



Evidence-Based Data on German Femicides

Status Thursday, December 10th, 2020

International Day of Human Rights



WHO?



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

Scientific Research

Activist

Speaker



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

<https://rm.coe.int/168046031c>

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/-/l-alle-magne-ratifie-la-convention-d-istanbul>

<https://www.phoenix.de/bpk-a-1904290.html?ref=aktuelles>



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

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Femicides	2019	Federal State/ Country:	2020	Federal State/ Country:
In Total:	182		178	
by Car as a weapon	3	1 x Saxony-Anhalt 2 x North Rhine-Westphalia	6	4 x Rhineland-Palatinate 1 x Baden-Wuerttemberg 1 x Hessen
by Germans abroad	2	Switzerland	2	Switzerland
	1	Austria	1	Ukraine
	2	Spain	1	USA
	1	Thailand		
Further Course of this Presentation:	173		168	



RESULTS - Overview of Months

Status Thursday, December 10th, 2020 - Above Average of 14,4 Cases p. Month (2019)

	2019 – Total: 173	2020 - Total: 168
January	17	21
February	7	15
March	14	19
April	13	8
May	13	18
June	14	13
July	18	18
August	14	11
September	19	15
October	12	13
November	16	16
December	16	1



RESULTS - Annual Overview of the 16 Federal States I.

Status Thursday, December 10th, 2020 - Increase compared to 2019

	2019 – Total: 173	2020 - Total: 168
Baden-Wuerttemberg	22	21
Bavaria	16	31
Berlin	4	10
Brandenburg	4	5
Bremen	3	2
Hamburg	2	1
Hessen	16	10
Lower Saxony	21	17

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 II.

Status Thursday, December 10th, 2020 - Increase compared to 2019

	2019 – Total: 173	2020 - Total: 168
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	6	-
North Rhine-Westphalia	52	39
Rhineland-Palatinate	6	9
Saarland	3	4
Saxony	5	7
Saxony-Anhalt	4	4
Schleswig-Holstein	8	5
Thuringia	1	3

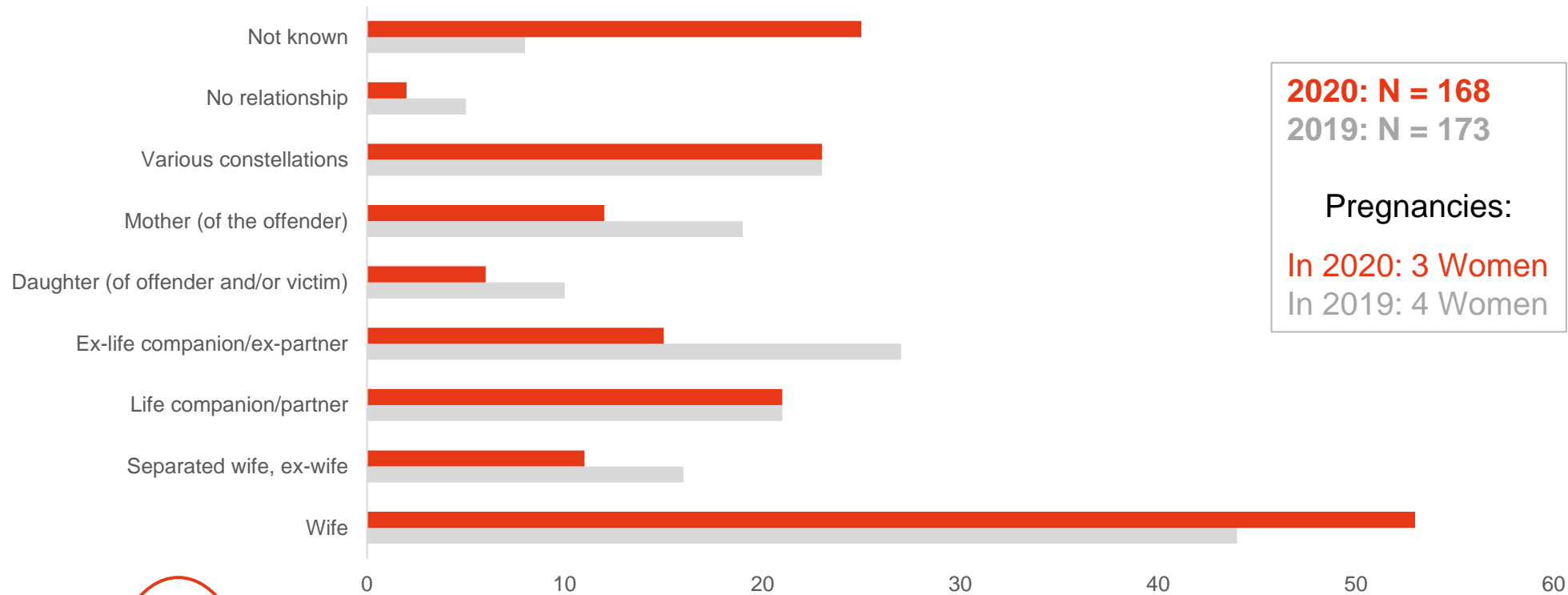
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RESULTS - Relationship of the Victims to their Killer

