

Statistics about Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a very secret crime. It happens behind closed doors and is kept secret through shame and fear. Many victims feel guilt and responsibility for the abuse they suffer, often over many years.

Current estimates of domestic abuse (DA):

- In 2010/2011, an average of 2 women a week were killed by a male and/or former partner: this constituted around one-third of all female homicide victims (Smith, Osborne, Lau, & Britton, 2012). This finding is consistent with previous years (Department of Health, 2005; Home Office, 1999; Povey, 2004, 2005).
- Approximately 100,000 individuals are currently (2011/2012) at high risk of serious harm or murder as a result of DA (CAADA, 2012).
- In 2010/2011, domestic violence accounted for 18% of all violent incidents reported in England and Wales (Chaplin, Flatley, & Smith, 2011) .
- 7% of women and 5% of men reported DA in 2010/ 2011. This is equivalent to approximately 1.2 million female and 800,000 male victims of DA (Smith, Osborne, Lau, & Britton, 2011) .
- In 2010/2011, repeat victimisation accounted for 73% of all incidents of domestic violence, 44 % were victimised more than once and 24% of victims had been victimised three times or more (Chaplin et al., 2011).
- Approximately 130,000 children are currently (2011/ 2012) living with DA (CAADA, 2012).
- During the period April 2011 to March 2012 there were 17 male victims of homicides that were caused by partners or ex partners (Violent Crime & Sexual Offences 2011/12)
- A study by the NSPCC (2009) identified that 1 in 9 girls reported to have experienced some form of physical violence from a partner and that 4 per cent of boys stated that they had experienced severe physical partner violence
- At any time, nearly 7000 women and children are sheltering from violence in refuges in the UK (WAFE)
- One in four women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime and that 6-10% of women suffer it in any given year (Council of Europe, 2002)
- Domestic abuse is rarely a single incident; the repeat victimisation rate is 44% higher than any other type of crime (Dodd et al, July 2004)
- A quarter of all violence reported to the police in the UK is domestic violence (British Crime Survey, 2000)

Information for local statistics can be found in the report '[Characteristics of domestic abuse and predictors of repeat victimisation in North Lincolnshire](#)' by Iain Brennan of the University of Hull.

DA over individuals' lifetime:

- Since the age of 16, almost 30 % of women and 17 % of men in England and Wales have experienced some form of domestic abuse (Chaplin et al., 2011).
- Not only are women more likely to have experienced domestic abuse (see above), they are also more likely to have experienced multiple incidents of abuse. Indeed, 89% of those individuals who have been subject to 4 or more incidents of DA (same perpetrator) since the age of 16 are women (Walby & Allen, 2004).
- The average length of the abusive relationship is 5 years (CAADA, 2012).

For information about local services available to get support and advice from if you think you are suffering from domestic abuse then click here or go to our home page for further information and assistance.

In an emergency call the police on 999 - for non-emergency dial 101

If you think that you have questions about your alcohol intake then we have local substance misuse services that can provide help and support to help answer any questions you may have. Their details are below:

Service		Opening times	Telephone number
CRi Step Forward 189 – 195 High Street Scunthorpe DN15 6EA	Not open Bank Holidays	Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5pm (late night appts are Monday and Wednesday until 7pm) Needle Exchange Open 10am until 4pm Monday to Friday	01724 857633 0808 143 0640
24 hour local support number	For all drug issues		0808 143 0640

Common myths about domestic abuse:

The myths that have grown and developed around the subject often focus on the victim. Some (but not all) victims themselves believe and promote these myths. It is essential that all victims understand they are not to blame and should not be stereotyped in any way.



"If they didn't like it, they'd leave...."

The psychological aspect of domestic abuse leaves the victim completely isolated from family and friends. The victim is trapped through a belief that things 'will get better', or by the threats that are made by the perpetrator of what would happen to them if they did leave. Victims are most at risk of life threatening injury when they try to leave.

"It only happens in poor families...."

Domestic abuse affects people from all lifestyles. Wealth, status, religion, background and disability are irrelevant in terms of domestic abuse. Abusers are not easily identifiable and come from every social level. Less than a third of incidents are reported. Domestic abuse is the least likely to be reported of all violent crimes.

"It happens because they get drunk...."

Most abusers hit whether drunk or sober. Alcohol and other substances often reduce the ability to control behaviour. It increases the risk of abuse from an already abusive person. Domestic abuse takes place at any time of the day. The majority of incidents attended by the police involve sober people. Every minute in the UK, the police receive a call for assistance regarding domestic abuse.

"It's private, people shouldn't interfere...."

The full extent of the abuse is rarely seen outside the relationship. The myth that it is just 'the odd slap' and that very few people are actually hurt contributes to, and fails to recognise the psychological and emotional effects. The abuse of anyone, whether in a relationship or not is a crime. Two women are killed each week by a current or former violent partner (that's 104 a year) and 30 men a year are also killed by their current or former partner.