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FUNDACIÓN PARA LA INVESTIGACIÓN APLICADA
EN DELINCUENCIA Y SEGURIDAD

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE IN CASTILLA-LA MANCHA (Spain)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective of this investigation are to analyze the homicides perpetrated in Castilla-La Mancha, both attempted and committed homicides, in order to identify the profile of its' authors and their victims; the differences between homicides according to their degree of execution and the perception of the survivors, about their romantic relationship, the perceived risk throughout the relationship and their experience and knowledge with available resources and services.

The results of the analyses of judicial decisions issued between 2014 and 2017 were collected from the CENDOJ database (Center for Judicial Documentation of the General Council of the Judiciary), on hate crimes and hate speech. The descriptive analysis of the content of judicial decisions has been carried out based on the previously determined variables:

The profile of victims of attempted homicide is characterized by:

- Mostly Spanish natives (60,9%) with an average age of 44 years old.
- Only 72,2% graduated primary school, the rest abandoned their studies to financially support their respective families.
- Only 41,2% were employed at the time of their assault, with an insufficient economic income in 41,2% of the cases. About 5,9% had self-supported income.
- Job insecurity and lack of income are accentuated by the family burdens that these women bear and the difficulties of managing them with a job
- Half of the victims had a romantic relationship with their aggressor in the time of the aggression and the other half have had one previously, with an average of over 15 years of relationship. 63,6% of the victims had a child/children with their aggressor.

The profile and criminal history of the aggressors is characterized by:

- Majority being Spanish natives (60,9%) with an average age of 49,8 years old.
- Their majority educational level is mere literacy (44,4%) or graduated primary school (44,4%), in some cases 5,6% without any kind of education.
- Only 41,2% were employed at the time of the events, 31,6% with an insufficient income and 10,5% without any income.

- Over half (52,1%) were living with the victim and their child/children at the time of the events, being married or domestic partner, in over 60,9% of the cases.
- Around 34,7% of the aggressors had had exercised psychological or physical violence on a member of the family, apart from the victim, and in 39,1% of the cases they had been aggressive towards others outside their family nucleus.
- 39,1% of aggressors had previous criminal history regarding gender violence and many of them with the same victim. The same percentage had been admitted to prison previously because of a gender crime.
- About 45,5% of the attempted homicide cases had a restraining order in place at the time of the events.

About their modus operandi and risk factors in analyzed cases, we can observe:

- Majority of attempted homicide occurs between the months of August, September and October, as well around Holidays (December and January).
- They frequently occur at night (60,9%) and in their family home (73,9%).
- In almost all cases (82,6%) a knife was used as a weapon, the use of a firearm being a minority in 8,7%.
- In 30,4% of cases, the aggressor was under the influence of alcohol and/or cannabis.
- Half of the events occurred in the process of separation or breakup of the couple.

Secondly, when comparing the cases of committed homicides of a romantic partner and the attempted cases, we conclude that there are practically no differences between the profiles of victims and aggressors. About victims, the only variable is the statistically significant difference of them, having found more cases of women with no income or only a governmental assistance in committed homicides. About aggressors, the only variable that significantly distinguish both groups is their previous admissions to prison for crimes related to gender violence, finding more admissions in cases of attempted homicide. In relation to the facts, the two groups show a statistically significant difference in the use of weapons using more firearms in the case of consummated homicides, and the protection order in force, finding a higher percentage of this measure in the cases of attempted murder.

Finally, due to the depth of the interviews with victims, we come to the following conclusions about the violence history they have suffered, their perception of danger of lethal violence, their challenges and assessment about the services received:

- Many victims express having suffered and observed violence in their family of origin.
- They identify their parents with sexist attitudes and values and recognize being raised with define gender roles.

- They assume and understand jealousy from a romantic partner as part of the romantic love myth.
- Although some victims don't express violent situations during the beginning of the relationship or during dating their partner, many recognize the moment the violent situations started and began escalating, to the point of receiving violence in their pregnancies.
- Many of the victims have suffered varied kinds of violence – psychological, physical, sexual, vicarious, financial and social. Some normalize the sexual violence of non-consensual intercourse within a romantic relationship.
- In a few cases, the attempted homicide occurred without any previous violence in the relationship, due to mental deterioration or a health problem from the aggressor.
- The physical and psychological consequences of these cases are very serious for the victims, and can be they can be aggravated by the release of the aggressor from prison.
- Survivors positively assess the police attention but complain about the delays related to the judicial process and the access to assistance services.
- Victims also complain about the easy breaking of restraining orders by the aggressors.
- The best assistance service they value is ATENPRO.



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