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2020: N = 168
 2019: N = 173

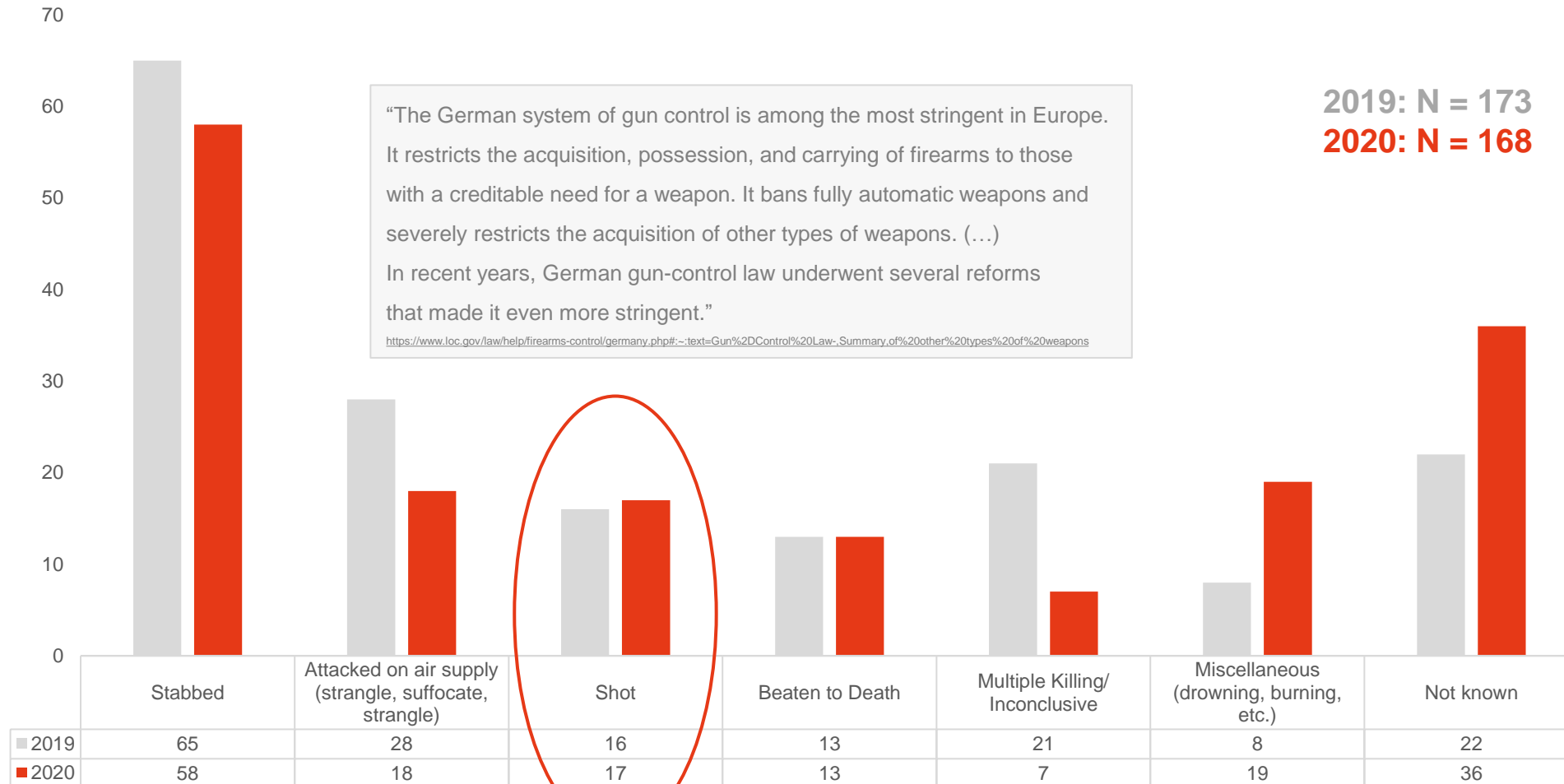
Pregnancies:
 In 2020: 3 Women
 In 2019: 4 Women

