



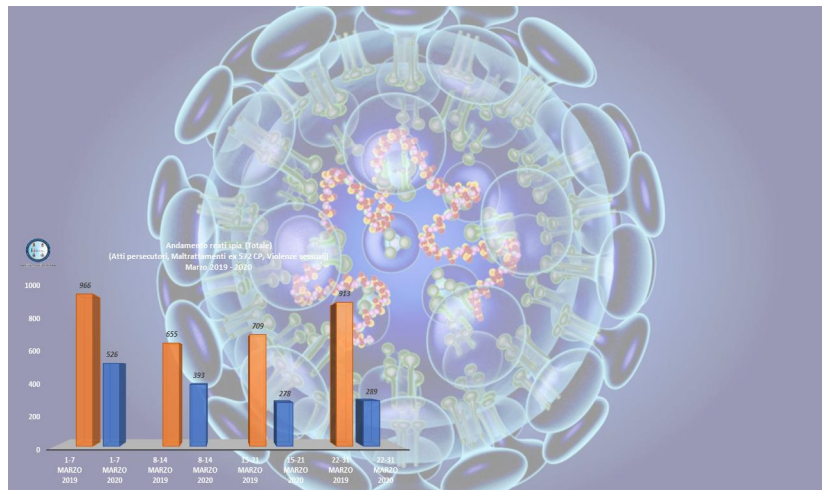
MINISTERO  
DELL'INTERNO

DIPARTIMENTO DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

DIREZIONE CENTRALE DELLA POLIZIA CRIMINALE

*Servizio Analisi Criminale*

*CORONAVIRUS: containment  
measures, gender and domestic violence*



*Roma, Aprile 2020*

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## ABSTRACT

The epidemiological emergency from COVID-19 that is involving our country has determined, from the last decade of February 2020, the adoption of a series of urgent measures by the Government aimed at containing the epidemic, which led to a gradual but significant limitation of the movement of citizens on the national territory.

These exceptional measures, which are further integrated by **Law Decree 25 March 2020, n. 19**, containing "*Urgent measures to face the epidemiological emergency from COVID 19*", have consequently led to a forced and prolonged coexistence of the family members, which could adversely affect the most problematic contexts, being able to favor, in some extreme cases, the possible commission of acts of gender and family violence.

The limitation imposed on the movement of natural persons could, in fact, accentuate pre-existing conflict situations, causing a flood of violence and mistreatment, also in relation to the difficulty of being able to easily contact the Police Forces and anti-violence centers in order to report situations of hardship or violence or more simply to ask for information.

The intelligence report examines the data on the voluntary murders present in the record of the Central Directorate of the Criminal Police - Criminal Analysis Service and those extrapolated from the interforces database. In particular, the so-called spy crimes<sup>1</sup> were analyzed relating to gender violence and crimes potentially attributable to family disputes<sup>2</sup> with specific regard to those consumed at home, in the period **1 March - 31 March 2020**, comparing them with those of the analogue period of 2019; an analysis of the data referring to the individual weeks was also prepared within the time horizons considered.

These are absolutely operational data which, however, allow us to grasp the trend of the phenomenon in relation to the evolution of the epidemiological crisis, to the consequent gradual expansion of the restrictive measures adopted by the Government and the extension of coexistence in the homes.

The analysis of "*spy crimes*" shows a general decrease in March 2020 compared to the same period of 2019, highlighting, however, a slight increase in mistreatment of family members and partners in the period 22-31 March 2020; limitations to freedom of movement are a factor in reducing the crime of persecutory acts, while, at the distance, seem to lead to an increase in the number of mistreatments committed against family members and cohabitants.

Despite the overall decrease in the number of sexual violence, however, there is a constant increase in the incidence of female victims (with figures that exceed the **90%**).

The general figure of the murders in March 2020 is confirmed in decline (**11** compared to **38**) compared to the same period of 2019, while female victims, however, maintain significant values both in general (**7** compared to **12**) and in the family / affective context (**6** compared to **8**).

The murders committed by partners or ex-partners decrease (**3** compared to **7**).

