



DOMAIN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Costs of intimate partner violence

Summary



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FOREWORD



Sylvie Durrer, Director FOG

Domestic violence and, as one of its most frequent manifestations, intimate partner violence cause above all a great deal of human suffering. They furthermore violate human rights and contravene Swiss law. Numerous revisions to legislation in recent years testify to a clear change in attitudes to domestic violence. We have recognized that acts of violence within families, marriages and partnerships are an extremely serious matter. For instance, in 2004 simple bodily injury, repeated assaults, threatening behaviour and sexual assault and rape within marriage and partnerships became official offences in Switzerland, that is to say criminal offences that are prosecuted by the authorities.

As well as the suffering it causes for those directly involved, domestic violence also results in costs which we all pay for. The present study firstly sets out, using very conservative estimates, the costs to society arising from intimate partner violence in various institutional sectors such as the police, justice system, support services and the healthcare system, as well as from lost productivity (losses due to illness, invalidity and death).

It should be noted that it was not possible to calculate all the costs arising from intimate partner violence in this study. For instance, the necessary data is not available for calculating the costs of court proceedings or of support services for affected children and their consequential healthcare costs. The latter in particular are of a magnitude that should not be underestimated, as the consequences for children affected by intimate partner violence are far-reaching and often have a lifelong impact. Moreover, intimate partner violence witnessed by a child constitutes one of the most significant risk factors that the child will themselves go on to be a victim or a perpetrator of domestic violence in adulthood¹.

Knowing the costs of intimate partner violence helps to create an awareness of the considerable magnitude of the problem. In a recently published overview, the Council of Europe underlined the fact that "Although human dignity has no price, it is sometimes useful to refer to concrete budget lines to show the savings governments would make if they decided to invest in measures likely to reduce gender-based violence."² Cost studies thus provide a valuable source of information for political decision-makers by showing how many costs this problem causes, and how investment in prevention relates to investment in combating the phenomenon. If – as is demonstrated in this study – the annual costs to society arising from intimate partner violence are approximately equivalent to the annual expenditure of a medium-sized Swiss city, then it is certainly worthwhile for politicians to consider exactly where such investment can most effectively be made.

¹ See also FOG information leaflets 2 and 17 (in German) at: <http://www.ebg.admin.ch/dokumentation/00012/00442/index.html?lang=de>

² Council of Europe (Gender Equality and Violence against Women Division, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law): Overview of Studies on the Costs of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. Strasbourg, 26 October 2012.

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This study could not have been completed without the intensive cooperation of many experts. We thank **Juliane Fliedner, Stephanie Schwab, Susanne Stern and Rolf Iten from INFRAS** for the careful compilation of the present study, the publication of which fulfils one action point listed in the report of the Federal Council of 13 May 2009 on the subject of intimate partner violence.³

The study was conducted in collaboration with **Hanna Meier and Daniela Gloor from Social Insight**. They provided INFRAS with valuable contacts to experts in the field, recommended reference literature, and also reviewed the detailed concept and final report with a critical eye. As part of an additional study commissioned by the FOGE, **Martin Killias**, Professor of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedural Law at the Institute of Criminology in the Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich also provided basic data for the present report and acted as co-advisor for some sections.

We would also like to thank the **advisory group** consisting of representatives of the Confederation and external experts who contributed to the commissioning of the study, gave their opinion on the detailed concept and the final report, and assisted INFRAS with detailed questions. Members of the advisory group were Tamara Bonassi (Federal Office of Public Health FOPH), Yasemin Cevik (Federal Social Insurance Office FSIO), Maggie Graf (State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO), Marie-Claude Hofner (Médecin associée, Département Universitaire de Médecine et de Santé Communautaire, Lausanne), Lucy Keller Läubli and Valérie Berset Hemmer (Federal Office of Justice FOJ), Vladimir Nowotny (Secretary General of the Conference of Swiss Cantonal Police Commanders KKPKS), Thomazine von Witzleben (external evaluation expert), Isabel Zoder (Federal Statistical Office FSO). We thank the Federal Office of Justice for their financial contribution to this study project.

Finally, we would of course also like to express our thanks to the many **experts** who shared their knowledge and experience with INFRAS in interviews as well as all the professionals who helpfully assisted in providing facts and figures in the course of the various data surveys and questionnaires during the compilation of this report.

³ Bericht des Bundesrates vom 13. Mai 2009 über Gewalt in Paarbeziehungen. Ursachen und in der Schweiz getroffene Massnahmen (in Erfüllung des Postulats Stump 05.3694 vom 7. Oktober 2005), BBl **2009** 4087.

COSTS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SUMMARY

Zurich, November 2013

Study commissioned by the Swiss Federal Office for Gender Equality FÖGE

Susanne Stern, Juliane Fliedner, Stephanie Schwab, Rolf Iten

The logo for INFRAS, featuring the word "INFRAS" in white lowercase letters on a black rectangular background, which is part of a larger graphic element with a yellow square to its right.

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KEY POINTS AT A GLANCE

What does the study show?

The study sets out the costs to society arising from intimate partner violence. It also provides an overview of the status of the statistical data, indicates where there are gaps in the data collected, and gives recommendations on how these gaps can be rectified.

Where do costs resulting from intimate partner violence arise?

This study shows the many different areas where costs arise as a consequence of intimate partner violence. These are costs for the police and the justice system, for support services for victims and perpetrators, for specialist/coordination agencies, as well as healthcare costs and the costs of lost productivity as a result of illness, invalidity and death.

What types of costs arise?

Three categories of costs are investigated: direct tangible costs, indirect tangible costs and intangible costs. Direct tangible costs are actual spending on goods and services required as a direct result of violence (e.g. the cost of police interventions). Indirect tangible costs are not actual expenditure, but opportunity costs, that is to say loss of earnings, profits and economic value (e.g. due to illness, invalidity or death). Intangible costs refer to costs resulting from violence to which it is not possible to assign a monetary value directly (such as loss of quality of life due to pain, suffering and anxiety for example).

How high are the estimated total annual costs of intimate partner violence?

In total, tangible costs as a consequence of intimate partner violence amount to approximately CHF 164 million per year. This represents the lower end of the range of the costs estimated. This is based on the relatively low prevalence rates from Swiss studies (Killias et al. 2005 and 2012)¹ in comparison with international studies. If higher rates based on foreign studies are assumed for the calculations, the total tangible costs amount to around CHF 287 million per year.

It should further be noted that these calculations do not include all cost areas. Owing to the lack of data, it is not possible to state the costs for important areas such as civil proceedings, child and adult protection services, support services for affected children, nor is it possible to quantify the healthcare costs for affected children and for men's mental health. The total annual

¹ Prevalence rate: Number of people in Switzerland affected by intimate partner violence.

tangible costs of some CHF 164 to 287 million that can be attributed to the consequences of intimate partner violence represent a substantial sum of money. They are equivalent to the annual expenditure of a medium-sized Swiss city, such as Uster, Thun, Köniz, Schaffhausen, Neuenburg, Sitten, Chur or Fribourg for example.

In addition to the annual tangible costs, it is also necessary to take into account lifelong intangible costs amounting to almost CHF 2 billion arising because of the degraded quality of life due to the pain, suffering and anxiety caused by violence.

