for shelter
  - iii. number of refusals
  - iv. funding of centres
- e. Guide on the available support
- f. Special police-units/task forces
- g. Legal advice for victims
- h. Official information on the Internet
- i. Support for victims to help re-enter the labour market
- j. Health protocols concerning medical care and treatment
- k. Co-ordination of the public support system
- l. Special support services for vulnerable groups
- m. Any other support measures

#### **4. Measures addressing the male perpetrator to end the circle of violence**

- a. Counselling
- b. Psychological/psychiatric treatment
- c. Re-socialisation programmes during imprisonment
- d. Male crisis centres
- e. Any other measures

#### **5. Training of professionals**

- a. Type of training
- b. Target groups

#### **6. State measures to eliminate domestic violence against women**

- a. Legislation and justice
  - i. Current status
  - ii. Legislative changes within the last 5 years
  - iii. Number of judgements
  - iv. Number of convictions
  - v. Number of cases dismissed
  - vi. Number of successful recourses to civil remedy
  - vii. Any other measures
- b. Surveys and projects
  - i. Projects initiated by the State within the last 5 years
  - ii. Other projects initiated within the last 5 years

- c. Policy
  - i. Strategy/Action Plan on VAW
  - ii. Elements of an Action Plan
- d. Awareness raising
  - i. Information campaigns aimed at the perpetrator
  - ii. Information campaigns aimed at the victim
  - iii. Information campaigns aimed at the professionals working with victims and/or perpetrators
  - iv. General information campaigns
  - v. Other awareness activities
- e. Budget

## **7. Evaluation**

- a. Progress made
  - i. Statistical changes in indicators
  - ii. Progress-reports on measures taken
  - iii. Any other measures to monitor progress
- b. Lessons learned

