



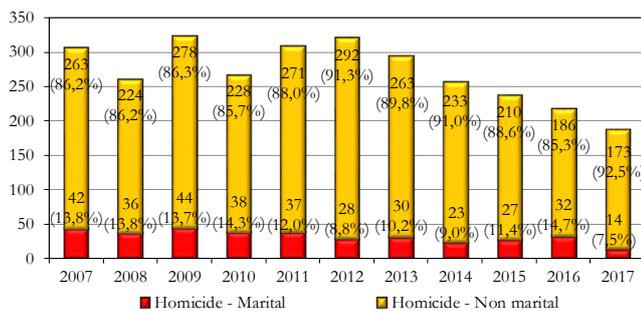
Marital homicide convictions¹ in criminal cases completed at the trial stage in the first instance courts (2007-2017)^{2 3}

The current report aims to portray the evolution of the number of marital homicide convictions (where the victim is a spouse or a partner) in criminal cases completed at the trial stage in the first instance courts between 2007 and 2017.

Homicide convictions in the first instance courts

Table 1 shows the evolution of homicide convictions, with particular emphasis on homicides where the victim is a spouse or a partner.

Table 1 - Convictions for homicide (2007-2017)



Between 2007 and 2016 the number of homicide convictions, which includes the homicide where the victim is a spouse or a partner, shows a downward trend, going from 354 convictions in 2007 to 273 convictions in 2016 (a decrease of 22.9% in the number of homicide convictions). During this period, the decreasing trend was most obvious in 2008 and from 2014 onwards.

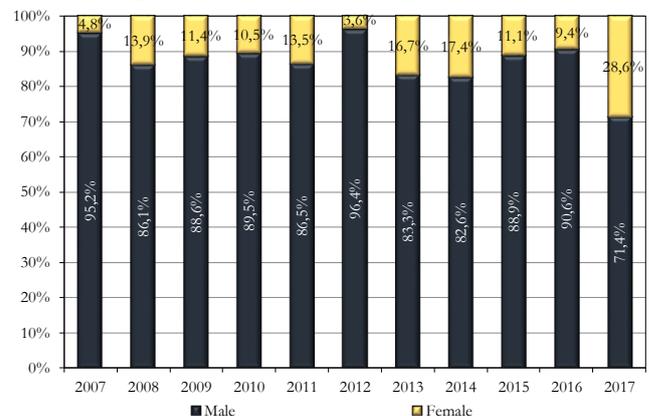
Focusing on the homicides where the victim is a spouse or a partner it is possible to observe that over the ten years under consideration, the number of convictions has shown a slight decrease from the year 2010. Indeed, the lowest value recorded was in 2015, with 26 convictions, and the highest value recorded was in 2009, with 49 convictions.

In relation to the proportion of homicide convictions in which the victim is a spouse or partner over the total of homicide convictions in the first instance courts it can be observed that the values range from 8.1% (minimum value reached in 2012) to 13.8% (value reached in 2009).

Characterization of marital homicide convictions according to the gender of the convicted person

When one compares the number of convictions where the victim is a spouse or a partner, by gender of the convicted person (table 2), it may be verified a strong prevalence of cases in which the convicted person is male. The corresponding proportion is never less than 83.9% of the overall total, being more than 95% (in 2007). By contrast, cases in which the convicted person is female varies between 4.5% and 16.1% (in 2013).

Table 2 - Convictions for marital homicide, by gender of the convicted person (2007-2017)



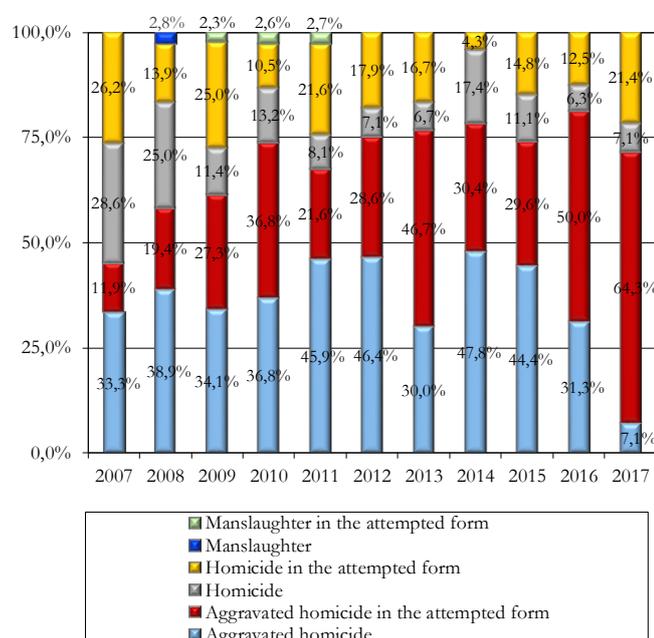
The proportion of cases in which the convicted person is female has the lowest values in 2007 and 2012 (4.5% and 6.7%, respectively), whereas the proportion of convicted female persons is the highest in 2013 (16.1%) and in 2016 (14.7%).

Marital homicide convictions by type of homicide

As regards the type of crime (table 3) it is observed that between 2007 and 2016 prevails the category related to aggravated homicide (ranging from 29.0% to 46.2%). In 2010, 2013 and 2016 this prevalence was exceeded by the (category of aggravated homicide in the attempted form (with values of 39.0%, 48.4% and 52.9%, respectively).