	Wife	Separated wife, ex-wife	Life companion/partner	Ex-life companion/ex-partner	Daughter (of offender and/or victim)	Mother (of the offender)	Various constellations	No relationship	Not known
■ 2020	53	11	21	15	6	12	23	2	25
■ 2019	44	16	21	27	10	19	23	5	8



RESULTS – Modus Operandi

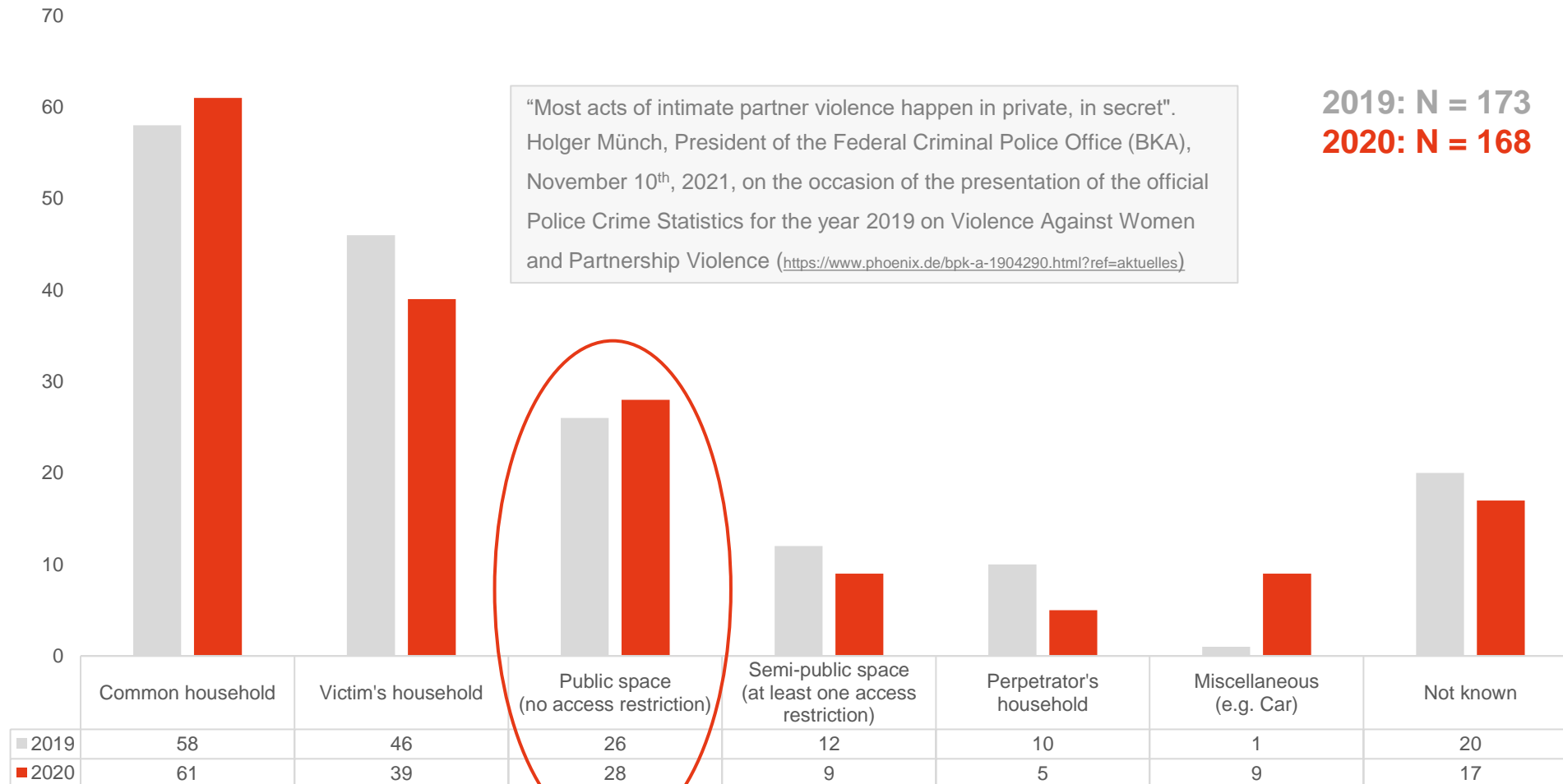
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RESULTS – Crime Scenes

