



Evidence-Based Data on German Femicides

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 – International Women's Day

WHO?

08.03.2021 ©Prof. Dr. Kristina F. Wolff

Femicide Observation
Center Germany



Prof. Dr. Kristina Felicitas Wolff

Until the end of 2018:

Diploma in Engineering (FH)

Doctorate as Dr. rer. medic.

International Congress Management

Professorship International Congress Management

Since January 2019:

Petition #saveXX (+100.000 Signatures)

Scientific Research

Activist

Speaker



(©Picture by Die Hoffotografen)



WHY?

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

- Germany ratifies the Istanbul Convention on October 12th, 2017
- Istanbul Convention is in force since February 01st, 2018, legally binding
- Status Federal Law and International Law

But:

- Still no current and valid Data available on Violence Against Women
- No Data available on German Femicides
- Violation of the Istanbul Convention, Article 11 - Data collection and research

„ It is a continuous trend since we have been doing this, since 2015 we see annually increasing numbers“

Holger Münch, President of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), November 10th, 2021, on the occasion of the presentation of the official Police Crime Statistics for the year 2019 on Violence Against Women and Partnership Violence



WHY?

Germany's Data Quality at the National Level, official Police Crime Statistics (PKS)

The original Answers of the Authority in Charge, Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) on request

- Data collection PKS: "Data collection in the PKS takes place after completion of the police investigation and reflects the status at that time" → i.e. women who succumb to their injuries afterwards are not recorded statistically
- Perpetrators History of Violence: "The PKS (...) is not an instrument for analyzing the context of a crime or for mapping developments in its course.
- Characteristics of particular Cruelty, e.g. presence of child(ren): "No, these characteristics are not covered by PKS."
- How many potential Perpetrators of Violence are known: "The PKS is an annual statistic without personal data. Accordingly, such evaluations are not possible on the basis of the PKS".
- Motivation: "An underlying motivation is not recorded in the PKS as mass statistics."
- Pregnancies: "Pregnancies are not recorded in PKS."



WHY?

Germany's Data Quality at an International Level according to the Publication of October 15th, 2020 of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) „Intimate partner violence: data collection methodology“

- 1. Indicator 1: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Germany: data are not disaggregated by the age of the victim and perpetrator, nor by the sex of the perpetrator.
- 2. Indicator 2: Annual number of reported offences related to intimate partner violence against women committed by men (aged 18 and over)
→ No data are available for: Germany.
- 3. Indicator 3: Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) perpetrators of intimate partner violence against women (and percentage of male population that are perpetrators)
→ Non-comparable data are available for: Germany



WHY?

Germany's Data Quality at an International Level according to the Publication of October 15th, 2020 of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) „Intimate partner violence: data collection methodology“

- 4. Indicator 4: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of physical intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Germany: data cannot be disaggregated by the age of the victim or by the sex or age of the perpetrator.
- 5. Indicator 5: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of psychological intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Germany: data cannot be disaggregated by the age of the victim, or by the sex or age of the perpetrator.
- 6. Indicator 6: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of sexual intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Germany: data cannot be disaggregated by the age of the victim, or by the sex or age of the perpetrator.



WHY?

Germany's Data Quality at an International Level according to the Publication of October 15th, 2020 of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) „Intimate partner violence: data collection methodology“

- 7. Indicator 7: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of economic intimate partner violence committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Non-comparable data are available for: Germany
- 8. Indicator 8: Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims reporting rape committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police
→ Germany: data cannot be disaggregated by the age of the victim, or by the sex or age of the perpetrator.
→ Germany: data exclude rapes resulting in death.
- 9. Indicator 9: Women victims of intimate femicide (aged 18 and over) committed by a male intimate partner (aged 18 and over), as a share of the women victims of homicide (aged 18 and over)
→ Germany: data cannot be disaggregated by the age of the victim, or by the sex or age of the perpetrator.



WHY?

Germany's Data Quality at an International Level according to the Publication of October 15th, 2020 of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) „Intimate partner violence: data collection methodology“

- 10. Indicator 10: Annual number of protection orders applied and granted in cases of intimate partner violence against women, by type of court
- 11. Indicator 11: Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) prosecuted for intimate partner violence against women
- 12. Indicator 12: Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) sentenced for intimate partner violence against women
- 13. Indicator 13: Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) sentenced for intimate partner violence against women, held in prison or with a sanction involving a form of deprivation of liberty

→ Indicator 11 -13: No data are available for: Germany



STATUS QUO?

Official Request of the Member of Parliament Cornelia Möhring (The Left) to the Federal Government dated on November 3rd, 2020

- Question:

"What is the number of women killed in Germany this year and what is the proportion of women killed who have fallen victim to a femicide, i.e. a killing based on the hierarchical gender ratio (please break down by time, crime scene, cause of death, motive)?"

- Official Answer of the Government of Germany:

"At the present time, the Federal Government has no findings in the sense of the question. In the police crime statistics (PKS), women are recorded as victims of homicides.

However, the PKS is an annual statistic, which means that the following information is not available during the current year 2020. Independent of this, on the basis of the PKS no statements are made about femicides".