In 2017, aggravated homicide in the attempted form was the predominant type of crime, followed by attempted homicide (21.4%) and aggravated homicide and homicide (both with 7.1%).

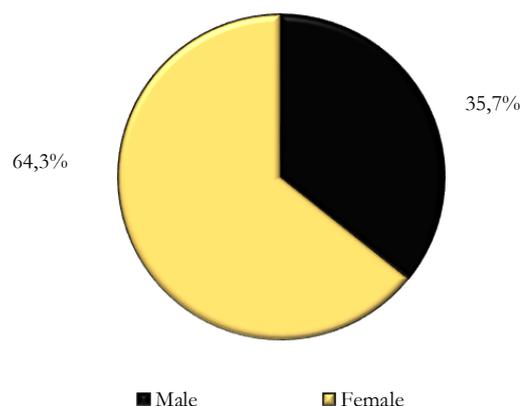
Table 3 - Convictions by marital homicide, by type of homicide (2007-2017)



Victims of the crime of marital homicide, by gender

In the universe of criminal cases in the trial stage completed in 2017, where there were people convicted of marital homicide, there were 14 victims (table 4), with a large majority female victims (64.3%).

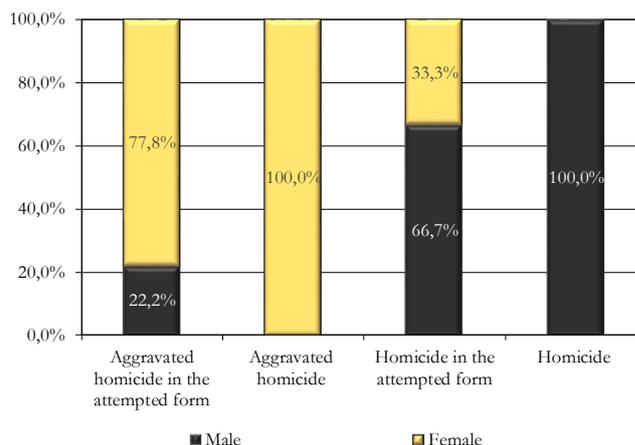
Table 4 - Victims of marital homicide, by gender (2017)



Characterization of the victims of marital homicide, according to the type of homicide and gender

When comparing the number of victims in 2017, taking into account the gender and the type of homicide, a variable proportion of male victims is observed depending on the type of homicide (table 5). Homicide is the type of homicide that has the highest percentage of male victims (100%), followed by homicide in the attempted form (66.7%) and aggravated homicide in the attempted form (22.2%). The type of homicide that has the highest percentage of female victims (100%) is aggravated homicide.

Table 5 - Victims of marital homicide, by type of homicide and gender (2017)



Footnotes

¹ It corresponds to the number of persons convicted in each case for the most serious crime of which they were charged. This concept differs from the number of convictions focused autonomously on the statistical highlights published by 2017 and which corresponds to the total number of crimes for which the person was convicted.

Experience in the collection and processing of data shows that the analysis of data on the number of convicted persons is more reliable than the one relating to the number of convictions. If only convictions are analysed we may encounter abrupt developments that may give a wrong idea (for example, in a given year, in a single case, an accused person may have 10 convictions for the crime of attempted homicide, and this year's data may be biased abruptly the analysis of the results). The processing and analysis of information by number of convicted persons attenuates this type of distortions, allowing a more reliable evolutionary analysis, which is why we have chosen to maintain only this series of statistical highlights.

² The data on persons convicted for marital homicide in criminal cases completed at the trial stage in the courts of first instance, were revised on June 5, 2017 in the course of corrections made to the data processing rules. These corrections have allowed to broaden the universe of characterized convicted persons and to improve the quality of information, especially from the year 2013. The changes in data did not, however, imply changes in the overall variations between the years.

³ As from 2010, new relationships between the defendant and the victim, namely former spouse or partner, boyfriend and ex-boyfriend, have become autonomous. Under these conditions in 2017, there are still 9 persons convicted for homicide in which the victims are former spouse, partner, boyfriend/girlfriend or ex-boyfriend/girlfriend.

Framing note 1 – Temporal scope and other considerations

As from 2007, statistical data on cases in the courts of first instance are now collected from the courts' computer system, representing the status of the cases registered in that system. For this reason, the dynamism of information is also greater, through corrections that can be made to the data received by the new collection method.

Technical sheet:

The Directorate-General for Justice Policy (DGPJ) of the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with Article 2 (1) of Decree-Law 163/2012 of 31 July has the mission to give technical support within the scope of legislative production and legal assessment, to monitor the policies and the strategic planning for the sector, to coordinate the external affairs and the cooperation in the justice area, being also responsible for the statistical data in the Ministry of Justice.

Law 22/2008 of 13 May defines the basic general guidelines and principles that govern the National Statistical System (NSS), particularly with regard to the delegation of attributions of the National Statistics Institute (INE), in other entities.

Under the provisions of Article 24 of Law 22/2008, of 13 May, a protocol was celebrated empowering the DGPJ of the production and dissemination of the official Justice statistics.

As delegated entity, the DGPJ is subject to the fulfilment, in its relevant part, of Law 22/2008, of 13 May, of Decree-Law 166/2007, of 3 May, as well as of rules established by Community legislation, adopting the Code of Conduct for European Statistics and the Regulation for the Application of the Principle of Statistical Confidentiality of the National Statistics Institute.

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