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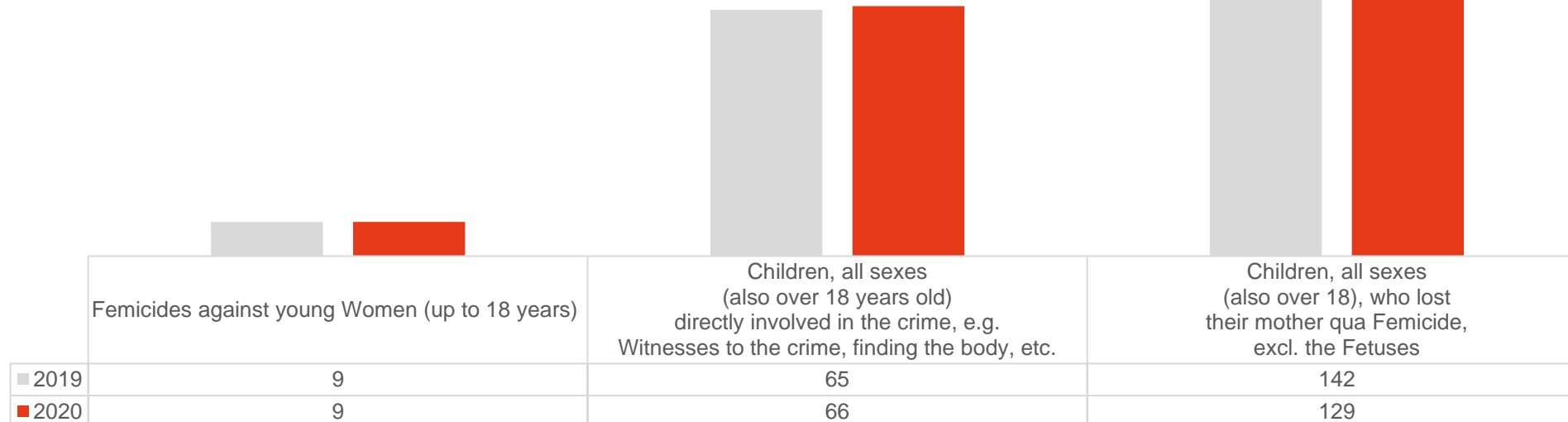
RESULTS – Children involved

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“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 = 168

