

# Intimate Partner Violence in Judicial Statistics in the Czech Republic 2008-2022



Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention



Criminal justice cases involving domestic abuse (N=8170) with a specific focus on intimate partner violence cases (N=5761)

- Crimes against human life and health, violation of the right to personal liberty and the right to protect personal safety, breaches of personal privacy correspondence, crimes against humanity, offenses against the family, and crimes against children, among others.
- Spouses, ex-spouses, unmarried couples (long-term cohabitation)



- Project Title: PDP7 "Improvement of Perpetrators Treatment and Victims Support in Cases of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence in the Czech Republic"
- Implementation: Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention
- Funding: Norway grants 2014 – 2021
- Period: 2020-2023

The Violenceoff project (violenceoff.cz) aims to map and describe the treatment of perpetrators involved in cases of domestic gender-based violence in the Czech Republic. Additionally, the project aims to identify shortcomings and best practices in this area, as well as the needs of the key stakeholders. Based on these findings, the project proposes effective measures to establish a system for working with offenders of domestic and gender-based violence (DGBV).

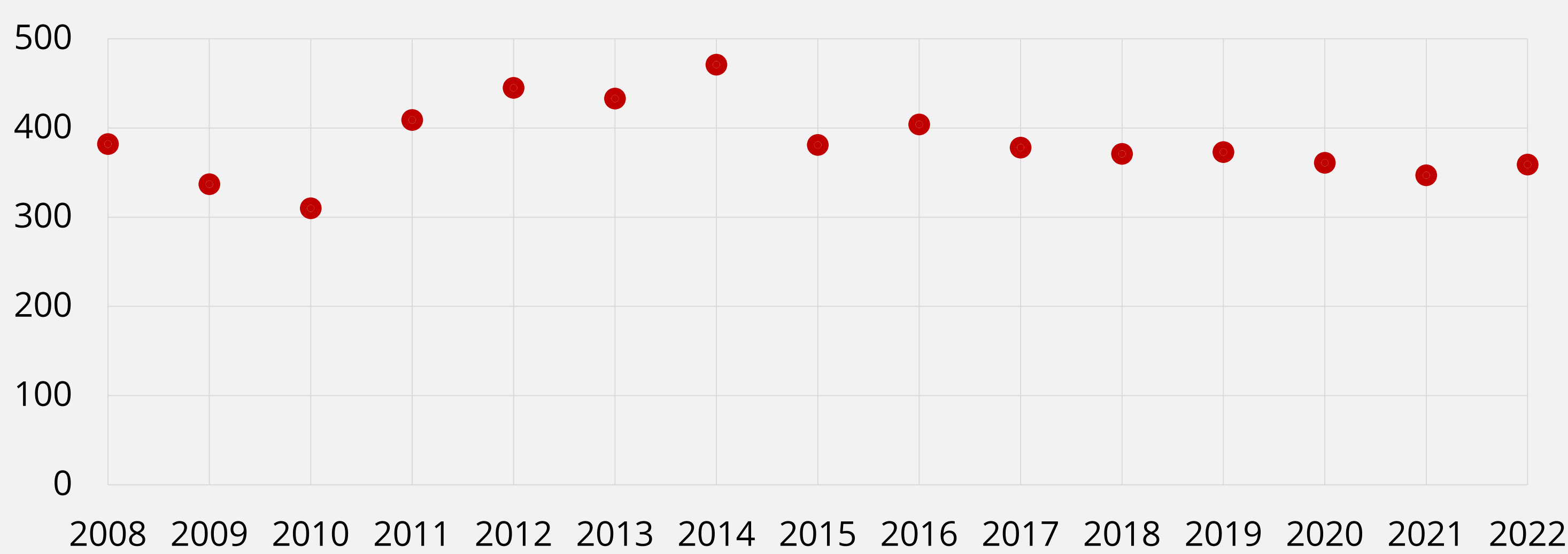


Time period: 2008 to 2022



Data Source: The Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic

The numbers of intimate-partner violence cases in 2008-2022 ranged from 310 (in 2010) to 471 (in 2014). A total of 5761 cases were recorded.



