

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INTIMATE PARTNERSHIPS:
FIRST FINDINGS OF FOLLOW-UP RESEARCH TO IVAWS 2003***

SIMONA PIKÁLKOVÁ

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague

ABSTRACT

In January 2003 the Czech Republic participated in the *International Violence Against Women Survey* (IVAWS), which was a collaborative project of UNICRI, HEUNI and Statistics Canada. After a 10-year period, a need of a consequential research, comparative to IVAWS 2003, appears to be necessary to tackle the main trends in the field of study. The project *Intimate Partner Violence: Follow-up Research to IVAWS 2003* represents a continuation of the main themes of the IVAWS 2003. Concurrently, some new phenomena, especially violence against men and stalking victimization, have emerged in intimate partner violence related debate. The aim of the project is not only a simple replication of the IVAWS 2003 study. It strives to research the phenomenon of the violence in intimate partnership in its complexity, diversity and dynamics. Furthermore, it also focuses on some new issues, which have not been yet adequately analyzed in the Czech Republic, i.e. female-to-male intimate partner violence and the phenomenon of stalking victimization. What is the incidence of different forms of female intimate victimization in 2013 compared to 2003? How has the perception of violent behavior between intimate partners changed – if it has changed – in Czech society? These are some of many questions we are attempting to answer via our research. The article introduces the first findings from the survey sector dealing with male-to-female violence carried out in the Czech Republic in July 2013.

Key words: violence, women, intimate partners

Intimate partner violence as a topic of sociological research has been an area of scientific interest in Western sociology since the end of the 1970s (see Dobash, Dobash 1979; Walker 1979; Straus, Gelles, Steinmetz 1980). The concentration on this area is connected to the expansion of the sociology of gender and other related topics. Thus, during the last decades, a large number of surveys looking on intimate partner violence have been conducted in developed countries. These surveys brought important findings not only about the incidence and frequency of the violence and its forms, but they also brought a variety of other information closely connected to this topic: the approach and work of the police, the cooperation with NGOs, the judicial practice of the cases of intimate partner violence, the psychology of the victims and the aggressors, predictors or correlates of the origins of violence, etc. A comparative survey is a crucial tool to examine these aspects. Due to the essential role of the cultural conditionality – perceptions, forms of violence

* The article presents the results of research “Intimate Partner Violence (2013)” (grant of The Grant Agency of the Czech Republic n. 404/12/2452).

and reactions to it vary by country (see Johnson, Ollus, Nevala 2008) – the comparative surveys can help to answer certain questions concerning the origins and development of intimate partner violence.

In the Czech Republic the area of intimate partner violence has been only systematically researched since 1989. One of the first representative surveys conducted in the Czech Republic was the International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS), which took place in 2003. This survey remains the first and only comparative project in this very area. IVAWS is therefore a basic study for the contemporary research of intimate partner violence from the perspective of the content as well as of the methodology. In the following part of this article, the most important aspects of this extensive project will be mentioned. For the detailed results of the IVAWS survey in the Czech Republic, see (Pikálková 2003, Buriánek, Pikálková 2013); for the findings in different countries including comparative analyses, see (Johnson, Ollus, Nevala 2008 or Killias et al. 2005).

About the IVAWS (2003)

The main aim of the International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS) was to obtain high quality and reliable information on violence against women from more than 20 countries around the world. The IVAWS project was a joint project by UNICRI (United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute), HEUNI (European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control) and Statistics Canada. The team coordinating this project was comprised of researchers from the three organizations mentioned above.¹

The goal of the study was to ascertain the incidence of the violence against women, types of violent behavior, including sexual violence and its frequency (lifelong, five-year period and one-year period of victimization). The subject of the study was the violence from the side of the partner (current or former husband/partner/boyfriend) as well as the violence from a different man than partner (friend, acquaintance, relation, stranger).

