

Domestic violence crimes between 2008-2011 in Turkey

2008 ve 2011 yılları arasında Türkiye'de aile içi şiddet suçları

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SUMMARY

Objective: The purpose of this study; by collecting official data from the Ministry of Justice, analysing trends in time and differences among cities and regions.

Method: Criminal data was taken from the criminal courts via the Ministry of Justice between 2008 and 2011. Population data was obtained for the Turkish statistical Institute. The data obtained in this context, was analysed and presented with Geographic Information System (GIS).

Results: The highest prevalence of domestic violence has been determined in three central Anatolian cities. Spatial analysis of the domestic violence showed that prevalence values were higher in the northern part of Turkey compared with the eastern part. Domestic violence prevalence values were low in big cities such as Istanbul and Ankara.

Conclusions: Our results demonstrated that more developed regions of Turkey had higher frequency of domestic violence. This can be explained by the reporting domestic violence can be higher in more developed regions.

Keywords: domestic violence, violence, epidemiology

ÖZET

Amaç: Bu çalışmanın amacı; Adalet Bakanlığı'nın 2008-2011 yıllarına ait resmi verilerine göre Türkiye genelinde aile içi şiddet suçlarının; iller, bölgeler ve yıllar içerisindeki değişimini analiz etmektir.

Yöntem: Bu çalışmada Adalet Bakanlığı'ndan temin edilen 2008-2011 yıllarına ait ağır ceza mahkemelerinde aile içi şiddet suçları nedeniyle açılmış olan dava verileri ve Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu'nun 2008-2011 yılı nüfus verileri kullanılmıştır. Bu kapsamda elde edilen veriler Coğrafik Bilgi Sistemi (CBS) teknolojisinden faydalanılarak değerlendirilmiş ve sonuçlar yine CBS'nin harita tasarım ve sunum araçları ile görselleştirilmiştir.

Bulgular: En yüksek aile içi şiddet prevalans değerleri Isparta, Kayseri, Elazığ'da görülmüştür. Konumsal analizlere göre aile içi şiddet sıklığı Türkiye'nin batı kesiminde Türkiye'nin doğusuna göre daha yüksek olduğu gözlenmiştir. İstanbul ve Ankara gibi büyük şehirlerde aile içi şiddet sıklığı diğer şehirlere oranla daha düşüktür.

Sonuç: Sonuçlarımız Türkiye'nin gelişmiş bölgelerinde, daha az gelişmiş bölgelerine kıyasla, aile içi şiddet sıklığının daha yüksek olduğunu ortaya koymuştur. Ancak daha gelişmiş bölgelerde şiddet olaylarının resmi makamlara intikal etme olasılığının daha fazla olmasının, sonuçlarımızdaki paradoksu açıklayabilecek güçlü bir etmen olabileceğini düşünüyoruz.

Anahtar sözcükler: aile içi şiddet, şiddet, epidemiyoloji

INTRODUCTION

Violence as the leading cause of death in people aged 15-44 is one of the major public health problem worldwide. There is no doubt that women and children are more vulnerable to domestic violence. In addition, the most important factor in being victims of domestic violence for women and children is dependency for emotionally and economically.¹

Worldwide, 35% of women are abused by their partners or other than their partners physically or sexually. Overall, 38% of femicide murderers are partners. Women, whose abused by their partners physically or sexually are suffering from major health problems at higher rates. For example, women exposed to violence have 16% more low birth weight babies, also, abortion and depression risk is almost twice. Moreover, availavale evidence showed that the likelihood of developing alcohol use disorders in women who have experienced violence is 2.3 times, depression or anxiety is 2.6 times higher.¹

Prime Ministry Human Rights Commission "Honor Killings Report" stated that the motive of 52% of femicides was punishment and most femicides fall within the concept in honor killings.² According to another study held in Antalya, most common cause of femicide was so called honor.³ Turkish Grand National Assembly's 2006 survey demonstrated that 39% of women aged 15-49 years were to internalize the violence and considers ordinary. % 52 of women who experienced violence applied the same violent behaviour to their children.⁴ Boys victimized by domestic violence then applies the same violent behaviour to their viwes.³ According to a research, only half of the women exposed to violence reported security forces.⁵