What is the distribution of the costs across the individual areas?

The total tangible costs of CHF 164 million break down into the individual cost areas investigated as follows:

Direct tangible costs:

Costs for police and justice system:	CHF 49 million (30%)
Costs for support services:	CHF 37 million (23%)
Costs for healthcare:	CHF 35 million (21%)
Costs for specialist/coordination agencies	CHF 3 million (2%)

Indirect tangible costs:

Lost productivity	CHF 40 million (24%)
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1. AIMS OF THE STUDY

Intimate partner violence is a widespread phenomenon in Switzerland. 39% of violent crimes recorded by the police relate to violence in the domestic arena, with intimate partner violence accounting for around three-quarters of these. A report of the Federal Council on the subject of intimate partner violence was published in May 2009 (Bericht des Bundesrats 2009). The report sets out the action the federal government is taking to combat violence in couple relationships. Conducting a study into the costs of intimate partner violence is one of the twenty action points listed in the report.

Intimate partner violence causes above all great suffering on the part of the women, men and children affected which is extremely difficult to quantify in monetary terms. In addition, however, it also creates high costs for society as a whole. **The present study commissioned by the Federal Office for Gender Equality (FOGE) sets out the costs to society arising from intimate partner violence.**

To date there has only been one relatively rough cost estimate for Switzerland produced in 1998 (Godenzi and Yodanis 1998). The legal and institutional situation in Switzerland has changed greatly since the Godenzi and Yodanis report, for instance in the officialization of the offences in marriages and partner relationships, the establishment of cantonal intervention agencies, and new legislation at both the federal and cantonal level. The present study represents the first attempt to systematically examine the available data on the social costs of intimate partner violence and, where the quality of the data permits, to extrapolate the figures to the whole of Switzerland. **This study further provides an overview of the status of the statistical data on intimate partner violence and highlights the areas where action is required to systematically collect data on intimate partner violence in Switzerland.**

Definition of intimate partner violence

"Intimate partner violence" includes all acts of violence in couple relationships, both those directed against women and those directed against men. It encompasses physical, sexual and psychological violence in marriage and partner relationships, whether cohabiting or not, whether the couple is not separated, is in the process of separation, or has already separated. The definition includes violence in both heterosexual and homosexual partnerships. Children who are directly or indirectly affected by the violence are also included in the definition.

2. METHODOLOGY AND DATA

The costs resulting from violence can be divided into three broad categories (see figure 1):

- › **Direct, tangible costs**
- › **Indirect, tangible costs**
- › **Intangible costs**

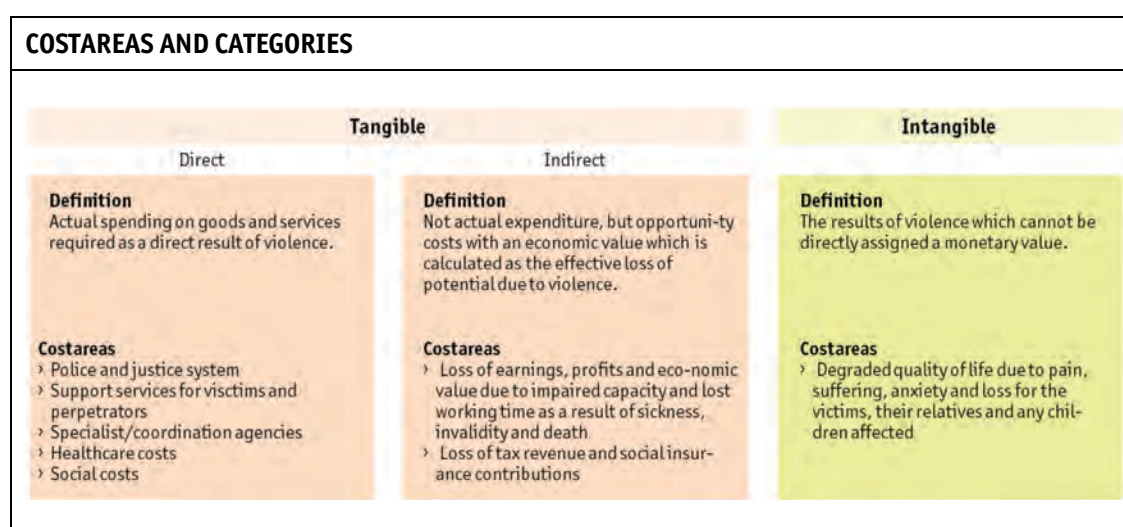


Figure 1 In-house illustration.

Calculating the social costs of violence in couple relationships is no easy task. To begin with, the whole subject is an extremely complex one. This study shows the many different areas where costs arise as a consequence of intimate partner violence. Secondly, the very **heterogeneous nature of the data** in the individual cost areas (see table 1) precludes a uniform approach. The data available for each cost area first had to be examined in detail in order to determine an appropriate way of estimating the associated costs.

Good data were available for police interventions, advice centres and shelters as well as the coordination services provided by the federal government and the cantons. With respect to criminal proceedings, although there are number of gaps in the data, it was possible to obtain specific data for our survey from an additional study (Baumann 2013) carried out by the Institute of Criminology at the University of Zurich (Isabelle Baumann MLaw and Prof. M. Killias). There are also gaps in the data available in the areas of healthcare and social transfers, and for calculating lost productivity. Based on various assumptions, however, it was nevertheless possible to esti-

mate the costs for these areas – which varied quite widely in some cases. No data were available relating to the costs of civil proceedings, child and adult protection services, support services for affected children, and healthcare for affected children. No costs were therefore calculated for these areas, only a qualitative description based on interviews with experts was provided.

OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA	
Cost areas	Usability for estimating costs
Police and justice system	
Police interventions	++
Criminal proceedings	+
Penal system	+
Civil proceedings	-
Child and adult protection	-
Support services	
Advice centres for victims and perpetrators of violence	+
Shelters for women and men	++
Compensation and redress	++
Emergency aid, long-term assistance	+/-
Learning programmes	+
Support services for affected children	-
Specialist/coordination agencies	
Federal government	+
Cantons	+
Healthcare costs	
Physical consequences	+/-
Psychological consequences	+/-
Impact on the health of affected children	-
Daily sickness benefits	+/-
Lost productivity	
Due to illness	+/-
Due to reduced working or unemployment	-
Due to incapacity for work	+/-
Due to death	++
Loss of quality of life	
Loss of quality of life	+/-

Table 1 Key: Rating of the usability of the data for the purposes of our study: ++ extensive data from national or cantonal statistics (very usable); + data from several cantons or one-off surveys (usable); +/- only limited data from the cantons or from Swiss and foreign studies (usable, but many assumptions required for calculations); - insufficient data.

