

Male victims of domestic and partner abuse 45 key facts

March 2019 - Produced by Mark Brooks, ManKind Initiative

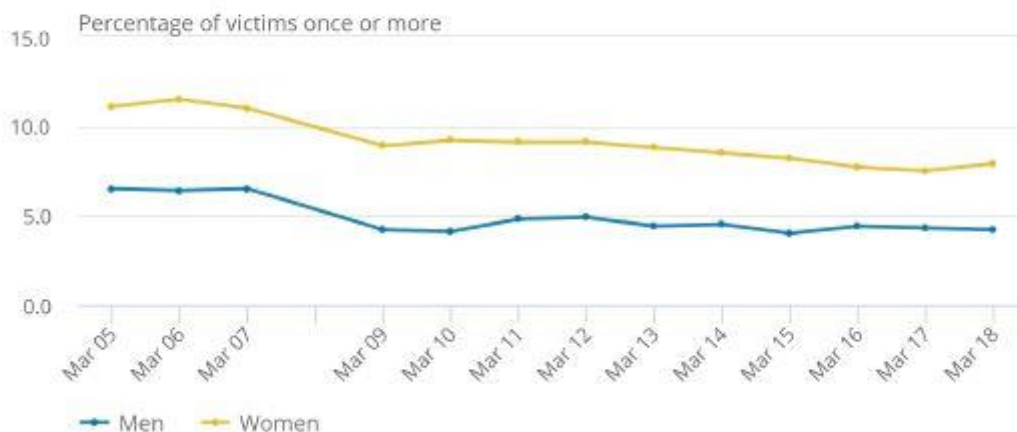
(Sources can be found at the end of the document – figures based on 16-59 year olds unless stated)

- (1) 13.2% of men and 28.9% of women and aged 16 to 59 had experienced some form of domestic abuse since the age of 16 (2017/18), equivalent to an estimated 2.2 million male victims and 4.8 million female. **For every three victims of domestic abuse, two will be female, one will be male.** One in four women and one in six to seven men suffer from domestic abuse in their lifetime.

- (2) 4.2% of men and 7.9% of women stated that they have experienced domestic abuse in 2017/18, equivalent to an estimated 695,000 male victims and 1.316 million female victims. **For every three victims of domestic abuse, two will be female, one will be male.**

The difference between the prevalence of domestic abuse for men and women is at its lowest since the year ending March 2005. The 3.7 percentage point difference between men and women in the year ending March 2018 compares with a peak difference of 5.1 percentage points in the year ending March 2010.

England and Wales, year ending March 2005 to year ending March 2018



- (3) In 17/18, 8.9% of men (equivalent to 1.4 million men) and 21.8% of women (3.6 million women) said they had experienced partner abuse (non-sexual) since the age of 16.

- (4) In 17/18, 2.4% of men (equivalent to 404,000) and 5.6% of women (equivalent to 936,000) experienced partner abuse (non-sexual). **For every three victims of partner abuse, two will be female and one will be male.**