- The occurrence and frequency of the psychological violence against women (humiliation, threatening, limitation of contacts to the outside world);
- Other characteristics connected to violence: physical injuries, necessity of medical examination, alcohol, drugs;
- Attitudes and perception of the victims linked to various forms of violent behavior between partners;
- Police notification (reported x did not report) and the work of police, reasons for not reporting to the police, satisfied (or dissatisfied) with the work of the police;
- Victimization and experience with violence during childhood (until 16 years old) in the family of the respondent and her partner.

¹ The participation of the Czech Republic on this survey was through a grant GA ČR for the year 2003 to 2004, institutionally the Faculty of Arts (Charles University) and the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

The methodology of IVAWS

Due to the international scope of the survey, the methodology was identical for all the countries where the survey took place. The method was based on the international survey ICVS (International Crime Victim Survey). Data were collected from the representative sample of female adults (over 18 years old); the sample size included 1,980 respondents. The data were collected from May to October 2003. The sampling method consisted of a two-level probability sampling (1) randomly selected household, (2) selection of the respondent by the use of the “birthday rule”. Due to the sensitivity of the researched topic, the interviewers were strictly female. There was face to face training focused particularly on the specifics of the topic of violence against women before the survey took place.

The results of the IVAWS add very important pieces of knowledge to the sociological discussion about domestic violence. Despite the fact that the data are relatively old (10 years), the IVAWS is so far the most extensive and valuable dataset concerning this topic in the Czech Republic. Even though this survey was not the first attempt of research on this topic,² the collected data are comprehensive, and in our conditions they are the most extensive set of figures covering a wide range of specific areas linked to the topic of violence against women. Therefore, the survey provides an essential base for the research on sociological aspects of domestic violence. With the help of this survey, one can examine not only the quantitative aspects of this issue (rates, proportions, frequencies, etc. connected to victimization), but, with equal importance, one can examine the qualitative aspects (social and cultural context of events, attitudes, evaluation, reciprocal relations among facts), which accompany and permeate the quantitative sphere, and which lie in the center of the scientific research as well.

* * *

Ten years after the IVAWS took place, there was a growing need for a new sociological survey, which could be comparable to IVAWS and which could examine the new trends and aspects of intimate partner violence. We were interested in finding out how the problematics of intimate partner violence have changed during the past 10 years, not only concerning physical and psychological forms of violence and their frequencies, but also concerning the attitudes toward violent behavior, tolerance to these forms of behavior, cooperation with the police or NGOs, etc. Moreover, relatively new phenomena emerged in the area, such as stalking. Therefore, the need of evaluating the current situation in the same way as IVAWS did become increasingly acute. We were especially interested in the following topics: What is the incidence of the various forms of violent behavior between intimate partners in the Czech Republic in 2013 compared to 2003? What is the change (if there is any) in the perception of society toward violent behavior in the intimate partner relationship? What are the main characteristics of violence against men in intimate partner relationship? Does violence against men differ significantly in some aspects from violence against women? Is stalking a significant problem in the Czech Republic? These

² For instance see surveys “Bezpečnostní rizika 1999” (grant MV ČR) or “Bezpečnost občanů 2001” (grant MV ČR), both of them conducted by the agency UNIVERSITAS.

topics form the base for the current survey called “Intimate partner violence against women: On the first results of the survey following up the International Violence Against Women Survey” (later as Violence 2013). This survey is trying to record the main trends connected to the change and contexts in the area of the intimate partner violence in Czech society. However, it is important to emphasize that this survey is not just a replication on IVAWS, but it is a complex tool for exploring this issue in its complete scope. This is also due to the fact that this survey includes new topics (e.g. violence against men, stalking), which have not been scientifically explored in the Czech Republic yet.

