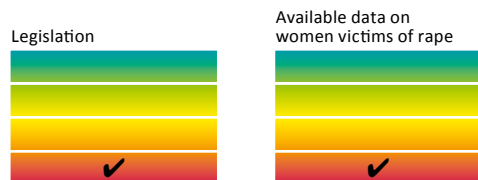


NATIONAL ANALYSIS

Lithuania



Expert
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Legislation

In Lithuania sexual violence as a consequence of gender based violence can be classified as an offence of:

Rape (Article 149 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania);

Sexual assault (Article 150 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania);

Sexual abuse (Article 151 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania).

In the Criminal Code of Lithuania the old definition of rape by use of force or threat still exists. The sentence for this offence is more severe if the rape is committed by a group of accomplices (group rape) or against a minor or young child.

Marital rape in Lithuania is still not criminalised either in Criminal Code or in the new Republic of Lithuania Law on protection against domestic violence. (Since the adoption of this law the police have received more calls regarding domestic violence, but sadly sexual violence is still invisible). In Lithuania a sexual relationship with the spouse is still considered a wife's duty, so complaints by women who experience sexual violence from their husbands are not usually regarded as a serious crime, either in public institutions or within society as a whole.

The investigation and prosecution of the aforementioned offences depend on a statement by the victim (or the victim's legal representative) or a request by the prosecutor.

Available data on women victims of rape

Official data on rape cases can be found in the Information Technology and Communication department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania. (www.ird.lt/infusions/report_manager/crimes_lithuania.php?id3=13) This information exists only in Lithuanian.

Criminal statistics on sexual violence are not separated according to the type of sexual violence (no statistics on **marital rape**).

Data about sexual violence and its prevalence in Lithuania can be found in a few research studies (mainly focusing on gender based violence) and surveys. The most important survey on *Violence against Women* was conducted in 1997-1998 by Dr. Giedre Purvaneckiene and showed that: "63.3% of Lithuanian women have been victims of male physical or sexual violence or threats after their 16th birthday; 42.4% of all married and cohabiting women have been victims of physical or sexual violence or threats of violence by their present partners; 71.4% of Lithuanian women have been victims of sexual harassment or sexually offensive behaviour by a stranger after their 16th birthday, and 43.8% by a known man." According to the annual catalogue



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“Men and women in Lithuania” (2012) prepared by the Department of Statistics of Lithuania, 281 women were victims of sexual abuse, which is more often suffered by the rural women population. Per 100 000 women population, 21 women in rural and 14 women in urban areas were victims of sexual abuse (no data on marital rape cases). Surveys can be found at:
www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/gender/vaw/surveys/Lithuania/VAW_Report_Lithuania.pdf
http://web.stat.gov.lt/lt/catalog/list/?cat_y=1&cat_

[id=3&PHPSESSID=twmjcuixideyz](#) (catalogue is called Moterys ir vyrai Lietuvoje and is also available in EN)

An anonymous survey done in Vilnius Maternity hospital with 300 women (who are married or have lived with partners) showed that 80% of respondents did not know the difference between normal sex in marriage and marital rape. 60% experienced sexual harassment and 30% per cent were forced into having sex with their husbands against their will.

Rape cases (including attempted rape)

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of registered crimes | 188 | 278 | 260 | 265 | 253 | 200 | 164 | 149 | 208 | 191 |
| Number of investigated cases | 162 | 109 | 138 | 172 | 180 | 105 | 125 | 124 | 155 | 156 |

**Data from the Information Technology and Communication department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania.*

Useful Contact

Help line for women: 8 800 66366 (every day from 10.00 a.m to 9 p.m.)
 (Helpline for victims of violence, prostitution or other issues for women)