

Sex of Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse Against Men

compiled by Rick Bradford, 19/7/19

Evidence is presented in two categories,

- A. Evidence from surveys or police reports in the UK;
- B. Evidence from academic studies worldwide.

Attention should be paid to where evidence relates to *partner* abuse or any *domestic* abuse. Where partner abuse is specified, sexuality will imply the sex of the perpetrator given the sex of the victim. This is less clear in the case of domestic abuse.

Conclusion: A weight of evidence, both recent and going back decades, confirms that the overwhelming bulk of partner abuse against men, and the majority of domestic abuse of men, is perpetrated by women.

Hence, the [statement made recently by Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Victoria Atkins](#), namely,

“...of the 2 million victims, we estimate that around 1.3 million are female and around 695,000 are male, and within that 695,000 we believe - it is very difficult to identify this, and there are problems in doing so - that the majority of perpetrators are male.”

is false. It is neither difficult nor problematic to confirm that the statement is false.

Evidence

(A) Survey Data and Police Reports (UK)

A.1 Home Office (1999)

“An Analysis of Male Victimization” by Dr Malcolm George based on the Home Office Research Study 191 (HORS 191), “Domestic Violence: Findings from a new British Crime Survey self-completion questionnaire”, Catriona Mirrlees- Black, Home Office 1999.

Quote, “95% of assaults against men were by women”

A.2 Home Office (British Crime Survey, 2007/8 + 2008/9)

Home Office Statistical Bulletin, "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2008/09: Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2008/09 (Third Edition)", Table 3.07, from which...

Category	Male Victims		Female Victims	
	Heterosexual	Gay	Heterosexual	Lesbian
All domestic abuse	4.1%	8.9%	5.9%	17.3%
Non-sexual partner abuse	3.3%	6.2%	4.3%	12.4%
Non-sexual family abuse	1.5%	3.3%	2.2%	8.5%
Sexual assault or attempts	0.3%	4.2%	2.6%	8.7%
<i>Number of respondents</i>	<i>20,892</i>	<i>512</i>	<i>24,795</i>	<i>473</i>

From this it follows that 689 heterosexual men who were surveyed reported that they had experienced non-sexual partner abuse, i.e., by a woman, and that 32 gay men who were surveyed reported non-sexual partner abuse, i.e., by a man. **Hence, non-sexual partner abuse against men was perpetrated by women in 95.6% of cases.**

In the case of family abuse, the sex of the perpetrator cannot be concluded on the basis of sexuality. However, it is noted that most domestic abuse is partner abuse, hence it can be concluded that **most domestic abuse against men is perpetrated by women.**

A.3 Scottish Government (2012)

Data on police reports of domestic abuse in Scotland (2000 to 2012) are given in “Scottish Government (2012a) Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2010-11 and 2011-12” (Scottish Government: Edinburgh), and are quoted by Brian Dempsey in "Men’s experience of domestic abuse in Scotland: What we know and how we can know more", School of Law, University of Dundee (2013), page 21, and given below,

Year	Male victim female perpetrator	Male victim male perpetrator	Percentage female perpetrators
2000-01	2,696	173	94.0%
2001-02	2,976	231	92.8%
2002-03	3,243	287	91.9%
2003-04	3,695	328	91.8%
2004-05	4,532	380	92.3%
2005-06	4,932	400	92.5%
2006-07	5,482	455	92.3%
2007-08	6,199	530	92.1%
2008-09	7,361	548	93.1%
2009-10	7,938	666	92.3%
2010-11	8,889	693	92.8%
2011-12	9,569	659	93.6%

Hence, over a 12 year period in Scotland **the proportion of men reporting domestic abuse to the police who reported female perpetrators was between 91.8% and 94%.**

A.4 Crime Survey for England and Wales (2015)

Data was provided by ONS in response to an *ad hoc* request in July 2015 and reproduced below. The data are percentages of those reporting partner abuse: “Sex of perpetrator of partner abuse, by sex of victim, year ending March 2015 CSEW”, 12th July 2016, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/adhocs/005898sexofperpetratorofpartnerabusebysexofvictimyearendingmarch2015csew>

Table 1. Sex of perpetrator of partner abuse, by sex of victim, year ending March 2015 CSEW

England and Wales	Adults aged 16-59		
	Male	Female	All
	Percentage		
Male	7	59	43
Female	45	2	15
Both male and female	2	1	1
Don't know/can't remember	15	6	9
Don't wish to answer	32	32	32
Unweighted base - number of adults	283	834	1117

