

Violence by a Female Confidant in Türkiye in the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Gender Shadow Pandemic*

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to determine the impact of "stay-at-home" practices on violence against women during the Covid-19 epidemic process, contribute scientifically to the regulation of practices based on existing policies, and develop recommendations for remedial and preventative policies. In the research designed as a scanning model, violence against women news was searched for retrospectively in all national and local newspapers and news sites published online before the pandemic (12.03.2019-12.03.2020) and during the pandemic (13.03.2020-13.03.2021) using keywords. In the study, the data were compiled from a total of 545 news articles, 247 of which were from before the pandemic and 298 during the pandemic period. The SPSS 25 statistical analysis program was used in the analysis of the data. In summary, it was determined that the number of cases during the epidemic was significantly higher than the number of cases before the pandemic ($p < 0.05$), and the number of cases of violence (83.4%) before the pandemic decreased (65.1%) during the pandemic period. It was determined that violence, which is a crime of intentional injury, increased by 34.9% during the pandemic period compared to the pre-epidemic (16.6%) ($p < 0.05$). It is thought that the research will shed light on the development of policies to prevent violence against women, early intervention, and recovery.

Keywords: Violence Against Women, Intimate Partner Violence, Domestic Violence, Covid-19

Introduction

The Covid-19 outbreak emerged in Wuhan, China in 2019 and was officially declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020 (WHO, 2020). In the Covid-19 pandemic, which was the most severe and comprehensive epidemiological event since the second quarter of the twentieth century, governments had to take a series of proactive and reactive measures to prevent the increase in mortality and morbidity and to limit its spread. The most important characteristic of the Covid-19 pandemic compared to other pandemic cases in terms of criminology is the "stay at home (shelter in place)" orders applied on a global scale. Although time and practice differences (travel restrictions, quarantine and social isolation, closure of education, culture, art or sports facilities) have been observed in the strategies of countries to combat the epidemic, such large-scale restrictions have been experienced for the first time in history (Cheng et al., 2020). The epidemic conditions, in which daily habits were disrupted, limited the living spaces of criminals. The 'stay at home' measures to protect individual and social health significantly increased the likelihood of women, who are victims of violence based on gender inequality and who are quarantined in the same house with their partner, being confronted with violence (Usher et al., 2020). Therefore, violence against women has become a global crisis with the Covid-19 pandemic (Fornari et al., 2020). The United Nations Women's Unit has defined the increasing domestic violence due to economic and social problems related to the pandemic with the term "shadow pandemic". Media coverage and reports from organizations that intervene in violence against women show that the factors causing domestic violence against women increased to the detriment of women during the quarantine measure applied during the epidemic, and there was a large increase in cases of intimate partner violence (Alon et al., 2020). Stressful conditions such as large-scale restrictions and quarantine practices, hindering access to basic needs and service networks, economic losses, anxiety and fear caused by uncertainty have increased. The deterioration of social and protective networks has transformed the dimensions of violence against women into acts of violence with more severe consequences. After the emergence of Covid-19, significant increases in domestic

* This study was produced from the thesis study "The Case of Violence Against Women in Effective Prevention, Early Intervention and Recovery Policies during COVID-19 Pandemic", directed by Prof. Dr. H.H. Sevil Atasoy and prepared by Nuray Özkan.

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Submitted: 28.10.2022 • **Revision Requested:** 08.01.2023 • **Last Revision Received:** 14.01.2023 • **Accepted:** 18.01.2023 • **Published Online:** 03.03.2023



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violence cases have been observed in marginalized societies such as the Middle East and North Africa. In China, where the virus has spread, it has been reported that domestic violence incidents due to quarantine practices during the Covid-19 period increased three times compared to the previous year (Wanqing,2020). Lemmon (2021) found that during the pandemic, calls to helplines and domestic violence increased in Latin American countries (such as Mexico and Brazil). In their study, Bradbury-Jones and Isham (2020) evaluated the applications made to the emergency hotline regarding domestic violence during the pandemic period and found that the application rates were 20% in Spain, 25% in England, 91% in Colombia, and Mexico during the pandemic period compared to the previous year. They found that it increased by 60% in Australia, 30% in Cyprus and 20% in the USA. In the research of the Federation of Women’s Associations of Turkey (TKDF), the rate of physical violence against women increased by 80%, the rate of psychological violence increased by 93% and the rate of demand for women’s shelters increased by 78% during the Covid-19 epidemic period in Turkey (TKDF, 2020). In general, it can be seen that the pandemic conditions pave the way for the increase in violence against women and that intimate partner violence against women during the pandemic is an important social problem that needs to be investigated. In the study, firstly, general information about the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the increase in violence against women are presented. Then, the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic process, the concept of violence, violence against women, intimate partner violence and the effects of violence on women and society are emphasized. Finally, the results were evaluated and suggestions are presented.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Conceptual Definitions