Important assumptions used when estimating costs:

- › **Prevalence rates:** When estimating consequential healthcare costs and lost productivity, it is not enough to know the officially recorded incidents of intimate partner violence, as is the case with police interventions or criminal proceedings for example. Information about the extent of the problem in the population as a whole is also required. The most recent data on the prevalence of violence in couple relationships in Switzerland are found in the study by Killias et al. (2012). According to this study, during the last 12 months around 0.91% of women and 0.35% of men have experienced physical or sexual violence by their current partner or ex-partner in heterosexual or homosexual relationships. Foreign studies using a comparable methodology report prevalence rates of around 2.5 times these figures. Generally, the available Swiss and foreign studies have very different findings with regard to the extent of intimate partner violence. In the present study, therefore, in addition to the prevalence rate based on the study by Killias et al. (2012), a second, higher prevalence rate based on foreign studies was used in order to form a low and a high scenario.
- › **Differentiation between intimate partner violence and domestic violence:** In many cost areas, the data relate to domestic violence in general, and not specifically to intimate partner violence. In order to calculate the costs of intimate partner violence, it is necessary in such cases to estimate the proportion of intimate partner violence in the total figures for domestic violence. This proportion varies in each cost area, ranging between 70 and 80% according to various Swiss surveys. A fixed proportion of 75% was used for all cost areas in the present study. In other words, it is assumed that on average intimate partner violence accounts for 75% of domestic violence.

3. FINDINGS

3.1. TOTAL COSTS

Direct and indirect tangible costs

The table below shows an overview of direct and indirect tangible costs for the individual cost areas in 2011. In total, the tangible costs amount to approximately **CHF 164 million per year**. This represents the **lower limit of the estimated costs**. In the areas of healthcare and lost productivity, where we used a high and a low scenario for our estimate, only the values from the low scenario were used for the overview below.

Furthermore, it was not possible to calculate any costs in some relevant areas because of the lack of adequate data. In particular, there is no information available about the court costs for criminal and civil proceedings, nor for the costs of children and adult protection agencies, immigration agencies for matters of residency rights, support services for affected children and the consequential healthcare costs for these children (see Table 1). These areas are likely to incur relatively high costs, probably in the order of tens of millions.

In the case of lost productivity, we have also limited ourselves to quantifying output lost as a result of sickness, invalidity and death. Owing to the lack of data, in the lost productivity figures it was not possible to take account of the fact that certain people can no longer continue in paid employment for other reasons (e.g. as a result of separation from their partner) and consequently receive unemployment or social welfare benefits.

This overview does not include social transfers (such as daily allowances during sick leave or pensions) as these are not costs in the strictest sense, i.e. no resources are consumed.

SUMMARY OF TANGIBLE COSTS (LOWER LIMIT)		
Cost areas	Costs in CHF m per year (2011, rounded)	Proportion of total costs
Police and justice system		
Police	11	7%
Public prosecution service	16	10%
<i>Courts</i>	-	-
Penal system	22	14%
<i>Civil proceedings</i>	-	-
Total police & justice system	49	30%
Support services		
Advice centres for victims	7.5	5%
Advice centres for perpetrators	0.5	0.5%
Advice centres for victims and perpetrators	3	2%
Emergency aid	7	4%
Compensation	1.5	1%
Shelters	17	10%
<i>Support services for children</i>	-	-
Support services for perpetrators (learning programmes)	1	0.5%
Total support services	37	23%
Specialist/coordination agencies		
Federal level	1	1%
Cantonal level	2	1%
Total specialist/coordination agencies	3	2%
Health		
Physical consequences	15	9%
Psychological consequences (only women)	20	12%
<i>Children</i>	-	-
Total health	35	21%
Lost productivity		
Sickness (paid work)	17	10%
Sickness (unpaid work)	17	11%
Incapacity for work (paid work)	2	1%
Incapacity for work (unpaid work)	2	1%
Death (paid work)	1	0%
Death (unpaid work)	1	1%
Total lost productivity	40	24%
Overall total for tangible costs (excluding social transfers)	164	100%

Table 2 The values in the individual areas are rounded. The subtotal per cost area may therefore amount to a slightly different value in some cases. In the case of consequential healthcare costs and lost productivity, only the values from the "low scenario" (lower cost limit) were used.

The following figure shows the share of the individual cost areas of the total tangible costs of CHF 164 million. At 30%, the costs for the police and justice system (CHF 49 million) account for the highest share, followed by lost productivity (CHF 40 million) with 24% of total tangible costs.

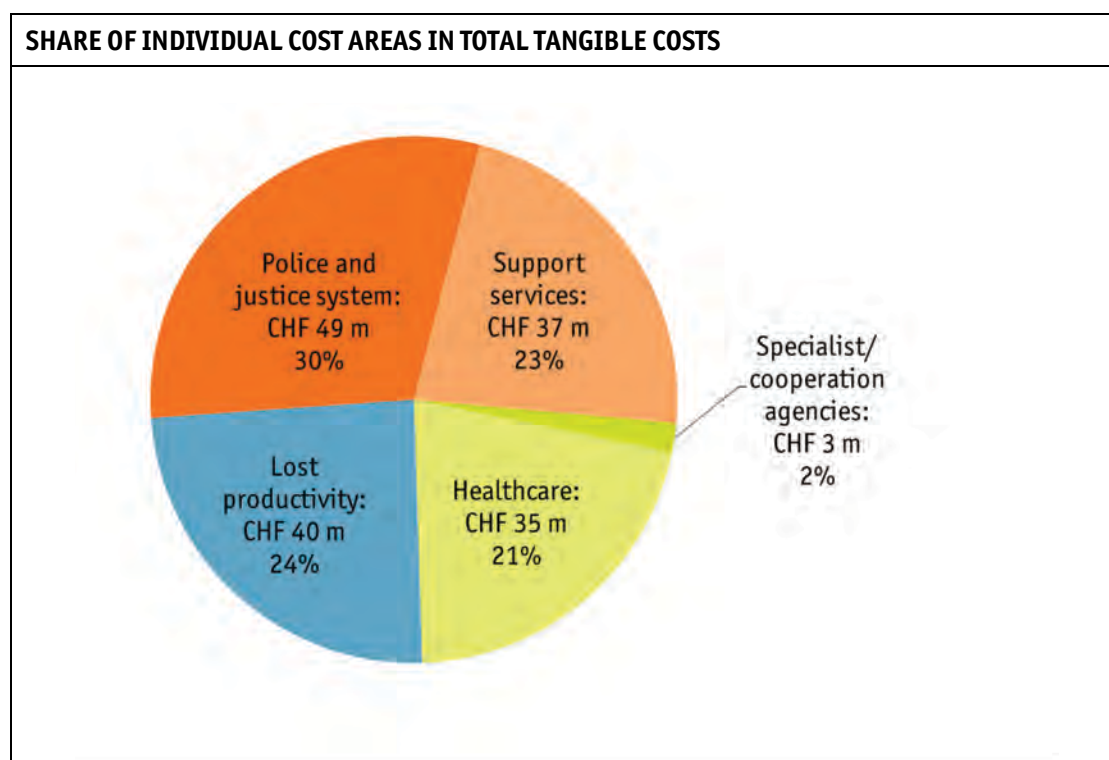


Figure 2 In-house illustration.

Owing to the unreliability of the data regarding the extent of intimate partner violence in the total population (prevalence), we have formed a high and a low scenario for the purposes of estimating consequential healthcare costs and lost productivity. **If higher rates based on foreign studies are assumed instead of the relatively low prevalence rates from Swiss studies (Kilias et al. 2005 and 2012), the total tangible costs amount to CHF 287 million per year.**

These costs are around 1.8 times higher than those shown in the table (lower limit of tangible costs).