- (5) **There has been a significant fall in partner abuse for both men and women over the past 13 years.** The percentage of men stating they experienced partner abuse in 04/05 was 4.6% (752,000) and in 16/17, it was 2.4% (404,000). For women, the fall was from 8.6% (1.333 million) to 5.6% (936,000). There has also been a fall in domestic abuse with 6.5% of men (1 million) and 11.1% of women (1.7 million) being victims of domestic abuse in 2004/05 and 4.2% (695,000) and 7.9% women (1.3 million) in 2017/18.
- (6) In 17/18, domestic stalking by a partner/ex-partner was experienced by 0.5% (79,000) of men and 1.4% of women (232,000). Since the age of 16, the figures were 3.0% men (503,000) and 9.8% women (1.6 million). **For every four victims of stalking, three will be female and one will be male.**
- (7) In 17/18, 1.2% of men and 1.7% of women were victims of force at the hands of their partner. **For every three victims of partner abuse where force is involved, two will be female and one will be male.** Since the age of 16, the figures were 6.1% of men and 15.5% of women.
- (8) Since the age of 16, 0.7% of men (115,000) and 6.3% (1.04 million) of women had been sexually assaulted (including attempts) by a partner. In 16/17, the figures were 0.1% men (13,000) and 60,000 women (0.4%).
- (9) Younger people are more likely to be a victim of partner abuse and stalking than those in older age groups. In 17/18, 3.5% of men (5.5% women) aged 16-19, and, 3.0% of men aged 20-24 (9.1% women) were victims of partner abuse – there was a peak of 3.1% for men aged 35-44). 1.2% of men aged 20-24 (4.9% women) respectively were victims of domestic stalking.
- (10) The percentage of gay men (5.1%) or bi-sexual men (5.6%) who suffered partner abuse in 2017/18 is double the number for heterosexual men (2.2%). Lesbian women (8.4%) and bisexual women (14.1%) as a percentage also suffered far more partner abuse compared to heterosexual women (5.1%)
- (11) Men who are separated or divorced are more likely to suffer partner abuse than those who are married. 8.5% of divorced men (13.2% women), suffered partner abuse in 17/18 while only 1.5% of married men (2.1% married women) . For cohabiting men, the figures were 2.5% and 5.2% for women..
- (12) For men in management, 1.7% said they suffered from partner abuse in 17/18 as did 2.9% in manual/routine occupations, 4.5%% of men who had never worked/long-term unemployed and 4.0% students. The female equivalent statistics were 5.2%, 6.8%, 4.2% and 5.2%.
- (13) Men (6.6%) with a long-term illness or disability were victims of partner abuse in 17/18 compared to women (11.8%) in the same situation. For those with no long-term illness or disabilities, the figures are 1.9% (4.5% women).
- (14) In 2016/17, 26% of male victims (22% women) of partner abuse live in a household with children and 5% of male victims (36% women) in a household with a single adult with children.

- (15) 12% of men and 15% of women who were victims of partner abuse suffered three or more incidents in 14/15. 1% of men had suffered 50 or more incidents as had 2% of female victims.
- (16) Of those that suffered from partner abuse once or more in 17/18, 45.7% of male victims had suffered from force (28% of women), 2.9% of male victims had suffered from sexual assault (6.2% women) and 18.1% suffered from stalking (23.4% women).
- (17) Of those that suffered from partner abuse 29% men and 23% of women suffered a physical injury, a higher proportion of men suffering severe bruising or bleeding (6%) and internal injuries or broken bones/teeth (2%) than women (4% and 1% respectively). 30% of men who suffer partner abuse have emotional and mental problems (47% women). Only 27% of men sought medical advice (73% of women)
- (18) In terms of physical injuries felt as a result of the partner abuse experienced in 17/18, 31.8% of male victims suffered from physical injuries 4.3% of men (22.7% women) suffered from internal injuries/broken bones (0.4% women)
- (19) In terms of mental and psychological effects felt as a result of the partner abuse experienced in 17/18, 41.2% of men suffered from mental or emotional problems (55.8% women). 11% of male victims (7.2%) had tried to take their own lives.

England and Wales	Adults aged 16 to 59		
	Men	Women	All
	Percentage		
Any physical injury	31.8	22.7	25.5
Minor bruising or black eye	19.4	17.3	18.0
Scratches	17.1	8.7	11.3
Severe bruising or bleeding from cuts	2.1	3.4	3.0
Internal injuries or broken bones/teeth	4.3	0.4	1.6
Any other physical injury (including poisoning)	1.1	4.0	3.1
Other effects	47.5	55.8	53.3
Mental or emotional problems	41.2	52.4	48.9
Stopped trusting people/difficulty in other relationships	20.8	26.1	24.5
Tried to kill self	11.0	7.2	8.4
Other effect (including becoming pregnant or contracting a disease)	0.5	1.0	0.9
Unweighted base - number of adults ²	122	319	441

- (20) Of those seeking medical attention because of partner abuse in 17/18, 26.4% were male (73.6% female).