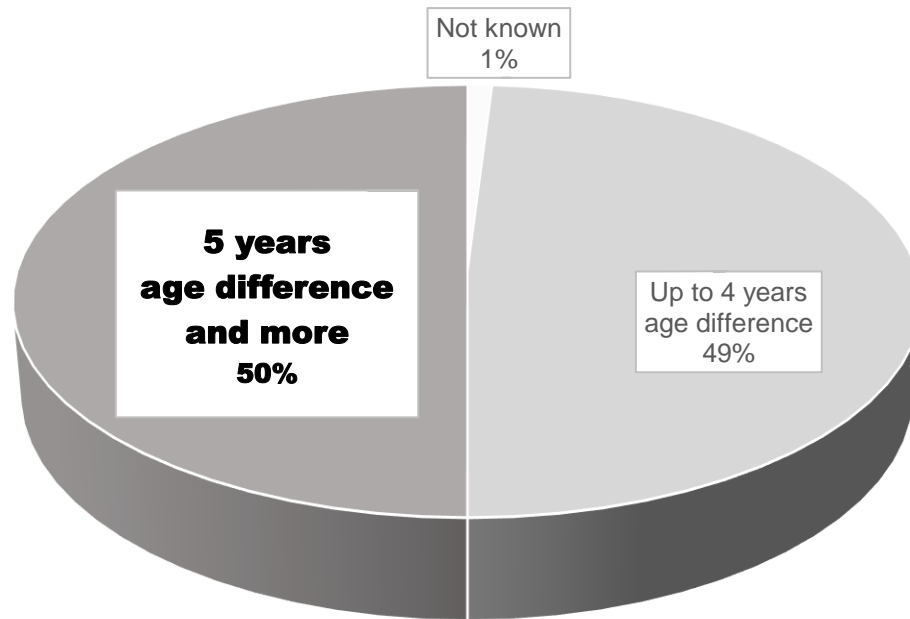




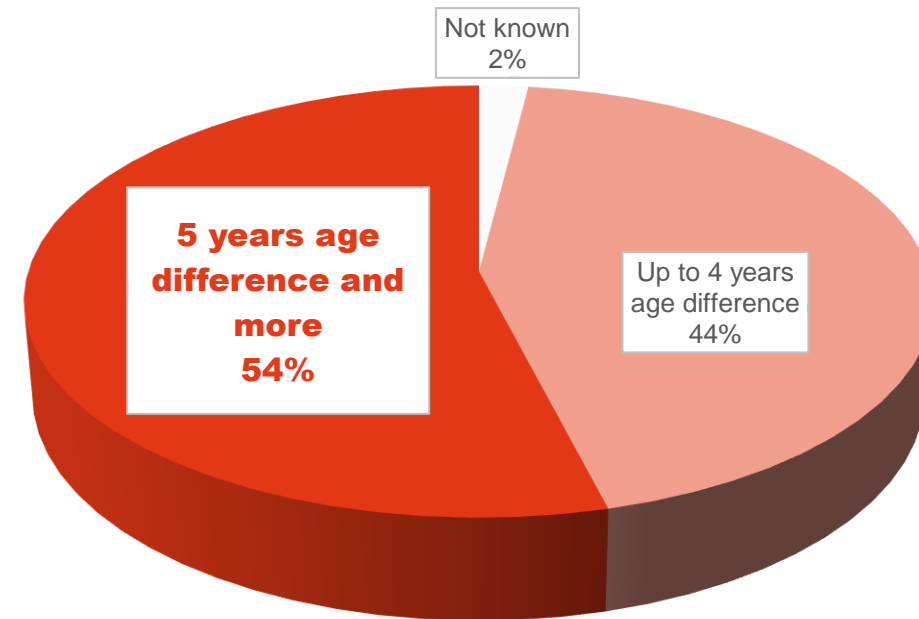
RESULTS – Red Flag

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Age difference - In relationship constellations with a sexual context



