

Domestic violence in Lithuania



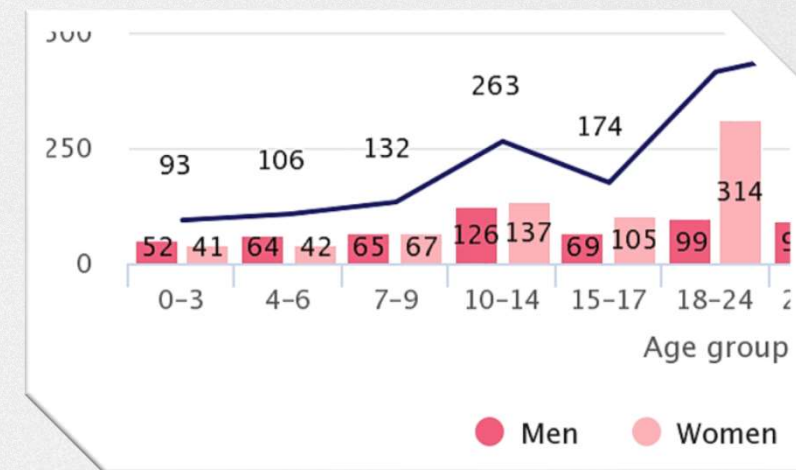
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Lietuvos Respublikos
socialinės apsaugos
ir darbo ministerija

Domestic violence in Lithuania (2021)

- ❑ 5 801 crimes of domestic violence were recorded in Lithuania; it accounted for 15% of the total number of the recorded crimes.
- ❑ 68 (12.5% or 1 in 8) victims of recorded domestic violence crimes were children under 18 years of age
- ❑ 86.7% of such children were victims of domestic violence crimes made by parents or foster parents.
- ❑ Most (86%) children victims experienced physical violence.
- ❑ Children aged 10-14 experienced the most domestic violence (263 children).
- ❑ 26 juveniles (0.6% of the total number of suspected persons) were suspected (accused) of committing the said crimes.



Number of victims of recorded domestic violence crimes by sex and age group

Violence against children in Lithuania (2022)

Not enough data on domestic violence yet.

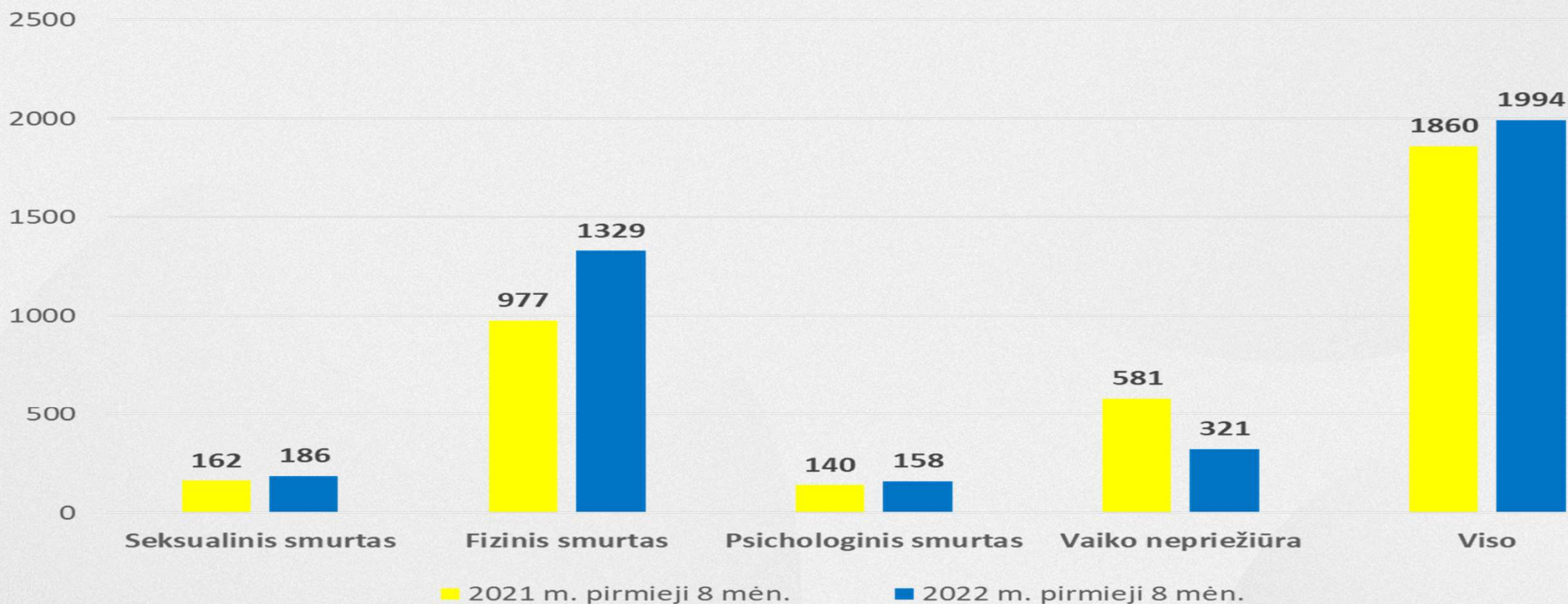
State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour activity report:

1 994 reports of
1 813 children
who may have been victims of violence
by August 2022.

7,2 %
more cases of
violence against
children than in 2021

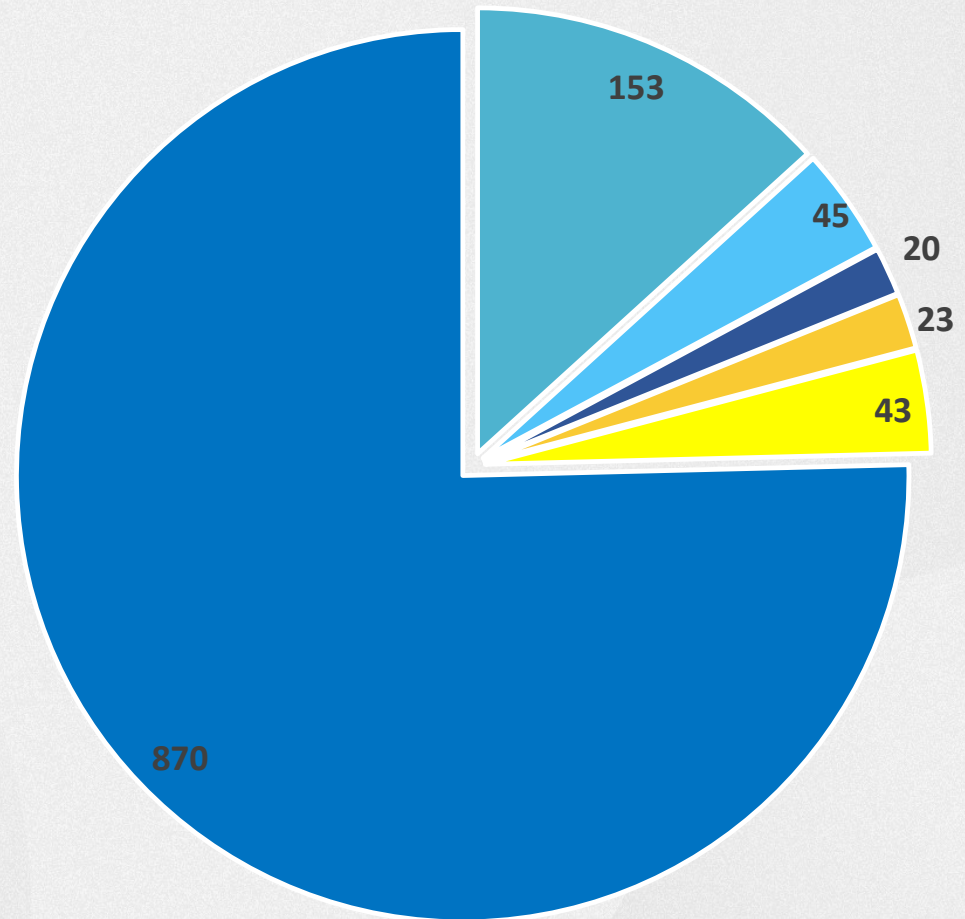
Violence against children in Lithuania (2022)

- ❑ 8 of 10 children victims experienced physical violence;
- ❑ 1 in 10 victims experienced sexual violence and psychological violence.



