

STATISTICS

Extent and nature

- One in four women will experience domestic violence during their lifetime. (Council of Europe, 2002)
- Approximately one in six men will experience domestic violence during their lifetime. (Home Office Research Study 191, 1999)
- The 2001/2 British Crime Survey found that there were an estimated 635,000 incidents of domestic violence over that period in England and Wales. Of those, 81 per cent of the victims were women and 19 per cent were men. (Crime in England and Wales, Home Office, July 2002)
- On average, two women each week are killed by a current or former partner (Home Office, 2001)
- Domestic violence incidents make up nearly a quarter of all violent crime. (Crime in England and Wales, Home Office, July 2002)
- In her survey of domestic violence on a single day, Betsy Stanko found that one in five counselling sessions at Relate mentioned domestic violence. (Betsy Stanko, 2000)
- It is estimated that police receive a call from a victim of domestic violence every minute. (Betsy Stanko, 2000)
- A third of police calls to incidents of domestic violence come from women who are being harassed by ex-partners. (Kelly, 1999)
- Less than 35 per cent of actual domestic violence is reported to the police. It is the least likely violent crime to be reported to the police. (Crime in England and Wales 2001/ 2002 report, Home Office, July 2002, BCS 2000)

- The British Crime Survey showed that 57 per cent of victims of domestic violence are involved in more than one incident. No other type of crime has a rate of repeat victimisation as high. (Crime in England and Wales, Home Office, July 2002)

Responses

- A study of 180 women's experiences of domestic violence commissioned by Women's Aid, Routes To Safety, found that 60 per cent of the women had left home because they feared that they or their children would be killed by the perpetrator. (Women's Aid 2002).
- Just under half of domestic violence victims will tell a relative or friend. (Home Office Research Study, 1999)
- Debbie Crisp and Betsy Stanko estimate that 3.6 million friends and relatives in England and Wales have been told by a loved one that they are experiencing domestic violence. This equates to one in 12 of the adult population. (2001)
- Metropolitan Police figures for January to March 2001 show that 128 of 180 victims of domestic violence in that period were unwilling to pursue the allegation. (Metropolitan Police Research "Understanding and Responding to Hate Crime" team, 2001)
- A study by WAITS (Women Acting in Today's Society, 1995) of the take-up of support services by Asian, African Caribbean and Arab women found that about half the women who had experienced domestic violence waited five years before they sought help. Language barriers and fears about the type of accommodation that they would find in a refuge have been identified as major concerns. (Rai and Thiara, 1997)

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Children

- There are children in half of the households where there is domestic violence. (1999 Home Office, 1999)
- It is estimated that between one-third and two-thirds of children in homes where the mother is being abused are also at risk of being abused. (Home Office, 2000)
- 100,000 children run away from home every year in the UK. Four out of five children who run away from home say they do so to escape family conflict, violence or abuse. (The Children's Society, 1999)
- A high percentage of children whose mothers are battered will have witnessed at least one violent incident. In a NCH study of 104 women, 73 per cent of the mothers said their child had witnessed domestic violence. The same study found that 90 per cent were in the same room or next room and 99 per cent said their children had seen them crying and upset because of the violence. (National Children's Home Action for Children, 1994).
- A study of 111 children who had been sexually abused and were attending an NSPCC centre revealed that half of these children had been living with domestic violence. (Hester and Pearson, 1998).
- A 2000 survey by the Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust of 1,300 schoolchildren found that one in three boys thought violence against women was acceptable.

Attitudes

- A 1998 survey by the Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust of 2,039 young people (13-19 years old) found that one in five young men and one in 10 young women thought violence against women was acceptable. In this same 1998 study, almost one in four young men thought it could be acceptable to hit a woman if she had "slept with someone else". Also in the study, one in five young men considered it acceptable to force a woman to have sex if she were his wife.