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ловіки перші влаштовують домашні скандали та сварки, на агресію їх провокують саме жінки.

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## CRIMINOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (ART. 126-1 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE) IN UKRAINE

Research article presents the results of the analysis of decisions (sentences) made in 2019–2020 by the courts of the first instance in the regions of Ukraine for domestic violence (Article 126-1 of the Criminal Code); presents certain criminological characteristics of perpetrators and victims of domestic violence. It is noted that one of the priority tasks of combating domestic violence is to ensure the access of victims to justice, protection of their rights and punishment of the perpetrators. Legal practice shows that the existing administrative penalties for domestic violence are limited to fines, community service or administrative arrest (for a maximum of fifteen days) and have a weak punitive effect. There is little to stop the perpetrators, they continue to commit violence, their subsequent actions become more dangerous, and the lives of the victims are even more intolerable. In this regard, and in order to implement the adopted international legal instruments on the prevention of violence against women, domestic violence and combating these phenomena in 2017, the Criminal Code of Ukraine added Art. 126-1, according to which domestic violence is punishable by community service, arrest, restriction or imprisonment. In 2019, the trial of criminal proceedings under this article was initiated. In the scientific article, based on the analysis of decisions (sentences) made in 2019–2020 by the courts of first instance of Ukraine for domestic violence, it is determined, in which regions more sentences were passed, what form of violence is committed more often, what consequences it has for victims; whether the perpetrators were subject to restrictive and precautionary measures, which was imposed punishment. There are also some criminological characteristics of perpetrators and victims of domestic violence. In particular, it is noted that domestic violence is committed mainly by men (96.5 % of the total number of accused ones), women make up 3.5 %. Most offenders are the citizens of Ukraine and only a small number are natives of neighboring countries.

Regarding marital status, most abusers are officially unmarried (49.7 % of men, 2.1 % of women) and divorced (17.4 % of men, 0.7 % of women). 17.9 % of men and 0.4 % of women are officially married. There aren't any statistics on 11.5 %.

At the place of residence, family abusers are characterized by relatives and neighbors mostly "negatively" and "indirectly". Only a small number are trusted: they are characterized as friendly, responsive, sociable and decent family members. It should be noted that not in all cases of domestic violence men are the the initiators of scandals and quarrels, women can provoke them as well.

**Keywords:** domestic violence, offender, victim of domestic violence, criminal liability, criminal case, court decision.

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