Number of cases of violence by domestic abuser in Lithuania (2022)

- Person(s) with close ties (e.g. mother's cohabitant living together) (153)
- Brother(s)/sister(s) (45)
- Uncle(s)/aunt(s) (20)
- Other relative(s) (23)
- Grandparents/one of them (43)
- Parents/parent (870)



Violence against children preventing measures

- ❑ preventive social services - from 2022-01-01 (e.g. complex of services for the family)
- ❑ children's day centers;
- ❑ projects of complex services in municipalities;
- ❑ "Parents' Line 8 800 900 12";

- ❑  "Childrens' Line" 116111;
- ❑ prevention campaigns against violence against children;
- ❑ Help Center for Children Victims of Sexual Abuse.



Interventions

- ❑ A continuously functioning Child Rights Protection System - respond to all reports of a possible violation of a child's rights 24/7. Reports of possible violence against children are responded to very quickly (within an hour).
- ❑ "One-stop" centers for children and family;
- ❑ Multidimensional Family Therapy Programme (MDFT);
- ❑ Projects of non-governmental organizations financed with state funds to provide complex services to children who are victims of violence and their families

A new amendment of the national law against domestic violence (takes effect from 2023-07-01)

- ❑ **Purpose** - to protect every person experiencing domestic violence or a threat of it, including children who are either victims or witnesses of such violence, and to provide a more effective domestic violence prevention mechanism on both local and national levels
- ❑ **Principles** - the law ensures that domestic violence prevention and victims' support is carried out in a way that all the services are based on:
 - Individual needs of the victims (including best interests of children)
 - Availability of specialized support and other services for the victims
 - Confidentiality and protection of personal data
 - Equality of the persons at risk of domestic violence or persons who have experienced violence, regardless of their gender, race, nationality, language, origin, social status, faith, beliefs or views, age, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion or other characteristics

[XIV-934 Lietuvos Respublikos apsaugos nuo smurto artimoje aplinkoje įstatymo Nr. XI-1425 pakeitimo įstatymas \(lrs.lt\)](#)

A new amendment of the national law against domestic violence

The amended legislation introduces several domestic abuse prevention and victim's protection tools, such as:

- ❑ **An emergency barring order**, providing an immediate protection for victims of domestic abuse when a pre-trial investigation is not carried out. The order will be issued for a **period of 15 days** for the perpetrator who will be ordered to **move out** and to **not seek any communication with the victim and children**;
- ❑ **An accreditation mechanism of specialised assistance centres for the victims**, providing support such as dissemination of information, victims' empowerment, counselling, specialised psychological and legal assistance, preparation of needed documents and cooperation with the law enforcement authorities and other institutions working in the field of domestic violence prevention;
- ❑ **A mechanism of inter-institutional cooperation** is regulated both on a **national and local levels**, including cooperation between the police, specialised assistance centres, child protection services, hospitals, representatives of municipalities, and other institutions that fight against gender-based violence to secure a more efficient exchange of information and responsibilities.

Challenges

- ✓ Psychological violence is often not recognized as violence;
- ✓ Case management as a tool for further battles between parents;
- ✓ It is difficult to prove the inappropriate behavior of parents towards the child (especially in the case of psychological violence);
- ✓ Lack of individualized services in municipalities;
- ✓ Lack of long-term measures for provision of social assistance to children victims of sexual violence;
- ✓ Lack of psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists, especially in regions, in small areas.
- ✓ Negative societal attitudes towards older children (eg. teenagers)
- ✓ Lack of support for mothers/at the beginning of motherhood, mothers' well-being is not monitored.



Rape is a war crime

- ❑ A recently launched international aid campaign “Rape is a war crime” that aims to raise awareness of gender-based violence in war zones and to provide a support mechanism to the victims of sexual abuse in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world;
- ❑ The initiators of this campaign (Lithuanian Center for Combating Human Trafficking and Exploitation, Association of Ukrainian women lawyers "JurFem" and a Faculty of Law of Vilnius' University) seek to encourage women and men who have survived sexual violence during the war in Ukraine or people who know about these cases, to anonymously report about such war crimes and receive much needed professional free and confidential help;
- ❑ Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Security and Labor, Ministry of Justice as well as the European Institute of Gender Equality, lawyers, communication, and other international experts have become partners of this campaign expanding the availability of information as well as the professional legal, medical, psychological support to the victims of sexual violence in war zones.



[Home page of the initiative | RAPE IS A WAR CRIME | RAPE IS A WAR CRIME - Do not stay alone with your pain](#)

RAPE IS A

WAR CRIME