METHODOLOGY

Quantitative long-term Study on German Femicides, starting in January 2019

- Based on existing press releases (minimum data)
- Based on three investigation parameters:
 - 1. Causally male**
 - 2. Self-Increase/Narcism and/or Misogyny**
 - 3. Lack of impulse control**
- More than 70 different Criteria related to the individual Crimes
 - For example: Femicides of German Citizens abroad
 - Mental illness, abuse of alcohol, drugs and/or medication
 - Infanticide(s) targeted against the mother
 - Car as a weapon (Frenzy / Car Racing)
 - Gender aspects in the judiciary (nationwide inquiries at public prosecutor's offices/courts)

CREDITS to all employees of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), the German public prosecutor's offices and courts who continuously support me and my work by providing answers.



RESULTS – Numbers in Total

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021

| Femicides | 2019 | Federal State/ Country: | 2020 | Federal State/ Country: | 2021 | Federal State/ Country: |
|---|------------|---|------------|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| In Total: | 182 | | 196 | | 41 | |
| <u>by Car as a weapon</u> | 3 | 1 x Saxony-Anhalt 2 x North Rhine- Westphalia | 6 | 4 x Rhineland- Palatinate 1 x Baden- Wuerttemberg 1 x Hessen | 3 | 1 x Bavaria 2 x Schleswig-Holstein |
| <u>by Germans abroad</u> | 2 | Switzerland | 2 | Switzerland | 1 | Switzerland |
| | 1 | Austria | 1 | Austria | | |
| | 2 | Spain | 1 | USA | | |
| | 1 | Thailand | 1 | Ukraine | | |
| | | | 1 | Tasmania | | |
| Further Course of this Presentation: | 173 | | 184 | | 37 | |



RESULTS - Overview of Months

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 – Development: rising Trend 2019 – 2020 - 2021

| 18 | 2019 – Total: 173 | 2020 - Total: 184 | 2021 - Total: 37 |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| January | 17 | 21 | 15 |
| February | 7 | 15 | 19 |
| March | 14 | 19 | To date: 3 |
| April | 13 | 9 | |
| May | 13 | 18 | |
| June | 14 | 13 | |
| July | 18 | (formerly: 18) 17 | |
| August | 14 | (formerly: 11) 12 | |
| September | 19 | 15 | |
| October | 12 | 13 | |
| November | 16 | 16 | |
| December | 16 | 16 | |

July 2020: A woman who died of 54% burns after an argument with her husband was ruled an accident and not a femicide by a court in Lower Saxony in February 2021: Acquittal.

August 2020: The femicide of a woman in Lower Saxony in August 2020 only became known through the court proceedings that began in February 2021. The exact circumstances of the crime are still unclear.



RESULTS - Annual Overview of the 16 Federal States I.

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 - Highly alarming Numbers 2021

| | 2019 – Total: 173 | 2020 - Total: 184 | 2021 - Total: 37 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Baden-Wuerttemberg | 22 | 21 | 4 |
| Bavaria | 16 | 34 | 1 |
| Berlin | 4 | 10 | 3 |
| Brandenburg | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Bremen | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Hamburg | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Hessen | 16 | 11 | 3 |
| Lower Saxony | 21 | 20 | 4 |

REMINDER: The FOCG-Database is based on media releases on the events and on the corresponding court hearings.

Not every femicide becomes a news story in the press. Not all reports are online for a longer period of time. Another large number of unreported cases is hidden behind the femicide attempts, for which the last information is "life-threateningly injured".



RESULTS - Annual Overview of the 16 Federal States I.

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 - Highly alarming Numbers 2021

| | 2019 – Total: 173 | 2020 - Total: 184 | 2021 - Total: 37 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania | 6 | - | 1 |
| North Rhine-Westphalia | 52 | 43 | 7 |
| Rhineland-Palatinate | 6 | 11 | 7 |
| Saarland | 3 | 4 | - |
| Saxony | 5 | 8 | - |
| Saxony-Anhalt | 4 | 5 | - |
| Schleswig-Holstein | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| Thuringia | 1 | 3 | - |