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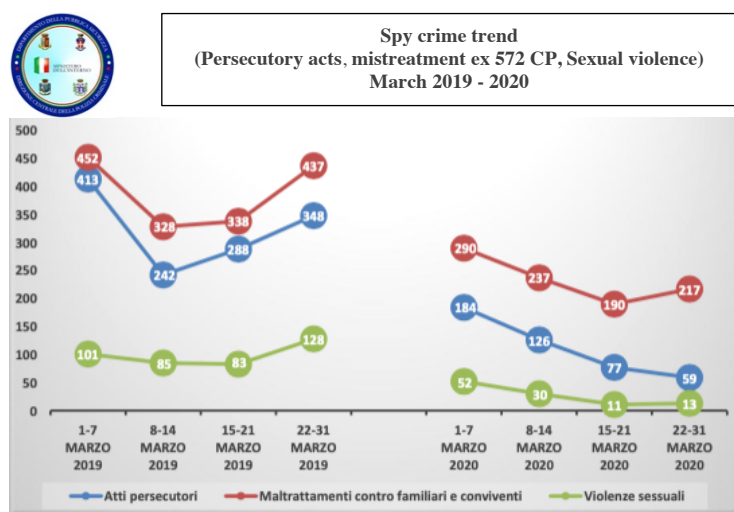
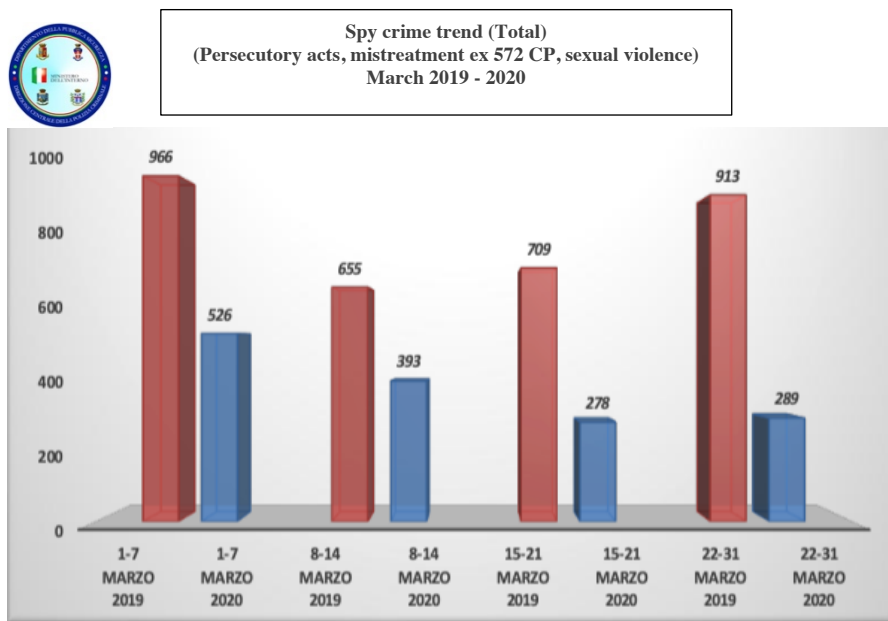
<sup>1</sup> Persecutory acts (art. 612 bis of the Italian Criminal Code - CP- ), mistreatment of family members and cohabitants (art. 572 of the Criminal Code) and sexual violence (art. 609 bis/ter of the Criminal Code).

<sup>2</sup> Threats (art. 612 of the Italian Criminal Code - CP- ), personal injury (art. 582 of the Criminal Code) and beatings (art. 581 of the Criminal Code).

## SPY CRIMES

The analysis developed starts from an overview that takes into consideration the overall of the criminal offenses attributable to the so-called spy crimes of gender-based violence: persecutory acts (art. 612 bis of the Italian Criminal Code), mistreatment of family members and partners (art. 572 of the Italian Criminal Code) and sexual violence (art. 609 bis and ter. of the criminal code).

The graphical representation that follows shows that in the period 2020 the absolute values, although lower than in 2019, they show a progressive decrease in the first three weeks, ed a slight increase in the fourth week ( **289** ) compared to the third ( **278** ).



The graph on the left poses distinctly compared the trend of the three crimes under consideration, highlighting a trend basically similar of the different cases.

However, while the crime of *persecutory acts* show itself in constant decline in the 2020 period, that of *mistreatment versus family members and cohabitants* in the same period suffers, after an initial decrease, an increase in the period 22-31 March 2020.