The total annual tangible costs of some CHF 164 to 287 million that can be attributed to the consequences of intimate partner violence represent a substantial sum of money. They are equivalent to the annual expenditure of a medium-sized Swiss city².

Tangible and intangible costs

In addition to the tangible costs to society, individuals affected by violence also suffer **impairment of their quality of life due to pain, anxiety, illness and incapacity** which is very difficult to express in monetary terms. As in other foreign cost studies, an attempt was nevertheless made to monetize this degradation in quality of life in order to show the relevance of these intangible costs, also referred to as "human and emotional costs". The table below shows the total costs of intimate partner violence comprising both tangible and intangible costs. **However, the figures in the two cost categories must not be added together because the tangible costs are annual costs (for 2011) and the intangible costs are "lifelong" costs.** Although the intangible costs relate to people who were victims of intimate partner violence in one year (2011), the costs of degraded quality of life are not stated just for this one year, but rather for all the years in which the victim cannot live a full and healthy life as a result of the violence experienced.

TOTAL COSTS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE COSTS)	
	Costs in CHF m
Direct tangible costs (police, justice system, support services, coordination, healthcare)	124-186
Indirect tangible costs (lost productivity)	40-102
Total tangible costs (annual costs for 2011)	164-287
Intangible costs (lifelong costs)	1,969

Table 3

In addition to annual tangible costs of around CHF 164–287 million, (lifelong) intangible costs of intimate partner violence amounting to almost CHF 2 billion must be taken into account.

² E.g. Uster, Thun, Köniz, Schaffhausen, Neuenburg, Sitten, Chur or Fribourg. Cf. Swiss financial statistics: "Finanzstatistik des Bundes: Ausgaben Städte und Kantonshauptorte im Vergleich, 2011. Laufender Aufwand und Investitionsausgaben."

3.2. POLICE AND JUSTICE SYSTEM

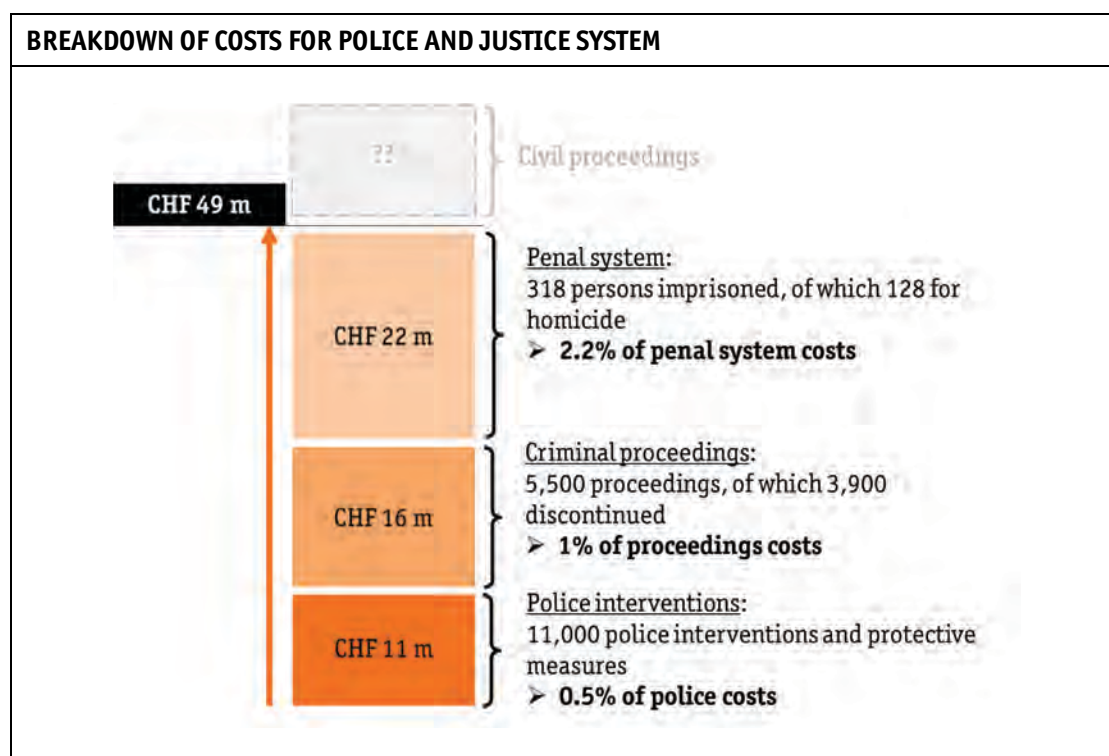


Figure 3 In-house illustration.

Police interventions

A police intervention in a case of intimate partner violence involves recording the report received, deploying and calling out officers to the scene, intervention measures at the scene (making investigations, questioning, gathering information), as well as documenting the incident in writing and reporting it to various institutions. Some cases also involve protection measures, including removal orders, restraining orders or prohibition of contact, taking into custody or committal to a psychiatric unit. **According to information provided by cantonal police, almost 11,000 interventions took place in 2011 as a consequence of intimate partner violence, a good sixth of which necessitated protection measures³. Overall, police interventions and protection measures resulted in costs of around CHF 11 million (lower limit) to CHF 17 million (upper limit) in 2011.** Of the expenditure of the cantons on policing⁴ totalling approx-

³ Many cantons only record removal orders in their statistics.

⁴ The cantonal police expenditure figures include the costs of regular police officers and auxiliary police staff, harbour police, border guards and other specialist police units funded by the public purse, as well as the police academy, but they exclude costs for road safety (cf.

imately CHF 2.8 billion⁵ in 2011, the costs attributable to intimate partner violence account for 0.4% to 0.6%.

When interpreting the costs calculated, it should be borne in mind that only a small proportion of incidents associated with intimate partner violence result in police intervention. The majority of cases/incidents are not reported to the police, and consequently do not give rise to any (direct) police costs.

Criminal proceedings

In addition to the victim and the accused, the police, the public prosecution service and, when charges are brought, the courts are usually involved in criminal proceedings. Criminal charges are brought either by a natural person, the police or the authorities. The public prosecution service opens the proceedings, which can then continue in various ways depending on the particular circumstances (e.g. close the case, issue a court order, commit for trial). **In 2011 there were an estimated 5,531 criminal proceedings in connection with domestic violence, 3,882 of which were discontinued. We estimate that the costs to the public prosecution service for criminal proceedings in relation to domestic violence amount to CHF 21 million, of which around CHF 16 million is attributable to cases involving intimate partner violence. The total costs of the cantons for criminal proceedings in 2011 were CHF 1,582 million⁶.** The costs of the public prosecution service estimated here in connection with intimate partner violence account for a good 1% of this. Owing to the lack of data, these estimated costs do not include the costs of courts. Only approximate estimates of the court fees, which cover the cost of the courts, were calculated.

Penal system

The figures for the penal system include, for example, fines, community service or conditional and unconditional prison sentences. Custodial sentences as a result of intimate partner violence are rare, but can nevertheless incur substantial costs. **Some 318 people were imprisoned in 2011 because of domestic violence. Overall we estimate the costs to the penal system arising from domestic violence to be CHF 29.8 million, and CHF 22.4 million from intimate**

<http://www.idheap.ch/srscspcp.nsf/980ea704be971628c12576ce004e684f/ec75bc59cf84ea36c12576be000a426d?OpenDocument&lng=de>, retrieved 17.4.2013).