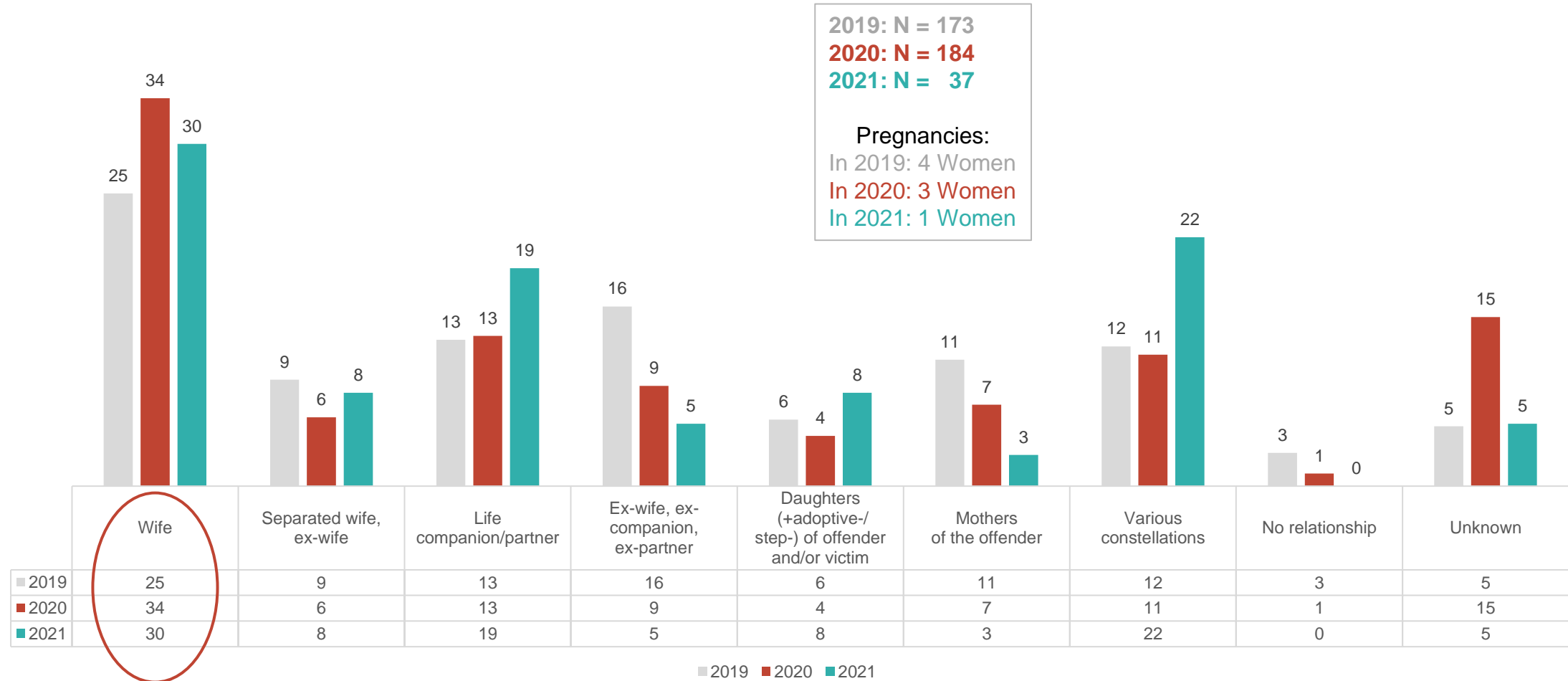
REMINDER: The FOCG-Database is based on media releases on the events and on the corresponding court hearings.

Not every femicide becomes a news story in the press. Not all reports are online for a longer period of time. Another large number of unreported cases is hidden behind the femicide attempts, for which the last information is "life-threateningly injured".