Covid-19 Pandemic

Covid-19 has affected societies in many ways, economically, politically, socially and psychologically, and assessing its impact in these areas has been an important area of research (Bozkurt et al., 2020). The “stay at home” orders, which are part of the measures to protect against the negative health effects of the virus, have had negative effects on social life (Karakas, 2020). Staying at home for longer hours, maintaining physical distances, wearing masks, hygiene measures, curfews and problems in the supply chain have had a negative impact on the social fabric of society. These negativities in social interaction and communication have led to many problems that affect the life of the individual and collective community, such as stress, anxiety, depression, mental disorders and various health problems (Singh, Singh, 2020). In this context, the Covid-19 epidemic is perhaps one of the most dangerous social events (Afacan and Avci, 2020). As perceptions of the threat posed by infectious diseases increase, people affected by stress and anxiety may experience abnormal actions resulting from feelings such as fear, anxiety, panic, and anger. For this reason, the way in which the psychological and emotional impact of a crisis and the uncertainty during a pandemic is managed and dealt with is of great importance to the individual and society. Because of their potential strength, risk factors for epidemics negatively affect community confidence, hope for the future, and feelings of well-being (Wang et al., 2020). The coronavirus outbreak also paves the way for mental health issues such as anxiety, panic and depression that arise alongside physical health issues and sudden deaths. (Wallace et al., 2020). This epidemic should not only be seen as a medical health crisis, but also one that requires mental and mental health measures (Bozkurt et al., 2020). In a sample of 1,143 Italian and Spanish parents, children aged 3 to 18 years reported difficulty concentrating (76.6%), boredom (52%), anxiety (38.8%), irritability (38%), loneliness, emotional and behavioral problems 31.3%, and was identified (30.1%) (Orgilés et al., 2020). College students during the epidemic in China, and a companion study determined that anxiety levels among young people were mediated by certain protective factors such as living in urban areas, and economic stability (Cao et al., 2020).

Violence

It is quite difficult to examine the phenomenon of violence, which manifests itself in different forms, within a certain definition. Violence is a multifaceted, complex, universal phenomenon that can occur depending on the social structures, cultures, and written or unwritten rules of societies.cannot be explained by a single reason and can be encountered in all areas of life.

The definition of the concept of violence within the Regulation on the Implementation of Law No. 6284 (Family Protection And Violence Against Women Law On Prevention) in the Constitution is given as follows; “Physical, sexual, psychological, or verbal acts that result in or are likely to result in physical, sexual,psychological or economic harm and suffering to the person, including threats, pressure or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, or any kind of economic attitude and behavior.” (Official Gazette, 2012). The concept of violence by the World Health Organization (WHO) is defined as “the intentional use of physical force or coercion against oneself, another person, a group or community that is likely or likely to cause actual injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation” (WHO, 2002).

In short, violence is defined as any kind of physical and moral denial of physical and mental integrity based on delinquency, aggression, force and crime. The most important reason for the rising trend of violence and the fact that violence has become a global crisis is the intense experience of violence within the family, which is the most basic unit of society.

The presence of violence in such an important structure can prevent the development of positive personalities (Taghisoylu, 2021). Poor social conditions such as an unhealthy family and social structures, low levels of education and faulty media policies, negatively affect the personality development of individuals, and unhealthy and disordered personality structures lead to aggressive behavior and violence. Although violence is justified in the world of traditions and customs from the past to the present day, violence is recognized as a crime against humanity, regardless of the period. Violence against women is one of the most common forms of violence, and various studies have been conducted to raise awareness of this issue (Dişsiz, Hotun, 2008).

Violence Against Women

Violence against women is an important public social problem that emerges as a result of unequal power relations between men and women. Regardless of language, religion, race and ethnicity, women face violence in many parts of the world. Over the past quarter of a century, violence against women has come to be seen as a violation of women's human rights and has emerged as a social problem affecting the health of society (Zara and İnci, 2008). Acts of violence have an imbalance of power and are intended to provide control based on fear.

All women in the world may experience gender-based violence in a number of ways, including physical, economic, psychological and sexual (Atan and Atan, 2017). In most societies, women were forced to perform certain duties by rules established by men and subjected to violence when they were believed to have crossed the line. Also, in femicide, the mindset that sees the offender right and believes that the dead woman deserves it is a prevalent understanding in these societies (Uçar, 2016). Violence against women is defined as a violation of human rights and discrimination in developed societies and includes all actions that lead to the prevention or arbitrary restriction of freedoms in private life or in society, which can cause physical and psychological harm due to these reasons (Odman, 2012).

Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence

Unequal power relations in the hierarchy between men and women are accepted as the most important factor in the emergence of violence against women. In this context, intimate partner violence, a form of violence against women, is seen as an effective tool for maintaining hierarchical power relationships and maintaining traditional patriarchy (Korkmaz et al., 2014).

Intimate partner violence, considered within the scope of interpersonal violence in the world and among the most common forms of violence, is examined within the framework of bidirectional relationships (marital, verbal, engagement, lover, dating). Intimate partner violence is a social problem that deprives women of their rights and activities such as survival, protection, a sense of safety, belonging to a social structure, love and the fulfillment of their valuable needs. Scientific studies indicate that cases of violence against women have increased, and the dimensions of violence have become a social and even global rather than regional problem.

Although it is possible for intimate partner violence to be bilateral between men and women, most studies have found that violence is predominantly directed against women in marriages and close bilateral relationships (Tjaden, Thoennes, 2000). According to the United Nations (UN) report examining the gender-related murder rates of young girls and women in 2017, it was determined that more than half of the women killed worldwide were killed by their spouses, loved ones or family members (UNODC, 2019). In a study covering 28 European Union member countries, it was determined that between 10% and 39% of women were exposed to intimate partner violence (WHO, 2014). It has been determined that more than 1 in 3 women who died as a result of the act of violence they inflicted were killed by their close partners (spouse, lover, ex-spouse, ex-lover) (UNODC, 2019). According to the research data of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2019, Pakistan ranks first, Guinea is the second and Senegal is the third among the countries where violence against women is intense. In Turkey, this human rights violation makes its presence felt as a social problem. Again, according to the OECD's 2019 research data covering 37 member countries, the rate of physical or sexual intimate partner violence against women is quite high in Turkey (OECD, 2019).