⁵ Detailed analysis of the public financial statistics, cantonal expenditure on policing (Swiss financial statistics, G40.7.5_Ausgaben_Funk_Kantone_KK_insg_d.xls, retrieved 17.04.2013), available on request at <http://www.efv.admin.ch/e/dokumentation/finanzstatistik/berichterstattung.php>.

⁶ Detailed analysis of the public financial statistics, cantonal expenditure on policing (Swiss financial statistics, G40.7.5_Ausgaben_Funk_Kantone_KK_insg_d.xls, retrieved 17.04.2013), available on request at <http://www.efv.admin.ch/e/dokumentation/finanzstatistik/berichterstattung.php>.

partner violence respectively. High costs arise in particular when people are imprisoned for homicide and attempted homicide. In 2011 this applied to 128 prisoners, costing a total of CHF 13.8 million across all penal facilities. High costs also arise for people imprisoned for rape. However, the number of these is presumably overestimated in the figures available because, owing to the greater difficulty in obtaining evidence, conviction rates for rape in couple relationships are lower than for rape outside such relationships. In 2011 the total costs of the penal system for cantons amounted to CHF 1,038 million⁷. Costs attributable to intimate partner violence account for approximately 2.2% of the total costs.

Civil proceedings

For the purposes of the present study, civil proceedings include preventive or precautionary violence prevention measures as well as other measures designed to protect marriages, children and adults⁸, as well as matters involving the residency rights of foreign nationals. All areas incur substantial costs for the agencies concerned, but the lack of data makes these impossible to estimate (see Table 1).

⁷ Detailed analysis of the public financial statistics, cantonal expenditure on policing (Swiss financial statistics, G40.7.5_Ausgaben_Funk_Kantone_KK_insg_d.xls, retrieved 17.04.2013), available on request at <http://www.efv.admin.ch/e/dokumentation/finanzstatistik/berichterstattung.php>. See also the media release of the federal government dated 3 July 2013 (unofficial English translation): "The costs of the Swiss penal system amount to approximately one billion francs a year. It is not possible to quantify the costs more precisely, as the Federal Council states in its report published on Wednesday. This is because the penal system falls within the remit of the cantons and the federal government does not keep track of the expenditure of the cantons."

⁸ Incidents of violence involving children – and this is the case in around 50-60% of intimate partner violence incidents – are reported to the child and adult protection agencies (KESB). These or other agencies (e.g. social services) examine the case, and these agencies take protective measures where appropriate. In serious cases of domestic violence in which children are at such high risk that they can no longer live at home, costs for accommodating these children elsewhere are also incurred.

3.3. SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE

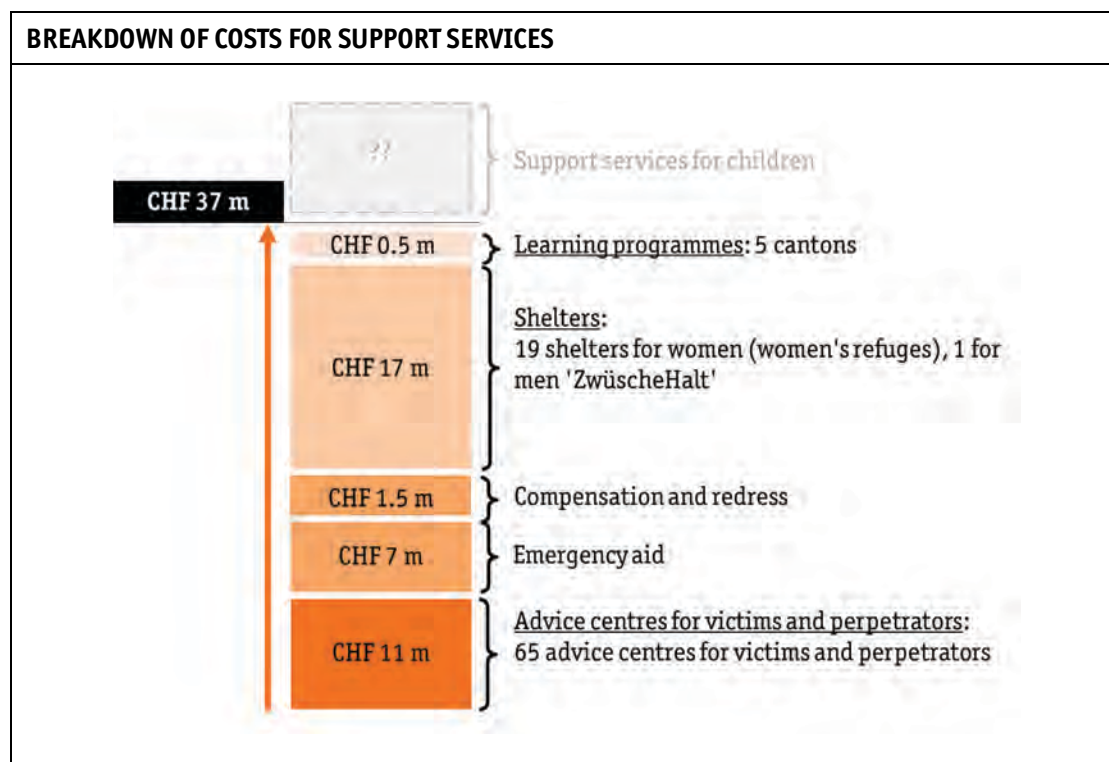


Figure 4 In-house illustration.

Advice centres

In Switzerland a total of **65 centres offer advice and counselling to victims and perpetrators of violence**. These are low-threshold and professional first points of contact for victims and perpetrators and those around them. Examples are victim assistance centres ('Opferhilfe'), first point of contact, advice and counselling centres for domestic violence, regional centres of the 143 crisis hotline ('Die Dargebotene Hand') which provide advice for victims of domestic violence, or counselling centres for adults and young people who are perpetrators of violence. **The total costs of these support services in connection with domestic violence amount to around CHF 14.8 million, or CHF 11.1 million for intimate partner violence respectively.** The majority of the facilities (52%) are aimed solely at the victims of violence, 16 offer counselling both to victims and perpetrators, and 15 are aimed solely at perpetrators.

Shelters

At times of acute risk, both male and female victims can seek refuge in shelters with their children. These shelters offer temporary accommodation and protection as well as advice. **In Switzerland there are 19 women's refuges and one facility for men in German-speaking Switzerland ('ZwüscheHalt').** The total operating costs of Swiss women's refuges are around CHF 16.5 million. 75% of these costs are funded by the public purse, in particular by the victim assistance organization Opferhilfe, the cantons and the municipalities. The remaining costs are funded by foundations, churches, women's organisations, schools, companies and private donations. Added to this is CHF 120,000 for the ZwüscheHalt men's shelter. **In total, the costs of shelters for victims of intimate partner violence amount to approximately CHF 16.6 million.**

Compensation and emergency aid

According to the Federal Act on Assistance to Victims of Crime (Victims Assistance Act, OHG), the public purse should provide compensation and redress as well as emergency aid for the victims of intimate partner violence. Compensation and redress payments are usually made by the cantonal compensation offices or by the cantonal victim assistance advice centres. **The total annual compensation and redress payments for victims of intimate partner violence are around CHF 1.5 million.** Victim assistance centres and women's refuges also provide emergency aid and long-term support for the victims of violent crimes. This includes costs for lawyers and emergency accommodation as well as for medical or psychological help. **According to our estimates, in 2011 the cantonal compensation offices spent around CHF 8.8 million on emergency aid for the victims of domestic violence, and CHF 6.6 million on the victims of intimate partner violence respectively.** These figures do not include the cost of emergency accommodation, as this has already been taken into account in the figures for shelters.

