

# **DOMESTIC CRIME AND UNEMPLOYMENT: A CASE STUDY OF THE CITY OF DURRES**

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## **Abstract**

Unemployment and poverty are among the major factors which lead to increase in crime rate in the city of Durres. INSTAT data have shown that the number of unemployed people in Durres region have greatly increased in recent years. Unemployment is closely related to poverty. Poverty is one of the main factors which promote violence and crime within the family. Statistics show that the Durres district is one of the most problematic areas in Albania for violence and crime within the family. One of the reasons is that in recent years, the Durres area is populated with people from rural areas. Thus, this people were displaced from their village due to poor living conditions. Durres has increased number of unemployment rate; and in many cases, they are subject of violence and crime within the family.

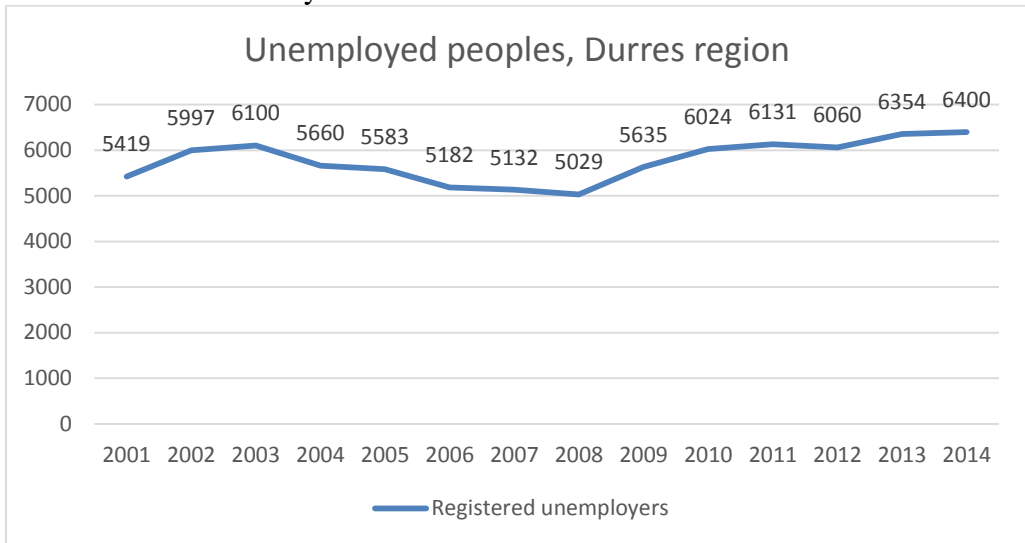
The aim of this study is to analyze the common link that unemployment and poverty has in violence and crime within the family. This study aims to highlight if there is any link between unemployment and domestic violence in Durres. Through this study, we have been able to achieve valuable recommendations regarding what the government, media, society, and all other bodies should do to reduce unemployment, indirect domestic violence, and crime within the family. Deviant behaviors and measures need to be taken to prevent deviant behavior before its starts. Consequently, if we make more efforts to reduce unemployment and poverty, then we will have a society which is less violated. This will however become beneficial in the long run.

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**Keywords:** Unemployment, poverty, crime within the family, Durres

As Aristotle wrote; "POVERTY is the mother of crime." However, was he right? Certainly, poverty and crime are strongly connected to each other. The idea that the lack of income can lead someone to commit a crime sounds convincing. However, this is true for those families where there is violence and where unemployment can lead to even more crime and violence.

In recent years, increase in unemployment in Albania has made more families live in poverty. As a result, there is increase in conflicts between couples, violence, or even crimes within the family. Consequently, unemployment in the city of Durres is a major problem. In Graphic 1, we can observe that unemployment in Durres region has been increasing from year to year. Thus, this could be one of the major reasons that the number of crimes within the family has increased.