RESULTS - Relationship of the Victims to their Killer

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 - Distribution in percent





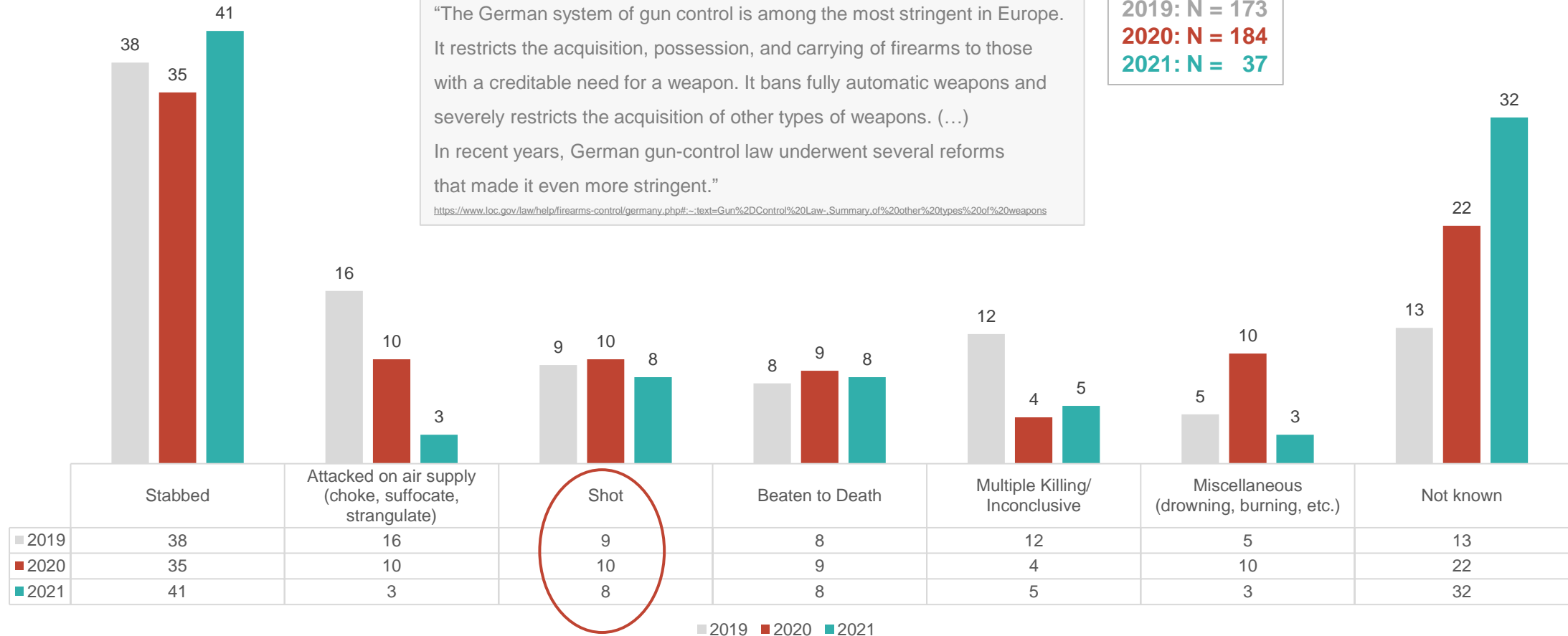
RESULTS – Modus Operandi

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

“The German system of gun control is among the most stringent in Europe. It restricts the acquisition, possession, and carrying of firearms to those with a creditable need for a weapon. It bans fully automatic weapons and severely restricts the acquisition of other types of weapons. (...) In recent years, German gun-control law underwent several reforms that made it even more stringent.”

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/firearms-control/germany.php#:~:text=Gun%2DControl%20Law-,Summary,of%20other%20types%20of%20weapons>

2019: N = 173
2020: N = 184
2021: N = 37



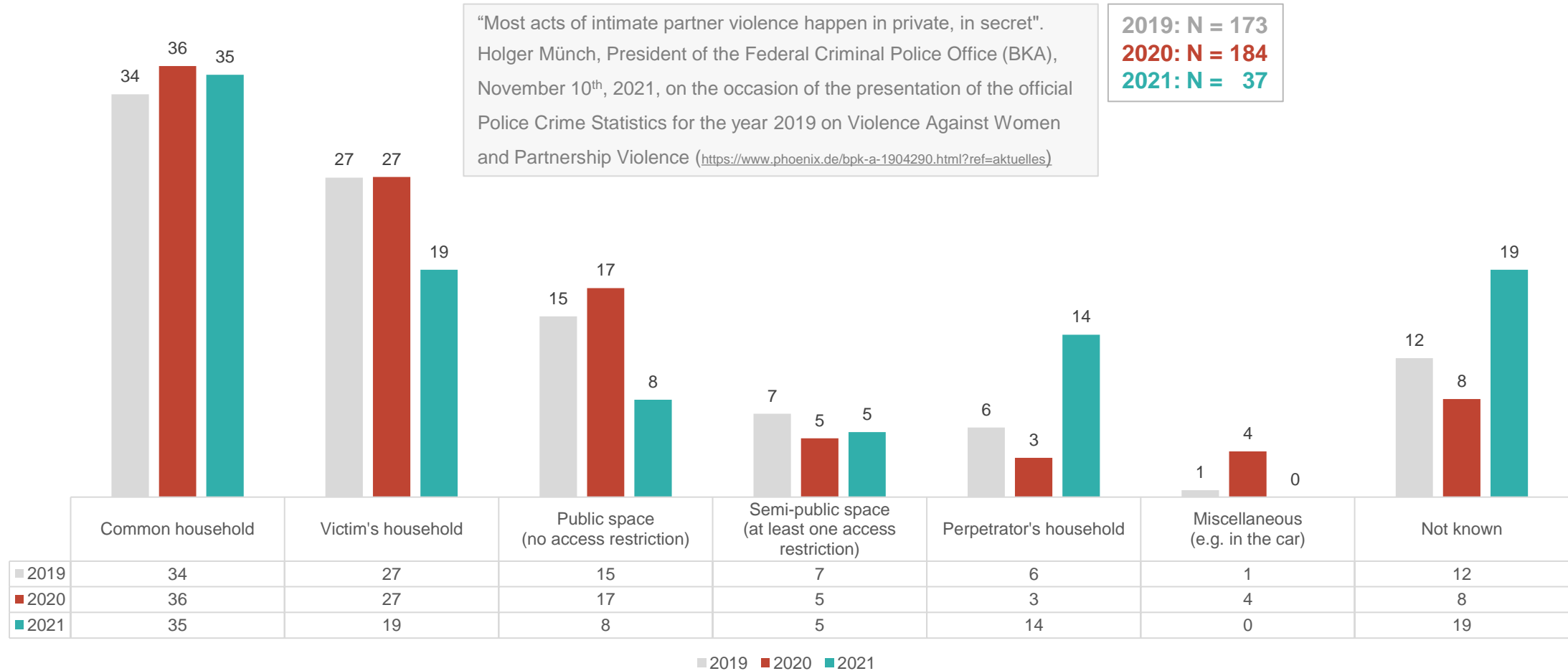


RESULTS – Crime Scenes

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

“Most acts of intimate partner violence happen in private, in secret”.
 Holger Münch, President of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA),
 November 10th, 2021, on the occasion of the presentation of the official
 Police Crime Statistics for the year 2019 on Violence Against Women
 and Partnership Violence (<https://www.phoenix.de/bpk-a-1904290.html?ref=aktuelles>)

