

Gender-Based Violence Facts and Figures for Britain and Ireland

Domestic abuse

England and Wales

- Almost one in three women aged 16-59 will experience domestic abuse in her lifetime (Office for National Statistics (2019), Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2019).
- On average, two women a week are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales (Office for National Statistics (2019), Homicide in England and Wales).
- In the year ending March 2019, 1.6 million women experienced domestic abuse (Office for National Statistics (2019), Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales).
- The Children's Commissioner has estimated that 3 million children in England under the age of 17 live in a household where an adult has experienced domestic abuse (Children's Commissioner (2018), Estimating the prevalence of the 'toxic trio', Vulnerability Technical Report 2).

Scotland

- In 2019-2020, there were 62,907 domestic abuse incidents recorded by Police Scotland. Around four out of every five of these incidents (83%) had a female victim and a male accused. Most incidents of domestic abuse go unreported to the police. (Scottish Government (2021), Domestic abuse: statistics recorded by the police in Scotland - 2019/20).

Northern Ireland

- In the 12 months from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021, there were 31,174 domestic abuse incidents in Northern Ireland and four of the eleven policing districts showed an increase in domestic abuse incidents and five districts had higher levels of domestic abuse crimes (Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Statistics Branch (2021), Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland).
- In 2019-2020, 561 women and 316 children stayed in a refuge and 276 women couldn't access refuge as it was full (Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland (2020), Annual report 2019-2020).
- For more statistics, see [here](#).

Ireland

- 1 in 4 women in Ireland who have been in a relationship have been abused by a current or former partner (Women's Aid Ireland, Domestic violence and abuse in Ireland).

- In 2019, there were 19,258 disclosures of domestic abuse against women noted during 20,763 contacts with Women's Aid Direct Services. There were 12,742 incidents of emotional abuse, 3,873 incidents of physical abuse and 2,034 incidents of financial abuse disclosed (Women's Aid Ireland, Prevalence of domestic abuse in Ireland).
- In more than 40% of cases, children who live with domestic abuse are also frequently directly abused, physically or sexually (Tusla and Barnados (2015), Parenting Positively Helping teenagers to cope with Domestic Abuse).

Sexual violence

England and Wales

- Nearly a quarter of women have experienced sexual assault or attempted sexual assault since the age of 16, while one in 14 have experienced rape or attempted rape (Office of National Statistics (2021), Nature of sexual assault by rape or penetration, England and Wales: year ending March 2020).
- In 2019-20, Rape Crisis specialist services in England and Wales were accessed by 66,045 people. They provided 775,447 sessions of specialist support, including advocacy, emotional support and counselling (Rape Crisis (2021), Rape Crisis Statistics).
- For more statistics, see [here](#).

Scotland

- In 2019-20, 2,343 incidents of rape and attempted rape were reported to Police Scotland (Scottish Government (2020), Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20).
- The Rape Crisis Scotland helpline received a total of 5581 support and information contacts in the course of the year 2019-2020, not accounting for the callers who could not get through. [...] 4854 callers to the helpline received a 'busy' message, and over 90% of these did not leave a message (Rape Crisis Scotland (2020), Annual report 2019-2020).

Northern Ireland

- The Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPS) received 1,684 files involving a sexual offence (Public Prosecution Service (PPS) (2020), Statistical Bulletin: Cases Involving Sexual Offences 2019/20).
- More than three-quarters of prosecutions for rape and attempted rape in Northern Ireland do not result in convictions.

Ireland

- Approximately one-in-three Irish adults experienced some form of sexual violence (14.8% were sexually assaulted (raped) and 31.1% were sexually harassed). Women were significantly more likely than men to have experienced all forms of sexual violence (Vallières F, Gilmore B, Nolan A, et al. (2020), Sexual Violence and Its Associated Psychosocial Effects in Ireland. Journal of Interpersonal Violence).
- In 2019, 1,298 people took up counselling and support with 7 Rape Crisis Centres in Ireland (Rape Crisis Network Ireland (2019), Rape Crisis Statistics).

- In 2019, 10,706 contacts were made to 6 Rape Crisis Centre Helplines across Ireland (Rape Crisis Network Ireland (2019), Rape Crisis Statistics).

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

England and Wales

- An estimated 137,000 women and girls with FGM who born in countries where FGM is practised were permanently resident in England and Wales in 2011 (Macfarlane, A. & Dorkenoo, E. (2015), Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales: National and local estimates).
- 24,420 women and girls who had undergone FGM have been seen at NHS services in England from April 2015 – March 2020 where FGM was relevant to their attendance (NHS Digital Services (2020), Female Genital Mutilation, April 2015 – March 2020).

Ireland

- It is estimated that 5,790 women have experienced FGM and a further 3,253 girls may currently be at risk (Action Aid Ireland, Rejecting Female genital mutilation).

Forced and child marriage

England and Wales

- There were an estimated 5,000 and 8,000 cases of forced marriage or the threat of forced marriage reported in England in 2008 (National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) (2009), Forced Marriage - Prevalence and Service Response).
- In 2020, the UK Forced Marriage Unit gave advice or support in 753 cases related to a possible forced marriage. 15% of the cases involved people who were aged 15 and under, 11% were 16-17 years old and 22% were between the ages of 18 and 21 (Forced Marriage Unit (2021), Official Statistics Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2020, 1 July 2021).

Global facts and figures

For global facts and figures, see UN Women's [Violence Against Women: Facts and Figures page](#).