

Domestic Violence: Findings from a new British Crime Survey self-completion questionnaire

by
Catriona Mirrlees-Black

**A Research, Development and
Statistics Directorate Report**

Contents

Foreword	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Summary	vii
1 Introduction	1
Defining domestic violence	1
Measuring domestic violence	2
Structure of the report	5
2 Comparing British Crime Survey measures	7
Main crime count - all BCS sweeps	7
1992 Life-time measure	10
1996 Computer-Assisted Self-Interviewing (CASI) measure	12
Comparison of BCS estimates	14
3 Extent of domestic violence	17
Life-time experience	18
Last-year experience	20
Frequency of victimisation	21
Number of incidents	22
A typology of domestic assault	23
Sample sizes for victim and incident analysis	25
4 The victims	27
Sex	27
Age	28
Ethnic group	29
Marital status	29
Employment status	30
Social class	30
Tenure	31
Financial status	31
Children	32
Health/disability	32

Drinking and drug use	33
Region of the country	33
Neighbourhood type	34
5 Assaults and their consequences	35
Perpetrator or victim?	35
Nature of violence	36
Injury	37
Emotional effects	38
Self-blame	40
Presence of children	41
6 The assailants	43
Age and sex of assailants	43
Relationship between victim and assailant	44
Cohabiting at time of assault	44
Current relationships	45
Drug/alcohol use	45
7 Victim's perceptions of their experiences	47
Was it a crime?	47
Was it domestic violence?	48
Is domestic violence a crime, and vice versa?	49
8 Support and advice	51
Telling others	51
Who do victims tell?	51
Support and advice	52
Reporting to the police	54
Which victims seek help?	55
9 Discussion	59
How many victims are there?	59
Has domestic violence increased?	61
Men as victims	61
What are the risk factors	62
Providing support to victims	63
Appendix A: Additional tables	65
Appendix B: Local surveys of domestic violence	83
Appendix C: International survey estimates of domestic violence	85
Appendix D: BCS survey design and methodological issues	91
Appendix E: Domestic violence self-completion questionnaire	101
References	117
Publications	123