Costs of violence against Women

Estimation based on

Danish data sources

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The Danish national data base on Violence against Women, VAW – established 2004 by the National Council of Women in cooperation with University of Copenhagen, budget by Ministry of Social Affairs/Gender Equality and **regularly updated.** It presents comprehensive possibilities for exact calculations of the costs of violence

**The overall objective of the data base:**

- To develop a tool to measure the development of gender based violence over time – and to identify preventable risk factors for violence exposure
- To provide validated data for estimation of both psycho-social consequences and also societal, judicial/police and health service expenditures due to violence in and outside intimate relationships

**Perspectives:**

- By presenting current, comprehensive data on costs of VAW to
  - maintaining political awareness on the social and economic consequences of VAW, and hence the **need for national action plans** to strengthening the prevention of gender based violence
The Danish national action plans to eliminate domestic violence – 2002….

State budget allocated:

- Support for maintainance of shelters for battered women
- Pre- and postgraduate training of health care personnel, staff at social services, police, and senior officers in the municipalities
- Offender programs
- Research: Data collections to describe and monitor trends in violence against women
Estimations of the costs of violence against women:

Purpose:

- Maintain political awareness on the problem of violence in intimate partnerships
  - Other serious violence problems may dominate the public debate

- Cost benefit analyses may promote further prevention
  - Early parent-education programs
  - School based programs
  - Measures to prevent the possible sequels of exposure to violence

However, the magnitude of public costs should never be the primary reason for prevention of intimate violence
Costs of victims of violence:

Health services:
- Emmergency wards: lesions and mental problems as direct consequences of violence exposure
- Contacts to due to various chronic disabilities

Judicial system:
- Police, correctional services, courts

Shelters for battered women

Labour Marked:
- Productivity losses

National Action Plans

Personal ‘costs’
- Reduced quality of life
- Reduced healthy life
- Higher mortality
Which costs can be estimated?

1. Health care
   - Emergency department
   - Attributable health care costs
2. Societal: Labour market
   - Loss of income
   - Reduction in productivity
   - correctional services
4. State compensation for victims of violence
5. Shelters for battered women
6. Budget of the National action plans

Personal costs

- Health-related quality of life
- Loss of healthy years of life
- High mortality
Calculations to estimate the ’Costs of Violence against women’

1. Costs directly associated to exposure to violence
   - Health services: Contacts to emergency departments and inpatients by specific expenditure
   - Judicials: extent of police investigations, prosecutors, defense, court procedures, correctional services
   - Shelters: housing and counselling
   - National action plans; allocated budget

2. Attributable costs
   - ‘Case-control studies: Analyses based on comparisons of costs in a well-defined population of victims of violence to the costs in a population of non-victims

All analyses adjusted by socio-demography, e.g. age, educational level..
First step: Identification of victims of violence and non-victims, the study population and the reference population

Study population 1:
16-64-year-old women exposed to violence and identified by registerdata:

Data sources:
- National patientregister
- Criminal statistics: Register of Victims
- Cause of Deaths Register
- (+statistics of shelters)

Reference population 1:
All other 16-64-year-old women in the Danish population

Study population 2:
16-64-olds ’Victims of violence’, identified by self-reported data: having answered ’YES’ to question on exposure to violence during last 12 months in National Health Interview Survey

Reference population 2: Answered ’NO, to question on violence exposure

National representative health interview surveys
## Size of study and reference populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Register-based</th>
<th>Survey-based</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A total of 20,842 female victims aged 16-64, during a five years period (2002-2005)</td>
<td>Self-reported victims of violence, having answered ’YES’ to question on physical violence exposure in 2000 and/or 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annually 7,500 (different) victims of violence</td>
<td>A total of 323 different women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference population: 2,106,588 non-victims: all 16-64 year-old women, not exposed to violence</td>
<td>Reference population: 6,951 kvinder, who answered ’No’</td>
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</table>
Victims of *intimate partner* violence

Registerdata:

Estimate: about 1/3 of the yearly number of about 7,500 women aged 16-64, identified by contacts due to violence exposure are victims of partner violence = **2,500**

About 1,900 women are each year housed in shelters: No personal identification data, but most are included in Registerdata due to their contacts to emergency departments or police reporting

Self-reportereded violence exposure:

4 pct. of all respondents in the recent national health surveys report exposure to violence during the last year, and thus are identified as victims of physical violence – giving a total of about 70,000 women in the Denmark, yearly exposed to phsycial violence

About 40 pct. of those victims are exposed to partner violence = **28,000** per year
Annual costs ½ billion Danish Crowns = about 75 Mio Euro
- the distribution of costs, percentage and costs

- Emergency contacts due to injuries: 21%
- Attributable health care costs: 13.5%
- Selected labourmarket consequences: 10%
- Judicial system: 1.5%
- Shelters: 3%
- National action plan, annual budget: 20%
Estimated costs of *partner violence*, minimum 50 mio. Euro per year

Presented as Mio. Danish Crowns: 7 DCr = 1 Euro.
Judicial costs
Identified by data in the Danish National Victim Register

Included in the calculations are all police reported cases of violence, domestic disputes and injunctions, by number of cases per year:

- 3,350 cases of physical violence against women
- 1,300 cases of serious threats of violence

Representing an annual number of offences against women, that were reported to the police – resulting in 2,530 charges/year
And 1,350 Court procedures/year

Magnitude of sentences to imprisonment: 22,680 jaildays/year – mostly in ’open wards’; costs about 180 Euro per day –
Costs of stay in high security prisons about 250 Euro per day
Judicial system, distribution of costs, %

- Correctional service 53%
- State compensation for victims of violence 13%
- Handling by Police of domestic disputes 5%
- Violence: Police investigation, advocacy, defence, courts 29%
Main results: Violence against women is a economic burden to the state – and a heavy personal burden to the victim

By a conservative estimation: Costs to the Danish society is at least 75 MIOEuro per year in a population of 5 mio. inhabitants,

It corresponds to 40 Euro/individual woman aged 16-64 in Denmark

And to about 9,000 Euro per identified victim of violence

These costs only include those victims of violence that can be identified through register data: National Patient Register, including all contacts to hospitals due to violence exposure - and/or identified in the National Criminal Register, including all police reported incidents of physical violence

The large number of women that may be victims of violence each year (about 70,000 in Denmark) but who do not contact hospitals or report the incident to the police are not costly to the society – and they are not included in our estimation of the costs of violence – BUT they may well have great personal 'costs'
The vulnerable **victims** of violence

Women exposed to violence are social and personal vulnerable

- Low education
- Low job influence – high work demand
- Stress
- Few social contacts – often single
- Misuse of alcohol and tobacco and often of drugs
- Often mental problems – cause of violence ? – or consequences of violence exposure?
- Factors in childhood and adolescence that increase the risk of violence exposure?
Estimated rest life expectancy and loss of health years between age 20-50

Victims live 2.7 more years with disabilities and chronic diseases
The personal costs of exposure to violence
Estimated (partiel) rest life expectancy
between age 20 and 50

Victims of violence live in average about ½ year shorter than non-victims
THANK YOU very much for having the chance to be present here and to present our study
Judicial expenditures, court procedures
Total about 30 Mio Euro per year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mio. kr./år</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Vold §§ 244,245,246</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trusler §266</td>
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