

## Benchmark of studies assessing the impacts and costs of violence against women

### Summary of the benchmark

Number of analyzed studies	16
Number of studies assessing the costs of domestic violence	13
Number of studies assessing the cost for businesses	3
Number of studies regarding actions of unions	1
Number of studies explaining scientific methodologies to estimate the costs of violence against women	3

### Analyzed studies

Title	Author/Research Institute	Year	Figures/Key informations
Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the US	CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)	2003	5.3 million Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) victimizations occur among U.S. women (18 years +), resulting in 2 million injuries, 550,000 of which require medical attention. IPV victims lose a total of 8.0 million days of paid work—the equivalent of 32,000 full-time jobs—and 5.6 million days of household productivity as a result of the violence.
The Cost of Domestic Violence [UK]	University of Leeds	2004	Lost economic output accounts for around £2.7 billion a year. This is the cost of time off work due to injuries. Half of the costs of such absences is borne by the employer and half by the individual in lost wages
Gender-based violence in the world of work: Overview and selected annotated bibliography	ILO	2011	Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pain &amp; suffering</li> <li>- Direct financial costs : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Absenteeism &amp; turnover</li> <li>o Illness &amp; accidents</li> <li>o Disability or death</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Indirect costs : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Decreased functionality &amp; performance, quality of work, and timely production</li> <li>o If company: destruction of property, impact on</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			motivation and commitment among staff, loyalty to the enterprise, working climate, public image...
"Safe at Home, Safe at Work" National Domestic Violence and the Workplace Survey_Australia	Ludo McFerran	2011	48% of IPV victims have talked to their manager, but only 10% of them found it useful. Reasons for victims not to talk about the situation at work: intimacy, shame, fear of dismissal.
Estimating the costs of domestic violence against women in Vietnam	UN Women	2012	Overall productivity loss represents 1.78% of Vietnam's GDP
How to calculate the cost to business of gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea	ODI (Overseas Development Institute)	2014	Based on existing studies of the overall cost of GBV, most of the total costs are borne by individuals experiencing violence (rather than businesses). In developing economies, where public service provision to respond to GBV is weaker, businesses bear a higher share of the total cost of GBV.
Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union	EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality)	2014	Cost of GBV in Europe (2012): 258 billion €. 3 types of costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lost economic output</li> <li>- Provision of public services</li> <li>- Physical and emotional impact on the victim</li> </ul>
Overview of studies on the costs of violence against women and domestic violence	Council of Europe	2012 (update in 2014)	All the studies represent underestimates. They cannot take into account non-reported cases as well as the long-term effects on victims or children. It should be borne in mind that cost figures are in fact larger
The cost of violence against women and their children in Australia	KPMG	2016	Estimated that victim absenteeism will cost \$443 million and additional management costs, including search, hiring and training replacements will total \$96 million
What are the costs of violence?	Hoeffler, University of Oxford	2017	The total cost of all forms of violence worldwide (including armed conflict, terrorism, homicide and domestic violence) is \$9.4 trillion (11% of World GDP). Less than 2% is due to wars. People are most at risk of interpersonal violence, such as domestic violence (a form of GBV).
"I know I cannot quit" The Prevalence and	CARE International	2017	Costs generated from turnover (costs of training and reduced productivity),

Productivity Cost of Sexual Harassment to the Cambodian Garment Industry			absenteeism, and presenteeism related to sexual harassment within the garment industry are estimated at USD 88,742,695 or 0.52% of Cambodia's 2015 GDP.
"Safe at home, Safe at work" France, Country Case Study	ETUC (Sylvia Cleff Le Divellec, Jane Pillinger)	2018	Very few surveys on the impact of domestic violence on the working conditions. 83% of employee's victims of aggressions have difficulties to keep their job. 75% had difficulties to concentrate and 19% provoked an accident at the workplace
Counting the Cost of Violence	CARE	2018	In 2016, the global cost of violence against women estimated to be US\$1.5 trillion, equivalent to 2% of the global (GDP), or the size of the entire Canadian economy. US Violence Against Women Act of 1994 resulted in net benefit of \$16.4 billion including \$14.8 billion in averted victims' costs.
\$MeToo: The Economic Cost of Sexual Harassment	Institute for New Economic Thinking	2018	In 1988, a typical Fortune 500 company lost \$6.7 million a year owing to absenteeism, increased health-care costs, poor morale, low productivity and staff turnover resulting from sexual harassment — over \$14 million in 2017 dollars.
Business Costs of Violence Against Women: The Case of Ghana	WhatWorks	2018	100 businesses surveyed with 3973 male and female workers. Total losses due to IPV: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 13,955 person days, which is equivalent to 58 fulltime jobs or 1.5% of existing workforce</li> <li>- Average of 141 hours lost per female survivor due to IPV</li> <li>- 18 days of work lost in past 12 months by each woman who experiences IPV</li> </ul> 22% of male employees reported being violent towards their partner.
Methodological Approaches for Estimating the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls	WhatWorks		Review of 9 existing methodological approaches to costing VAW. These methods give indications of the individual costs and the aggregate loss for the economy as a result of VAW