The aims and methodology of the survey “Intimate partner violence 2013” (Violence 2013)

The aims and the content of the survey can be summarized as follows:

- Specifying the ranges of the female victimization in and out of the intimate partner relationship following the methodology of IVAWS (lifelong, five-year period, and one-year period of victimization). Part of the survey exploration is also a periodicity/temporality of the attacks as the indicator for the dynamics and escalation of the conflicts, and finally, the profile of the “typical” violent incident in intimate partner relationship;
- Contrary to the IVAWS, where the survey was focused on violence against women from intimate partners and other men as well, the current survey is more focused on intimate partner violence;
- Comparison of the results with the data from IVAWS 2003 and analysis of the main trends during the decade;
- Specifying the ranges of male victimization with the use of the IVAWS methodology; the main characteristics of the intimate partner violence against men;
- Forms of psychological violence; the scale measuring the control of the victim’s behavior by the intimate partner;
- Strategies of coping with intimate partner violence; reactions to the violence; cooperation with the police;
- Stalking (frequencies, types) as a new phenomenon in the area of intimate partner violence;
- Characteristics of the family of the victim and her partner as possible correlators of the victimization; analysis of the intergenerational transfer of violent behavior; other predictors of the victimization (socio-economic factors, personality factors).

Methodology

The methodology of the current follow-up survey is based on two schemas, which was necessary to integrate – first, it is the link to the IVAWS 2003, and second, the possibility of comparison of the data from two sectors – research on violence against women and against men.

The data were collected randomly (random walk) for both sub-projects (survey of violence against women and against men in an intimate partner relationship). Then, face to face CAPI interview was used.

Intimate partner violence against men sub-project:

- Representative sample of 1,000 men aged 18–70; data collection – September 2012

Intimate partner violence against women sub-project:

- Representative sample of 1,500 women aged 18–70; data collection – July 2013

The interviewers were trained before the survey took place. Only female interviewers were used in the sub-project violence against women.

In the following part, this paper focuses only on the sub-survey violence against women and presents the first results as a follow-up on the IVAWS.

Incidence and types of physical violence inside the intimate partner relationship and out of it

The following three tables show the proportion of women who reported to be at least once a victim of a specific type of violence during their lifetime (Table 1), during the last five years (Table 2), and during the last year (Table 3) in the years 2003 and 2013. Violent attacks could have been either from partners (current husband/partner, former husband/partner) or from a different man than partner (relation, friend/colleague/acquaintance, stranger – this is recorded in the category “out of the intimate partner relationship”).

Table 1: Adult lifetime rates of violence by type of assault and victim relationship to perpetrator in 2013 and 2003

	Violence 2013						IVAWS 2003					
	Partner violence		Non-partner violence		Total		Partner violence		Non-partner violence		Total	
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
Threatened to hurt	126	8.4	115	7.7	242	16.1	466	23.5	264	13.3	670	33.8
Threw/hit with something	98	6.5	52	3.5	158	10.5	305	15.4	72	3.6	375	18.9
Pushed, grabbed, twisted arm, pulled hair	134	8.9	101	6.7	243	16.2	450	22.7	206	10.4	639	32.3
Slapped, kicked, bit, hit with a fist	176	11.7	118	7.9	309	20.6	500	25.3	150	7.6	628	31.7
Strangled, suffocated, burned	25	1.7	7	0.5	34	2.3	83	4.2	23	1.2	105	5.3
Used/threatened to use a knife or gun	14	0.9	7	0.5	21	1.4	59	3.0	36	1.8	96	4.8
Other physical violence	10	0.7	20	1.3	33	2.2	67	3.4	52	2.6	118	6.0
Forced sexual intercourse	35	2.3	26	1.7	65	4.3	140	7.1	69	3.5	206	10.4
Attempted forced sexual intercourse	36	2.4	37	2.5	75	5.0	123	6.2	163	8.2	279	14.1
Unwanted sexual touching	28	1.9	116	7.7	150	10.0	94	4.7	457	23.1	545	27.5
Forced sex with someone else	6	0.4	5	0.3	18	1.2	14	0.7	15	0.8	32	1.6
Other sexual violence	4	0.3	1	0.1	5	0.3	7	0.4	23	1.2	31	1.6
Total physical and sexual assault	259	17.2	327	21.8	544	36.2	746	37.7	737	37.2	1,167	58.9
Total number of respondents	1,502		1,502		1,502		1,980		1,980		1,980	

Table 2: Five-year rates of violence by type of assault and victim relationship to perpetrator in 2013 and 2003