2019: N = 109



2020: N = 108

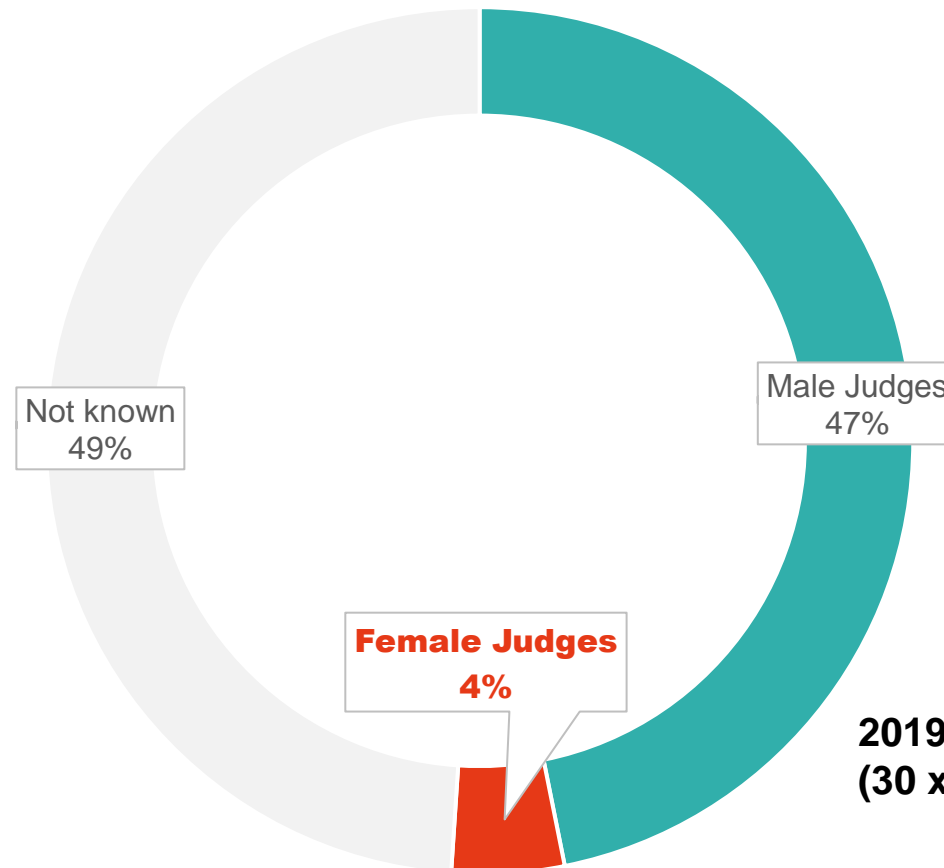


RESULTS – Jurisdiction

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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

(<https://dejure.org/dienste/vernetzung/rechtsprechung?Gericht=BGH&Datum=08.06.1999&Aktenzeichen=4%20StR%20595%2F97>)



**2019: N = 143
(30 x Suicides 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 33 Femicides.



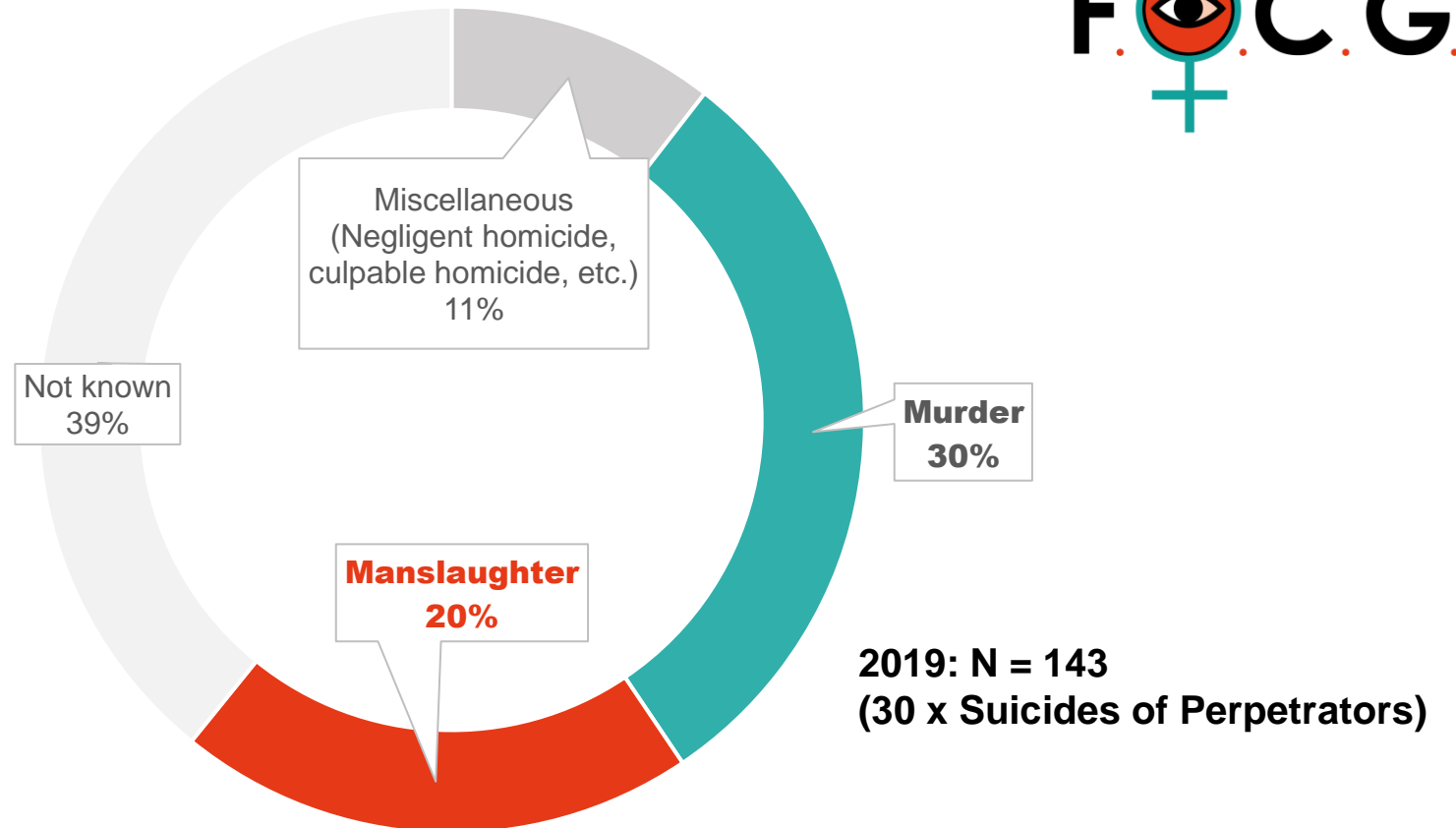
RESULTS – Femicide Verdicts: Murder or Manslaughter

