

Facts Sheet 1

ENG

1. Sexual exploitation sexual violence on youth: national data (2 target groups 0-18 years old and 18-25 years old)

The national survey on child maltreatment provides administrative data from a total of 2,4 million children (25% of the total Italian child population) in 231 municipalities throughout Italy.

Among the main data:

47,1% physical and or psychological neglect
19,4% witnesses of domestic violence and more than two thousand crimes abuses occurred within the family in 2020
13,7% emotional abuse
8,4 % neglect (e.g. missing care)
6,9% physical abuse
4,2% sexual abuse: 554 crime cases of sexual violence were registered (so many more) only in 2020. (This is the formal data. However, the data emerging during therapy sessions are higher with respect to those reported) 248 crimes of child pornography registered only in 2020 246 crimes of abduction of person incapable of consent only in 2020 37 cases registered of child prostitution only in 2020

If we refer to trafficking: in Italy, there are 1,660 confirmed victims of trafficking, with a steadily increasing number of minors involved. (2019)

Moreover, the 2015 ISTAT survey on violence against women sampled 24,761 women aged 17-70, and found that 10.6% of Italian women have experienced sexual violence before the age of 16.

Several specific findings were revealed, which emerged from the synthesis of the systematic review and secondary analysis data on the drivers of violence affecting children.

Specifically referring to Sexual Violence:

1. Psychological manipulation within unequal power relations of children trusting older figures
2. Witnessing violence and previous experiences of (sexual) abuse
3. Absence of family for child migrants

Violence in the Community (including on-line)

1. Demand for sex workers and child pornographic material; existence of efficient organizations
2. Social ambitions linked to relationships with sex traffickers influencing girls' decisions to engage with the sex market and emotional attachment to trafficking agents
3. Parents supervision of children's internet use, limited knowledge of computer skills
4. Lack of awareness by children of the risks of on-line behaviors

REFLECTION: lack of data specific and didag-
gregated for age

REFERENCES:

The Italian Network of Agencies against Child Abuse (CISMAI)
Terre des Hommes Italy (2015)
<https://terredeshommes.it/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Abstract-inglese.pdf>
Children's Ombudsman of Italy (National Authority for Children and Adolescents)
ISTAT 2015

2. Background and profile of youth main affected

The profile of minors victims of prostitution

Age and gender

- Younger children and adolescents (ages 7-14 years) appear more vulnerable to sexual violence (40% average prevalence of victims of sexual crimes)
- In the analysis of website containing child

pornographic material, it was found that 40% of the victims are under 5 years of age

- In the analysis of referrals to the Telefono Azzurro 114 helpline, where children under the age of 10 are involved in 60% of the cases.

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Referring to trafficking, Victims of trafficking and exploitation are increasingly young. The confirmation comes from the 74 new cases of minors who managed to get out of the exploitation system in 2018 in Italy and taken in charge by institutional protection programs: 1 out of 5 does not exceed 15 years and 9 out of 10 were sexually exploited

Concerning the data disaggregated by gender on the different typologies of violence, the first fundamental element is the limited availability of data.

The most evident emerging trends are that girls are much more likely to be victims of sexual abuse.

At the same time boys are more likely to be physically abused including for corporal punishment.

Girls are more heavily caught up in unequal power relations.

Perpetrators of sexual violence (adults and children) are almost exclusively male.

From the literature review it emerges that in general there is a lack of disaggregated data by ethnicity.

The percentage of foreign children assisted by social services due to maltreatment is double than the one of Italian children.

There are no significant differences between Italian and foreign women, however it does not provide a specific indication about minors.

3. At the roots of sexual exploitation and sexual violence

THE IMPACT OF CRAVING: the chain of ABUSE and PATHOLOGY - DRUG ADDICTION and SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Craving is the "uncontrolled behavior, focused on obtaining the substance that produced and maintains the addiction, whatever the price to pay " make drug addicts real victims of crime.

The link between substance use and gender-based violence is complex and at the same time very close. While there is no clear evidence of a cause-and-effect relationship, recent studies show that women with substance use problems, are more likely than men to have experienced physical and / or sexual abuse.

At the national level, comprehensive and comparable data continue to be lacking throughout the European Union. Even because violence against women with drug problems does not create social alarm and is therefore ignored by public opinion.

One of the most common forms of violence to which drug addicts are exposed is that linked to sexual performance to obtain substances. This practice is often considered "normal", an implication of the condition of dependence, for which the women themselves do not experience it as a form of violence suffered but almost as a deliberate behavior.

Specifically referring to the roots causes:

- 8,9 is the risk for women having been victims of violence and abuse to develop substance addiction and on the other hand, being addicted to substances exposes women to perpetuate the chain of sexual abuse, harassment, and violence with the tragic consequence of not recognizing them as such anymore.
- The abuser has himself a past of violence or mistreatment
- Mental problems of the abuser
- The risk is higher when a child is assisted by more components of the family (e.g: extended families)

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REFLECTION:

even when referring to the root causes data are lacking. It is easier to find reports referring to specific characteristics of the abuser rather than of causes. The phenomenon observed reveals that the majority of sexual abuses is perpetrated within the family or in any case in a domestic / close network (when talking about minors) so it's easy to associate the characteristic of the abuser and the causes of abuse. The causes match with the characteristics of the abuser (violence spiral)

4. Main public services operating at the national level and location

FREE CLINIC (CONSULTORIO)

actions against gender-based and intra-family violence are carried out.