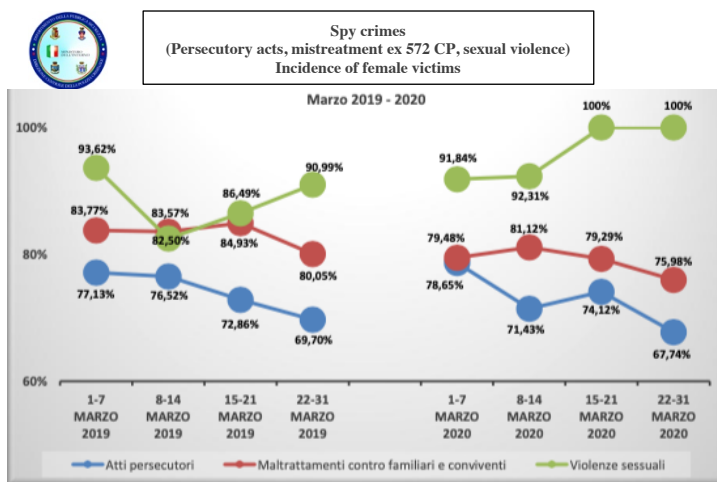
The *sexual violence* are significantly reduced in the comparison between the period 2019 and 2020 period.

## VICTIMS OF THE SPY CRIMES

In the following paragraph the analysis activity takes into consideration the *victims* of crime.

With respect to the spy crimes of gender violence, we want to highlight both **the incidence of female victims** and the total number of crimes committed.

In particular, we can see how, for the crime of *persecutory acts*, the incidence of the victims women record a peak in the period 1-7 March 2020 ( **78.65%** ), always remaining on high values, slightly down in the last week ( **67.74%** ) .



The percentage of women victims of *mistreatment versus family members and cohabitants* has, in the period 2020, values always above **75%** , while that of *sexual violence* always attests over **90%** , up to get to the last two weeks of March 2020 to **100%** .

In the following table and graph we compare the number of crimes committed with the percentage incidence of female as victims in the two timeframes under examination.



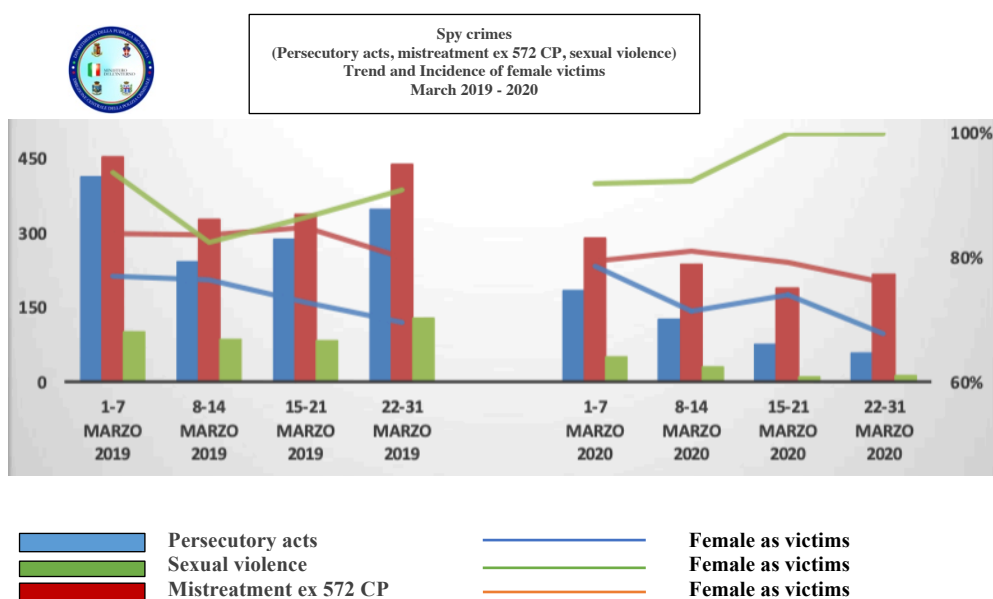
Number of crimes committed and Incidence of female as victims

	1 - 7 march 2019		8- 14 march 2019		15 -21 march 2019		22 -31 march 2019	
	Crimes committed	Female sex	Crimes committed	Female sex	Crimes committed	Female sex	Crimes committed	Female sex
Persecutory acts	413	77.13 %	242	76.52 %	288	72.86 %	348	69.70 %
mistreatment ex 572 CP	452	83.77 %	328	83.57 %	338	84.93 %	437	80.05 %
sexual violence	101	93.62 %	85	82.50 %	83	86.49 %	128	90.99 %
	1 - 7 march 2020		8- 14 march 2020		15 -21 march 2020		22 -31 march 2020	
	Crimes committed	Female sex	Crimes committed	Female sex	Crimes committed	Female sex	Crimes committed	Female sex
Persecutory acts	184	78.65 %	126	71.43 %	77	74.12 %	59	67.74 %
mistreatment ex 572 CP	290	79.48 %	237	81.12 %	190	79.29 %	217	75.98 %
sexual violence	52	91.84 %	30	92.31 %	11	100.00 %	13	100%

As regards the *persecutory acts* , the crimes decrease significantly reaching the lowest numerical value ( **59** ) in the last week of March 2020.