Learning programmes (support services for the perpetrators of violence)

Five cantons offer learning programmes for people who resort to violence within a couple relationship. **The costs for the learning programmes in these five cantons come to approximately CHF 680,000.**

Support services for affected children

Children are involved in 50-60% of cases of intimate partner violence. As a rule, all cantons have low-threshold access points that specialize in protecting children and young people, i.e. also in cases of domestic violence. These agencies are contacted primarily by people in the child's envi-

ronment (teachers, neighbours, family members and also parents). Owing to the lack of data, it is not possible to quantify the costs of these agencies (see Table 1). The study only cites by way of example the costs of two specific projects for children affected by domestic violence in the Canton of Zurich (the 'KidsCare' and 'KidsPunkt' projects), as well as one initiative in schools (cantonal delegate for "Violence in schools"), likewise in the Canton of Zurich.

3.4. SPECIALIST/COORDINATION AGENCIES

Costs arise at the federal and cantonal level for supporting the cooperation of agencies and projects active in the prevention and combating of domestic violence and for coordinating their activities.

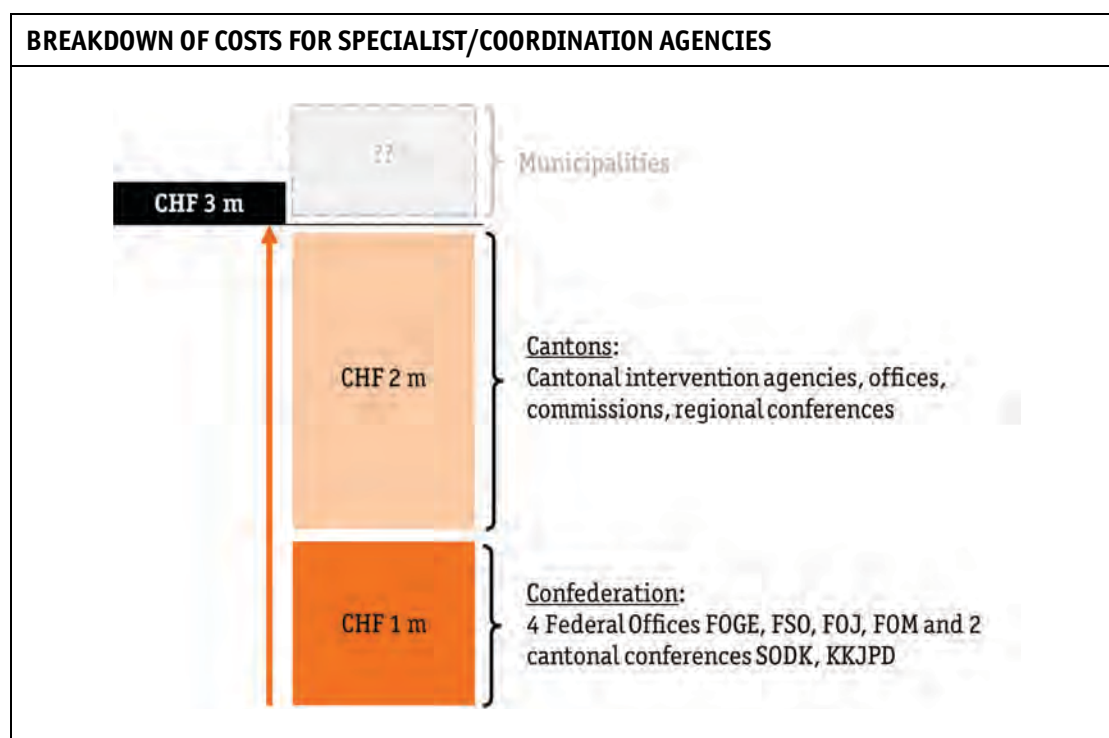


Figure 5 In-house illustration.

Federal government

Along with their coordinating function, the Federal Offices (including FÖGE, FSÖ, FSIO, FÖJ, FÖM) focus on supplying data and statistics, as well as on producing studies and reports, national progress reviews and evaluations – usually in response to parliamentary motions. The Federal Offices also organize national conferences on the subject of preventing and combating domestic violence. In addition to the Federal Offices, the cantonal conferences (Swiss Crime Prevention SCP of the Conference of Cantonal Justice and Police Directors KKJPD, and the Swiss Liaison Centre Committee for the Victims of Crime Act SVK-OHG of the Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Social Affairs SÖDK) also perform a coordinating role. **Overall, the four Federal Offices and the two cantonal conferences give rise to cooperation and coordination costs of around CHF 1.2 million for domestic violence and of CHF 0.9 million for intimate partner violence respectively.**

Cantons

Most cantons have specific offices or delegates for domestic violence that perform a coordinating function. Some cantons have commissions or round tables on domestic violence that serve for networking between the various professionals and agencies working in this field. There are also regional conferences and ones addressing specific areas, for instance intervention agencies for domestic violence or victim assistance centres. The cantonal intervention agencies for domestic violence play a key role. Alongside their coordinating function, they also work to raise awareness and provide information and training. **Total costs at the cantonal level for 2011 amount to around CHF 2.8 million for domestic violence, and approximately CHF 2.1 million for intimate partner violence respectively.**