2019: N = 173
 2020: N = 184
 2021: N = 37





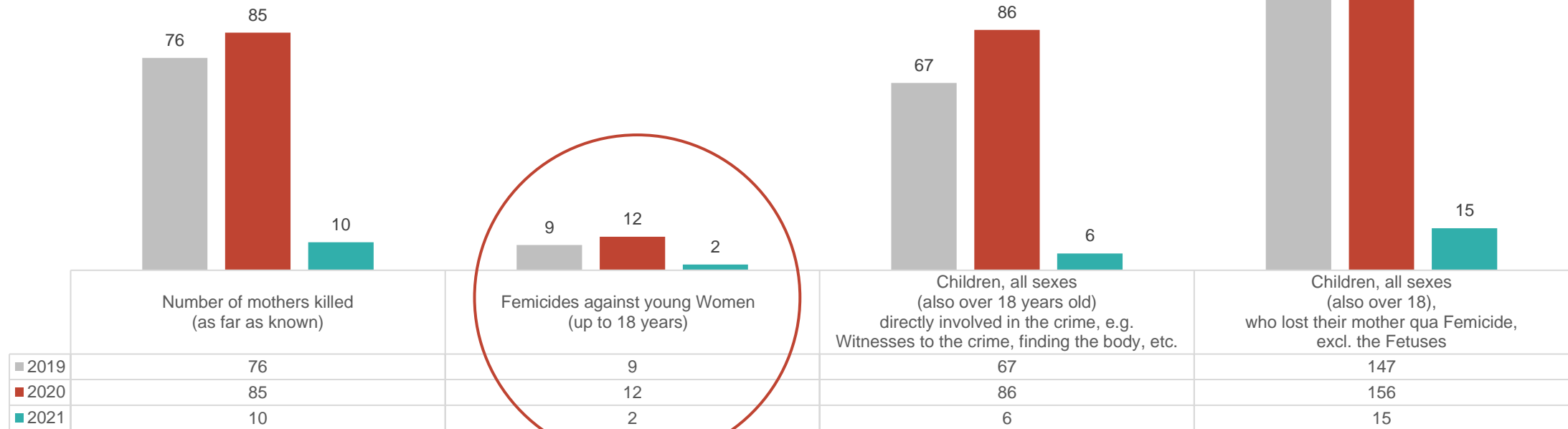
RESULTS – Mothers & Children involved

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 - Absolute numbers

“We know that perpetrators often experienced domestic violence themselves in their childhood and adolescence ”.

Holger Münch, President of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), November 10th, 2021, on the occasion of the presentation of the official Police Crime Statistics for the year 2019 on Violence Against Women and Partnership Violence (<https://www.phoenix.de/bpk-a-1904290.html?ref=aktuelles>).

2019: N = 173
2020: N = 184
2021: N = 37

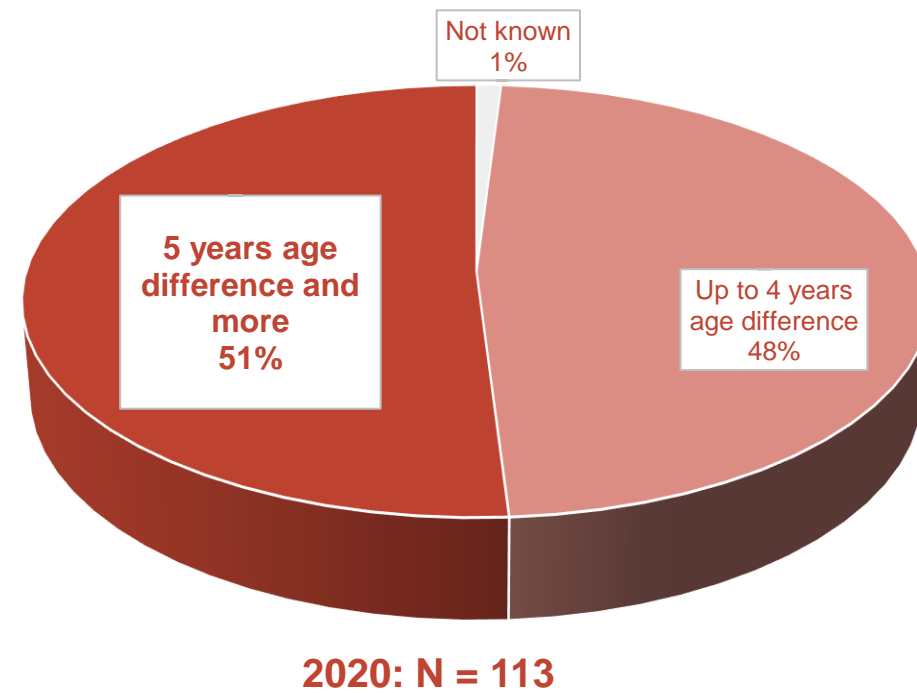
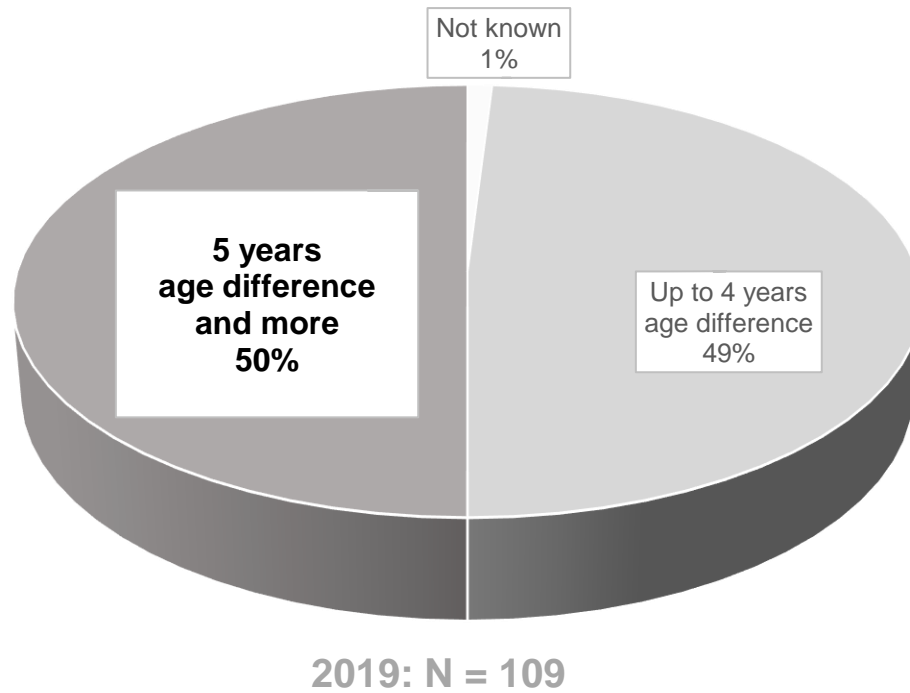