Four levels of intervention are distinguished:

1. Prevention and / or information on content relating to gender-based violence;
2. Assessment of the situation of mistreatment and / or violence following the reporting of the pink code;
3. Advice;
4. Taking charge.

THE PINK CODE

It is a welcome path to the emergency room in the hospital dedicated to those who suffer violence, which fits in and harmonises with the historic network of anti-violence centers and other voluntary and solidarity associations. It starts from a dedicated room inside the emergency room, which is accessed by all the specialists who will have to visit the patient.

Its strong point is an interinstitutional task force, a team made up of social and health personnel (nurses, midwives, doctors, social workers, psychologists), magistrates, judicial police officers engaged in an activity to protect the vulnerable groups of the population, those who may be most exposed to episodes of abuse and violence: women above all, but also minors, the elderly, people who are victims of sexual abuse and discrimination.

The Pink Code does not replace the first aid seriousness code, but is assigned together with the triage code by personnel trained to recognize often unspoken signs of violence (it seems to be organized on a regional level).

5. Main organization operating at the national level and location

Telefono Rosa "The Pink Telephone"

It is the first Italian association since 1988 alongside women and minors.

The association is responsible for preventing, reporting and offering support to women who suffer stalking and physical or psychological violence, to help them come out and ask for help. With seven operational offices in some Regions of Italy, from 2012-2020, the association managed the free anti-violence and stalking public service number 1522 - active 24 hours a day, promoted by the Department for Equal Opportunities by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Anti Violence Centers

It offers the following services:

1. Telephone
2. Individual interviews
3. Hospitality in shelters (secret address)
4. Second level hospitality
5. Support for minors victims of direct or witnessed violence
6. Legal assistance / advice
7. Psychological counseling
8. Awareness and prevention activities
9. Orientation and accompaniment to work and education
10. Local tables, regional, national and international networks
11. Data collection
12. Research
13. Training aimed at socio-health operators, the judiciary and law enforcement agencies
14. Support groups

By the date, more than 84 organizations are recognized by the National organization D.I.R.E as anti-violence centers who manage over 100 anti-violence centers and more than 50 shelters, listening to about 21,000 women every year.

Telefono Azzurro 114 helpline (not only for women) : it is an association for minors

REFLECTIONS: the important data to observe is that there is no specific budget assigned to prevention/ treatment of the specificity of the sectors: prostitution/addiction etc.

6. Relevant approaches / Methods / Best Practices

(about raising awareness - sensibilization and prevention! not accompaniment)

In Italy interventions mainly focuses on :

1. Primary prevention interventions at school (first and second grade secondary):

Which are proposed by public or private services and modulated according to the specific needs of the institutes.

Some examples can be:

- Comprehensive social influence: integration between training and development of life skills, regulatory education and acquisition of knowledge on the topic to be explored.

These interventions are carried out directly in the classroom by trained psychologists or educators or by teachers after ad hoc structured training courses.

REFLECTION: the transfer of information and tools to teachers from a trained psychologist to an educator has low impact since the last has not the tools to use in the same and effective way the approach and the method learned.

2. Affectivity Education interventions: it aims to develop emotional intelligence starting from the awareness of one's sensations, emotions and feelings and to increase affective skills. This includes interventions called emotional education, whose objectives range from building an alphabet of perceptions / emotions / feelings, to orientation in the construction and consolidation of friendly and intimate relationships. In order for education in affectivity to be a form of prevention of gender-based violence, it is necessary to address the relationship between affectivity, gender identity and cultural stereotypes.

• REFLECTION: interventions are SPOT without a real investment and not synergy between the different organizations.

Being not considered a problem don't catch the interest of public investments.

3. An interesting project that aimed at supporting women victims of violence under use of substance is the European Daphne program of 2013 which moved along three lines of operation:

- Improvement of quality standards in services,
- counseling and support for violated women or at risk of violence,
- a training and prevention campaign aimed above all at the youth population.

Link to project results:

<https://www.goleminformazione.it/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/>

Dipendenze patologiche e abuso sessuale: I risultati del progetto 2013.pdf

Specifically, the Campaign is explained from pag. 28 to 32

The philosophy behind has been : "the use of drugs don't legitimate violence" since what the interviews with the women revealed was that they link to their drug addiction and their violence to a sense of guilt that don't allow them to perceive themselves as victims of violence but almost deserving accomplices.

4. To offer specific support to foreign minors recruited by criminal organizations and networks in their countries of origin to be exploited in Italy in the prostitution circuit, we have activated the Vie d'Uscita project since 2012. Thanks to which, in 2018, was supported the launch of 32 programs for the autonomy of victims escaped from the exploitation system, for 31 girls and one boy. For more information: <https://www.savethechildren.it/cosa-facciamo/progetti/vie-duscita> (in any case is not prevention!!!) .