3.5. HEALTHCARE COSTS

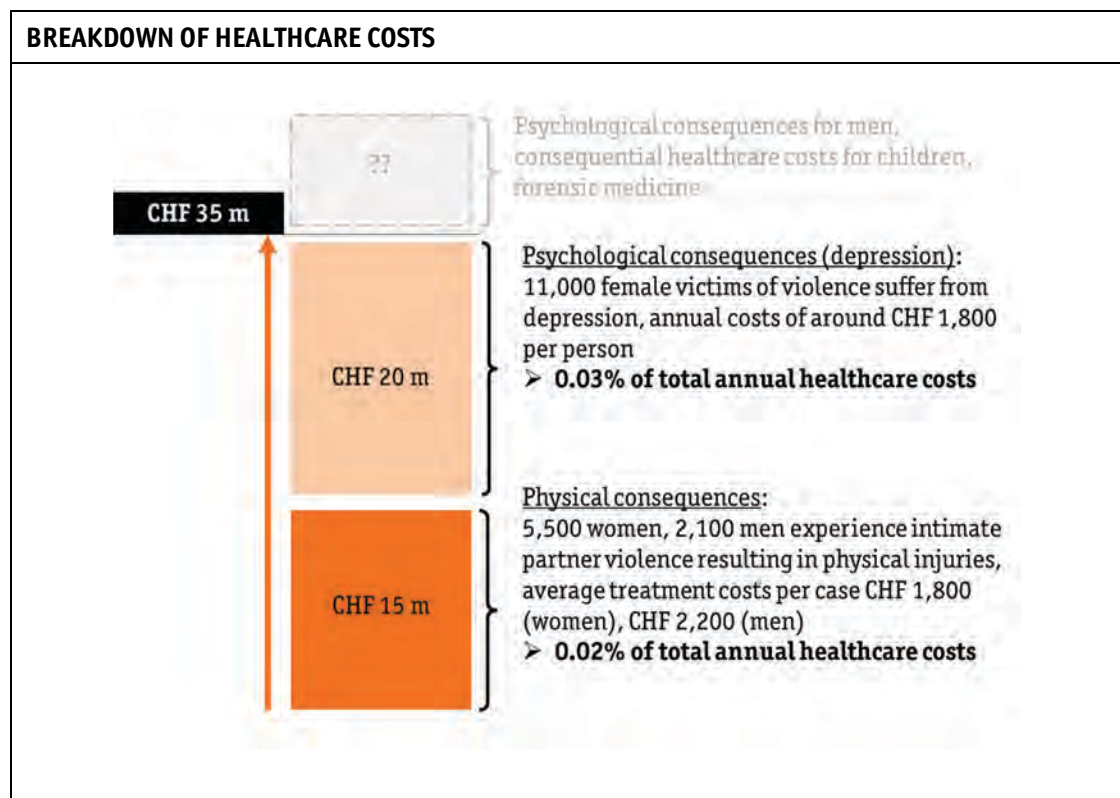


Figure 6 In-house illustration.

Physical consequences

We have used data from the Central Office for Statistics in Accident Insurance (SSUV, see separate box) for estimating the costs of medical treatment for the direct physical consequences of intimate partner violence. According to SSUV statistics, the average annual treatment costs per violent incident in domestic situations during leisure time is CHF 1,800 for women and CHF 2,200 for men. **Based on the prevalence study by Killias et al. 2012 ("low" scenario), it is estimated that 5,500 women and 2,100 men are affected by violence in couple relationships that has physical consequences. The total treatment costs therefore amount to approximately CHF 15 million (10 million for women and approx. 5 million for men). If one uses the higher prevalence rates from foreign studies, the total costs come to around CHF 39 million (26.3 million for women and 12.8 million for men).**

Accident insurance statistics

The statistics provided by the Central Office for Statistics in Accident Insurance (SSUV) are used to estimate the consequential healthcare and social costs and lost productivity. They relate to everyone who has mandatory insurance under the Federal Accident Insurance Act (UVG) with the Swiss National Accident Insurance Fund SUVA, or with another public accident insurance fund, a private insurance company or private sickness fund. This applies to all employees in Switzerland, approximately 4.4 million people in 2011. In the statistics, incidents of domestic violence are allocated to the causal category of "Fights, quarrels, assaults, criminal acts" and the location of the incident is defined as being "at home" or "on private premises".

Incidents of violence that lead to injuries and consequently require medical treatment are reported to the accident insurers. The accident is usually reported by the employer, and injuries are documented by reports from doctors and hospitals. The collected accident insurance statistics therefore only include people who have suffered serious injuries, that is to say injuries requiring medical attention. Just over 60% of the victims of violent incidents that take place at home and during leisure time are women, and just under 40% are men. The proportion of men is presumably overestimated in the SSUV statistics – according to police crime statistics, 76% of the victims of domestic violence are female (BFS 2012).

Psychological consequences

The annual costs of treatment for the psychological effects of intimate partner violence were also estimated. Women who experience violence often suffer from depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, alcoholism, drug addiction and suicidal tendencies. It is however unclear whether experiencing violence is the real cause of the condition (causality). Moreover, these conditions often occur together (co-morbidity). Owing to the uncertainties surrounding causality and co-morbidity, only the consequential costs for depression have been included in the present cost estimates. **Approximately 11,000 (low scenario) to 28,800 (high scenario) women affected by intimate partner violence suffer from depression. The annual costs of medical treatment for these women amount to CHF 20–52 million⁹.**

Taken together with the healthcare costs for treating the physical consequences, the total costs amount to between CHF 35 million (low scenario) and CHF 91 million (high sce-

⁹ It was not possible to quantify the costs of men affected as only studies relating to women are available.

nario). This represents 0.05% and 0.15% respectively of total healthcare costs of CHF 64,633 million in 2011.

Forensic medicine

Forensic institutes examine the victims of homicide and other offences in connection with intimate partner violence to establish the time and cause of death as well as to assess injuries and secure evidence. There are a total of seven forensic institutes in Switzerland. In the present study, the costs of these in relation to intimate partner violence could only be set out on the basis of one institute and they were not included in the cost estimates.

Impact on the health of children

Various research findings confirm that witnessing violence between parents has a significant impact on child development. Symptoms range from sleep and eating disorders, bed-wetting, frequent illnesses, speech problems, withdrawal, developmental disorders, abnormal behaviour and problems at school, right through to suicidal thoughts and attempted suicide. However, the available data does not allow us to estimate the number of children who receive short or long-term medical or psychiatric care as a consequence of intimate partner violence and the resulting costs of such care (see Table 1).

3.6. SOCIAL COSTS (TRANSFERS)

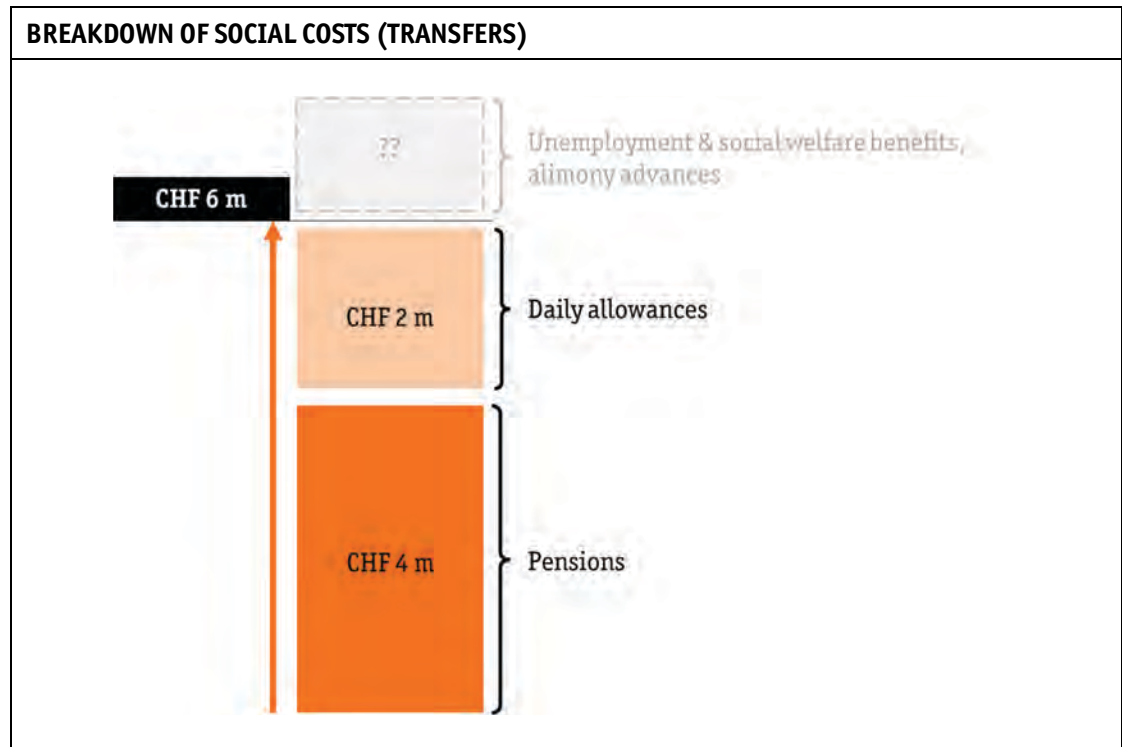


Figure 7 In-house illustration.