RESULTS – Red Flag

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

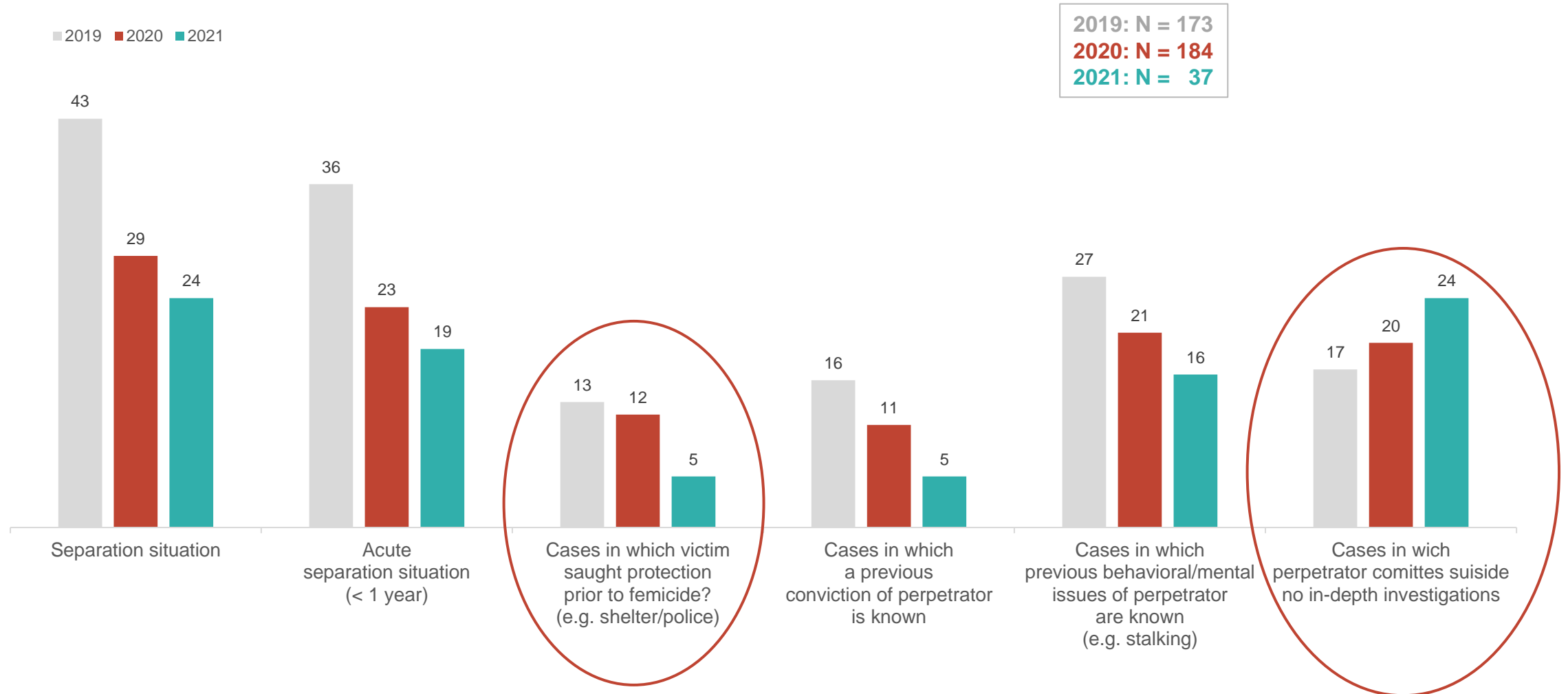
Age difference - In relationship constellations with a sexual context





