

## **Domestic Violence**

### **1. Help and Support**

If you are affected by domestic violence, it is not your fault and you do not have to tolerate it. There are organisations that can help and support you and your family. Seek help and support through one of the contacts below:

#### **Lea Manor High School Child Protection Officers**

Ms A Vale valea@leamanor.luotn.sch.uk

#### **National Centre for Domestic Violence**

The National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV) provides a free, fast emergency injunction service to survivors of domestic violence regardless of their financial circumstances, race, gender or sexual orientation. <http://www.ncdv.org.uk/>

#### **Childline**

0800 1111

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

#### **24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline**

0808 2000 247

#### **FamilyLine**

0808 800 5678

#### **CareLine**

020 8514 1177 (national confidential counselling line)

#### **Refuge**

0808 2000 247

The helpline is there 24 hours a day, seven days a week for women experiencing domestic violence. Refuge's fully trained female workers, provide support and information. All calls are confidential. The helpline is run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge. [www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk)

## **Women's Aid**

Women's Aid is a voluntary organisation which provides support and information to women and their children who are being physically, emotionally and sexually abused in their own homes.

[www.womensaid.org](http://www.womensaid.org)

## **2. Other Information**

What is the definition of domestic violence?

The UK government's definition of domestic violence is "any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional."

### **Facts and stats about domestic violence**

Official statistics show the amount of domestic violence recorded by the authorities every year. But the problem is much bigger than shown in official statistics, as many victims and children don't tell anyone about the abuse, and they are not recorded as crimes. That's why SafeLives also uses data from our Insights database – the largest national database of domestic violence cases in the UK, with more than 35,000 records from 2009 to date.

### **Key statistics about domestic abuse in England and Wales**

Each year around 2.1m people suffer some form of domestic abuse - 1.4 million women (8.5% of the population) and 700,000 men (4.5% of the population) 2

Each year more than 100,000 people in the UK are at high and imminent risk of being murdered or seriously injured as a result of domestic abuse 3

Women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse: 95% of those going to Marac or accessing an Idva service are women 4,

In 2013-14 the police recorded 887,000 domestic abuse incidents in England and Wales 2

Seven women a month are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales 2

130,000 children live in homes where there is high-risk domestic abuse 3

62% of children living with domestic abuse are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others 1

On average high-risk victims live with domestic abuse for 2.6 years before getting help 4

85% of victims sought help five times on average from professionals in the year before they got effective help to stop the abuse<sup>4</sup>

### **How widespread is domestic abuse?**

Each year around 2.1m people suffer some form of domestic abuse - 1.4 million women (8.5% of the population) and 700,000 men (4.5% of the population) <sup>10</sup>

An estimated 4.6m women (28% of the adult population) have experienced domestic abuse at some point since the age of 16 <sup>10</sup>

A quarter of 13-18 year old girls report experiencing physical abuse in their own intimate partner relationships, and one-third sexual abuse <sup>11</sup>

In 2013-14 the police recorded 887,000 domestic abuse incidents in England and Wales <sup>10</sup>

### **How many people die as a result of domestic abuse?**

In 2013-14, 85 women were murdered by their partner or ex-partner in England and Wales. This accounted for just under half (46%) of all murders of women aged 16 or over. In comparison, 7% of men murdered were killed by their partner or ex-partner <sup>10</sup>

This means 1.6 women a week – or 7 a month – are killed by a current or ex-partner in England and Wales <sup>10</sup>

It is estimated many more take their own lives as a result of domestic abuse: every day almost 30 women attempt suicide as a result of experiencing domestic abuse and every week three women take their own lives <sup>12</sup>

### **What forms does domestic abuse take?**

88% of high-risk victims experience multiple forms of abuse, including physical and sexual abuse, harassment and stalking and coercive control (jealous and controlling behaviours)<sup>14</sup>

In 8 in 10 (79%) high-risk cases, the abuse is escalating in either frequency or severity, or both <sup>13</sup>

Approximately 42% of domestic violence victims have been victimised more than once. Victims experience an average of 20 incidents of domestic violence in a year, which can often increase in severity each time <sup>12</sup>

Over 80% of high-risk victims report experiencing physical abuse<sup>14</sup>

Nearly 90% of high-risk victims report experiencing emotional abuse and/or coercive control (jealous and controlling behaviours) <sup>14</sup>

79% of teenage victims of domestic abuse experienced physical abuse, and 19% sexual abuse <sup>2</sup>

## **What are the physical health impacts of domestic abuse?**

1 in 5 high-risk victims reported attending A&E as a result of their injuries in the year before getting effective help 13

As well as short term injuries, victims of abuse suffer long-term physical health consequences. Health conditions associated with abuse include: asthma, bladder and kidney infections, cardiovascular disease, fibromyalgia, chronic pain syndromes, central nervous system disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, migraines/headaches 1, 4, 8

Domestic abuse often leaves victims with reproductive consequences too, including gynaecological disorders, sexually transmitted infections, pre-term difficulties and pregnancy difficulties 5

At least a fifth (18%) of children in domestic abuse households are injured as a result of the abuse 3

## **What are the mental health impacts of domestic abuse?**

40% of high-risk victims report having mental health issues 13

16% of victims report that they have considered or attempted suicide as a result of the abuse, and 13% report self-harming 14

Domestic abuse has significant psychological consequences for victims, including anxiety, depression, suicidal behaviour, low self-esteem, inability to trust others, flashbacks, sleep disturbances and emotional detachment 5

Domestic abuse victims are at risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) – as many as two-thirds of victims of abuse (64%) developed PTSD in one study 6

Between 30 and 60% of psychiatric in-patients had experienced severe domestic abuse 7

## **Sources**

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