

Press Release

Charity reveals 119,399 men told Police they were a domestic abuse victim during 2015

Following a Freedom of Information request to forty three Police Authorities by Ian McNicholl, (domestic abuse survivor and Ambassador for the ManKind Initiative, a Charity which supports male victims of domestic abuse,) revealed that in 2015, 119,399 men in England and Wales reported they had been victims of domestic abuse.

During the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014 inclusive, the figures were. 106,208 (2014) 92,101 (2013) and 73,524 (2012) respectively.

The charity requested information from forty three Police Authorities to encourage more males across England and Wales to come forward in order that males will recognise that they are not the only male suffering behind their front door in this way – a common reason why men do not come forward. The Home Office reports that male victims (39%)¹ are more than three times as likely as women (12%) to not tell anyone about partner abuse. Only 10% of male victims will tell the police as a comparison to 27% of women. The Office of National Statistics reports that Male victims (59%)² of partner abuse are far more likely (female victims 40%,) to perceive that what happened to them was not domestic violence. Only 10% of male victims will tell the police (27% women).

In addition, the charity wishes to highlight to domestic abuse professionals across England and Wales who are working for councils, the police and the health service just how many males are suffering in a very similar way to females in order to ensure professionals address the needs of male victims and that their services are male victim friendly and are therefore gender inclusive.

These figures will also encourage friends, family and work colleagues to recognise males are victims of domestic abuse too and consequently aid them look out for male victims and offer the same helping hand as they would hold out to a female victim.

The figures for female victims during the same period were 419,600 (2015) 394,314 (2014) 332,568 (2013) and 311,431 (2012) respectively.

Ian McNicholl³, domestic abuse survivor and Ambassador of the ManKind Initiative, said; “I never came forward to the police when I was experiencing abuse and it nearly cost me my life. These figures show there are males right across England and Wales who have come forward and told the police. Therefore if you are experiencing domestic abuse or suffering from the symptoms of domestic abuse, you are not alone and help is out there for you. Please don't be like me, please call the police or speak with friends and/or family and get the help you need. I can assure you that the action you take today will be life changing, if could even be lifesaving.”

Mark Brooks, chairman of the ManKind Initiative, said; “The number of males coming forward to the police sends a clear reminder to those supporting victims of domestic abuse across England and Wales that they must provide the same support and look for the same signs as they quite rightly do for female victims.

“This means making sure male victims and any children they have receive the support they need. This includes adequate emergency housing provision such as a refuge or safe house, running awareness campaigns and ensuring there is specific support for *males*. This also includes making sure relevant staff are trained to recognise and support the needs of male victims.”

ENDS

- 1 ONS BCS Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2014/15 <http://bit.ly/1p8CGI0>
Table 4.28 on Appendix Table: <http://bit.ly/1M1diC5>
2. **Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics by sex, year ending March 2015 CSEW1,2**
- 3 Ian McNicholl is a domestic abuse survivor. His partner was sentenced to seven years in prison in 2009. Since that time, Ian has campaigned across the UK to ensure the voices of male victims are heard and that services are provided.
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 and is available during weekdays from 10am-4pm.

The help-line receives approximately 1,600 calls from male victims (or from people on behalf of victims – often mothers' sisters' and daughters') during the course of each year.
5. **Media**
Journalists requiring further information please contact:
Mark Brooks on 07834 452357 or chairman@mankind.org.uk