## ANALYSES

### **I. Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States** (CDC, 2003)

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/IPVBook-a.pdf>

- 5.3 million Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) victimizations occur among U.S. women (18 years +), resulting in 2 million injuries, 550,000 of which require medical attention
- IPV victims lose a total of 8.0 million days of paid work—the equivalent of 32,000 full-time jobs—and 5.6 million days of household productivity as a result of the violence
- The costs of intimate partner rape, physical assault, and stalking exceed \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health care services
- The total costs of IPV also include \$0.9 billion in lost productivity from paid work and household chores for victims of nonfatal IPV and \$0.9 billion in lifetime earnings lost by victims of IPV homicide
- The largest component of IPV-related costs is health care, which accounts for 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of total costs

### **II. The Cost of Domestic Violence [UK]** (University of Leeds, 2004)

[https://paladinservice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/cost\\_of\\_dv\\_research\\_summary-Walby-2004.pdf](https://paladinservice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/cost_of_dv_research_summary-Walby-2004.pdf)

- Total cost of domestic violence to services (Criminal Justice System, health, social services, housing, civil legal) is £3.1 billion, while the loss to the economy is £2.7 billion (£5.7 billion a year)
- Lost economic output accounts for around £2.7 billion a year. This is the cost of time off work due to injuries. Half of the costs of such absences is borne by the employer and half by the individual in lost wages
- Domestic violence leads to pain and suffering that is not counted in the cost of services. This is estimated at £17 billion a year
- Including all costs, the total cost of domestic violence for the state, employers and victims is estimated at around £23 billion

### **III. Gender-based violence in the world of work: Overview and selected annotated bibliography** (ILO, 2011)

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---gender/documents/publication/wcms\\_155763.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---gender/documents/publication/wcms_155763.pdf)

*Helpful for quotes, clarification of terms and other studies to explore*

- What is the difference between gender-based violence and violence against women?
  - “‘Gender-based violence’ is still an emerging and developing term. Originally it was used mostly to replace the term ‘(male) violence against women’, because the word

woman refers to both individuals of the female sex and to feminine gender roles in society. Those developing the term wanted to emphasize that violence against women is a phenomenon that is related to the gender of both victim and perpetrator. Many definitions continue to focus solely on the fact that women are victims of violence.... However, there is a development towards extending this definition to all forms of violence that are related to (a) social expectations and social positions based on gender and (b) not conforming to a socially accepted gender role. In this way gender-based violence is increasingly a term that connects all acts of violence rooted in some form of 'patriarchal ideology', and can thus be committed against both women and men by women and men with the purpose of maintaining social power for (heterosexual) men.”

- Types of financial costs
  - ‘In addition to pain and suffering caused by such violence, direct financial costs include those resulting from victims’ absenteeism and turnover, illness and accidents, disability or even death. Indirect costs include the victims’ decreased functionality and performance, quality of work, and timely production. In the case of an organization or company, violence at work can include destruction of property; the impact of violence can also negatively affect motivation and commitment among staff, loyalty to the enterprise, working climate, its public image, and even openness to innovation and knowledge building.<sup>29</sup> Court cases on harassment and violence can divert and drain an enterprise’s budget; if cases are lost or settlements agreed to, there can be major direct financial implications... A poor public image can contribute to difficulty in both recruiting and retaining staff. And reduced productivity, coupled with higher insurance premiums and compensation payments in case of violence-related litigation, all ultimately impact competitiveness.’
- Lack of data for the business case against GBV
  - ‘Few up-to-date empirical data for the business case: Relatively fewer texts address the economic efficiency argument for tackling gender-based violence. While costs to some nations of such violence have been estimated, most of these calculations are outdated.’