	Violence 2013						IVAWS 2003					
	Partner violence		Non-partner violence		Total		Partner violence		Non-partner violence		Total	
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
Threatened to hurt	43	2.9	30	2.0	73	4.9	245	12.4	112	5.7	344	17.4
Threw/hit with something	32	2.1	5	0.3	37	2.5	146	7.4	35	1.8	179	9.0
Pushed, grabbed, twisted arm, pulled hair	55	3.7	19	1.3	73	4.9	225	11.4	111	5.6	326	16.5
Slapped, kicked, bit, hit with a fist	58	3.9	17	1.1	72	4.8	250	12.6	63	3.2	309	15.6
Strangled, suffocated, burned	9	0.6	1	0.1	10	0.7	35	1.8	13	0.7	48	2.4
Used/threatened to use a knife or gun	1	0.1	3	0.2	4	0.3	26	1.3	17	0.9	43	2.2
Other physical violence	2	0.1	4	0.3	5	0.3	29	1.5	26	1.3	54	2.7
Forced sexual intercourse	7	0.5	4	0.3	11	0.7	75	3.8	14	0.7	89	4.5
Attempted forced sexual intercourse	15	0.1	4	0.3	19	1.3	62	3.1	56	2.8	114	5.8
Unwanted sexual touching	11	0.7	26	1.7	36	2.4	43	2.2	205	10.4	247	12.5
Forced sex with someone else	3	0.2	2	0.1	5	0.3	4	0.2	4	0.2	8	0.4
Other sexual violence	1	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.1	5	0.3	10	0.5	15	0.8
Total physical and sexual assault	101	6.7	79	5.3	165	11.0	414	20.9	357	18.0	670	33.8
Total number of respondents	1,502		1,502		1,502		1,980		1,980		1,980	

Table 3: One-year rates of violence by type of assault and victim relationship to perpetrator in 2013 and 2003

	Violence 2013						IVAWS 2003					
	Partner violence		Non-partner violence		Total		Partner violence		Non-partner violence		Total	
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
Threatened to hurt	13	0.9	5	0.3	18	1.2	108	5.5	42	2.1	148	7.5
Threw/hit with something	9	0.6	-	-	9	0.6	55	2.8	15	0.8	70	3.5
Pushed, grabbed, twisted arm, pulled hair	16	1.1	3	0.2	19	1.3	94	4.7	40	2.0	134	6.8
Slapped, kicked, bit, hit with a fist	16	1.1	6	0.4	22	1.5	90	4.5	25	1.3	115	5.8
Strangled, suffocated, burned	2	0.1	-	-	2	0.1	11	0.6	6	0.3	17	0.9
Used/threatened to use a knife or gun	-	-	1	0.1	1	0.1	5	0.3	8	0.4	13	0.7
Other physical violence	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	0.4	14	0.7	22	1.1
Forced sexual intercourse	1	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.1	21	1.1	1	0.1	22	1.1
Attempted forced sexual intercourse	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1	16	0.8	17	0.9	32	1.6
Unwanted sexual touching	2	0.1	5	0.3	7	0.5	12	0.6	66	3.3	78	3.9
Forced sex with someone else	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1	3	0.2	2	0.1	5	0.3
Other sexual violence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0.3	5	0.3
Total physical and sexual assault	21	1.4	15	1.0	35	2.3	178	9.0	136	6.9	299	15.1
Total number of respondents	1,502		1,502		1,502		1,980		1,980		1,980	

First, we will take a look at the rates of victimization in the current survey Violence 2013. About 17 percent of the women in the Czech Republic experienced at least one of the forms of violence from their intimate partner (current or former husband/partner). A slightly higher proportion of women (22 percent) experienced violence from a man other than their partner, most frequently by a stranger or a friend/acquaintance. In total, more than a third of the respondents (36 percent) have experienced at least one of the forms of aggression.

