

# Handout

## Key Facts

The Women's Commission: Women's Voices to Government (2010)

- World Health Organisations Multi-Country study into women's health and domestic violence against women found that between 1 in 2 and 1 in 10 women will experience some form of violence at some point in their lives.
- One in 4 women will experience domestic abuse from a partner in her lifetime.
- 54% of cases reported to the police in 2007/08 involved repeat victimisation.
- 92% of rapists are known to the woman they rape.
- 7 out of 10 women giving evidence in rape trials will be asked about their sexual history or character.
- 1,053 rapes or attempted rapes were recorded in 2007/08 in Scotland.
- There were 1,666 incidents of indecent assault in the same period.
- Female homicide victims are most commonly killed in a dwelling with the motive being rage/fight with a partner.
- Teenage mothers seem to be particularly likely to experience domestic abuse. An American study found that 70% of teenage mothers at one hospital were in a relationship with a violent partner.
- A study in 2007 for England and Wales estimated that nearly 66,000 women aged between 15 and 49 living in the UK had undergone FGM and over 20,000 girls were at risk.
- Between 78% and 86% of stalking victims are female, with between 18% and 31% experiencing sexual violence within the context of stalking behaviour.

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Key facts about domestic  
abuse

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## Against Violence Abuse

- An analysis of ten separate domestic violence prevalence studies by the Council of Europe showed consistent findings: 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence during their lifetime and between 6 - 10% of women experience domestic violence in any given year. [Council of Europe (2002) Recommendation 2002/5 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Protection of Women Against Violence adopted on 30 April 2002 (Council of Europe: Strasbourg, France)].
- Approximately 42% of domestic violence victims have been victimised more than once. The British Crime Survey indicates that victims experience an average of 20 incidents of domestic violence in a year, which can often increase in severity each time. [Walby, S. and Allen, J. (2004) Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: Findings from the British Crime Survey. Home Office Development and Statistics Directorate]
- Domestic violence has a higher rate of repeat victimisation than any other crime. [Home Office, July 2002]
- Every minute in the UK, the police receive a call from the public for assistance for domestic violence. This leads to police receiving an estimated 1,300 calls each day or over 570,000 each year. [Stanko B 'The Day to Count', 2000]
- Approximately 77% of victims of domestic violence are women. [HM Government (2008) Saving Lives. Reducing Harm. Protecting the Public. An Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008-2011]
- In the case of domestic violence, nearly one in four victims is victimised three or more times [Povey, E., Coleman, K., Kaiza, P., Hoare, C., Jansson, K., (2008) Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Crime in England and Wales 2006/07. Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2006/07]
- Despite chronic under-reporting (and under-recording), approximately 16% of all reported violent incidents to the police are characterised as domestic violence related [Povey, E., Coleman, K., Kaiza, P., Hoare, C., Jansson, K., (2008) Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Crime in England and Wales 2006/07. Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2006/07]
- A thematic inspection by HMIC and HMCPsi in 2004 found across six police forces an under-recording of domestic violence crimes (not incidents) of 50%. [HMCPsi and HMIC (2004) Violence at Home, London]
- Domestic violence accounts for 16% of homelessness acceptances. [Women and Equality Unit (2003) Increasing Safe Accommodation Choices]
- 500 women who have experienced domestic violence in the last six months commit suicide every year. Of those, just under 200 attended hospital for domestic violence on the day that they committed suicide. [Walby, S. (2004) The Cost of Domestic Violence. Women and Equality Unit]
- A study of 200 women's experiences of domestic violence found that 60% of the women had left because they feared that they or their children would be killed by the perpetrator. [C. Humphreys and R. Thiara (2002) Routes to Safety: Protection issues facing abused women and children and the role of outreach service (Women's Aid Federation England: Bristol)]

<http://www.avaproject.org.uk/>

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