According to a national survey, the prevalence of physical violence was 34%, emotional abuse was 53%, also more than % 70 of parents had been exposed to violence previosly. This survey revealed that risk factors for domestic violence were alcohol abuse and overcrowded housing. The most important result found in this research was women exposed to violence, believing that there is nothing to be done against violence.⁶

A study performed in Turkey found that the prevalence physical violence was 39% among women.⁷ Violence behaves like contagious disease, such as 41% of mothers applied violence to their children had been exposed to violence previously.⁸ An international study showed that 25-35 % parents who had been abused previously, abuse their children.⁹

The aim of this study was to evaluate number, location and time trends of the Turkish Penal Code domestic violence crimes all over Turkey for the time period of 2008-2011. The data was analysed with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This is a registry based ecological study. The data was collected between 2008 and 2011 and contains domestic violence crimes including; murder in the first degree (domestic, honor), intentionally wounding (domestic violence), sexual harassment (domestic), Sexual Assault (domestic), ill-treatment of family members, sexual abuse of children, torment (domestic), kidnapping (domestic), prostitution encouragement (domestic), marriage fraud. The data collected by the Ministry of Justice from municipalities for each city.¹⁰ Annual

prevalance values were calculated from Turkish Statistical Institute data.

Criminal cases can be analysed via Geographic Information Systems (GIS). GIS analysis makes both spatial analysis and visual analysis.¹¹⁻¹³ GIS is a decision support system of spatial data for geographic objects allows collection, storage, reuse and interrogation of data.¹⁴ The visual analysis in GIS spots the emerging pattern of the spatial distribution (pattern) and determination of the spatial units in different patterns evaluating their relationship with each other.¹²⁻¹⁴ In this research, domestic violence cases between 2008 and 2011 were analysed with GIS. Map generated via this method was carried out to evaluate the spatial characteristics of domestic violent crimes. In this context, database stored in a relational database and was associated province-based

vector (geometric) data with the using ArcGIS software. The spatial distribution maps were produced using GIS presentation functions.¹¹⁻¹⁴

Data was classified with Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics 1 (NUTS 1). The NUTS classification is a hierarchical system for dividing up the economic territory of the EU for the purpose of major socio-economic regions.¹⁵ According to NUTS 1, Turkey was divided into 12 regions; Istanbul Region (TR1), West Marmara Region (TR2), Aegean Region (TR3), East Marmara Region (TR4), West Anatolia Region (TR5), Mediterranean Region (TR6), Central Anatolia Region (TR7), West Black Sea Region (TR8), East Black Sea Region (TR9), Northeast Anatolia Region (TRA), Central East Anatolia Region (TRB) and Southeast Anatolia Region (TRC).¹⁵