When we compare the results from both of the surveys (Violence 2013 and IVAWS 2003), it is visible that the rates of victimization by the intimate partner from 2003 are at least about two or three times higher. Generally, there is a lower incidence of violent behavior when compared to the year 2003 even in the cases of “out of the intimate partner relationship”; however, the tendency here is not so strong. These figures show the lifelong experience with violence; the numbers are not influenced by the generation of respondents or by the changes in society. Therefore, the differences in the results between the two surveys have to be found in the methodology (see the conclusion).

Let us focus on the five-year and one-year rates of victimization, which are visible from Tables 2 and 3. The rates of victimization in the last five years or in the last year show the “real” risk of victimization more accurately than the rates for the lifelong victimization, especially in the case of year rates. These figures show higher probability that the woman becomes a victim of aggression (in one of the measured categories of attackers) during one or five years. Rates of five-year or one-year victimization are logically lower than the lifelong rates, which are also influenced by the age/generation of respondents. According to the results of the survey Violence 2013, the total probability that a woman experiences violence from a man during five years is about 11 percent. (In 2003 it was 34 percent). The probability that the attack is from the intimate partner is higher (almost 7 percent) in comparison to the probability of violence from a man outside of the intimate partner relationship (5 percent). If we look at the results from the one-year period, we can see that the probability that a woman experiences violence is much lower (1.4 percent from the intimate partner, 1 percent out of the intimate partner relationship). In this case there is the biggest difference between the two surveys – in 2003 the rates on victimization were seven times higher. We will address the possible reasons for these discrepancies later, and now we will focus on the most frequent types of violence.

According to the survey Violence 2013, the most frequent types of violence are: slap/kick/bite/punch; push/grab/twist arms/pull hair and threat to hurt physically. One-fifth of the respondents experienced the first type of physical violence; the second two types were experienced by around 16 percent of respondents. Among the relatively frequently mentioned types of violence are also touching in a sexual way (10 percent), mostly out of an intimate partner relationship and throwing things / hitting with a thing (10.5 percent). About 2 percent admitted having experience with serious types of violence such as strangling/burning or use of a knife/gun, including the threat of using a knife or gun. However, 4 to 5 percent of the women experienced an attempt to force them into sexual intercourse or forced sexual intercourse.

The structure of one-year and five-year rates of victimization according to types of attacks are similar to the lifelong rates; however, the one-year rates are so low that it is difficult to analyze them in detail. According to the survey, during the five-year period,

there is a 5 percent chance that a woman will experience types of violence such as pushing, grabbing, twisting arms, pulling hair, slapping, kicking, biting or punching as well as receiving threats to do physical harm.

If we take a look at the structure of violent incidents in the intimate partner relationship and out of the intimate partner relationship, we can tell that the victimization from the intimate partner is higher in all cases except for touching in a sexual way; other physical violence; and slightly also in the attempt of forced sexual intercourse. The probability of violent behavior from the partner is higher in the cases of “less serious” forms of violence (threatening, pushing) as well as in the more serious attacks (slapping, punching, strangling) or forced sexual intercourse. For instance, the proportion of women who experienced slapping, kicking, biting or punching by their intimate partner during the last five years is about 4 percent. On the other hand, only 1 percent experienced the same type of attacks from a man other than their partner. In the case of pushing or grabbing, the chance of attack from the intimate partner is three times higher than the chance of attack from a man with whom the woman does not have an intimate relationship. The only types of violence where the incidence of attack out of the intimate relationship is much higher than in the intimate relationship is touching in a sexual way; in case of the lifelong rates 2 percent mentioned this type of violence in an intimate relationship, but almost 8 percent experienced touching in a sexual way out of the intimate relationship.

The structure of the types of the violent behavior according to whether they occurred in the intimate relationship or out of it corresponds (with small exceptions) to the structure described in the IVAWS 2003. (One of these exceptions is, for example, the variable other physical violence, which in the IVAWS was more frequent inside the intimate partner relationship; in the current survey it is more frequent outside of the intimate relationship.) It can be asserted that the strong differences between the two surveys are probably only in the frequencies and incidences, and fortunately not in the structure. I will address this issue more specifically in the conclusion.