In the research conducted by the KAMER Foundation in our country in 2015, 91% of women stated that they have experienced violence, and that they are also exposed to all types of violence, less sexual violence. However, 16% of women stated that they experienced physical, 16% economic, 16% verbal, 16% psychological, 11% sexual, and 22% all types of violence. It was determined that 70% of the women who were exposed to violence did not take any action to get rid of the violence, and 30% of them first applied to their families and then to their security units or friends to get rid of the violence (KAMER, 2015). The reason for the majority of women who do not attempt to protect themselves from violence or to get rid of it, is that they are afraid of the perpetrator or do not know where to apply (Görücü, 2018). In the research conducted by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies in 2015; While 37% of female individuals state that they have been subjected to physical violence and 11% to sexual violence at any point in their lives, the fact that 37% of female individuals face at least one of the 2 types of violence reveals that sexual violence is generally applied together with physical violence. Increasing the level of education reduces the level of exposure to physical or sexual violence (T.C. Ministry of Family and Social Policies, 2015).

The results of such studies conducted in different periods and societies show that types of violence usually coexist. In this

context, acts of violence with traumatic effects such as verbal, emotional and sexual violence as well as physical violence create severe consequences for female victims (Martı, 2014).

Exposure to intimate partner violence of any kind creates certain effects and serious damage not only to physical health but also to psychological health. One of the most basic psychological problems experienced by women exposed to intimate partner violence is post-traumatic stress disorder; It is stated that this psychological problem is seen in 30% to 85% of women who are exposed to violence (Cao et al., 2020). In a similar study, it was determined that symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and symptoms of depression coexist (O'Campo et al., 2006). Other symptoms observed are suicidal tendencies, anxiety, embarrassment, eating disorders, and deterioration in social relations.

Periodic, continuous and different forms of physical violence against women are defined as "battered women". Women who experience repeated, unpredictable and uncontrolled violence learn to be helpless and assume they have no control over their situation. Therefore, according to Walker (2000), unresolved systematic violence causes the development of learned helplessness, and learned helplessness causes the "battered woman syndrome" (Palmer-Corell, Marcus, 2004). As a result of traumatic situations, 'post-traumatic stress disorder' may occur for a certain period of time and at a certain level (Yılmaz, 2006). Particularly it involves reactions such as thoughts that may cause discomfort about the event, avoidance actions that enable the evasion of all stimuli that remind women of the situation, and arousal symptoms that make it difficult for people to concentrate and sleep.

In this context, it was aimed to statistically analyze the news of violence against women in various media outlets during certain periods before and during the pandemic, covering acts of violence based on gender inequality against women which have physically and psychologically destructive and abrasive results.

The Effects of the Pandemic on Violence Against Women in the World and in Turkey

It has been determined that intimate partner violence or domestic violence against women has increased significantly with the outbreak of Covid-19. With the practice of "staying at home," women spend more time at home with their abusive husbands and go through a process in which being in an abusive relationship increases the risk of domestic violence.

According to research, domestic violence has increased by 30-36% in France, 40-50% in Brazil, 33% in Singapore, 25% in Argentina, and 10-35% in the United States, compared to previous years (John et al., 2020). It has been determined that since the early days of stay-at-home requests, calls to emergency hotlines for domestic violence have increased by 20% in Spain, 30% in Cyprus, and 25% in the UK (Bradbury-Jones, Asham, 2020). In the studies conducted in Turkey, it was determined that physical and psychological violence against women and the demand for shelter increased during the pandemic. The Socio-Political Field Research Center conducted a survey in 2020 with the participation of 1873 women living in 28 cities. According to this survey study, it was observed that violence against women increased by 27.8% during the pandemic (Ergözen et al., 2020). According to the statements of the We Will Stop Femicide Platform (KCDP); With the Covid-19 measures, it was determined that the number of people seeking aid organizations increased by 55% in April and 78% in May, compared to previous periods. It was noted that the highest number of applications were due to sexual violence in April, the highest number of applications due to psychological violence in May, and the highest number of applications for violence by married women (KCDP, 2020). UNFPA (2020) considers that violence against women at home during the crisis is more frequent in direct proportion to the increase in stress and tensions, as a risk factor that should be evaluated. He stated that the impact of social systems that protect girls and women in home isolation may be weaker than before. As the duration of the measures taken with the Covid-19 pandemic lengthened, its sexist effects began to draw more attention. In the reports published by the organizations in the media and intervening in violence against women, it is stated that there is an alarming situation regarding the increase in intimate partner violence.

One of these reports was from a police department in Jianli County, Hubei Province, China, which states that in February 2020, domestic violence cases tripled compared to February 2019, with 90% of them related to the Covid 19 outbreak. In a project on violence against women in the United Kingdom, it was reported that between 23 March 2020 and 12 April 2020, deaths from domestic abuse more than doubled (16 fatal cases) compared to the average for the previous 10 years (Gupta, Stahl, 2020).

As a result, it has been determined that the restriction of women's access to the mechanisms they can access to protect themselves from violence, together with the quarantine application, is a reason for the increase in violence against women. The Council of the European Union states that measures should be taken to prevent violence against women (Jang, Farise, Gender, 2020).

Research Method and Methodology

The content analysis method, a survey model, was used to analyze the data obtained in the research. In content analysis, a text or event related to a specific topic within the scope of research objectives is examined in the context of certain variables. By working in a medium that does not already have research technologies, such as online text, the "mixed methods" approach, which uses

qualitative methods along with quantitative methods, helps the researcher see what he can do. / set in the background of the text (Vergeer and Hermans,2008). In the study, violence cases were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively, and data was collected by classifying them.