RESULTS – Circumstances

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 - Distribution in percent





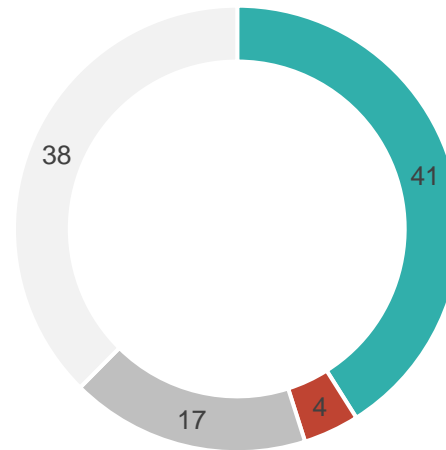
RESULTS – Jurisdiction

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

Court proceedings must be discontinued in Germany pursuant to § 206a of the German Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO) due to a procedural impediment if the defendant is deceased (see Federal Court of Justice (BGH), decision of June 8th 1999

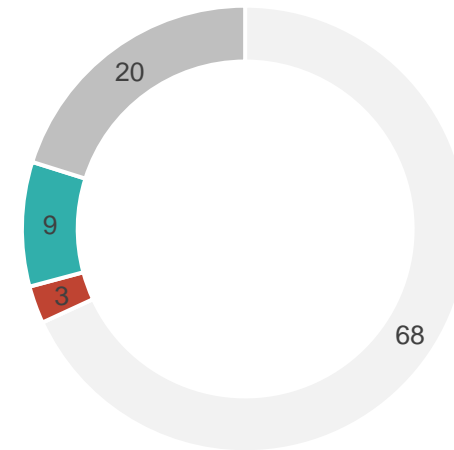
4 StR 595/97, BGHSt 45, 108

2019: N = 173
(incl. 30 x Perpetrator's Suicide)



■ Male Judges ■ Female Judges
■ Suicide of Perpetrators ■ Not known / Not started yet

2020: N = 184
(incl. 37 x Perpetrator's Suicide)



■ Not known / Not started yet ■ Female Judges
■ Male Judges ■ Suicide of Perpetrators

REMINDER: In the FOCG database, 30 cases are recorded in 2019 in which the perpetrators committed suicide. These cases conceal a further, immense dark field, because the circumstances upfront to the Femicides are not determined or published. In 2020, this applies to at least 37 Femicides.



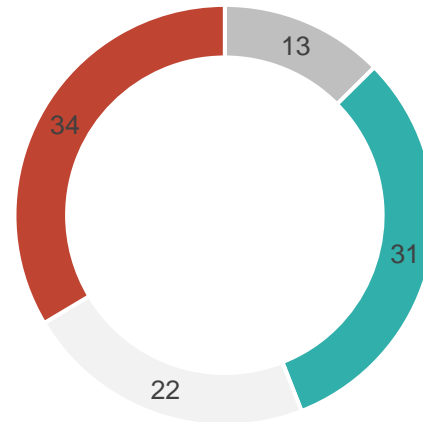
RESULTS – Femicide Verdicts: Murder or Manslaughter

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

"Not every homicide that occurs because the (former) partner wants to turn partner wants to turn away or has turned away from the perpetrator is necessarily based on based on low motives.

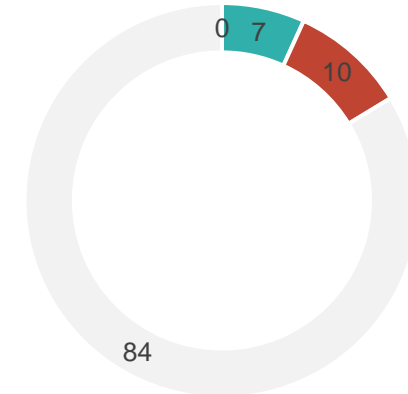
Rather, in such a case, feelings of despair and inner hopelessness can also trigger and determine the act. These can make an evaluation as "low" appear questionable, especially when the as "low", especially if the separation is caused by the victim and the and therefore the defendant deprives himself through the act of precisely that which he actually does not want to lose." (BGH 2 StR 349/08. of October 29th, 2008)

2019: N = 143
(excl. 30 x Perpetrator's Suicide)



- Miscellaneous (negligent homicide, etc.)
- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Not known

2020: N = 147
(excl. 37 x Perpetrator's Suicide)



- Miscellaneous (negligent homicide, etc.) = zero cases so far
- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Not known

REMINDER: In 2019, German courts still refer to the Verdict of the Federal Court of Justice (BGH) of 2008.