One can conclude that the trend has remained unchanged in the past 10 years. Regarding female victims, violent forms of behavior and attacks are concentrated at a higher range inside the intimate partner relationship than outside of it. With the exception of sexual violence, all the physical attacks, both less and more severe, are rather focused inside the intimate partner relationships when compared to the situations in which the attacker is a stranger, friend or acquaintance. The main form of violence women experience from outside the intimate relationship is touching in a sexual way.

Profile of the violent incident in the intimate partner relationship and the subjective perception of the incident

Profile of the violent incident

The following part is concentrated on the detailed description of the “typical” violent incident. In other words, it is a description of the profile of violent behavior by the male-partner against women in both years – 2003 and 2013. The description of the violent incident is based on interviews with women who described the particular incident

they experienced (one, if they experienced just one, or the latest, if they experienced more violent incidents) from different points of view.

The following table shows a detailed structure of the violent incident broken into different forms of physical aggression inside the intimate partner relationship (Table 4). From the comparison of the intimate partner violent incidents in the years 2003 and 2013, one can conclude that there have not been major changes. The structure of the particular forms of violent behavior in 2013 corresponds with the structure visible from the results of IVAWS in 2003.

According to the results of Violence 2013, almost 67 percent of women who experienced a form of violence from their partners mentioned that part of the incident was a slap (in 2003, it was 61 percent, which shows a slight increase). Almost half of those mentioned pushing, grabbing, twisting arms, pulling hair (compared to 56 percent in 2003). Thirty-four percent of respondents (35 percent in 2003) had things thrown at them or were hit by something. A quarter of the respondents mentioned punching (the same amount, 25 percent, in 2003). More severe forms were present relatively frequently as well – biting (12 percent), strangling (8 percent), use or threat of using a knife or a gun (more than 6 percent of women). A considerable number of women mentioned other forms of physical violence (12 percent in 2013, 8 percent in 2003). The biggest differences between the forms of physical violence during 2003 and 2013 include pushing, grabbing and threatening to hurt physically, where there is a decrease in frequencies compared to 2003. However, the number of women who mentioned slapping increased in comparison to 2003.

Sexual violence is a major part of the typical violent incident; this can be seen from the results in both years. Attempt to force a women to have sexual intercourse was mentioned by 17 percent of the respondents (13 percent in 2003), touching sexually and forced sexual intercourse was mentioned by about 13 percent or 14 percent of the women. High proportions of women mentioned forced sexual activity with someone else or other sexual violence; however, due to very small absolute numbers, these figures are rather for better orientation.

The data from the current survey show that, in the case of the typical intimate partnership violence, there have not been any major changes over time. This survey, along with IVAWS, showed that the aggression within the intimate relationship (if there is one) can frequently lead to even more severe forms of violence, such as being slapped or being hit with a thing, and in 17 percent there is also sexual violence involved.

Table 4: Thinking of the (most recent) incident,³ which of the things that you mentioned happened during that incident?
Only women who experienced partner violence; 2013 and 2003

	Violence 2013		Violence 2013		IVAWS 2003		Violence 2013		IVAWS 2003		Violence 2013	
	abs.	%	%	(N = 1980)	% of those who experienced any partner violence (= 259)	% of those who experienced any partner violence (= 717)	Do not know	No answer				
Threatened to hurt	131	8.7	20.8	50.6	57.3	8	12					
Threw/hit with something	88	5.9	12.6	34.0	34.7	11	7					
Pushed, grabbed, twisted arm, pulled hair	126	8.4	20.3	48.6	56.1	10	9					
Slapped	173	11.5	22.2	66.8	61.2	4	9					
Kicked, bit	32	2.1	5.7	12.4	15.8	7	9					
Hit with a fist	59	3.9	9.0	22.8	24.8	5	12					
Strangled	21	1.4	3.1	8.1	8.5	7	10					
Suffocated	2	0.1	1.6	0.8	4.5	8	9					
Burned, scalded	1	0.1	0.9	0.4	2.4	4	6					
Used/threatened to use a knife or gun	16	1.1	1.9	6.2	5.3	3	7					
Other physical violence	32	2.1	3.0	12.4	8.4	13	6					
Forced sexual intercourse	35	2.3	4.6	13.5	12.7	2	9					
Attempted forced sexual intercourse	44	2.9	4.5	17.0	12.6	7	6					
Unwanted sexual touching	37	2.5	4.8	14.3	13.2	5	9					
Forced sex with someone else	4	0.3	0.5	15.4	1.3	4	8					
Other sexual violence	4	0.3	0.9	15.4	2.1	3	9					
Total physical and sexual assault	259	17.2	36.2									
Total number of respondents	1,502											

