



Domestic violence in the UK: 10 questions on statistics

1. **The British Crime Survey of 2011/12 showed there were ___ incidents of domestic abuse?**
 - a. 1 million
 - b. 1.5 million
 - c. 2 million(British Crime Survey, 2013).
2. **In Britain, how many women a week (on average) are killed by a male partner or former partner?**
 - a. 1 women
 - b. 2 women
 - c. 3 women(Coleman and Osbourne, 2010; Povey,(ed.) 2004, 2005; Home Office, 1999: Department of Health, 2005).
3. **What % of women in the UK will have experienced physical and or sexual violence by a partner since the age of 15?**
 - a. 30%
 - b. 44%
 - c. 52%(FRA, 2014).
4. **In 2008 what was the estimated economic cost of domestic violence in the UK?**
 - a. £10 billion
 - b. £16 billion
 - c. £23 billion(Walby, 2009).
5. **In the UK between 2011-12, what percent of murdered women were killed by a current or former male partner?**
 - a. 51%
 - b. 55%
 - c. 56%(Office for National Statistics, 2013).
6. **In the UK between 2001-02, what percent of murdered men were killed by a current or former female partner?**
 - a. 5%
 - b. 20%
 - c. 40%(Flood-Page and Taylor, 2003).
7. **On the census day (27/06/2013), how many women were turned away from the first refuge they approached because it was at full capacity?**
 - a. 95 (with 98 children)
 - b. 105 (with 103 Children)
 - c. 200 (with 150 children)(Women's Aid Annual Survey, 2013).
8. **How likely is a woman in an abusive relationship to be assaulted when she is pregnant?**
 - a. Less likely
 - b. Just as likely
 - c. More likely(Lewis and Drife, 2005).
9. **Domestic violence happens because of:**
 - a. Drink/Drugs
 - b. Stress
 - c. Mental illness
 - d. Power and control
 - e. Unemployment(Women's Aid).
10. **In Britain, one incident of domestic violence is reported to the police every:**
 - a. 6 seconds
 - b. minute
 - c. 6 minutes
 - d. 10 minutes(Stanko, 2000).

These statistics are to be taken with the knowledge that there is no reliable national data on the general incidence of domestic violence in the UK and due to methodological and definitional differences, discrepancies exist with these figures. Many statistics quoted here are taken from older studies, but are still relevant to this issue.



1. **c)** 2 million incidences of domestic abuse. However the British Crime Survey counts all types of violence committed in the last year.¹
2. **b)** 2 women a week are murdered. This constitutes around one-third of all homicide victims.²
3. **b)** 44% of women. The FRA survey on violence against women is based on face-to-face interviews with 42,000 women across the EU. The survey was carried out between March and September 2012 and presents the most comprehensive survey worldwide on women's experiences of violence.³
4. **b)** £16 billion in costs, estimated in 2008 (£23 billion estimated in 2001).⁴
5. **a)** 51% female homicide victims killed by their partner or ex-partner.⁵
6. **a)** 5% of male homicide victims were killed by a current or former female partner⁶ Men are more likely to be killed by a friend or acquaintance (39%).⁷
7. **b)** 105 women asked for refuge.⁸ There were 300 Refuges in 2000; there were approximately 1,500 animal refuges in the UK.
8. **c)** More likely – it is estimated that 30% of domestic violence starts in pregnancy.⁹
9. **d)** Abusers always make a choice to use power and control. However all the other answers are sometimes associated with domestic violence but are not causal factors.¹⁰
10. **b)** An incident is reported to the police every minute in the UK.¹¹

NB. Women's violence toward their male partners does exist - but overall it is different from that of men towards their female partners. On the whole (although exceptions do exist) it is far less injurious and less likely to be motivated by attempts to dominate or terrorize their partners¹².

¹ Home Office: Violent Crime Unit (2004) *Developing Domestic Violence Strategies – A guide for Partnerships* (London: Home Office).

² Coleman, K., Jansson, K, Kaiza, P and Reed, E (2007) *Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate violence 2005/6: Supplementary Volume 1 to Crime in England and Wales (2005-6)* (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/07 Office for National Statistics).
Department of Health, (2005) *Responding to domestic abuse* (London: DH).

³ FRA Survey, (2014) *Violence against women: an EU-wide survey*, Union Agency for Fundamental Human Rights, <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/violence-against-women-survey> [accessed online 24/10/14].

⁴ Walby, S. (2009) *The Cost of Domestic Violence: Up-date 2009*, Lancaster University www.lancaster.ac.uk/.../Cost_of_domestic_violence_update.doc [accessed online 24 April 2014].

⁵ Office for National Statistics (2013) *Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences*, Statistical Bulletin, ONS, 2011/12.

⁶ Office for National Statistics (2013) *Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences*, Statistical Bulletin, ONS, 2011/12.

⁷ Office for National Statistics (2013) *Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences*, Statistical Bulletin, ONS, 2011/12.

⁸ Women's Aid (2013) *Women's Aid Annual Survey*, Women's Aid Federation.

⁹ Lewis, G, and Drife, J. (2005) *Why Mothers Die, 2000-2002: Report on confidential enquiries into maternal deaths in the United Kingdom* (CEMACH).

¹⁰ Women's Aid: <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domesticviolencearticles.asp> [accessed online 10/4/14].

¹¹ Stanko, E. (2000) *The Day to Count: A snapshot of the Impact of Domestic Abuse in the UK*. Criminal Justice 1;2

¹² Kaufman et al, 1998 cited in Kimmel, M. (2002) "Gender Symmetry" in Domestic Violence: A Substantive and Methodological Research Review, *Violence Against Women*, 2002; 8; 1332-1363.