RESULTS

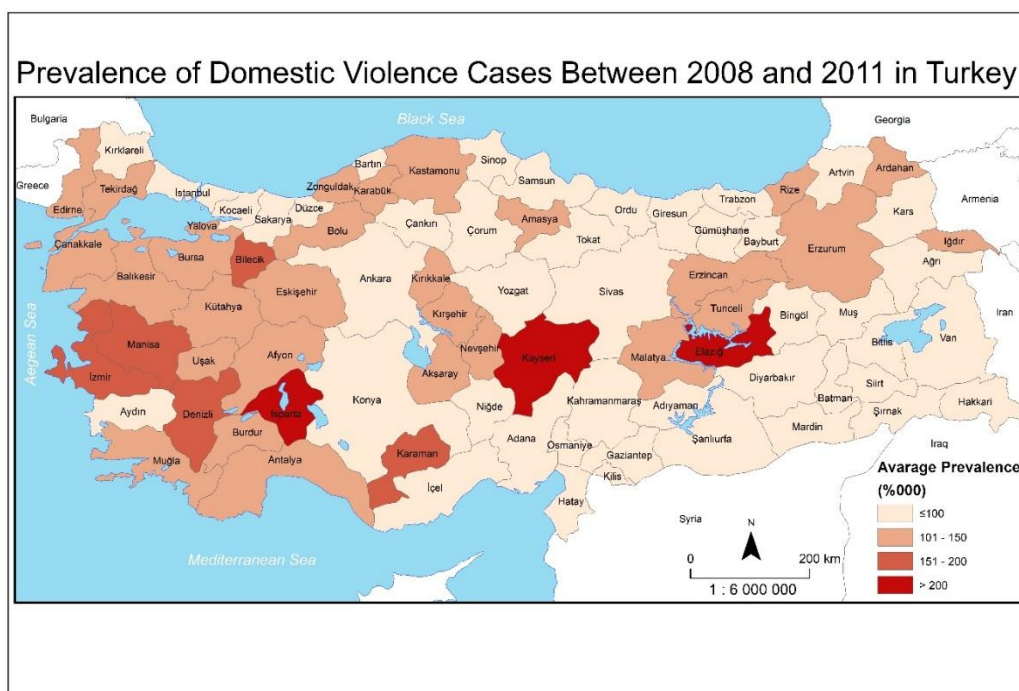


Figure 1: Domestic violence cases between 2008-2011 in Turkey (prevalence in 100.000)

The average prevalence of domestic violence values were higher in western parts of Turkey compared with the central and eastern provinces. Metropolitan areas, such as Istanbul and

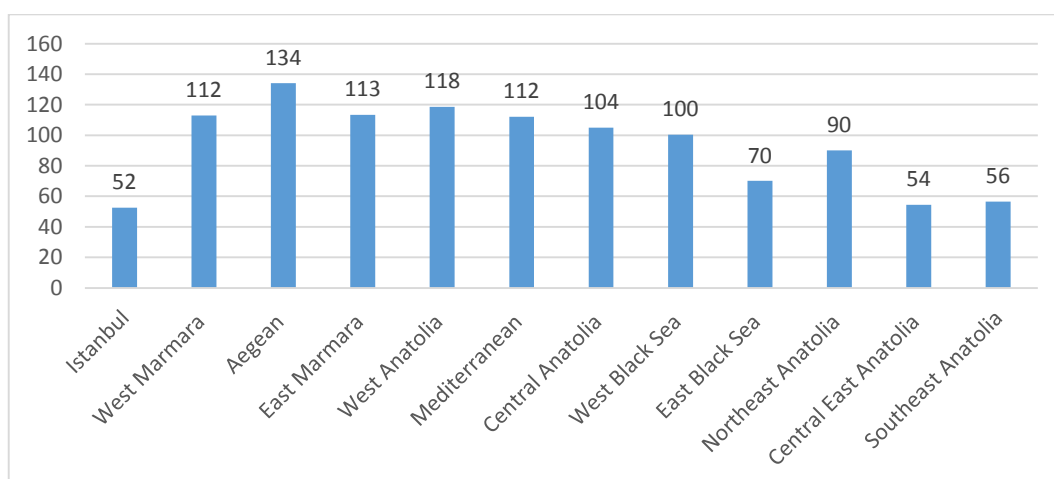
Ankara, had low prevalence of domestic violence. The maximum rates were seen in middle sized cities such as Elazığ, Kayseri and Isparta (Figure 2).