³ If there was more than one incident, the woman was describing the most recent one.

Subjective perception of incident

Part of both surveys aspired to analyze the attitudes of the violence victims connected to how the women perceived the violent incidents they experienced. The following part shows only the first results drawn from the extensive section focusing on these perceptions. Table 5 shows the subjective perception of the seriousness of the incident; Table 6 shows the range of its legal seriousness.

Table 5: Taking everything into account, how serious was this incident for you at the time?

	Violence 2013			IVAWS 2003		
	abs.	%	% of those who experienced any partner violence	abs.	%	% of those who experienced any partner violence
Very serious	63	4.2	24.3	184	9.3	25.7
Somewhat serious	112	7.5	43.2	308	15.6	43.0
Not very serious	68	4.5	26.3	180	9.1	25.1
Don't know / Can't remember	8	0.5	3.1	31	1.6	4.3
Refused / No answer	8	0.5	3.1	14	0.7	2.0
Total partner violence	259	5.8	100.0	717	36.2	100.0
Total number of respondents	1,502			1,980		

About one-fourth of the women, who experienced intimate partner violence, answered that the incident was very serious in 2003 and in 2013 as well. Forty-three percent of the respondents answered that the incident was somewhat serious, the same number as in the 2003 survey. One could say that three-quarters of the women who experienced intimate partner violence think that this behavior is a serious problem. The results of both surveys are almost identical; the difference is only within decimal numbers. It is important to emphasize that the perception of the violent incident is connected to the seriousness of the attack. A woman who was beaten by her partner will have a different attitude than a woman who was “just” threatened. These issues will be analyzed in other studies; the aim of this article is just to show general attitudes toward perception of violence.

One can conclude that intimate partner violence is perceived as a serious issue by the majority of female-victims. These attitudes are most likely consistent over time; the results of the perceived violence have not changed much from the 2003 survey.

Along with the subjective perception of the seriousness of situation, we also examined whether the women consider the incident to be a crime. We asked them if they think the incident was (1) a crime, (2) wrong but not a crime or (3) just something that happens.

The attitudes of women concerning the crime evaluation are relatively identical in both of the years measured, even though they show a slight move toward fatalism, which is mirrored in the increase in the answer of “just something that happens”. According to the current survey, 40 percent of women who experienced intimate partner violence eval-

uated the incident as “just something that happens” (compared to 34 percent of women in 2003). One-fifth of the women evaluated the incident as a crime (20 percent in 2003), and a similar number of women (about 30 percent in both years) stated that it was “wrong but not a crime”. The data also show that women are unsure in the evaluation whether the incident was a criminal act. One can see that the answer “I don’t know” is very frequent, especially when compared to the previous question about the subjective perception of the seriousness of the situation. This shows that women are somehow “not ready,” not used to or not willing to think about intimate partner violence in terms of a criminal act. However, even in this question it will be necessary to analyze in detail the types of attitudes in connection to the types of attacks. One can conclude that the tolerance of Czech female-victims toward intimate partner violence is relatively high and, compared to the previous survey, is even increasing.

Table 6: Did you regard the incident as a crime, wrong but not a crime or something that just happens?