Graphic 1. Registered unemployed, Durres District, Source INSTAT



Figure 1. The city of Durres

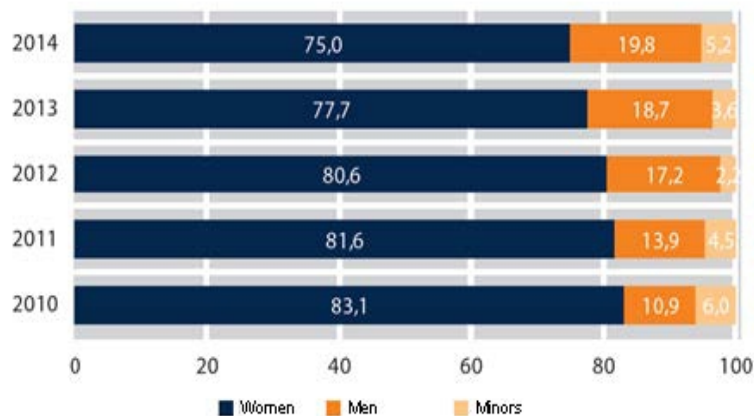
Studies have confirmed that a right connection exists between unemployment rate and the level of crime rate. However, most part of today’s research is focused on the link that exists between economic

inequality or income inequality and crime. In fact, these reports tells us that inequality in itself is not affecting crime rates, but the feeling that this disparity is not fair will affect the growth of crime the more.

Furthermore, poverty can lead to a violence family due to the increased tensions and conflicts between men and women. But we can say also that there are also poor families with great feelings of solidarity and understanding which are not often found even in rich families.

All these theoretical paradigms serve as milestones to study the social roots of crime within the family. When taken individually, they give us certain viewpoints. Hence, their complexity helps to study crime and their social roots in present day Albanian.

Consequently, the official data over the years tells us about an increase in the reports of domestic violence (INSTAT, 2015). In 2014, we have 4,121 reports of domestic violence, and about 36% more than in 2010. Graphic 2 below presents the persons violated inside the family in the proportion of each category (women, men, and juveniles). For each year, the highest percentage of violence is against women. In 2014, women occupied 75% of the total victims of violence. Compared with 2010, this year, we have 86% more violated women or more cases denounced. Thus, juveniles accounted for only 5.2% of the total violations.



Graphic 2. Persons violated inside the family in %

Unemployment "fawn" poverty, which is directly a major factor that causes misunderstandings in the family, violence against women and children, and in some cases unprecedented crimes. However, transition countries like Albania have many problems in terms of gender poverty. "Over the last decade, the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately compared with the number of men, especially in developing countries" - writes P.K. Das in his book titled "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence" (Das, 2011). "Women's poverty is directly

related to the lack of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources and support services, and their minimal participation in the decision making process within the home". Thus, domestic violence thrust the family into a vicious circle as a result of poverty. This is because violent men have difficulties in accepting the fact that their wife should work. They tend to make their wives remain at home without getting a job, thereby opening the door to poverty. "Violence in the family can be a real barrier to employment. Abuse or violence can be doubled when women have a job, or start looking for a job" (Handler & Hasenfeld, 2012)

Aven Stërmasi, judicial police officer in Durres said in an interview (Journal of Durres, 2015) that "immigrants are the main factor for the increase in the number of murders in Durres". The newcomers have moved into Durres because of difficult living conditions in the places they have lived before. In most cases, crimes in families usually occur for three major reasons: jealousy, poverty, and because the head of the family (the man) is depressed. Thus, the man experiencing depression is usually influenced by jealousy and poverty. In the table below (see table 1), we see that there are 2553 immigrants in the city of Durres only in the recent years (2012 – 2014).

*Table 1. The number of population, families, and immigrants in the city of Durres*

Years	The population	The number of family	of Immigrants
<b>2012</b>	205818	61769	1079
<b>2013</b>	208026	62757	803
<b>2014</b>	210285	64377	671
<b>Total</b>			<b>2553</b>