Offender-Victim relationship	2008	2022	Information for the period of 2008-2022, n=5761
Sex (male)	97%	→ 97%	Every year, an average of 11 cases of intimate-partner violence perpetrated by a woman are prosecuted in the Czech Republic. However, men remain the dominant perpetrators of domestic abuse.
Age	41 years	→ 39 years	In the period under review, we found offenders aged 15 to 87. More than three-quarters of cases were committed by individuals between the ages of 30 to 44.
Spouses	65%	Ex 54%	During the period under review, the proportion of cases of partner violence in marriage gradually decreased at the expense of an increasing proportion of cases of non-marital violence. However, this trend does not correlate with the number of partnerships, which, although declining until 2013, increased again in subsequent years.
Ex-spouses	8%	Current 46%	
Partner/Ex-partner	27%		In 2022, the method of recording the offender's relationship with the victim changed and began to track only whether the relationship was former or current.
Criminal warrant	17%	↓ 15%	In previous years, there has been a significant decline in the disposition of cases by criminal warrant. However, in recent years it has been around 15%.

2008-2022, n=5761

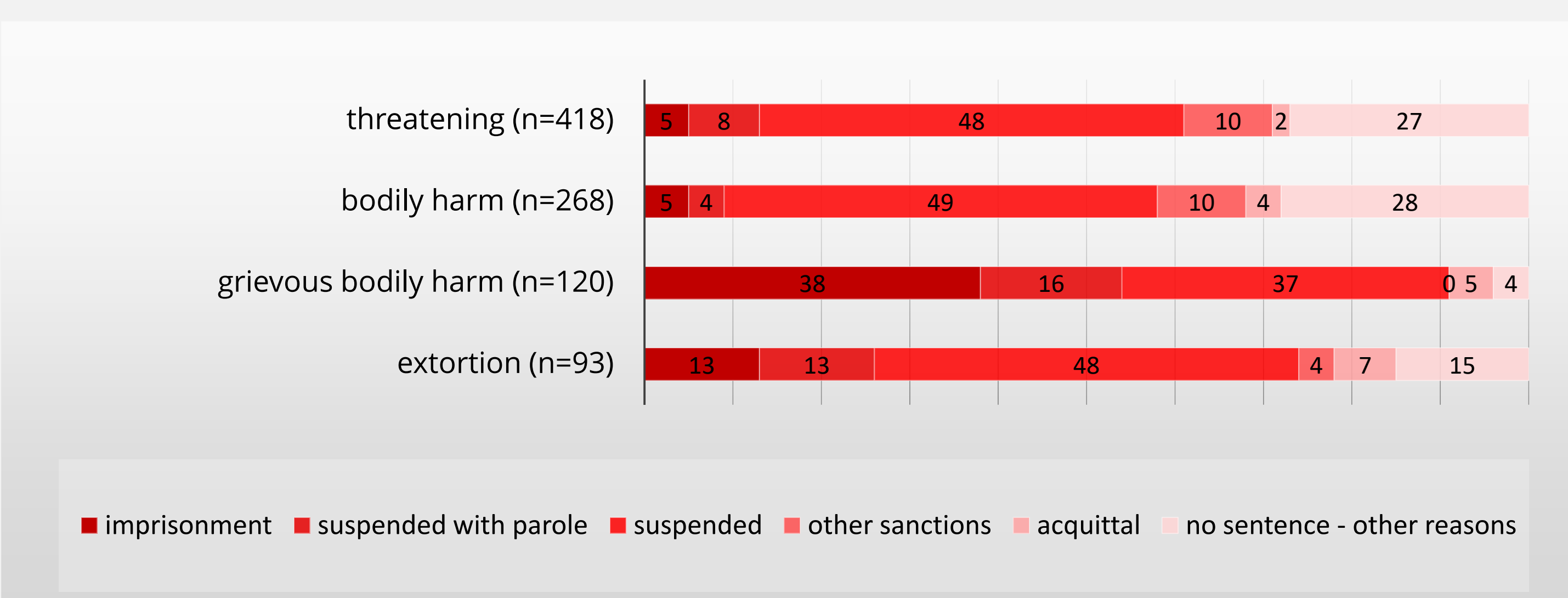
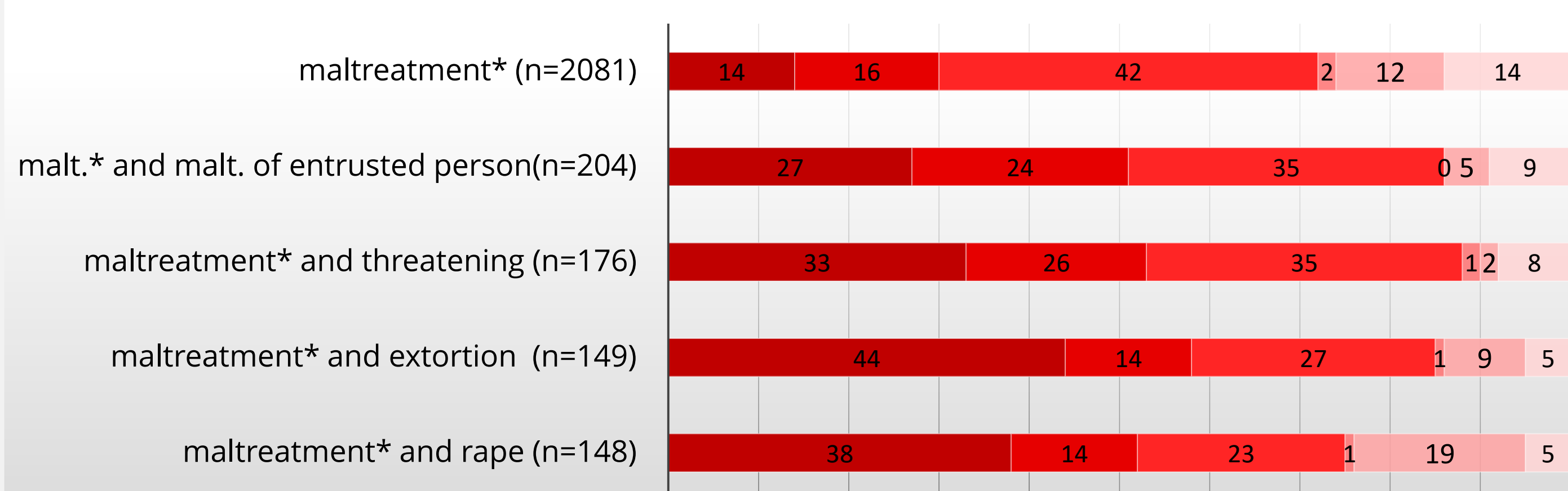
Observed Circumstances %	Criminal sentence %		
Alcohol	17	Imprisonment	22
Substances	2	Suspended sentence (with parole)	15
		Suspended sentence (without parole)	39
		Other sanction	4
		Acquittal	8
Victim is a child	9	No sanction	12