	Violence 2013			IVAWS 2003		
	abs.	%	% of those who experienced any partner violence	abs.	%	% of those who experienced any partner violence
A crime	44	2.9	17.0	146	7.4	20.4
Wrong but not a crime	77	5.1	29.7	228	11.5	31.8
Just something that happens	105	7.0	40.5	246	12.4	34.3
Don’t know / Can’t remember	24	1.6	9.3	78	3.9	10.9
Refused / No answer	9	0.6	3.5	19	1.0	2.6
Total partner violence	259	5.8	100.0	717	36.2	100.0
Total number of respondents	1,502			1,980		

Conclusion

In this paper, we presented the first results of Violence 2013, and we compared them roughly to the data from the 10-year old IVAWS study. First, we found out that the incidence and frequencies of intimate partner violence are much lower (three or four times, according to the type of attack) in the Violence 2013 survey than in the IVAWS. There were some differences in the victimization of women outside of the intimate partner relationship. These discrepancies could not be the results of some objective changes in society or due to shifts in the women’s statements. However, when we analyzed only the female-victims (in the typical profile of the violent incident part), we realized that these typical profiles are identical in both years – the differences are very small (by units of percentage) – see Table 4. Moreover, the subjective perception of the incident and the attitudes of the victims concerning whether the incident was a criminal act, wrong but not a crime, or just something that happens, are not significantly different between 2003 and 2013. It is evident that the current survey recorded a considerably lower number of female-victims; however, those surveyed gave similar answers as in the IVAWS (profile of

the incident, perception of the incident). In other words, the structure of intimate partner violence has not changed much in the past 10 years. It is thus important to explain the discussed discrepancies, which are most likely due to the methodology. In the following part we will describe the main reasons, which are, in our opinion, behind the different results in the IVAWS and Violence 2013 surveys.

1) Quality and methodological approaches of the training of the interviewers

In 2003, when the IVAWS survey was conducted, the preparation area (most importantly the training of the interviewers) was led by a unified, international “plan” and was prepared in detail. The collection of data was conducted by the agency UNIVERSITAS, an agency with much experience with sociological surveys. In the Czech Republic, according to the international rules of the IVAWS methodology, the training of the interviewers was prepared and led by the researchers. There was training done in larger cities, and a face to face method was used. The interviewers were informed in detail about the importance and the societal contribution of this survey, and it was emphasized that they should try to unearth any sort of information that could be connected to intimate partner violence, e.g. by the use of the repeated questions in the questionnaire.

On the other hand, the survey Violence 2013 was conducted (including the interviewers’ training) by an agency that specializes mainly in market research. The training was not executed by the face to face method, and detailed information about the survey was absent.

These facts could, in our opinion as well as in (Killias 2006), majorly influence the number of female-victims who were detected by the survey.

2) Type of interview: CAPI (Violence 2013) vs. paper questionnaire (IVAWS 2003) – both face to face

Whilst the IVAWS survey was conducted by the use of paper questionnaire (due to the unified international methodology), the 2013 survey was conducted by CAPI (computer-aided personal interviewing) method. The type of interviewing could also have had an influence on the assessment of the individual partner violence victims. Respondents could become, for various reasons, “scared” of the computer, and they could refuse to answer. This is another factor that could also decrease the total proportion of female-victims.

3) The mood in society

In 2003, when the IVAWS survey was conducted, the societal mood concerning domestic violence and violence against women was very intense. It was still a new topic at that time not only in Czech sociology but also in society itself. It was frequently discussed in the scientific environment as well as in the context of the experts from the public (sociologists, psychologists, lawyers) and in the media. Moreover, new legislation that could help to solve the problem with domestic violence was prepared at that time, which also made people more interested in this topic. In our opinion, these and related social factors could in some way influence the results of both surveys.

* * *

In this article we tried to show the main reasons that could stand behind the vast differences in the incidences in the violent forms of behavior by men between the two surveys – Violence 2013 and IVAWS 2003. Clearly, this list is not complete, and there will be more analyses to specify even more relevant reasons. However, the analysis of the profile on violent incident showed that the discrepancies in the results do not lie in the structural level; therefore, it is possible to compare both datasets, at least to some extent.

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