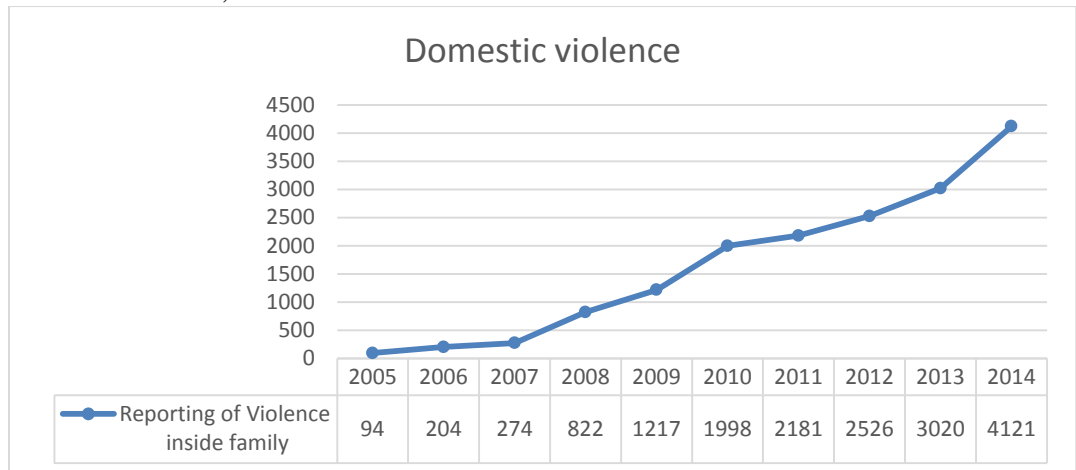
"We had two rooms and a kitchen, and we were living in the same house with two of my husband brothers, my father in law, and three children. When I lost my job, my husband began drinking and gambling. Then, he began to use violence on me and on the children. I believe the main reason for the generation of this violence was poverty. This is because when there is no income, the man begins to exercise violence against his wife. Thus, this violence is an up-spring of jealousy and unemployment." (Jonida, 40 years old, married with three children, occupied from Shkodra)" (Counselling for women and girls, 2013, p. 48)

Susanna, 34 years old, married, the mother of a child, and employed in Tirana, explains: "It is unemployment that causes these problems. Even if you are employed, the salary is very small. Expenses are so much; and it is normal for this to create problems between spouses. There was a lot of stress this last decade, and half of the couples in Tirana are divorced." (Counselling for women and girls, 2013, p. 49)

Consequently, it turns out that every month, three persons are convicted for murder committed due to family relationships. There are 132 cases of attempted murders and the possession of illegal weapons.

But with all the changes in the laws and penalties or measures taken by the courts again, women have to do more to get rid of violence. They should raise their voice and be heard, and not to keep silent. Edmond Dragoti sociologist writes: "women should free themselves completely from prejudice, and they should know their role in the society ... although there are many women who feel the need for equality, again they are not free from bias of the inferior status; and even worse, there are women who accept somewhat discrimination inside" (Dragoti, 2007).

Furthermore, the reporting of domestic violence is increased more and more in recent years (see graphic 3). Women and children are starting to become aware that violence must be reported. If every women and children are aware of this, then we will have less domestic crimes.



Graphic 3. The reporting of domestic violence, source: INSTAT

In the year 2014, we have 36% more reports of domestic violence compared to 2010. According to INSTAT, denunciations were in 4121 cases of violence during 2014.

### Data Analysis

The hypothesis drawn from this study is that unemployment and poverty are closely related with domestic crime. For the purpose of my study, I interviewed 600 people of different ages, professions, and various statuses in Durres.