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"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)



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.



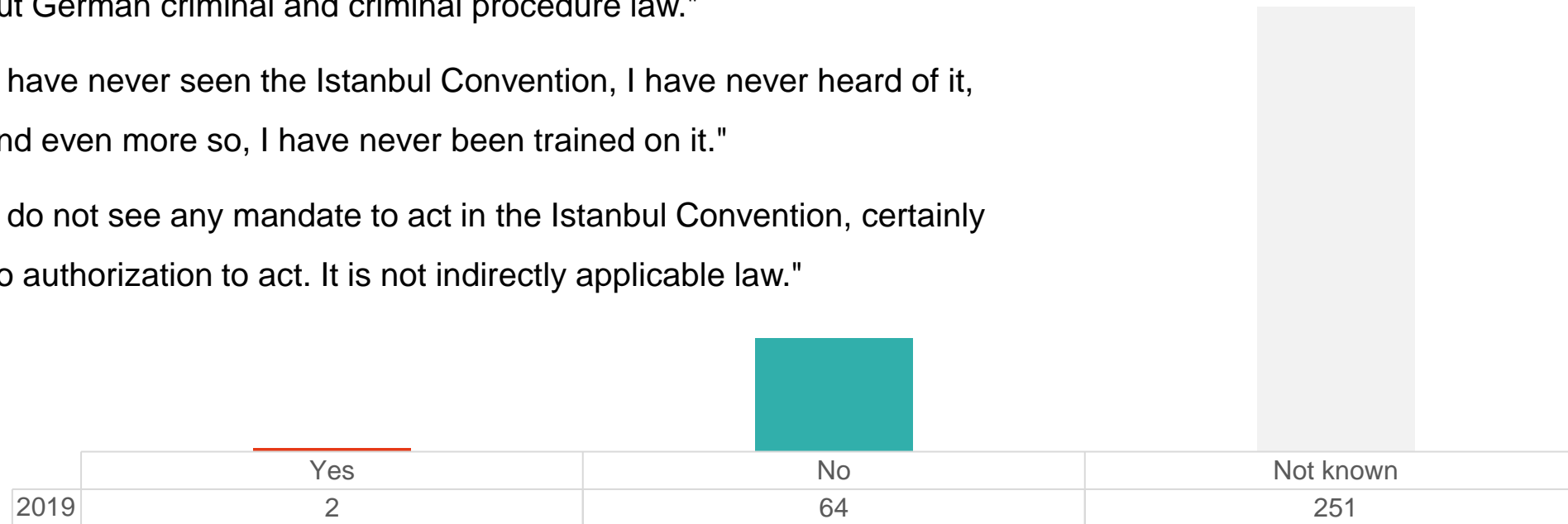
RESULTS – Is the Istanbul Convention applied?

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"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 317 questionnaires sent out for the Femicides.



CONCLUDING

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- 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/>



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Thank You for Your Time and Interest