Research; The intimate partner of a woman, the crime of wilful killing and intentional injury, is published in all national and local newspapers and news sites on the Internet in the one-year period before the pandemic (12.03.2019-12.03.2020) and epidemic (13.03.2020-13.03.2021). It covers a total of 545 news stories, 247 of which were before the pandemic and 298 during the pandemic. A total of 17,250 stories were reached, and the same story published in different newspapers and news sites was evaluated or republished on different days of the week only once. As part of the research, 545 victims and 545 perpetrators were examined. A statistical analysis of some demographic characteristics of victims and perpetrators was performed.

The content of the examined news related to the research topic was categorized by creating a text encoding table in the news. After the coding scale was established, the following method was used to calculate the reliability of the content analysis.

$$\text{Confidence} = 2M / (N1 + N2)$$

m: two cipher compatibility,

N: The first and second encoders.

The scores obtained in the formula range from 0-1 and a score of "1" was accepted as the most ideal and reliable score. In the study, 36 stories randomly selected from the sample were analyzed and reliability coefficients were calculated. The variables were coded and analyzed by two experts, excluding the researcher, to analyze the data within the scope of the data and information provided. Then, the researcher and two expert programmers were randomly tested from the sample groups, and the reliability coefficient was calculated as 0.94. According to this result, the codes developed for the analysis are consistent and reliable with each other. Data were analyzed using SPSS 25 software. Relationships between variables in different scales were tested with the chi-square test. In cases where it is not possible to assign a value to a variable in the observation (for example, the age of the victim is unknown), the value is classified as 'undefined' and reported by the analysis. I was not included. Tables in which the results of the analysis are presented.

In data analysis, frequency, percentage, chi-square, and Fisher's exact analysis were used. To answer the research questions, descriptive statistics (minimum, maximum, mean, standard deviation) were calculated, and a t-test was applied for unrelated samples to calculate the differences.

Results

According to Table 1, it was determined that the number of cases during the pandemic process (n=298, 54.7%) was higher than the number of cases before the pandemic (n= 247, 45.3%). In the study, a significant difference was found between the number of cases before and during the pandemic (p<0.05). It has been determined that women are exposed to more violence during the pandemic process than before the pandemic.

Table 1.Comparison of Case Numbers Before and During the Pandemic

	Observed	Expected n	Residual
Pre-Pandemic	247	272.5	-25.5
Pandemic Process	298	272.5	25.5
Total	545		

$\chi^2 = 4.77$ sd = 1 p=0.029

According to Table 2, there is a significant decrease in the number of cases (n=206, 83.4%) in the pandemic process compared to the pre-pandemic period (n=194, 65.1%). However, there was a significant increase in the number of cases of intentional injury (n=41, 16.6%) during the pandemic process compared to the pre-pandemic period (n=104, 34.9%). In the study, a significant difference was found between the number of cases of wilful killing and intentional injury before and during the pandemic (p<0.05).

According to Table 3, it is seen that while the cases of violence that occurred during the dates coinciding with the partial closure before the pandemic in the nature of wilful murder constituted 86.7% of the total violence cases, it decreased to 52% during the pandemic period. In addition, it is seen that the violence cases that occurred during the dates that coincided with the partial closure before the pandemic in the nature of intentional injury constituted 13.3% of the total violence cases, while it increased to 48% during the pandemic process. In the study, it was found that there was a significant difference between the number of cases on

Table 2. Comparison of Case Numbers of Intentional Killing and Intentional Injury Before and During the Pandemic

		Intentional killing	Intentional injury
Pre-Pandemic	n	206	41
	%	83,4	16,6
Pandemic Process	n	194	104
	%	65,1	34,9
Total	n	400	145
	%	73,4	26,6

$\chi^2 = 23.163$ sd = 1 p=0.000

the days of partial closure during the pandemic process and the days that coincided with the days of partial closure before the pandemic ($p < 0.05$).

Table 3. Comparison of the Number of Cases of Intentional Killing and Intentional Injury on the Dates Coinciding with Partial Closure Days during the Pandemic Process and Pre-Pandemic Partial Closure Days

		Intentional killing	Intentional injury	Total
Pre-Pandemic	n	13	2	15
	%	86,7	13,3	100,0
Pandemic Process	n	13	12	25
	%	52	48	100,0
Total	n	26	14	40
	%	65	35	100,0

$\chi^2 = 4.952$ sd = 1 p=.040

In the research, the distribution of the number of cases according to the place where the action took place before and during the pandemic; According to the place where the action took place, the most violent acts were seen in the house where the victim lived with the perpetrator before and during the pandemic. In the study, it was determined that there was no significant difference in terms of places where violence took place before and during the pandemic ($p > 0.05$). When the distribution of the number of cases according to the place where the act of violence took place is examined in Table 4, it is seen that there was a 20% increase in the acts of violence in the house where the victim lived with the perpetrator, and a 50% increase in the acts of violence in the house where the victim lived, while there was a 14% decrease in the acts of violence in the public place.