#### **IV. Estimating the costs of domestic violence against women in Vietnam** (UN Women, 2012)

<http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2013/2/costing-study-vietnam%20pdf.pdf?la=en&vs=1456>

- Combined out of pocket expenditures and lost earnings represent 1.41% of the GDP in Vietnam (2,536,000 billion VND in 2010)
- Regression results for estimating productivity loss due to violence indicate that women experiencing violence earn 35% less than those not abused
- Overall productivity loss represents 1.78% of Vietnam’s GDP
- Table capturing a number of GBV costing studies:

**Table 1.1: Estimates of Costs of IPV across countries**

Author	Country	Costs	Estimate	% of GDP
Access Economics (2004)	Australia	Service provision and Economic costs	\$8.1 billion/year	1.2
Walby (2004)	UK	Service provision, Economic output and human and emotional costs	£23 billion	1.91
Orlando and Morrison (1999)	Nicaragua	Productivity loss	\$29.5 million	1.6
	Chile	Productivity loss	\$1.56 billion	2.0
WHO-CDC 2007	Brazil	Productivity loss	12% of health budget	1.2
ICRW 2009	Uganda	Out of pocket expenditures	\$ 5	1.6 <sup>a</sup>
	Morocco	Out of pocket expenditures	\$ 157	6.5 <sup>a</sup>

**V. Overview of studies on the costs of violence against women and domestic violence**  
(Conseil de l'Europe, 2012, updated 2014)

<https://rm.coe.int/168059aa22>

- **In many studies, a distinction between:**
  - Direct costs** – the amount that public authorities spend on services and measures linked to preventing and combating violence against women.
  - Indirect costs** – that result from the physical and psychological trauma and life-long effects that such violence has on victims.
- **A focus on DV or intimate partner violence** and a tendency not to address the different forms of violence against women separately. It is difficult to understand what costs are attributed to which type of violence.
- **All the studies represent underestimates.** They cannot take into account non-reported cases as well as the long-term effects on victims or children. It should be borne in mind that cost figures are in fact larger.

Summary of 20 studies, among which:

Publication	Region/Country	Type of violence	Cost categories and cost per year
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M. Nectoux et al.; 2010	France	Intimate partner violence against women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>€2.5 billion</b></li> </ul> <p>Healthcare costs: <b>€483 million</b>  Social and justice services: <b>€355 million</b>  Production losses as a result of deaths, imprisonments and absenteeism: <b>€1099 million</b>  Human costs of rape and prejudice: <b>€535 million</b></p>
Psytel; 2006	EU-25	Intimate partner violence: physical, psychological and sexual violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>€16 billion</b></li> <li>● €33 per capita in 25-member states of the European Union and <b>€1 million every 1/2 hours.</b></li> </ul> <p>By increasing the budget of intimate partner prevention policies <b>by €1 we can save €87 in total costs</b>, out of which €30 in direct costs.</p>
N. Duvvury et al.; 2013	Global	Intimate partner violence, including physical, psychological and sexual violence within intimate relationships. Economic and financial abuse is not included due to little systematic data on its prevalence.	<p>The cost of intimate partner violence is analysed in relation to national GDP: <b>approximately 1-2% of GDP.</b></p> <p><i>Justice system</i> (civil, criminal and administrative structures)  <i>Health system</i> (care and treatment)  <i>Social services</i> (shelters, income support, support services)  <i>Costs borne by the individual woman</i> (health care, housing, shelter, legal costs)  <i>Forgone income for households and the overall economy</i> (lost wages, decreased productivity, decrease in tax revenues)  <i>Second generation costs</i> (effects on children, impact on human capital formation).</p>

**Main type of data used in these 20 studies:**

- National survey
- Official statistical data
- Statistics from government databases and agency budgets, activity reports, etc.
- Official criminal statistics
- Victim of crime surveys
- Department of Transport reports on accidents and injuries

- Annual reports from central government agencies or for activities financed or co-financed by local governments
- Data registered by central social services
- Interviews with experts to obtain percentage of service use attributable to violence against women.
- Interviews with public servants, physicians, and NGO representatives
- Interviews with women having obtained a protective order against a male abusive partner
- Questionnaires for women's refuges and crisis centres and local authorities

#### VI. **How to calculate the cost to business of gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea** (ODI, 2014)

<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9062.pdf>

- Overview of existing approaches and methodologies to estimate business costs of GBV. Helpful for methodology considerations (specifically the accounting method, which aggregates direct and indirect costs)
- Based on existing studies of the overall cost of GBV, most of the total costs are borne by individuals experiencing violence (rather than businesses)
- In developing economies, where public service provision to respond to GBV is weaker, businesses bear a higher share of the total cost of GBV

#### VII. **Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union** (EIGE - European Institute for Gender Equality, 2014)

