

## The Violence Against Women in India (2022).

*A data-driven investigation into the harsh realities facing women and girls across Indian states in 2022*

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### The Story Behind the Statistics

In 2022, across India's diverse landscape of 36 states and union territories, a troubling story unfolded in police stations, courtrooms, and official records. This isn't just another statistical report, it's a window into the lives of hundreds of thousands of women and girls who became numbers in a dataset that speaks to one of our society's most pressing challenges.

When I first opened this dataset containing 445,256 reported crimes against women, I knew I wasn't just looking at numbers. Behind each data point is a woman, a family, a community affected by violence. But sometimes, it takes the cold clarity of data to reveal patterns that can drive real change.

### What the Data Reveals: The Uncomfortable Truth

#### The Scale is Staggering

Imagine filling a large football stadium, that's roughly the number of crimes against women reported in India in just one year. **445,256 cases** across the country, representing approximately **0.07%** of India's female population. While this percentage might seem small, it represents nearly half a million lives disrupted by violence.

#### The Hierarchy of Harm

The data reveals a disturbing pattern in how women suffer:

**Cruelty by husbands and relatives tops the list** with 140,000+ cases, meaning domestic violence isn't just common, it's epidemic. This translates to approximately 383 women experiencing domestic cruelty every single day.

**Kidnapping and abduction** follows with over 85,000 cases, while **sexual violence against girl children** accounts for 62,000+ cases, a number that should make every parent and policymaker lose sleep.

#### The Geographic Reality: Where Danger Lurks

The data paints a complex map of risk across India:

- **Uttar Pradesh emerges as the most dangerous state** for women, leading in multiple crime categories.
- **Rajasthan shows the highest attempted crimes**, over 1,000 cases of attempted rape and acid attacks.

- **Kerala presents a paradox:** extremely high domestic violence rates but very low dowry deaths.

### **The Most Heartbreaking Discovery**

Perhaps the most disturbing finding is hidden in a comparison that should never have to be made: **In 10 states, more girl children face sexual violence than adult women face rape.**

Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh lead this tragic statistic, with thousands more crimes against children than adults. This isn't just a crime wave, it's a crisis of childhood safety that demands immediate attention.

### **The Human Trafficking Highway**

When I examined what the data calls "duping", trafficking, buying/selling of minor girls, and kidnapping, a clear route emerged:

- **Uttar Pradesh** leads with nearly 15,000 cases
- **Bihar** follows with over 10,000 cases
- **Maharashtra** rounds out the top three with close to 10,000 cases

These numbers suggest organized networks exploiting vulnerability across state lines.

### **Challenging Myths with Data**

One analysis stood out for what it *didn't* show. When examining the correlation between rape cases and "indecent representation of women" (often used to blame victims for their clothing choices), the data revealed virtually no relationship. **The myth that women's clothing choices contribute to rape finds no support in this dataset.**

### **The Technology Factor**

A new category of crime is emerging: **cyber-crimes against women** with 2,340 reported cases. While seemingly small compared to traditional crimes, this represents the digitization of harassment and abuse, a trend likely to grow as technology becomes more pervasive.

### **Lives Lost: The Ultimate Cost**

Among all these numbers, the most sobering are those representing lives lost. **Death cases (dowry deaths and murder with rape) represent 3.5% of all crimes**, approximately 15,500 women who didn't survive their encounters with violence.

### **What This Means for Action**

This data doesn't just tell us about problems, it provides a roadmap for solutions:

1. **Domestic violence prevention must be the top priority**, given its dominance in the statistics.

2. **Child protection needs urgent strengthening**, particularly in states where children face higher risks than adults.
3. **Interstate cooperation is essential** to combat trafficking networks.
4. Technology-based crimes require new legal and enforcement frameworks in the country.

### **The Power of Data in Driving Change**

Every visualization in this analysis, every statistical comparison, serves a purpose beyond academic interest. When we see that Kerala has a domestic violence to dowry death ratio of 30:1, it suggests different cultural and legal dynamics at play. When we observe that certain states consistently appear in multiple "worst performer" categories, it points to systemic issues requiring comprehensive intervention.

### **A Call to Action**

The woman behind every data point in this analysis deserves more than to be a statistic. She deserves safety, justice, and the opportunity to live without fear. This analysis provides the evidence base for that change, now it's up to policymakers, law enforcement, and society to act on what the numbers are telling us.

The data has spoken. The question is: are we ready to listen and respond with the urgency these numbers demand?