Table 4. Comparison of the Number of Cases by the Place of the Action Before and During the Pandemic

		The house where the victim lived with the perpetrator	The victim's home	Public Place	Car	Other
Pre-Pandemic	n	105	44	63	12	18
	%	43,4	18,2	26,0	5,0	7,4
Pandemic Process	n	127	66	54	12	34
	%	43,3	22,5	18,4	4,1	11,6
Total	n	232	110	117	24	52
	%	43,4	20,6	21,9	4,5	9,7

$\chi^2 = 7.306$ sd = 4 p=.121

According to Table 5, when the means of violence used before and during the pandemic are examined, it is seen that the number of cases in which firearms were used before the pandemic ($n=115$, 46.6%) decreased during the pandemic period ($n=118$, 39.9%). It is seen that the number of cases ($n=85$, 34.4%) in which knives were used before the pandemic decreased ($n=81$, 27.4%) during the pandemic period. In addition, it is seen that the number of cases (40%) in which battering (130%), strangulation (70%), and

other means of violence were used increased during the pandemic compared to the pre-pandemic period. In the research, the distribution of the number of cases according to the violence tool used in the act of violence before and during the pandemic; it is seen that the most used means of violence is a firearm with 46.6% before the pandemic and 39.9% during the pandemic period. It is seen that there is a significant difference between the weapon used before and during the pandemic and the number of cases ($p < 0.05$). Accordingly, it can be stated that the pandemic process has a significant effect on the weapons used.

Table 5. Comparison of Case Numbers According to Violence Tools Used Before and During the Pandemic

		Fire arm	Cutting- drilling tool	Minting (hard object etc.)	Strangling (rope etc.)	Other
Pre- Pandemic	n	115	85	30	12	5
	%	46,6	34,4	12,1	4,9	2
Pandemic Process	n	118	81	69	21	7
	%	39,9	27,4	23,3	7,1	2,4
Total	n	233	166	99	33	12
	%	42,9	30,6	18,2	6,1	2,2
$\chi^2 = 13.779$		sd = 4	p=.007			

According to Table 6, it was determined that the pandemic process did not have a significant effect on the degree of intimacy of the woman who was the victim of violence with the perpetrator. In the research, the distribution of the victim in terms of the number of cases according to the degree of closeness with the perpetrator before and during the pandemic; There is an increase in the number of cases compared to the pre-pandemic relationship types except for the partners who are in the divorce phase. Compared to the pre-pandemic period, during the pandemic, in the degree of proximity of the victim to the perpetrator; there was an increase of 34% in spouses, 22% in lovers, 6% in ex-spouses, 19% in spouses with religious marriage, and 89% in ex-lovers, and a decrease of 8% in the divorce phase. It was determined that there was no significant difference between the number of cases according to the degree of closeness of the perpetrator before and during the pandemic ($p > 0.05$).

Table 6. Comparison of the Number of Cases According to the Degree of Proximity of the Victim with the Perpetrator Before and During the Pandemic

		Spouse	In the divorce phase	Beloved	Ex partner	Religious spouse	Ex girlfriend	Other
Pre- Pandemic	n	95	46	37	32	16	9	12
	%	38,5	18,6	15	13	6,5	3,6	4,9
Pandemic Process	n	127	42	45	34	19	17	14
	%	42,6	14,1	15,1	11,4	6,4	5,7	4,7
Total	n	222	88	82	66	35	26	26
	%	40,7	16,1	15	12,1	6,4	4,8	4,8
$\chi^2 = 3.769$		sd = 6	p=.708					

According to Table 7; The perpetrators of 39.2% of victims aged 30 and under are 30 years of age or younger, 35.1% of them are in the 31-40 age range, 14.9% are in the 41-50 age range, and 10.8% are 51 years old and younger. Of the victims aged 31-40, 8.6% of the perpetrators are 30 years or younger, 48.3% are between the ages of 31-40, 37.9% are between the ages of 41-50, and 5.2% are aged 51 and above. The perpetrators of 11.4% of the victims in the 41-50 age range are 30 years or younger, 11.4% are in the 31-40 age range, 36.4% are in the 41-50 age range, and 40.9% are 51 years old and above. The perpetrators of 11.1% of the victims aged 51 and over are 30 years of age or younger, 5.6% of them are between the ages of 31-40, 22.2% are between the ages of 41-50, and 61.1% are aged 51 and over.

In the analyzes performed, it was found that there was a significant difference between the groups ($p < 0.05$).

Age differences in the number of cases during the pandemic according to age categories are given in Table 8 Accordingly, 52.2% of the victims aged 30 and under are 30 years of age or younger, 37.7% are between the ages of 31-40, 4.3% are between the ages of 41-50 and 5.8% appear to be 51 years or older. Of the victims aged 31-40, 11.8% were perpetrators aged 30 and under, 39.7% were between the ages of 31-40, 32.4% were between the ages of 41-50 and 16.2% were aged 51 and above. Of the victims aged

Table 7.Comparison of Case Numbers by Age Category of Victim and Perpetrator Before the Pandemic

		Perpetrator Age Category					Total
		30 years and under	31-40	41-50	51+		
Victim	n	29	26	11	8	74	
Age	30 years	% 39,2	35,1	14,9	10,8	100,0	
Category	31-40	n 5	28	22	3	58	
		% 8,6	48,3	37,9	5,2	100,0	
	41-50	n 5	5	16	18	44	
		% 11,4	11,4	36,4	40,9	100,0	
	51+	n 2	1	4	11	18	
		% 11,1	5,6	22,2	61,1	100,0	
Total	n	41	60	53	40	194	
	%	21,1	31,2	26,1	21,6	100,0	

$\chi^2 = 75.159$ $sd = 9$ $p=0.000$

41-50, 12.1% were perpetrators aged 30 and under, 33.3% were between the ages of 31-40, 33.3% were between the ages of 41-50 and 21.2% were 51 years old or older. It is seen that 7.1% of the victims aged 51 and over are 30 years of age or younger, 7.1% are between the ages of 31-40, and 85.7% are aged 51 and over. A Chi-square test was not performed to determine whether these observed differences were significant or not. The number of cells with an expected value below 5 is above 20%. In addition, it can be stated that the age categories of victims and perpetrators are generally the same or close, to those before the pandemic.