<https://www.google.fr/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0ahUKEwiEuanqo4fbAhUCJ1AKHWyDDQIQFggwMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.eige.europa.eu%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2FMH0414745EN2.pdf&usq=AOvVaw2jZr-jLRg4GaOtTYov1RDI>

- **Purpose of the study:** to identify and recommend appropriate methodologies to measure the cost of gender-based and intimate partner violence in EU-28 Member States. 3 main types of costs:
  - **Lost economic output.** Example: lost productivity, lost earnings, sick pay, underperformance, absence from work etc. 3 main approaches: survey-data based; administrative-data based; and purpose-built modelling.
  - **Provision of public services;** including health, legal, social and specialised services. Example: the cost of health service utilisation for the urgent treatment of injuries sustained during an assault by a partner.
  - **Physical and emotional impact on the victim.** 4 main approaches: court awarded compensatory damages; willingness to pay; quality of life losses; value of statistical life.
- **5 steps of the study:**
  - A desk review of available methodologies;
  - A review of the strengths and weaknesses of these methodologies;
  - Analysis of the feasibility of the methodologies for application to EU-28 Member States;
  - Production of a recommended methodology illustrated by a UK case study;



- Conclusions on the cost-benefit balance of interventions to reduce gender-based and intimate partner violence.
- **UK CASE STUDY.** The UK was chosen because it has one of the most highly developed systems of statistics and of cost-benefit methodologies.
  - **Definition of IPV (intimate partner violence):** ‘All acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim.’ (Council of Europe 2011).

	<b>COSTS UK</b>	<b>GBV</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>IPV</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Lost economic output</b>	4 213 841 519	13	1 784 655 464	12	
<b>Health services</b>	1 942 807 516	6	1 166 765 238	8	
<b>Criminal justice system</b>	4 739 248 003	15	2 428 000 051	16	
<b>Civil justice system</b>	405 023 301	1	405 023 301	3	
<b>Social welfare (housing aid, child protection)</b>	1 296 249 617	4	1 296 249 617	8	
<b>Personal costs (civil legal services; moving home)</b>	839 690 412	3	839 690 412	5	
<b>Specialist services (refuge, specialised advice)</b>	209 905 322	<1	198 514 422	1	
<b>Physical and emotional impact</b>	18 910 974 129	58	7 255 626 748	47	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32 557 739 819</b>		<b>15 374 525 253</b>		

- **Estimations for other Member States of the EU**, which are based on extrapolation from the UK proportionate to population size.

<b>Member State</b>	<b>Population (2012)</b>	<b>Cost of GBV</b>
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<b>EU</b>		<b>258 728 837 747</b>
<b>Austria</b>	8 408 121	4 311 333 326
<b>Belgium</b>	11 094 850	5 688 975 760
<b>Finland</b>	5 401 267	2 769 544 161
<b>France</b>	65 287 861	33 476 888 704
<b>Germany</b>	80 327 900	41 188 792 633
<b>United Kingdom</b>	63 495 303	32 557 739 819
<b>Italy</b>	59 394 207	30 454 869 052
<b>Poland</b>	38 538 447	19 760 906 259
<b>Greece</b>	11 123 034	5 703 427 338
<b>Netherlands</b>	16 730 348	8 578 623 796
<b>Poland</b>	38 538 447	19 760 906 259
<b>Romania</b>	20 095 996	10 304 387 541
<b>Spain</b>	46 818 219	24 006 427 578
<b>Sweden</b>	9 482 855	4 862 412 041

**VIII. The cost of violence against women and their children in Australia** (KPMG, 2016)

[https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/08\\_2016/the\\_cost\\_of\\_violence\\_against\\_women\\_and\\_their\\_children\\_in\\_australia\\_-\\_summary\\_report\\_may\\_2016.pdf](https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/08_2016/the_cost_of_violence_against_women_and_their_children_in_australia_-_summary_report_may_2016.pdf)

- The cost of violence against women and their children in Australia is \$22 billion in 2015-16
- The community, children of women experiencing violence, perpetrators, employers and friends/family bear \$6.5 billion or 29% of the total costs
- The impact of violence against women and their children on production and the business sector is \$1.9 billion

- Most significant cost is from victim absenteeism and inability to perform household tasks and voluntary work
- Estimated that victim absenteeism will cost \$443 million and additional management costs, including search, hiring and training replacements will total \$96 million

**IX. What are the costs of violence?** (Hoeffler, University of Oxford, 2017)

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1470594X17714270>

- The total cost of all forms of violence worldwide (including armed conflict, terrorism, homicide and domestic violence) is \$9.4 trillion (11% of World GDP). Less than 2% is due to wars. People are most at risk of interpersonal violence, such as domestic violence (a form of GBV)

