Key findings

Sample size
- Total autopsies conducted: 6190
- Sample size for the study: 1467
- Ages of death due to unknown causes: 840
- Underlying reason for death: 151

Overall, about 12.8% of the total autopsies that were conducted in females had a history indicative of GBV.

Age
- 16% 10-19 years
- 15% 20-29 years
- 20% 30-39 years
- 20% 40-59 years
- 19% 60+ years

Mean age of the victims was 34.8 years.

Location
- Home/private space: 99%
- Road: 1%

Most incidents occurred in homes or private spaces.

Manner of death
- Accident: 85 (47%)
- Suicide: 86 (47%)
- Misdemeanor: 10 (6%)

Most victims died by suicide or accidents.

Nature of injury
- Bums: 58%
- Hanging: 20%
- Poisoning: 16%
- Assault: 3%
- Jump: 2%

6 out of 10 victims died of burns.

Status
- Divorced/widowed: 27%
- Married: 47%
- Unmarried: 26%

2/3rd victims were married.

Reasons
- Closest to them: 5%
- Family/lovers: 28%
- Marital/relationship issues: 14%
- Intimate partner affairs: 13%

Underlying reasons for death include marital dispute or relationship issues for 6 out of 10 victims.

Perpetrators
- Husband/family member: 41%
- Underlying reason for death: 5%

6 out of 10 victims were perpetrated by husbands or intimate partners.

Conclusion and Recommendations

1. Gender-related killings is a brutal manifestation of the continuum of violence.
2. Women and girls are most likely to be killed by those closest to them.
3. More investigation into injuries due to burns can shed light on social factors related to violence.
4. Comprehensive data on gender-related violence can inform protection and response measures.

Standardized data on gender-related dimensions remain elusive. There is a need to strengthen age and sex-disaggregated data collection, management, and interpretation at the autopsy centres for all violent or unnatural deaths. Qualitative inquiry into the factors associated with death in addition to quantitative analysis of data, especially in cases of deaths due to accidental and suicidal burns, will help understand the magnitude of the problem and social context of gender-based violence.

Analysis of deaths due to Gender-based violence: An autopsy-based cross-sectional study from Mumbai

March, 2023
Gender-based violence is a global pandemic that affects 1 in 3 women in their lifetime. While gender-based violence is widespread in the country, Mumbai remains a hotspot for crime against women.

Of the 10 autopsy centres in Mumbai that are responsible for medicolegal death investigation, the autopsy centre under the governance of the forensic medicine and toxicology department at KEM hospital receives the highest case load. It conducts approximately 1200-1300 autopsies per year.

### Women-centred crimes in Mumbai in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assault with intent to outrage her modesty</td>
<td>1627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping &amp; abduction</td>
<td>1158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping in order to murder</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping to compel her for marriage</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruelty by husband or relatives</td>
<td>829</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NCRB report, 2021 Highlights
- 5,543 crimes were recorded in 2021 in Mumbai alone under IPC & Special local laws (SLL).
- Total crime rate against women is 65.1 per 1 lakh population in the city.
- There were 37 victims of murders in women (adult and children) and 2 victims of murder in transgenders.

### Analysis of deaths due to Gender-based violence:

**An autopsy based cross-sectional study from Mumbai**

#### Aim of the study
To calculate the proportion of women and girls (including non-binary gender) that died due to gender-based violence and assess the patterns of injury in them and examine perpetrator characteristics.

#### Working Definition
Deaths due to gender-based violence are defined as “intentional homicides and abetted suicide of women, and girls (including non-binary gender victims) perpetrated by intimate partners, other family members, or other identified or unidentified individuals, using methods or circumstances that suggest gender-based motivations”.

#### Technical Working Group
To provide oversight on the progress of the study, a Technical Working Group (TWG) was constituted comprising external independent academic and technical experts in addition to resource faculty from the institute and collaborating partner. A consultation workshop was organized on 22nd June 2022 to finalize the study protocols and data collection tool.

#### Data extraction and systematization

**STEP 1**
- Data of women, girls & non-binary gender that died from unnatural causes were extracted from autopsy records.
- Most of the information was descriptive & in Marathi; it was translated to English.

**STEP 2**
- Information related to violence was mined from the detailed history in the records.
- Perpetrator details were validated from police records, where available.

**STEP 3**
- Data were structured and digitized.

**STEP 4**
- Data were analyzed and interpreted.

*Data were de-identified to ensure personal identifiers were not exposed.*

The unavailability of complete and systematized data on social & demographic factors of the victim and perpetrator posed a major challenge. Additionally, limited data on perpetrator could be obtained for victims that resided out of the Mumbai city police jurisdiction.