### The Aim, Objectives, and Hypotheses

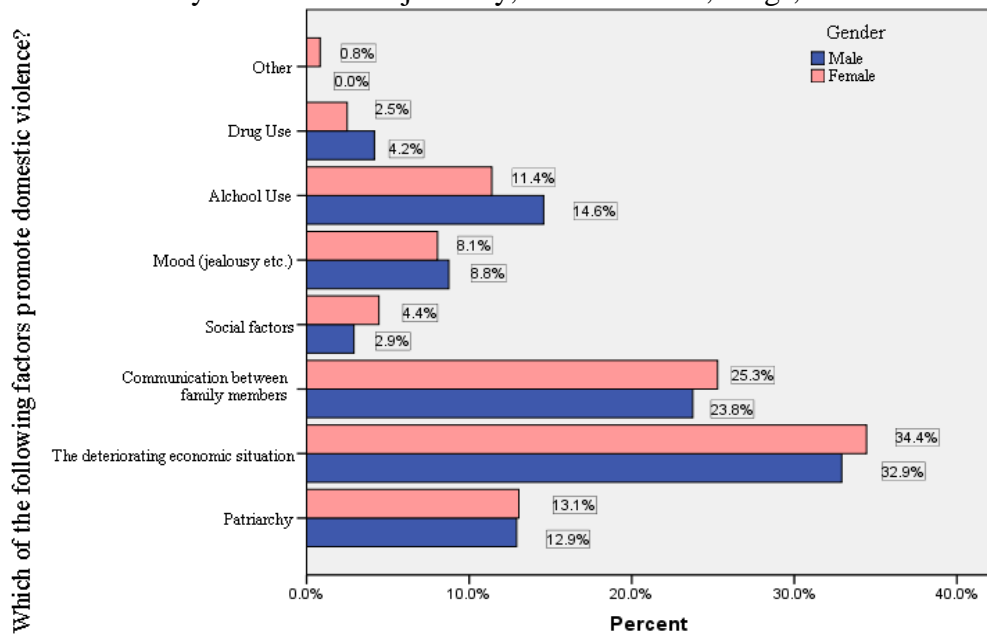
The purpose of this study is to find the link that exists between unemployment, poverty, and domestic violence crime.

**Hypothesis 1:** Unemployment and poverty are the major factors that encourage violence and crime within the family.

### General Data of the Social Demographic of the Study Participants

In conducting the study, we interviewed 600 individuals with different social and demographic characteristics.

The 600 interviewees were asked to give an opinion on the factors that encourage violence in their families (Graphic 4). Men and women in the foreground listed the difficult economic situation. Thus, 34.4% of men and 32.9% of women said that poverty is the main factor that causes argument between couples. Later, they added the lack of communication (which according to sociologists is also driven indirectly by the difficult economic situation). However, this continues further with high patriarchy that exists in Albanian society which include jealousy, use of alcohol, drugs, and so on.



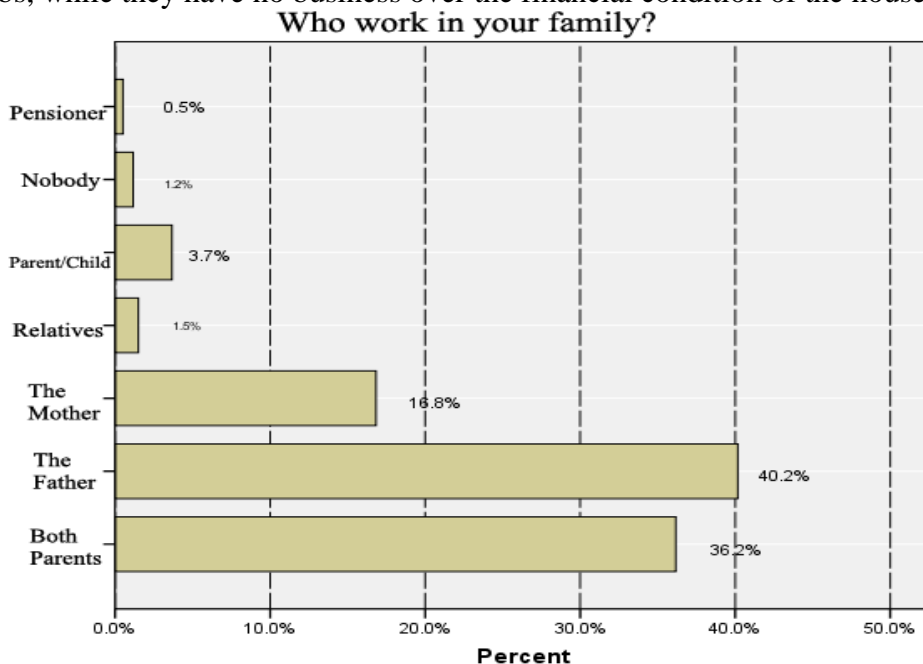
Graphic 4. Which of the following factors boost domestic violence?

Even in the table below (Table 1), we see that in total, there are 203 people from 600 interviewees who answered that "the difficult economic situation" is one of the main factors that promote violence and crime within the family.