Table 8.Comparison of Case Numbers by Age Category of Victim and Perpetrator During the Pandemic Process

		Perpetrator Age Category					Total
		30 years and under	31-40	41-50	51+		
Victim	n	29	26	11	8	74	
Age	30 years	% 39,2	35,1	14,9	10,8	100,0	
Category	31-40	n 5	28	22	3	58	
		% 8,6	48,3	37,9	5,2	100,0	
	41-50	n 5	5	16	18	44	
		% 11,4	11,4	36,4	40,9	100,0	
	51+	n 2	1	4	11	18	
		% 11,1	5,6	22,2	61,1	100,0	
Total	n	41	60	53	40	194	
	%	21,1	31,2	26,1	21,6	100,0	

When Table 9 was examined, it was determined that there was a significant difference between the mean age of the victim and the perpetrator before the pandemic ($t(203) = 4.22, p < .05$). Before the pandemic, the average age of the perpetrator ($\bar{X} = 40.54$) was higher than the average age of the victim ($\bar{X} = 35.94$). It was also found that there was a significant difference between the average age of the victim and the perpetrator during the pandemic ($t(205) = 3.41, p < .05$). During the pandemic, the average age of the perpetrator ($\bar{X} = 39.70$) is higher than the average age of the victim ($\bar{X} = 36.06$).

Within the scope of the research, the distribution of the number of cases in terms of the history of violence before and during the pandemic; It is seen that at least 54.7% of the victims of 545 cases have a history of violence. It is seen that 68.1% of the victims with a history of violence died as a result of the last act of violence they were exposed to, and 31.9% were injured.

In the study, the distribution of the number of cases according to the victim's threat history before and during the pandemic is given in Table 11 According to the table, it is seen that at least 36.1% of the victims of 545 cases had a history of threats. It is seen that 62.9% of the victims with a history of threats died as a result of the last act of violence they were exposed to, and 37.1% were injured.

In the study, the distribution of the number of cases regarding the victim's prior criminal complaint against the perpetrator

Table 9.Comparison of Average Ages of Victims and Perpetrators Before and During the Pandemic

	Group	n	\bar{X}	S	Sd	T	P
Pre-Pandemic	Perpetrator	203	40,54	11,83	426	4.22	.000
	Victim	225	35.94	10.71			
Pandemic Process	Perpetrator	205	39.70	12.44	468	3.41	.001
	Victim	265	36.6	10.66			

Table 10.Distribution of Case Numbers by Victim’s History of Violence Before and During the Pandemic

		There is	Intentional Killing as a Crime	Deliberately Injury Criminal	Not determined
Pre-Pandemic	n	145	117	28	102
	%	58,7	80,7	19,3	41,3
Pandemic	n	153	86	67	145
	%	51,3	56,2	43,8	48,7
Pre-Pandemic	n	298	203	95	247
	%	54,7	68,1	31,9	45,3

Table 11.Distribution of the Number of Cases by Threat Story in the Victim Before and During the Pandemic

		There is	Intentional Killing as a Crime	Deliberately Injury Criminal	Not determined
Pre-Pandemic	n	100	75	25	147
	%	40,5	75	25	59,5
Pandemic Process	n	97	49	48	201
	%	32,6	50,5	49,5	67,4
Pre-Pandemic	n	197	124	73	348
	%	36,1	62,9	37,1	63,9

before and during the pandemic is given in Table 12 Accordingly, it is seen that at least 25.1% of the victims of 545 cases filed a criminal complaint against the perpetrator. It is seen that 62.8% of the victims who have filed a criminal complaint against the perpetrator died as a result of the latest act of violence, and 37.2% were injured.

Table 12.Distribution of the Number of Cases Regarding the Victim’s Preliminary Denunciation of the Perpetrator Before and During the Pandemic

		There is	Intentional Killing as a Crime	Deliberately Injury Criminal	Not determined
Pre-Pandemic	n	61	47	14	186
	%	24,7	77,0	23,0	75,3
Pandemic Process	n	76	39	37	222
	%	25,5	51,3	48,7	74,5
Pre-Pandemic	n	137	86	51	408
	%	25,1	62,8	37,2	74,9

In the study, the distribution of the number of cases related to the history of the suspension of the perpetrator before and during the pandemic is given in Table 13 Accordingly, it is seen that at least 18.2% of the perpetrators of 545 cases had a history of removal. Table 14 shows that 61.6% of perpetrators with a history of suspension killed the victims and 38.4% injured them.

Table 13. Distribution of Cases Regarding Suspension of the Perpetrator Before and During the Pandemic

		There is	Intentional Killing as a Crime	Deliberately Injury Criminal	Not determined
Pre- Pandemic	n	41	30	11	206
	%	16,6	73,2	26,8	83,4
Pandemic Process	n	58	31	27	240
	%	19,5	53,4	46,6	80,5
Pre- Pandemic	n	99	61	38	446
	%	18,2	61,6	38,4	81,8

In the study, the distribution of the number of cases according to the pre-pandemic and period of the victim and the perpetrator having a child is given in Table 14 Accordingly, it is seen that at least 62.6% of 545 cases had children.