- (21) Nearly half of male victims fail to tell anyone they are a victim of domestic (only 51% tell anyone). They are nearly three times less likely to tell anyone than a female victim (49% as opposed to 19%). This has worsened since 2015/16 where the figures were 61% for men (88% women).

What has changed is that men and women are less likely to tell someone they know personally (fall from 55% in 2014/15 for men to 44%). More men though are likely to tell the police (26.1% from 23%) whilst there has been a big fall in the numbers of women telling the police (33.4% now when in 14/15 it was 43%). It still means that though that only 1 in 6 men (15%) will tell the police they are a victim.

Only 10.7% of men will tell a health professional (20.8% women).

Who victim had told personally about the partner abuse experienced in the last 12 months, by sex, year ending March 2018 (figures in brackets are 2014/15)

England and Wales	Adults aged 16 to 59		
	Men	Women	All
	Percentage		
Told anyone	50.8 (61)	81.3 (88%)	72.4 (81)
Told someone known personally	43.7 (55)	73.5 (80)	64.8 (73)
Family or a relative	25.3 (44)	46.2 (59)	40.1 (55)
Friend or a neighbour	31.6 (28)	53.3 (43)	47.0 (39)
Work colleague	13.6 (17)	11.0 (17)	11.8 (17)
Told someone in an official position	26.1 (23)	33.4 (43)	31.2 (37)
Police	14.7 (10)	18.4 (26)	17.3 (21)
Health professionals	10.7 (11)	20.8 (23)	17.7 (19)
Lawyer, solicitor or other legal professional	5.5 (4)	6.9 (6)	6.5 (5)
Local council department	6.6(0)	4.7 (1)	5.3 (1)
Other government agency	0.6 (6%)	1.8 (9)	1.5 (8)
Told other support professional or organisation	24.1 (14)	34.2 (32)	31.1 (27)
Counsellor or therapist	19.6 (11)	24.2 (22)	22.8 (19)
Victim support	2.5 (3)	10.8 (7)	8.3 (6)
Helpline	4.7 (2)	5.9 (4)	5.5 (3)
Specialist support service	1.2 (1)	7.3 (6)	5.5 (4)
Told somebody else or another organisation	3.2 (5)	5.1 (5)	4.5 (5)

- (22) The number of women convicted of perpetrating domestic abuse has increased seven fold since 04/05. From 806 in 04/05 to 5,044 (72% conviction rate) as were 62,973 men (77% conviction rate). It was higher in 15/16 (5,641 women and 69,675 men)

- (23) **In 17/18, 7 men died at the hands of their partner or ex-partner compared to 63 women (certainly not two women per week)**

England and Wales

	Apr '07 to Mar '08	Apr '08 to Mar '09	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Apr '10 to Mar '11	Apr '11 to Mar '12 ²	Apr '12 to Mar '13	Apr '13 to Mar '14	Apr '14 to Mar '15 ³	Apr '15 to Mar '16 ⁴	Apr '16 to Mar '17	Apr '17 to Mar '18
	Numbers										
Male victims											
Victim acquainted with suspect											
Partner/ex-partner	25	25	13	15	14	14	17	12	21	15	7
Female victims											
Victim acquainted with suspect											
Partner/ex-partner	80	103	95	99	89	79	87	84	74	81	63

(24) One in every five victims of forced marriage is a man (21%).

(25) The average male victim calling the ManKind Initiative helpline is 42, is 5ft 9in tall and weighs 13st. The average female perpetrator is 40, is 5ft 4in tall and weighs 10st 7lb.

(26) 30 organisations offer refuge or safe house provision for male victims in the UK - a total of 150 spaces.34 spaces are dedicated to male victims only (the rest being for victims of either gender). There has been an increase as in February 2016, the figures were 18 organisations with c70 spaces, of which 24 were dedicated to male DV victims only. There is still no refuge or safe houses in London for male victims. At a snap shot review on 26 March 2018, of the 102 places available at that time, there were only 10 spaces anywhere in the UK. Further research of four refuge providers in January 2018 showed men were travelling an average of 160 miles to access safe accommodation..