Table 1. Which of the following factors boost domestic violence?

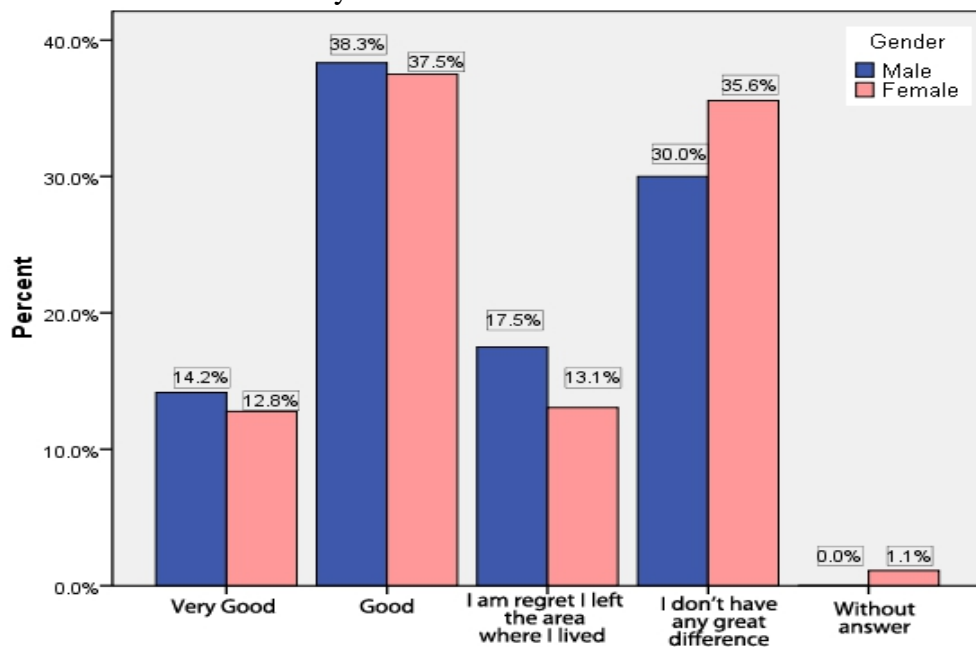
Cross tabulation				
		Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
In your opinion, which of the following factors boost domestic violence?	Patriarchy	31	47	78
	The deteriorating economic situation	79	124	203
	Communication between family members	57	91	148
	Social factors	7	16	23
	Mood (jealousy etc.)	21	29	50
	The use of alcohol	35	41	76
	Drug use	10	9	19
	Other	0	3	3
Total		240	360	600

Graphic 5 tells us that in the city of Durrës, most women are unemployed. And over 40% of respondents answered that in their family, only the father works. Only 16.8% answered that in their family, only their mother works. While 36.2% answered that in their family, both spouses (husband and wife) work. Thus, this shows that most women are dependent on their husband in terms of finance, and this frequently leads to violence and the subjugation of women. They stay at home performing household jobs, while they have no business over the financial condition of the house.



Graphic 5. Who work in your family?