Number of previous convictions %	Court-labeled recidivist						
	1	2-5	6-10	11-15	16-20		
First-time offender	35	18	31	12	3	1	5

- According to the data, approximately one-sixth of all cases were related to alcohol, while the use of other narcotics and psychotropic substances was reported on rare occasions.
- In less than one-tenth of the cases, the victim was a child.
- More than half of the cases resulted in suspended sentences, with an average sentence length of 20 months and a probationary period of 33 months.
- Nearly two-thirds of the offenders had previous convictions, but only 5% of them were labeled as particularly dangerous recidivists by the court.

## Imposed sanctions %



No sentence - other reasons = the sentence was not imposed for the following possible reasons: suspension or certification after conditional cessation of criminal prosecution according to §308 of the Criminal Code and less often transfer or settlement approval.

- Intimate partner violence during the observed period predominantly involved the abuse of a person residing in a shared residence. About 36% of cases were classified as abuse alone, without the occurrence of any other crime. Among the convicted individuals, more than half received suspended sentences.
- When abuse\* occurred alongside other offenses, it was most commonly associated with maltreatment of an entrusted person, threats, extortion, or rape.
- The largest proportion (44%) of offenders who received suspended sentences were those who committed both maltreatment\* and extortion.
- Conversely, the highest number of acquittals (19%) occurred when abuse\* was accompanied by rape.
- In addition to abuse\*, intimate partner violence also involved other criminal activities such as threats, bodily harm (including grievous harm), and extortion.
- Imprisonment was most often imposed for grievous bodily harm. In other cases, the court imposed a suspended sentence (more than half of the cases).
- The graphs presented in the analysis compare instances where individuals were tried solely for a specific crime versus combinations of these crimes.

\*abuse of a person living in a shared residence