There are 269 refuge service providers in England providing 3,649 bed spaces across the country and sanctuary for many of the 12,000 women and 12,000 children who are forced to flee their homes each year due to domestic violence.

(27) 13% of men (61% women) who are rough sleepers are so due to partner abuse (86% of all rough sleepers are male).Due to the gender proportions of rough sleepers, this means as many men (in volume terms) sleep rough due to partner abuse as women.

(28) On at least 120 occasions in 2010, a caller decided not to accept refuge or safe house accommodation because they were too far away and would mean having to completely uproot their lives, often having to leave their children and their job behind.

(29) The NSPCC reported that 18% of boys and 25% of girls had been victims of physical violence at the hands of their girlfriend or boyfriend. 4% of boys had been victims of severe physical violence (11% of girls).

(30) In 13/14, on average high-risk victims live with domestic abuse for 2.6 years before getting help (men who call the ManKind Initiative helpline have suffered for an average of 6 years).

(31) Men don't leave abusive relationships for various reasons – the top 10 reasons being:

- concern about the children (89%), marriage for life (81%)
- love (71%)
- the fear of never seeing their children again (68%),
- a belief she will change (56%),
- not enough money (53%),
- nowhere to go (52%),
- embarrassment (52%),
- not wanting to take kids away from their mother (46%),
- threats that she will kill herself (28%)
- he fears she will kill him (24%).

(32) Young women in a student survey are just as likely to be aggressive towards their partners as men, possibly even more.

(33) In 2017, 159,000 men reported to English and Welsh police forces stating they were a victim of domestic abuse (73,000 in 2012) as did 480,000 women (311,000 in 2012). 23% of all victims who report to the police are male.

(34) One in four victims of revenge pxrn are male.

(35) As reported by the Scottish Government, 6.6% of male victims of partner abuse are victims at the hands of men as they are in a same-sex relationship. In terms of reporting to Scottish police, one in ten men who report as being a victim of domestic abuse state that the perpetrator is also a man. In Scotland, 20% of victims who report to the police in Scotland are male, 2% of victims are men who are victims at the hands of other men.

(36) There are c270 organisations providing services to male victims in March 2019. In 2012, the figure was c70.

(37) 53% of the men who call the ManKind Initiative helpline have never spoken to anyone before about the abuse they are suffering and 70% would not have called if the helpline was not anonymous. 66% have children in their household

(38) Callers to the ManKind Initiative helpline state they are suffering from these forms of domestic abuse:

Emotional	95%
Physical	64%
Financial	20%
Sexual	3%
Psychological	35%
Coercive control	14%

(39) According to police forces who provided information, in 2017, xxx men (x.x% of total) and x,xxx women used the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme ("Clare's Law"). *Figures being revised*

(40) The Office of National Statistics (ONS) reports that male victims (59%) of partner abuse are far more likely (female victims 40%) to perceive that what happened to them was not domestic abuse.

(41) In a report called: MAKING LEGISLATION WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY FOR VICTIMS by IBB Solicitors, the following information was found: 34% of men stated they had experienced being in a coercive /controlling relationship.

When asked about bullying behaviours, men were just as likely to experience most of the issues asked about. There are a few exceptions where men were more likely to experience the issue than women.

- Monitored or controlled spending, 29% of men vs. 22% of women.
- Suspected partner of spying on you / your activity, 30% of men vs. 23% of women.
- Partner deprived you of or limited your food, 24% of men vs. 11% of women.
- Partner intentionally destroyed possessions or deleted important emails or texts, 27% of men vs. 20% of women.
- Partner hid / took away a phone / tablet / computer, experienced by 24% of men vs. 14% of women

Amongst those who said they had experienced bullying or abusive behaviour, nearly half of men (48%) said they did nothing about it, significantly higher than the figure for women (33%).