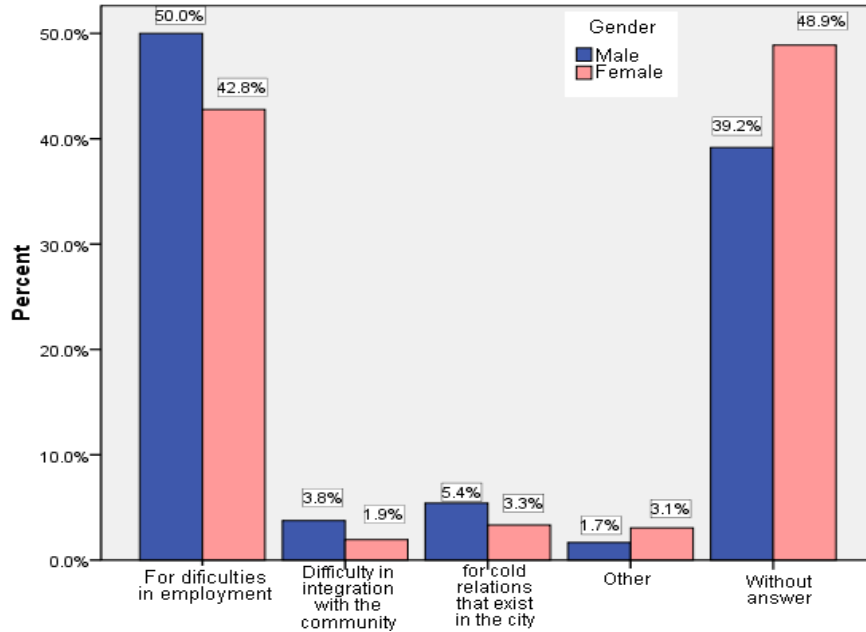
Major problem of domestic violence crime as we said above are newcomers. Since their movement from remote areas to Durres, they have had difficult economic situation. When they were asked how they see their situation in Durres (*Graphic 6*), most of them stated: "I do not have any big difference" (35.6% women and 30% men), or "I regret that I left my place" (17.5% men and 13.1% women). Thus, this shows that their economic situation has not changed generally with their displacement in Durres. This difficult economic situation in addition to problems of patriarchy (which exists in Albanian remote areas and villages) also carries serious economic problems, which inadvertently cause misunderstandings, conflicts, violence, and crime within the family.



*Graphic 6. If you regret coming to Durres, what is the case?*

Difficulty in employment is one of the main factors that newcomers from other areas repent for coming to Durres (*Graphic 7*). Run question: "if you are repent for coming, why?", 50% of men and 42.8% of women respondents answered "difficulties in employment". Immigrants are those which have been added to the list of unemployed mainly in the city of Durres. This reinforces the fact that newcomers are mostly the victims of violence and crime within the family.





Graphic 7. If you regret coming to Durres, what is the case?

In Table 2, we made a correlation of two factors using SPSS program: financial income and security in families from various forms of crime. Thus, we see that a significant correlation at -0.137 level in these two factors means that with the increase of financial income, insecurity in the family drop. So, we have a strong correlation that reinforces our idea that unemployment and poverty are the key factors in domestic security. Families with low incomes feel more insecure in the family. This applies to both men and women. But it is known that in the Albanian patriarchal society, women are the victims of violence much more than men.

Table 2. Correlation: Domestic incomes with safety from various forms of crime

Correlation			
		How much financial income do you have in your household?	How safe do you feel in a family with different forms of crime?
How much financial income do you have in your household?	Pearson Correlation	1	-.137**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	600	600
How safe do you feel in a family with different forms of crime?	Pearson Correlation	-.137**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	600	600

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

## Conclusions

High unemployment rate in the city of Durres is one of the main factors causing poverty, and it has been increasing in recent years. From the analysis made after 600 interviews conducted in Durres, I saw that the rise of unemployment reduce domestic security. Men and women in the interviews listed economic situation as a major factor that promotes violence and crime cases within the family. Thus, 34.4% of men and 32.9% of women interviewed said that poverty is the main factor that causes argument between couples.

Statistics show that in the city of Durres, most women are unemployed. And over 40% of respondents answered that in their family, only the male works and not the females. Therefore, this makes women to be economically dependent on men.

In addition, a major problem for the crime of domestic violence as stated above is the movement of people from rural areas to the city of Durres. However, since their movement from rural areas to Durres, they have been experiencing difficulties due to the economic situation of things in the city.

This difficult economic situation in addition to the problems of patriarchy (which exists in Albanian remote areas and villages) also carries serious economic problems, which cause misunderstandings, violence, and crime within the family.

Difficulty in employment is a factor that newcomers from other areas repent in Durres. Based on the question: "if you are repent for coming to Durres, what is the reason?", 50% of men and 42.8% of women respondents answered "difficulties in employment".

In conclusion, poverty as we saw in this study causes tension, contradictions, violence, and crime within the family. Hence, the government needs to create employment policies. These policies should be oriented towards equal opportunities so that women should have greater employment opportunities. Besides the government, the women themselves, society, community, and the media can work together to combat violence and crime within the Albanian families.

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