The social costs resulting from intimate partner violence include all payments made by social security agencies to those who are affected by the consequences of this violence. This includes sick pay in lieu of wages when off work for lengthy periods, pensions in the case of permanent incapacity for work, unemployment benefit if a person loses their job, and social welfare benefits, for example if following separation people are dependent on financial support or alimony advances. These social costs are not costs in the strictest sense, but rather transfers. No resources are consumed in the case of transfers. Owing to the limited data available, we can only estimate sick pay and pensions on the basis of SSUV statistics. It can be assumed, however, that much higher transfer costs arise in the other areas, especially for social welfare benefits.

Daily allowances

The average costs of daily allowances paid out by accident insurance companies in cases of domestic violence amount to approximately CHF 2 million a year, and to around CHF 1.5 million for intimate partner violence.

Pensions

Every year insurance companies providing accident, old age & survivors and disability insurance set aside a total of CHF 5.5 million in capital for pension payments to men and women who are no longer able to work as a result of violent incidents that happen on private premises during their leisure time. Given that 75% of domestic violence relates to cases of intimate partner violence, these costs come to around CHF 4.1. million.

3.7. LOST PRODUCTIVITY

Productivity is lost when individuals affected by violence can no longer continue to work. That is to say, they can no longer contribute to productivity, either at all, or only partially or temporarily. This applies to both paid and unpaid work (household, childcare and caring for relatives). In the case of long-term complete or partial incapacity for paid work, tax revenues and social security contributions are also lost.

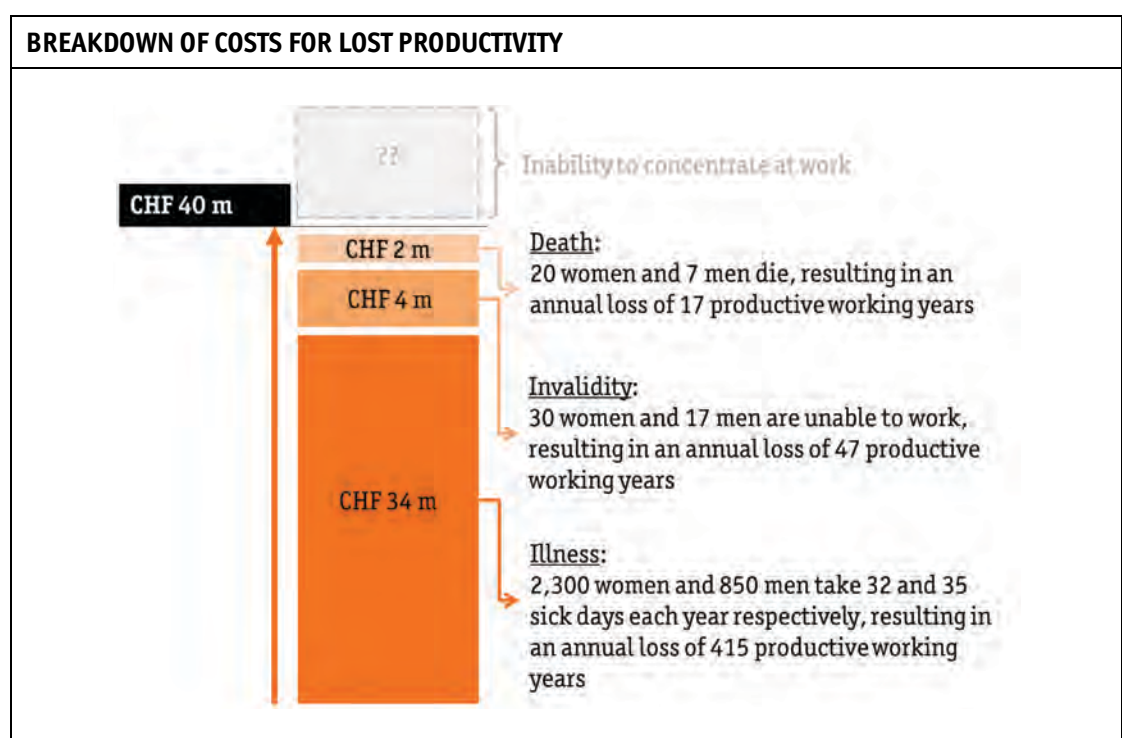


Figure 8 In-house illustration.

Losses due to illness

According to our estimates, annually around 2,300 women and 850 men (low scenario) take sick leave as a result of intimate partner violence. In the high scenario, which is based on prevalence rates abroad, it is estimated that 6,100 women and 2,200 men receive daily allowances during sick leave. **In total, the costs of sickness-related lost productivity as a consequence of intimate partner violence amount to between around CHF 34.5 million (low scenario) and CHF 90 million (high scenario).**

Losses due to invalidity

Each year a total of approximately 30 women and 17 men become incapable of working as a result of intimate partner violence. **In the scenario based on prevalence rates abroad, this figure is estimated at 120 people. Accordingly, the costs of invalidity-related lost productivity come to between around CHF 3.8 million (low scenario) and CHF 10 million (high scenario) a year.**

Losses due to death

In 2011, 27 homicides in Switzerland were attributable to domestic violence. In 20 cases the victim was female, and in seven cases male (BFS 2012). In total the Swiss economy consequently lost around 17 productive working years (women: 11, men: 6 years). **Overall, the costs of lost productivity as a consequence of intimate partner violence leading to death amount to approximately CHF 1.7 million a year.**

3.8. LOSS OF QUALITY OF LIFE

For its victims, intimate partner violence leads to great suffering as a result of stress, anxiety, pain, illness and disability, and consequently to an enormous degradation in their quality of life. These are also referred to as the "human and emotional costs". These costs are also considered intangible costs as they are very difficult to express in monetary terms. Nevertheless, the loss of quality of life as a consequence of intimate partner violence should not simply be ignored. To monetize these intangible costs, firstly the "disability-adjusted life years" (DALY) resulting from intimate partner violence are calculated. DALYs quantify how many years of life in a population are lost due to certain illnesses/conditions as a result of premature death (years of life lost, YLL) or as a result of illness or disability (years lost due to disability, YLD). **In total, 20,000 years of life are lost in Switzerland as a result of intimate partner violence (only women¹⁰). If one assigns a value of CHF 100,000 to one year of life lost, this gives a total cost of CHF 2,000 million.**

¹⁰ It was only possible to calculate the costs for women since figures for the violence-related proportion of individual conditions are only available for women, and it must be assumed that there is a wide variance between the violence-related proportions of a condition for men and women.

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