The Chamber of the BGH was 100% male. Unlike murder, manslaughter is subject to a statute of limitations.



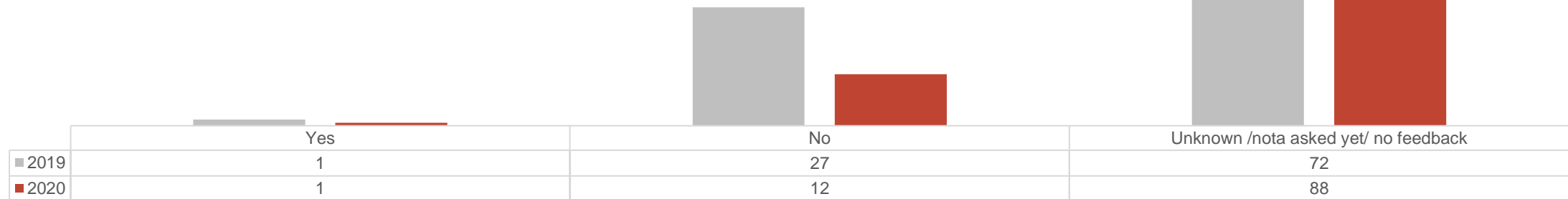
RESULTS – Is the Istanbul Convention applied?

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 - Distribution in percent

"The so-called Istanbul Convention is not applied in the proceedings, but German criminal and criminal procedure law."

"I have never seen the Istanbul Convention, I have never heard of it, and even more so, I have never been trained on it."

"I do not see any mandate to act in the Istanbul Convention, certainly no authorization to act. It is not indirectly applicable law."



REMINDER: As part of the FOCG's scientific research questionnaires on the individual Femicides are sent to German Prosecutors and Courts nationwide. Here are some quotes on the 326 questionnaires sent out for the Femicides.



KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021

- Even if just two months of the current year 2021 are completed, the Femicide figures are already alarmingly high.
- The month of February: from 2019 to 2020, the number of German Femicides doubled. In 2021, we see a further increase of 13.33% compared to 2020.
- Already in February, the states of Rhineland-Palatinate, Schleswig-Holstein are close to their sad annual balance 2020, Hamburg has already met it.
- Married wives are consistently the group most frequently victimized by Femicide: Year after year, their share is over 25%.
- Year after year, the most common modus operandi is stabbing, each with a share over 35%.
- Striking is the consistent frequency of femicides by shooting, especially since Germany has very restrictive gun laws.



KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021

- The frequency of Femicides that were carried out in public spaces increased from 2019 to 2020. It must be analyzed whether the supposedly private is becoming a public safety risk.
- The frequency of Femicides carried out in the private space of subsequent victims is consistently high, which means that protective measures for victim households need to be intensified.
- The percentage of young girls and women under the age of 18 over the years is a cause for concern and suggests that awareness-raising for this generation needs to be intensified.
- In more than half of all Femicides in 2019 and 2020, there was an age difference of 5 years or more in cases of (ex-)partner violence - raising awareness about this risk is highly recommended.
- The decreasing number of victims who have turned to the support system in the run-up to the femicide should be countered with a strategy to facilitate access, as well as a significant intensification of the support and assistance offered.



KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021

- The high percentage of perpetrators who escape prosecution by committing suicide, and in whose cases the depth of the Femicide is not investigated, is a glaring structural deficit that causes a wide field of unknown but relevant details.
- A significant imbalance of male compared to female judges was already noticeable in the 2019 review. The same trend is emerging for 2020, despite the fact that many cases are still pending.
- The percentage of Femicides that are classified as manslaughter is higher than the percentage of those that are classified as murders in both 2019 and 2020. For this reason, an independently installed quality management system for the judiciary is urgently recommended in order to do justice to the relevance of a verdict on a killing of a human being.
- the percentage of jurisdictional institutions where the contents of the Istanbul Convention are known and can thus be applied is a glaring structural deficit.



CONCLUDING

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021

- Violence against women, or Femicides are NOT a women's issue
- **A scientific study by the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus Senftenberg puts the economic damage caused by domestic violence as early as 2017 at 3.8 billion € p. a.**
- In 2019, only € 6.1 million was available from The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) for measures to combat violence against women
- In the 2020 BMFSFJ budget, this budget title was cut down to € 5 million (minus 18%)
- In the 2021 BMFSFJ budget, only €5 million has again been earmarked for measures to combat violence against women
- The continuously increasing number of affected children increases the risk that the number of Perpetrators/ Killers will continue to rise
- The top ranking for femicide in Europe reflects the decades-long extent of structural of structurally anchored traditional German violence against women.

<https://www.b-tu.de/news/artikel/13210-kosten-haeuslicher-gewalt-in-deutschland>

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/haushalt-2019-im-bundestag/130888>

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/mehr-geld-fuer-starke-familien/160678>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1096116/femicide-in-europe-in-2018/>



Evidence-Based Data on German Femicides

Status Monday, March 8th, 2021 – International Women's Day

Thank You for Your Time and Interest

[Further Details@ https://kristina-wolff.de](https://kristina-wolff.de)