The crime of *sexual violence* also suffered a significant decrease in the 2020 period, reaching **13** crimes in the last week.

The crime of *mistreatment of family members and cohabitants* shows a fairly good trend constant both for the significant number of crimes committed (slightly increasing in the last week of March 2020 with **217** crimes) and for the incidence of female victims with an average always higher than **75%**



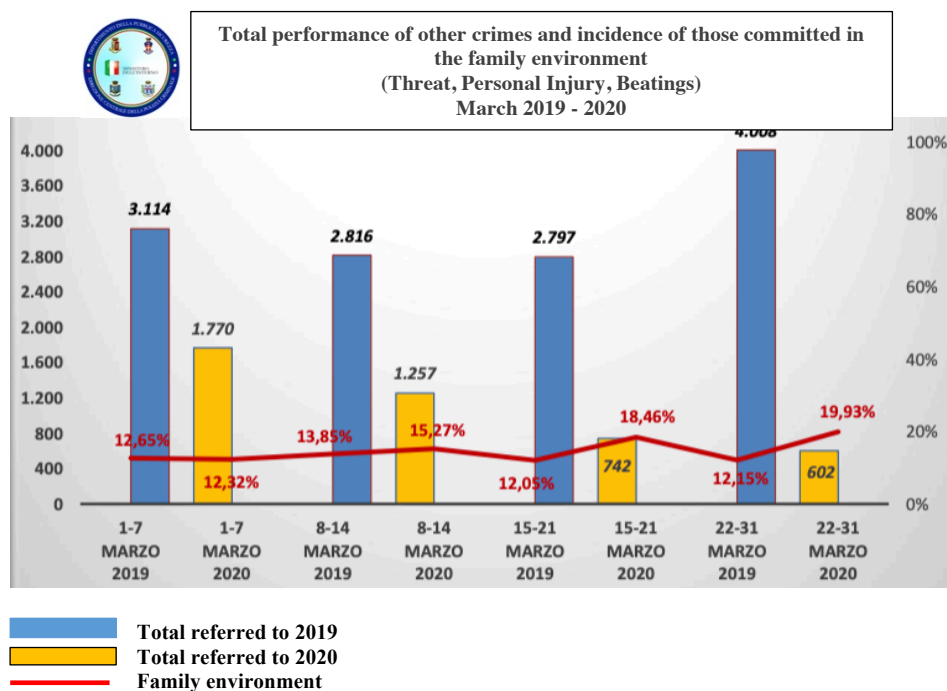
## OTHER CRIMES IN THE FAMILY AREA

The analysis below provides an overview of those crimes committed in the family area, may prove to be a *thermometer* of the so-called family quarrels.

In particular, *threats* (art. 612 criminal code) *personal injury* (art. 582 of the Italian Criminal Code) and *beatings* (art. 581 of the Italian Criminal Code), in order to highlight those behaviors, criminally relevant, which could be connected to a “forced” stay in the family.

Analyzing the crime cases in question, it emerges how crimes as a whole have an important decrease in 2020, while the incidence of those committed in the family environment does record an increasing trend.

In summary, family crimes in the 2020 period amount to between **12%** and **20%** of the total, with a peak of **19.93%** in the last week, higher percentage than to 2019 where the incidence had remained around **12%**.



## MURDERS

Analysis of voluntary murders<sup>3</sup> shown in the table below provides a focus also on the so said femicides.

The general figure of the murders in March 2020 is confirmed in decline (**11** compared to **38**) compared to the same period of 2019, while female victims, however, maintain significant values both in general (**7** compared to **12**) and in the family/affective context (**6** compared to **8**).

The murders committed by partners or ex-partners decrease (**3** compared to **7**).



**Voluntary murders committed in Italy**

	1 – 31 march 2019	1 – 31 march 2020	Variation %
Murder committed in total	38	11	- 71.05 %
Number with female victims	12	7	- 41.67 %
Number in family environment	13	7	- 46.15 %
Number with female victims	8	6	- 25.00 %
(committed by partner/ex partner)	7	3	- 57.14%

<sup>3</sup> DCPC Data Source Criminal Analysis Service.