

Press release

06 August 2012

Crime figures show police, doctors and councils need to do more to help men like Coronation Street's "Tyrone" from suffering in silence.

Analysis¹ of the British Crime Survey shows in comparison to female victims of domestic abuse, men suffering like "Tyrone" in ITV's Coronation Street are three times more reluctant to tell the police and four times more reluctant to tell their GP about the problems they face behind their front door. The ManKind Initiative charity believes police, GP's and doctors need to do more, such as running and supporting targeted local awareness campaigns, to give men the confidence and strength to escape.

Currently, ITV's Coronation Street is running a storyline where the character Tyrone Dobbs is a victim of domestic abuse from his partner Kirsty Soames. The charity has praised the soap for its courage and accuracy in powerfully portraying the story and the way it will break down barriers to the way society views domestic abuse.

The figures in the British Crime Survey show:

- Police – Only 10% of male victims have told the police (29% of female victims)
- Health professionals – Only 4% of male victims have told a health professional (19% of female victims)
- Person in authority - Only 19% of male victims have told someone in authority (44% of women)
- Not told anyone – 28% of male victims and 13% of female victims have not told anyone they are a victim.

Mark Brooks, Chairman of the ManKind Initiative, said: "Everyone has a responsibility to help all victims of domestic abuse get out of the awful situation they face, but the figures show the police, councils and GP's have to do far more to stop men thinking they and their children cannot escape. Men suffering in silence need more

encouragement to open their curtains, see they have a future and then escape through the front door.”

The charity believes many men fail to recognise they are a victim because of the lack of awareness campaigns aimed specifically at male victims and this is compounded by the lack of confidence in telling the public authorities in the fear they will not be believed. The lack of local services especially in local housing support continues to be a problem and all adds to additional barriers that men have to overcome before they and their children can escape.

The charity’s five point communications checklist² includes running publicity awareness campaigns aimed at giving male victims, including those with children, the confidence to come forward. This includes aiming publicity in places that men will see (and where their partners may not) such as in sports pages and sports clubs, service stations and in pubs and bars rather than in libraries and GP surgeries where men visit less frequently.

The British Crime Survey also revealed that for every three victims of partner abuse, for every three victims of domestic abuse and for every three victims of stalking - two will be female, one will be male.

In 2010/11, 4% of men (600,000) and 6% of women (900,000) reported having experienced partner abuse.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. British Crime Survey 2010/11: <http://tinyurl.com/7slnom>

Table 3.16: Who victim had told personally about the partner abuse experienced in the last 12 months, by sex England and Wales: Age 16 to 59)

Percentages	Men	Women	Ratio
Told anyone	72	87	1:1.2
Not tell anyone	28	13	2.1:1
Told someone in an official position	19	44	1:2.3
Police	10	29	1:2.9
Health professionals	4	19	1:4.75
Lawyer, solicitor or other legal professional	6	11	1.1:8
Local council department	1	6	1:6

2. Five point checklist for encouraging men to come forward:

Why: so men know men are victims, they will be believed and there is help out there.

What: separate/reciprocal campaigns or same campaigns but must spell out 'male and female'. Gender neutral 'all victims' campaigns men just assume are for women – must say 'man' in any campaigns.

How: posters, leaflets, websites, adverts, announcements, survivor case studies, men that men can relate to (sport)

Where: where men go/where a man would not be with partner - websites, pubs, employers, garages, service stations, business pages, sports pages/clubs, football programmes etc.

When: where a man would not be with a partner - weekday not school term or weekend. Tie into national domestic violence week, sports events or International Men's Day (19 Nov)

4. About the ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative (www.mankind.org.uk), based in Taunton, Somerset, is a national charity which runs a help-line, information and referral service for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence. The help-line number is 01823 334244 (weekdays 10am-4pm and 7pm-9pm)

Media

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