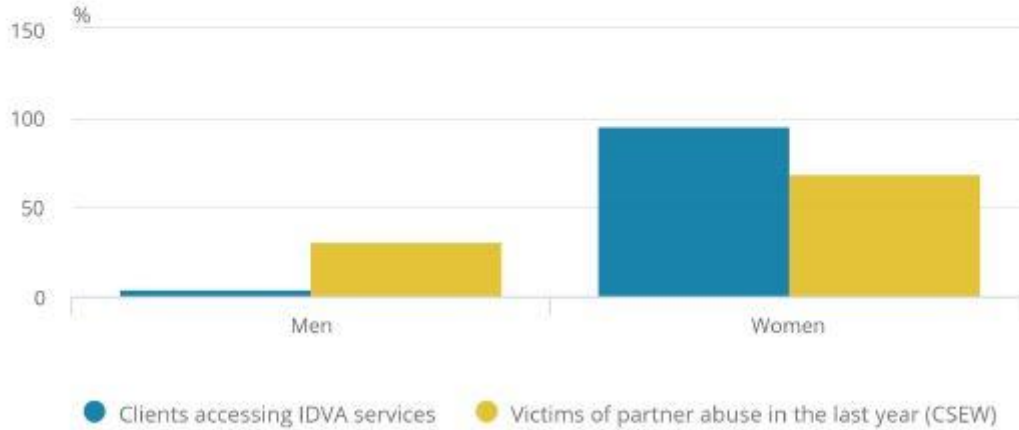
By contrast, women were much more likely to say they had ended the relationship (37%) compared with only 1 in 6 (16%) of men experiencing issues.

(42) In terms of victims experiencing economic abuse 40% are men (60% women). One in seven men (15%) and one in five women experience financial abuse (21%) A larger proportion reported financial abuse post-separation: one in five men (21%) and one in four women (25%) within the full survey. This might be explained by the fact that financial settlements are often contested when relationships end. Some respondents reported that post-separation their partner kept taking them to court resulting in additional financial costs. Men were more likely to report this (61%) than women (39%).

(43) The vast majority of clients accessing IDVA services (for those experiencing high risk domestic abuse) in the year ending March 2018 were women (96%), However, a lower proportion of adults who reported experiencing partner abuse in the last year in the ONS Crime Survey were women (69%). This shows female victims are more likely to access IDVA services than male victims.

Figure 18: Sex of clients accessing Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) services and sex of victims of partner abuse in the last year

Year ending March 2018, Insights IDVA data and Crime Survey for England and Wales



44 Only 5% of cases (4,336) discussed at MARACs involve a male victim

Cases discussed at multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs), by police force area, region and sex of victim, year ending March 2018¹

England and Wales

Area Name	Number of cases discussed	Male victims		Female victims	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
ENGLAND AND WALES	88,461	4,336	5.0	82,024	95.0

45. According to the Victims Support In just over one-fifth of valid cases flagged as domestic abuse-related, the victim was male (21%). This contrasts to the gender breakdown of victims accessing specialist domestic abuse services such as IDVAs and MARACs, where a much smaller proportion of victims were male (4% and 5% respectively).

According to the ONS Report “This could indicate that male victims are less likely to seek out, be aware of or engage with specialist domestic abuse services, or are not signposted to specialist domestic abuse services. Male victims are also deemed less likely to be eligible for these types of support in terms of their risk level, and are therefore dealt with through multi-crime services. The majority of valid multi-crime service cases flagged as domestic abuse-related were referred by the police (95%).”

45 Key Facts: Sources

ONS figures are for men and women aged 16-59 in England and Wales

The key report is: *Domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018* (published on 22 November 2018) - : <https://bit.ly/2qYxYZF> (Appendix Tables - <https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>) and *Domestic abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2018* - <https://bit.ly/2Rbq1Mk> (Appendix Tables - <https://bit.ly/2HEEKxW>)