Hence, of the 283 men reporting partner abuse in the 2015 CSEW, 20 reported male perpetrators and 127 reported female perpetrators (plus 6 reporting both). Hence, **of those men reporting partner abuse who specified the sex of their abuser, 83% reported a lone female perpetrator and 87% reported abuse including a female abuser.**

A.5 Scottish Government (2018)

“Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland in 2017-18”,

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-recorded-police-scotland-2017-18/>

16% of domestic abuse reports to Scottish police in 2017/18 were men reporting abuse by women, whilst 2% were men reporting abuse by men. Hence, **89% of men reporting domestic abuse reported a female perpetrator.**

A.6 Scottish Government (2018)

“Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2017-2018: main findings”, Figure 9.11,

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2017-18-main-findings/pages/13/>

Of male respondents reporting partner abuse, 88% reported perpetration by their female partner and 9% by their male partner, i.e., **90.7% of men who reported the sex of their abuser reported abuse by a woman.**

Quote,

“Abusive partners were overwhelmingly of the opposite gender.”

A.7 Crime Survey for England & Wales (2018)

Domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, year ending March 2018, Appendix Tables (November 2018), Table 8. Data relates to people ages 16 to 59.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusefindingsfromthecrimesurveyforenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2018/relateddata>

Sexuality	Any Domestic Abuse		Non-Sexual Partner Abuse		Number of Respondents	
	Men Victims	Women Victims	Men Victims	Women Victims	Men	Women
Heterosexual or straight	4.0%	7.2%	2.2%	5.1%	4,361	5,037
Gay or lesbian	8.2%	10.0%	5.1%	8.4%	108	83
Bisexual	5.7%	25.3%	5.6%	14.1%	56	106

From this it follows that 96 heterosexual men who were surveyed reported that they had experienced non-sexual partner abuse, i.e., by a woman, and that 6 gay men who were surveyed reported non-sexual partner abuse, i.e., by a man. Three bisexual men reported partner abuse, by a perpetrator of unknown sex. Hence, between 6 and 9 men who were victims of partner abuse were victimised by other men, and between 99 and 96 were victimised by women. **Hence, non-sexual partner abuse against men was perpetrated by women in 91.4% to 94.3% of cases.**

In the case of domestic abuse perpetrated by a person other than the victim’s partner, the sex of the perpetrator cannot be concluded on the basis of sexuality. However, it is noted that most domestic abuse is partner abuse, hence it can be concluded that **most domestic abuse against men is perpetrated by women.**

A.7 Survey of Male DA Victims by Charity FNF-BPM Cymru (2018)

The unpublished survey requested input from males who had experienced domestic abuse. 92.6% of respondents were resident in the UK; 97.8% of respondents identified as male; 85% of respondents stated they were white and 94.7% that they were heterosexual.

Outcome: 95.0% of abusers identified as female (671 out of 706)

(B) Academic Studies (Worldwide)

B.1 Partner Abuse State-of-Knowledge (2013),

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2013/5/prweb10741752.htm>

The Partner Abuse State-of-Knowledge (PASK) is the most comprehensive review of domestic violence research literature conducted to-date. This three-year research project was conducted by 42 scholars at 20 universities and research centres and combines the results of hundreds of studies into domestic abuse, worldwide. Headline conclusions were,

“Rates of female-perpetrated violence are higher than male-perpetrated (28.3% vs. 21.6%)”

“Among large population samples, 57.9% of inter-partner violence reported was bi-directional, 42% unidirectional; 13.8% of the unidirectional violence was male to female (MFPV), 28.3% was female to male (FMPV).”

“Among school and college samples, percentage of bidirectional violence was 51.9%; 48.1% was unidirectional; 16.2% was male-to-female (MFPV) and 31.9% was female-to-male (FMPV).”

http://domesticviolenceresearch.org/pages/12_page_findings.htm

Given that most perpetrators of partner abuse against women are men, the above conclusions can only be consistent with **the overwhelming majority of perpetrators of partner abuse against men being female perpetrators.**

(B.2) Compilation of Studies by Martin Fiebert (2012)

“Reference Examining Assaults by Women on Their Spouses or Male Partners: An Annotated Bibliography”, by Martin S Fiebert, Department of Psychology, California State University, Long Beach, June 2012. <http://www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm>. Earlier versions of this review have appeared as journal publications, e.g., in *Sexuality and Culture*, 2010, 14 (1), 49-91. This bibliography examines 286 scholarly investigations comprising 221 empirical studies and 65 reviews and/or analyses, relating to partner abuse worldwide. The aggregate sample size in the reviewed studies exceeds 371,600. The headline conclusion was that the review demonstrates, *“that women are as physically aggressive, or more aggressive, than men in their relationships with their spouses or male partners.”*