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**Statistical data: Is there any information on what percentage of domestic violence cases are reported to the police, and how many of these result in convictions or are dropped?**

Yes. According to the [Portuguese Annual Internal Security Report 2025](#) (RASI) and data from the [Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality](#) (CIG), around 29,600 domestic violence complaints were reported to law enforcement authorities in 2025. Women represented approximately 70% of victims, while men accounted for around 80% of perpetrators.

Regarding judicial outcomes, available data show that a significant proportion of investigations are ultimately archived. In 2025, 38,749 domestic violence investigations were closed, and 23,836 of these - approximately 61% - were archived due to insufficient evidence or other procedural reasons. Only 5,327 cases resulted in formal prosecution, while others ended through provisional suspension or alternative procedural outcomes.

This means that nearly two out of every three concluded judicial investigations did not proceed to trial or conviction. However, it is important to note that archived cases do not necessarily mean the violence did not occur; rather, they often reflect difficulties in gathering evidence, supposed victim withdrawal, fear of retaliation, dependence on the perpetrator, or structural limitations or personal beliefs within the justice system.

Violence in dating relationships represented approximately 6.4% of reported cases in 2025, and Lisbon, Porto, and Setúbal remained the districts with the highest number of reports.

One of the major structural shortcomings continues to be the insufficient coordination between criminal courts and family courts. The high number of children accommodated in shelters alongside their mothers demonstrates that domestic violence cannot be treated solely as a criminal matter, but also as a child protection and family law issue.

Official shelter data show that the number of children entering shelters is almost as high as the number of women, which clearly indicates the need for stronger involvement of family courts in protection responses. However, important gaps remain in the articulation between criminal proceedings and decisions concerning custody, visitation rights, parental responsibilities, and child protection measures.

Both the CEDAW Committee and GREVIO have repeatedly recommended that Portugal strengthen coordination mechanisms between criminal and family jurisdictions, ensuring that women and children have immediate access to civil

protection measures without depending exclusively on criminal proceedings. These international monitoring bodies have also expressed concern about situations in which family court decisions continue to prioritize parental contact rights over the safety of women and children exposed to domestic violence.

### **Are the figures falling or rising, and what do you believe are the reasons for this trend?**

Overall, the number of reported domestic violence cases in Portugal has remained relatively stable over the last four years. The highest number was registered in 2022, with 30,389 complaints, while 2025 recorded a slight decrease to around 29,600 reports. Authorities described this as a “slight reduction” of approximately 1.9%.

However, this apparent stabilization should be interpreted cautiously. A reduction in reported cases does not necessarily mean a reduction in actual violence. Several factors may influence reporting trends:

- **Underreporting and lack of trust in institutions:** many victims may avoid reporting because previous complaints did not lead to protection or accountability.
- **Fear and economic dependence:** victims often remain financially or housing dependent on perpetrators.
- **Difficulties in evidence collection:** domestic violence frequently occurs in private settings, making prosecution more complex.
- **Institutional and procedural barriers:** the high rate of archived investigations suggests structural challenges within the criminal justice system.
- **Increased public awareness:** awareness campaigns and improved police mechanisms may encourage reporting, helping keep figures stable rather than decreasing.

At the same time, some indicators remain deeply concerning. Domestic violence against minors increased by 8.6% in 2025, and domestic violence-related homicides rose from 23 to 27 victims, including 21 women and two children.

These figures suggest that while reporting levels may appear stable, the severity and persistence of domestic violence continue to represent a major social and women’s human rights concern in Portugal.