Table 1: Prevalance values of demostic violence cases between 2008-2011 according to regions (in 100.000)

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Istanbul Region	31,1±0	47,9±0	56,5±0	74,9±0
West Marmara Region	72,1±17,0	112,6±12,8	127,9±12,9	139,1±18,0
Aegean Region	114,2±27,7	135,6±35,0	140,4±38,5	146,4±27,1
East Marmara Region	75,6±25,1	101,0±30,6	116,4±30,6	160,5±76,9
West Anatolia Region	92,3±32,5	112,2±44,0	128,8±44,3	141,0±55,7
Mediterranean Region	81,0±49,6	107,9±64,5	122,9±60,0	136,1±66,3
Central Anatolia Region	81,8±43,4	112,3±45,4	118,0±45,5	107,7±44,2
West Black Sea Region	83,0± 29,3	92,1±36,4	105,6±31,3	120,5±40,0
East Black Sea Region	48,3±30,6	69,2±18,1	77,5±30,1	85,0±20,5
Northeast Anatolia Region	61,2±30,4	87,2±39,2	103,8±39,2	108,3±36,5
Central East Anatolia Region	39,9±27,6	48,5±27,0	63,9±49,9	98,3±104,0
Southeast Anatolia Region	36,9±13,4	53,0±20,4	68,8±28,8	66,9±32,2
Total	70,7±37,5	92,1±43,9	104,6±44,5	116,4±58,3

Table 1 showed that prevalence values of demostic violence cases were increased in the study period with the exception of decrease in Central Anatolia Region and Southeast Anatolia Region in the year of 2011. The maximum increase in the prevalence values were seen in Istanbul Region (2008: 31,1±0→2011: 74,9±0) and Central East Anatolia Region (2008: 39,9±27,6→2011: 98,3±104,0) (Table 1).

The highest domestic violence prevalence values were seen in Aegean Region for whole study period. On the other hand Istanbul Region had the low prevalence values for the study period. Central East Anatolia Region and Southeast Anatolia Region had lowest prevalence values. The number of domestic violence cases in West Black Sea Region was higher than East Black Sea Region.

**Figure 2.** Domestic violence prevalence values were highest in Aegean Region and lower in Istanbul region, Central East Anatolia Region and Southeast Anatolia Region.

DISCUSSION

We aimed in tis study to demonstrate the difference between regions of domestic violence for the time period 2008-2011 in

Turkey. Our results showed that domestic violence prevalence was higher in more developed regions than less developed regions.

The study had three limitations. At first, dataset was obtained from the Ministry of Justice. For this reason, the unreported cases were excluded. Secondly, as reporting rate was lower than real cases, comparing our results with other studies become difficult. Lastly, our dataset did not cover any information about victims or offenders. The main strength of the study that covered all over Turkey for four year period.

Aker et al. found in their study, performed 1178 married women in Ankara, 29,9% participants experienced physical abuse in their lifetime, 31,3% sexual abuse and 39,7% emotional abuse.¹⁶ Another study, carrying out in four Anatolian cities demonstrated that 27,5% women abused physically.¹⁷ Another study from Turkey showed that the rate of emotional abuse was 43,9 %, physical abuse was 35,5%, economical abuse 30% and sexual abuse 12%.¹⁸ All these values were much higher than what we found in our study. However it is known that only a small percentage of cases was reported officially. Indeed, it has been shown that reporting domestic violence was less than 10% in urban areas and almost 5% rural areas. Moreover, some of the application was made to the municipalities or non-governmental organizations.²

In a study which compares whole Turkey versus east regions, those who never exposed to physical violence were identified as 65.5% and 60.5%, respectively.⁷ These results were similar to our results; more developed parts had higher rates domestic violence. Our expectation was more domestic violence incidents in less developed regions. However, as reporting rate was high in developed areas, it caused this paradoxical results.

Another important result of our study, steady increase domestic violence prevalence values towards 2011. This can be explained by new legislation. The General Directorate of the Status of Women ordered to the Chief Public Prosecutors, any report of domestic violence should become a criminal case in 2008.¹⁹ After that number of cases were increasing as expected.

In conclusion, in order to prevent domestic violence, all applications should be treated seriously from public prosecutors. Especially, reporting domestic violence should be easier in less developed parts of Turkey. Moreover, forensic medicine departments can play an important role in supporting evidence for domestic violence cases.

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