**X. 'I know I cannot quit.' The Prevalence and Productivity Cost of Sexual Harassment to the Cambodian Garment Industry** (CARE International, 2017)

<https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/publications/i-know-i-cannot-quit-the-prevalence-and-productivity-cost-of-sexual-harassment-to-the-cambodian-garment-industry>

- Women make up 85% of Cambodia's garment sector
- The productivity cost of sexual harassment in the garment industry is \$89 million per year
- Costs generated from turnover (costs of training and reduced productivity), absenteeism, and presenteeism related to sexual harassment within the garment industry are estimated at USD 88,742,695 or 0.52% of Cambodia's 2015 GDP
- 13.5% of workers stated that their productivity was significantly affected by sexual harassment
- Presenteeism generated the highest costs to productivity. These costs are generated by sexual harassment both inside and outside the factory

**XI. ETUC "Safe at home, safe at work", France, Country Case Study** (Sylvia Cleff Le Divellec, 2017)

[https://www.etuc.org/sites/www.etuc.org/files/document/files/france\\_etuc\\_safe\\_at\\_home\\_safe\\_at\\_work\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.etuc.org/sites/www.etuc.org/files/document/files/france_etuc_safe_at_home_safe_at_work_final_0.pdf)

- This report documents the measures taken by **French unions (CFDT, CGT, FO)** to address GBV in **two specific areas**:
- **GBV in the workplace**:
  - **Legal obligation** for French employers to prevent sexual and moral harassment at the workplace (by workplace policy, action plan, or collective agreement).
  - **2010**; the French social partners signed a **national collective agreement**. But, no concrete measures or sanctions mentioned.
  - **Union awareness raising campaigns and training programs**:
    - CGT, CFDT, FO, CFTC deal with topic and undertake campaigns.
  - **Challenges faced by unions**:
    - **Issue still described as "delicate"**. It is important that the subject is supported by the Union directory boards. Male dominated unions are reluctant, and they do not feel at ease to handle a case in their companies.





- Losses from stress and sexual harassment in the workplace are between 1-3.5% of GDP over a range of countries
- US Violence Against Women Act of 1994 resulted in net benefit of \$16.4 billion including \$14.8 billion in averted victims' costs

**XIII. Business Costs of Violence Against Women (VAW): The Case of Ghana** (WhatWorks, 2018)

<http://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/179-business-costs-of-violence-against-women/file>

- 100 businesses surveyed with 3973 male and female workers
- Total losses due to IPV
  - 13,955 person days, which is equivalent to 58 fulltime jobs or 1.5% of existing workforce
  - Average of 141 hours lost per female survivor due to IPV
  - 18 days of work lost in past 12 months by each woman who experiences IPV

**XIV. \$MeToo: The Economic Cost of Sexual Harassment** (Institute for New Economic Thinking, 2018)

<https://www.ineteconomics.org/research/research-papers/metoo-the-economic-cost-of-sexual-harassment>

- Violent sexual assault (an extreme form of sexual harassment) happens in the workplace, with immigrant women and undocumented workers at particularly high risk
- Sexual harassment happens more frequently in industries dominated by low-wage workers, like the fast food industry (in which 40% of females in the industry experience sexual harassment)
- In Academia: most faculty harassers are accused of physical (rather than verbal) harassment. Over half of cases involve serial perpetrators
- Since 2010, employers have paid a total of \$699 million to employees claiming that they were harassed on the basis of sex, race, disability, age, ethnicity/national origin, color, and religion through its pre-litigation process
- 'Lack of scholarship on the economic cost of sexual harassment likely reflects the biases of an economics field heavily dominated by men and closely aligned with power structures that reinforce gender imbalances and inequality'

**XV. Methodological Approaches for Estimating the Economic Costs of Violence against Women and Girls** (What Works to Prevent Violence)

<http://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/90-methodological-approaches-for-estimating-the-economic-costs-of-vawg/file>

- Review of 9 existing methodological approaches to costing VAW:
  - Accounting approach (most commonly used); econometric analysis; propensity score matching; quality of life losses; benefit cost ratios; population attributable fractions; the willingness to pay approach; gender responsive budgeting; estimating economic multipliers

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- These methods give indications of the individual costs and the aggregate loss for the economy as a result of VAW but does not account for structural interlinkages within the real economy. For example, the loss of income for an individual woman as a result of violence impacts the economy in two ways: through losses in output for a particular enterprise and sector, and through losses in her consumption of goods and services. This loss in consumption demand leads to further losses in output in the real economy