

Domestic abuse stats and facts

The term domestic violence describes a continuum of behaviour ranging from isolation, verbal abuse, harassment, stalking, threats and intimidation, manipulative coercive behaviour, physical and sexual assault, to rape and murder.

- **1 in 4 women** in the UK will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. Official figures that show nearly 5 million women or 30% of the adult female population have experienced some form of domestic abuse since age 16
- **1 in 5 women** will experience sexual assault in their lifetime. 51% of serious sexual assaults including rape were committed by current or former partner of the victim
- **1 in 20 women** were stalked last year and 1 in 5 women will experience stalking in their lifetime
- Women are at **greatest risk of homicide at the point of separation** or within six months of leaving a violent partner
- Every week, **two women are killed by their current or former partners**. (This does not include murders that are not recorded as domestic homicide or suicide) Imagine if that was two footballers or politicians a week – do you think the response to this issue would be different?
- 94% of defendants who were charged with crimes of violence against woman and girls were men. From those cases with recorded gender, the proportion of **women victims was 84%** (CPS Violence against Women and Girls Crime Report 2011-2012)
- **Merseyside Police** (Merseyside population 1.38 million) **recorded 32,511 incidents of domestic abuse in 2011/12** which equates to **89 calls for assistance every day across Merseyside**. This number of recorded incidents was the third largest number after London (population 8.3m and number of recorded incidents 118,079) and West Yorkshire (population 2.2 million and number of recorded incidents 36,725) (House of Commons Library, December 2013)
- The total cost of violence against woman and girls in the UK was costed by Sylvia Walby who looked at the nine categories of violence against woman and girls as written in the 'Violence against women and girls strategy'. The costs for all the categories is £36.7 billion per annum. **£15.7 billion is the estimated costs for the category of domestic violence**. The nine categories are:
 1. Domestic violence
 2. Forced marriage
 3. Honour-based violence
 4. Female Genital Mutilation
 5. Rape and sexual offences
 6. Prostitution
 7. Human trafficking
 8. Child abuse
 9. Pornography

- Domestic violence is known to be a major cause of miscarriage and still-birth. There is also a connection between domestic violence and low birth weight, premature birth, foetal injury and foetal death as well as teenage pregnancy. According to Women's Aid, **70% of teenage mothers are in a violent relationship.** (Violence against women, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists)
- Domestic violence commonly results in self-harm and attempted suicide: **one-third of women attending emergency departments for self-harm were domestic violence survivors**
- The annual survey of people's experience of crime also reveals that a startling **10% of the public think that it is "mostly or sometimes" acceptable to hit or slap their partner in response to them having an affair.** This rises to 16% of older teenagers, with little difference in attitude between men and women
- Every day thousands of children witness cruelty and violence behind closed doors. It is estimated that **90% of children are in the same room** when a violent assault is taking place and **10% of that 90% are witnessing a rape or sexual assault**
- Women who have experienced violence from a man they know are:
 - o Fifteen times more likely to abuse alcohol
 - o Nine times more likely to be diagnosed as depressed or psychotic
 - o Five times more likely to attempt suicide

Stereotypes and Myths

Domestic Abuse is NOT

- Just against woman
- Not just in one socio-economic group
- Not cultural
- Age related
- Class related
- Not caused because of alcohol / drugs or mental health
- **Nothing** to do with anger

Domestic Abuse is targeted abuse by one person who has power and control over another