Table 14. Distribution of the Number of Cases by Childbearing Status of the Victim and Perpetrator Before and During the Pandemic

		There is	Not determined
Pre- Pandemic	n	161	86
	%	65,2	34,8
Pandemic Process	n	180	118
	%	60,4	39,6
Pre- Pandemic	n	341	204
	%	62,6	37,4

In the study, the distribution of the number of cases according to the witnessing of the act of violence by the children of the victim and the perpetrator before and during the pandemic is given in Table 15 According to this, it is seen that at least 28.1% of 545 cases witnessed violence by their children.

Table 15. Distribution of the Number of Cases by the Status of Witnessing Violence by the Children of the Victim and the Perpetrator Before and During the Pandemic

		There is	Not determined
Pre- Pandemic	n	71	176
	%	28,7	71,3
Pandemic Process	n	82	216
	%	27,5	72,5
Pre- Pandemic	n	153	392
	%	28,1	71,9

The distribution of the number of cases according to the suicide history of the perpetrator before and during the pandemic is given in Table 16 According to this, it is seen that at least 18.9% of the perpetrators of 545 cases had a suicide history, 68% of the perpetrators with a suicide history resulted in death, and 32% in injury.

Discussion

A significant difference was observed in the number of cases during the two time periods, pre-pandemic and during the pandemic, and women have been exposed to more violence during the pandemic. The findings that mandatory quarantine practices during epidemics lead to domestic violence are fairly new. However, a limited number of reports and research findings from international institutions and organizations support our findings that violence against women has increased with the pandemic. Akalın and Ayhan (2021) conducted their cross-sectional study, which aimed to determine the prevalence and risk factors for intimate partner violence during the COVID-19 epidemic, with 1036 women in Turkey who were married or who lived with partners. As a result of the regression analysis, they found that exposure to intimate partner violence during the epidemic was associated with marriage,

Table 16.Distribution of the Number of Cases by Suicide Story of the Victim and the Perpetrator Before and During the Pandemic

		There is	Number of Cases Resulting in Death	Number of Cases Resulting in Injury	Not determined
Pre-	n	56	44	12	191
Pandemic	%	22,7	78,6	21,4	77,3
Pandemic	n	47	26	21	251
Process	%	15,8	55,3	44,7	84,2
Pre-	n	103	70	33	441
Pandemic	%	18,9	68,0	32,0	80,9

childbearing, unemployment, decreased marital/relationship satisfaction, and increased workload at home, and was significantly associated with negative effects of quarantine. Anecdotal research shows that violence against women has increased with the pandemic, with increases of 30-36% in France, 40-50% in Brazil, 33% in Singapore, 25% in Argentina, and 10% in the United States. 35%. (Ergönen et al., 2020; John et al., 2020). Based on these findings, it can be said that the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on the phenomenon of violence against women, a structural problem that creates risks to women's lives.

Another result of the research is that there is a significant difference between the number of cases of wilful killing and deliberate injury before and during the pandemic. During the pandemic, the number of cases of wilful murder decreased when compared to before. However, the number of cases involving intentional injury crimes have increased considerably during the pandemic. Studies have revealed that there is a decrease in crime rates in many parts of the world with social isolation measures and quarantine, but there is an increase in women-oriented domestic violence, and in this respect, results supporting the results of our research have been obtained. Similar to the results of our research, Koyuncu (2020) emphasizes that crime rates have decreased with the Covid-19 epidemic, but domestic violence has risen. It can be concluded, based on these results, that a pandemic and quarantine practice increase the rate of domestic violence while reducing general security crime rates.

In order to assess violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic in Turkey Zeyrek (2022) used the Routine Activities Theory (RAT). In the study, statistics published by government units and official sources, as well as newspaper news and data from non- governmental organizations were analyzed. The examples given were evaluated in terms of the three main elements of the routine activity's theory. These were the motivated offender, the appropriate target, and the absence of a competent protector. As a result of the research, it was determined that there was a significant rise in the rates of violence against women in a short time after the start of the pandemic in Turkey.

Another result obtained within the scope of the research is that there is no significant difference in the number of cases according to the degree of proximity of the victim to the perpetrator before and during the pandemic. During the epidemic, it was determined that the greatest increase in violence occurred between spouses compared to previous periods, and lovers were in second place.

A report published by the World Health Organization said that during the pandemic, one in four women between the ages of 15 and 24 experienced violence in marriage or in a relationship with a partner, and only 6% of women were assaulted by someone they had nothing to do with (WHO, 2020). A report published by the United Nations Population Fund(2020) indicates that women and girls are more vulnerable to spousal/partner violence and other forms of domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic (UNFPA, 2020). They were also reported to be at increased risk of other forms of gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse. All of these findings support the findings of our research. As a result of the research, it was determined that more than half of the women who were victims of violence before and during the pandemic were exposed to systematic violence, and more than half of the women who were exposed to violence died as a result. Social trauma affects the functionality of people in their social lives and also brings many social problems to the agenda. Research reveals that systematic violence against women, which existed before the pandemic and increased with the pandemic process, is one of these problems (Bullinger et al.,2020; Leslie, Wilson, 2020; United Nations Development Program, 2020). In the report titled "Gender Equality, Violence and Covid-19 (2020)" published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), it was reported that the epidemic period aggravated the responsibilities of women in the household and increased the domestic workload of women (UNFPA, 2020). When these situations experienced by women are combined with social isolation and quarantine practices, it is determined that there has been an increase in the cases of systematic violence.

