

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

National statistics (Taken from Home Office Fact Sheet – February 2006)

- Domestic violence accounts for 17% of all violent crime in England and Wales.
- 54% of rapists were current or former partners (British Crime Survey 2001).
- Police in the UK receive a call from the public for assistance for domestic violence on average every minute.
- For 30% of victims, domestic violence starts or escalates in pregnancy.
- In 30-66% of cases where women are being abused, children are also being abused by the same individual.
- No other type of crime has a rate of repeat victimisation as high.
- Women are at greatest risk of homicide at the point of separation or after leaving a violent male partner.
- Two women each week are killed by a partner or former partner, a total of over 100 deaths each year. 47% of all female homicide victims compared with 5% of male victims were killed by current or former partners in 2001-02 – 116 women killed compared with the 102 women killed by current or former partners in 2000-2001.
- Children can also be killed due to domestic violence.
- In 2004, more than 15,000 households were accepted, by local housing authorities in England as being owed a main homelessness duty where the reason for homelessness was fleeing domestic violence; this represents 13% of all homeless acceptances in England in 2004.

Lancashire

Area	Population (Census 2001)	Yearly Costs in £ (£440 per head of population)*	Population of Adult Women (Census 2001)	Yearly Prevalence of Domestic Violence (1 woman in 10)**
Lancashire County Council Area	1,134,976	499,389,440	478,693	47, 869
Blackburn w Darwen	137, 471	60,487,240	54,459	5,446
Blackpool	142,284	62,604,960	61,343	6,134

Area	Population (Census 2001)	Yearly Costs in £ (£440 per head of population)*	Population of Adult Women (Census 2001)	Yearly Prevalence of Domestic Violence (1 woman in 10)**
Burnley	89,541	39,398,040	36,935	3,694
Chorley	100,449	44,197,560	41,334	4,133
Fylde	73,249	32,229,560	32,180	3,218
Hyndburn	81,487	35,854,280	33,213	3,321
Lancaster	133,914	58,922,160	58,456	5,846
Pendle	89,252	39,270,880	36,534	3,653
Preston	129,642	57,042,480	54,151	5,415
Ribble Valley	53,961	23,742,840	22,780	2,278
Rossendale	65,657	28,889,080	26,893	2,689
South Ribble	103,863	45,699,720	43,662	4,366
West Lancashire	108,377	47,685,880	46,232	4,623
Wyre	105,584	46,456,960	46,323	4,632

***Yearly Costs in £ (£440 per head population)**

The latest research, "The Cost of Domestic Violence" by Sylvia Walby (University of Leeds) September 2004, commissioned by the Government Department - Women and Equality Unit, estimates the yearly cost of domestic violence in England and Wales for the state, employers and those who are subjected to it. The report estimates that there is a wide-ranging financial impact of domestic violence, which, were it spread out equally amongst the population, would amount to £440 per person.

In England and Wales in any one year, including all costs, the total cost of domestic violence for the state, employers and victims is estimated at around £23 billion. The methodology is based on the Home Office framework for costing crime and develops this so as to include the specific cost related to domestic violence. The estimate of costs provides an additional perspective for examining the devastating consequences of domestic violence for society as well as for victims. The report demonstrates the scale of the impact of domestic violence on our local community by estimating its cost and shows the cost of inaction.

The costs can be broken down as follows:

- *Criminal Justice System:* The cost of domestic violence to the criminal justice system (CJS) is nearly one-quarter of the CJS budget for violent crime. The largest single component is that of the police. Other components include: prosecution, courts, probation, prison, and legal aid.
- *Health Care:* The cost to the NHS for physical injuries and includes GPs and hospitals. Physical injuries account for most of the NHS costs, but there is an important element of mental health care.
- *Social Services:* This is overwhelmingly for children rather than for adults, especially those caught up in the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse.
- *Housing:* Expenditure on emergency housing includes costs to Local Housing Authorities and Housing Associations for housing those homeless because of domestic violence; housing benefit for such emergency housing; and, importantly, refuges.
- *Civil Legal:* Civil legal services, about half of which is borne by legal aid and half by the individual. This includes both specialist legal actions such as injunctions to restrain or expel a violent partner, as well as actions consequent on the disentangling of marriages and relationships such as divorce and child custody.
- *Economic Output:* This is the cost of time off work due to injuries. It is estimated that around half of the costs of such sickness absences is borne by the employer and half by the individual in lost wages.
- *Human and emotional cost:* This is an estimate of the human cost of 'pain, suffering and fear' and constructed using established Home Office approach. Many of these costs have actual cash impacts, for example through lower educational attainment or psychological illness.

There are some costs of domestic violence for which there was insufficient data to enable reliable estimates to be made and some others where only token sums were included. The major ones include: the long term cost implications in relation to children as the next generation (not included); informal support from friends, family, volunteers and the wider society (not included); and mental health (partly included).

****Yearly Prevalence of Domestic Violence (1 woman in 10)**

Sources are as follows:

- Council of Europe (2002). Recommendation Rec(2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the protection of women against violence adopted on 30 April 2002 and Explanatory Memorandum. Council of Europe: Strasbourg, France (refers to at least 10 separate studies).
- Betsy STANKO, Debbie CRISP, Chris HALE & Hebe LUCRAFT (1998) *Counting the Costs: estimating the impact of domestic violence in the London Borough of Hackney* SWINDON Crime Concern
- British Crime Survey 1998.