- (1) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 1)
- (2) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 1)
- (3) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 1)
- (4) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 1)
- (5) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 1)
- (6) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 1)
- (7) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 1)
- (8) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 1)
- (9) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 8)
- (10) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 8)
- (11) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 8)
- (12) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 8)
- (13) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 8)
- (14) ONS BCS Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2016/17 <http://bit.ly/2G9nGPY> Table 8 on : <http://bit.ly/2GNVLmm>
- (15) ONS BCS Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2015/16 <http://bit.ly/2kqolyb> Table 4.15 on <http://bit.ly/2l4azUK>
- (16) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 13)
- (17) ONS BCS Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2014/15 <http://bit.ly/1p8CGI0> Table 4.17 on Appendix Table: <http://bit.ly/1M1diC5>
- (18) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>- Table 14)

- (19) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>)- Table 14
- (20) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>)- Table 16
- (21) ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>)- Table 24 and 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>
- (22) Parliamentary questions (2004-2008) <http://bit.ly/1zE1ldH> , CPS FOI requests (2008-2015) and Parliamentary question (2016) and CPS VAWG Report (page 39) in 2017/18.
- (23) ONS Homicide in England and Wales (year ending March 2018) - <https://bit.ly/2pzO8lw> (table 7)
- (24) Source: Forced Marriage Unit, Home Office: <https://bit.ly/2SMTGMY>
- (25) The ManKind Initiative help-line survey 2009
- (26) Male figures - The ManKind Initiative (January 2019) and female figures via Parliamentary Select Committee report 2017 <https://bit.ly/2II3KBO>
- (27) Homelessness reasons: Crisis – A Nation Apart? (published December 2014) and Homeless percentages from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: <https://bit.ly/2FebdcP>
- (28) The ManKind Initiative
- (29) Partner exploitation and violence in teenage intimate relationships 2009: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/partner-exploitation-violence-teenage-intimate-relationships-report.pdf>
- (30) Safe Lives. 2015. Getting it right first time: Ending Domestic Violence. 24th February. Available at: <http://www.safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Getting%20it%20right%20first%20time%20-%20complete%20report.pdf> and ManKind Initiative Helpline
- (31) Hines and Douglas in Graham – Kevan. Pp. 14
- (32) Bates, Elizabeth, A; Graham – Kevan, Dr Nicola; Archer, John. 2013. Testing Predictions From the Male Control Theory of Men’s Partner Violence. Aggressive Behaviour. Vol. 9999. Pp. 1 – 14.
- (33) FOI requests to 43 police forces <http://www.mankind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SUMMARY-FOI-RESPONSE-AT-31-DECEMBER-2016-MANKIND-WEBSITE-VERSION-LIVE-01-SEPTEMBER-2017-GENDER.xlsx>
- (34) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hundreds-of-victims-of-revenge-porn-seek-support-from-helpline>
- (35) Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2014/15: Partner Abuse (Figure 3.3 page 38) - <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/05/2505/downloads> and Domestic Abuse recorded by the police in Scotland, 2015-16 (page 3) <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/10/2442/downloads>
- (36) The ManKind Initiative – Oak Book Directory
- (37) The ManKind Initiative helpline (2018)
- (38) The ManKind Initiative helpline (2017)
- (39) FOI requests – figures being revised
- (40) 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>

- (41) MAKING LEGISLATION WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY FOR VICTIMS by IBB Solicitors:
<https://www.ibblaw.co.uk/insights/publications/controlling-or-coercive-behaviour-making-legislation-work-more-effectively?view=microsite>
- (42) Report by Co-op and Refuge entitled Monet Matters: www.refuge.org.uk/files/Money-Matters.pdf
- (43) SafeLives Insights data published **Domestic abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2018** - <https://bit.ly/2Rbq1Mk> (Appendix Tables - <https://bit.ly/2HEEKxW>) – figure 18 (page 51)
- (44) SafeLives Insights data published **Domestic abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2018** - <https://bit.ly/2Rbq1Mk> (Appendix Tables - <https://bit.ly/2HEEKxW>) – Table 69)
- (45) Victims Support and SafeLives Insights data published **Domestic abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2018** - <https://bit.ly/2Rbq1Mk> (Appendix Tables - <https://bit.ly/2HEEKxW>) – Tables 55, 56 and page 60)

Produced by Mark Brooks (March 2019)
© The ManKind Initiative