In the study, it was determined that at least a third of female victims of violence were threatened by an offender before and during the pandemic, and at least a quarter of women filed a criminal complaint against the offender. At least one-fifth of the women decided to remove the offender. In addition, it was determined that more than half of the women died as a result of the most recent act of violence they experienced. This circumstance indicates that the act of violence was not surprising and that there is a history of previous threats, criminal complaints and deportation orders between the parties. This conclusion is supported by other

research findings in the literature. The study by Sahin et al. (2021), in which they discussed the impact of the pandemic period on violence against women through cases reflected in the print media, found that most female victims of violence were married, and that these women were the victims of violence.

Another result obtained within the scope of the research is that a firearm is the most used means of violence both before and during the pandemic, and there is a significant difference between the means of violence used before and during the pandemic; It has been observed that the number of cases in which firearms and knives were used before the pandemic decreased during the pandemic process, and the number of violence cases as a result of beating and strangling before the pandemic increased during the pandemic period (Güneş and Yıldırım, 2019). With the spread of the epidemic, it was determined that arms sales increased in the USA (Euronews, 2020).

The results of the study showed that more than half of the women who experienced violence before and during the COVID-19 pandemic witnessed violence in their children. There are numerous research findings and literature that indicate that children who witness violence are less able to control their anger, exhibit similar patterns of violence, and resort to violence in intimate partner relationships. Therefore, children who witness violence are more likely to commit or experience violence in the future.

In the research, more than half of the women who were victims of violence before and during the Covid-19 pandemic were exposed to systematic violence, more than half of the women who were exposed to violence died as a result of the last act of violence, and at least one-third of them were threatened by the perpetrator before, and more than half of the women who were threatened were the most vulnerable. In the study conducted by Şahin et al. (2021), it was concluded that more than half of the women who experienced violence before and during the pandemic lost their lives and the detention rate of the perpetrators increased.

When evaluated in general, it is seen that the results of the research that the compulsory quarantine practice applied during the pandemic process triggers domestic violence are consistent and supported by the reports of international institutions and organizations and the limited number of research results.

Result

According to the results obtained in the research, women have been exposed to more violence during the pandemic than before the pandemic. During the pandemic, there is a decrease in the nature of the crime of wilful killing and an increase in the crime of wilful injury. The pandemic has had a significant effect on the months in which the protest took place, there was a decrease in violence cases in the first three months, including March, when the pandemic was declared, and an increase in the following months; it has a significant effect on the type of tools of violence used during the pandemic process, there has been an increase in violence cases as a result of beating and strangulation. It has been determined that the pandemic process has an effect on the average age of the victim and perpetrator, that the average age of the perpetrator is higher than the victim's, and that the highest risk group for both perpetrators and victims is the age range of 31-40.

However, before and during the pandemic, more than half of the women who were victims of violence were exposed to systematic violence. More than half of the women who were exposed to violence died as a result of the last act of violence they were exposed to. At least one-third of the women who were victims of violence were threatened by the perpetrator, and more than half of the women who were threatened were victims of violence. Before the pandemic and during the pandemic, at least one-fourth of the women who were victims of violence filed a criminal complaint against the perpetrator, and more than half of the women who filed a criminal complaint died as a result of the last act of violence they were subjected to, and that at least one-fifth of the women who were victims of violence had a restraining order in place against the perpetrator. At least one-fifth of the women who were exposed to violence witnessed the act of violence done by their children. It was determined that at least one-fifth of the perpetrators of the violence had a history of suicide, and they resulted in death or injury in more than half of the cases.

A study found that gender equality has been violated more during the Covid-19 pandemic, and in this context, acts of violence against women have risen significantly in most regions of the world. In our country, in the context of preventing positive discrimination against women as well as ensuring social-gender equality, the adoption of Law No. 6284 on the protection of the family and the prevention of violence against women, the National Action Plan for Combating Violence Against Women, and the Gender Equality National Action Plan are some of the most important practices. Other important practices include the creation of the Men's Equal Opportunity Commission and the impartial and fair implementation of international declarations and sanctions to which it is a party. In this context, severely binding provisions regarding the rehabilitation of the person who has been suspended should be included in the Law 6284 on the Protection of the Family and the Prevention of Violence Against Women. Studies that will support the effect of the suspension decision on the perpetrator with scientific grounds should be emphasized and regulations should be made taking into account the result. The concept of persistent pursuit should take its place in the law. Violent crimes should be excluded from the evaluations of the Administration and Monitoring Board, which was established based on the 13th

and 89th articles of the Law on the Execution of Penalties and Security Measures No. 5275, and a separate and special unit should be established. It is of great importance to seriously implement training programs for raising awareness in societies of gender equality and to take preventive, protective, and remedial measures at the level of states for the factors that cause the increase in acts of violence.

Ethics Committee Approval: N/A.

Peer Review: Externally peer-reviewed.

Author Contributions: Conception/Design of Study- N.Ö., S.A.; Data Acquisition- N.Ö., S.A.; Data Analysis/Interpretation- N.Ö., S.A.; Drafting Manuscript- N.Ö., S.A.; Critical Revision of Manuscript- N.Ö., S.A.; Final Approval and Accountability- N.Ö., S.A.

Conflict of Interest: The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

Grant Support: The authors declared that this study has received no financial support.

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HOW CITE THIS ARTICLE

Özkan N, Atasoy S, 'Violence by a Female Confidant in Turkiye in the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Gender Shadow Pandemic' (2023) 11(1) Ceza Hukuku ve Kriminoloji Dergisi-Journal of Penal Law and Criminology, 57.