

Wirral Domestic Abuse JSNA – Identified vulnerable groups (June 2025)

We acknowledge the work of the Swindon JSNA team and colleagues in producing their [2024 Domestic Abuse JSNA](#) – some elements of that work have been replicated here in this JSNA.

Learning disabilities, people from ethnic minority groups, LGBTQ+ and Male service users

There is a large gap in research on the issue of domestic violence in people with learning disabilities, people from ethnic minority groups, and those from LGBTQ+ groups. Most of the studies were conducted internationally, but recently organisations in England are beginning to identify the problem and some important evidence has come out.

- A Women's Aid report in 2015 "(Gill Hague, 2015)¹ describes how women with disabilities are twice as likely to experience gender based violence, and
- How their disability made their abuse worse and limited their capacity to escape.
- They experienced different types of abuse, from physical, financial and sexual abuse, and sometimes the perpetrator was also disabled².

Galop, a UK LGBTQ+³ charity, conducted various studies to understand the type of abuse and mapping services available to LGBT + people.

- Their work showed that despite the high level of domestic abuse and high demand of support, LGBT+ people are unlikely able to access to help due to lack of specialist services, causing under reporting of cases.
- A similar situation can be seen even in cases related to transwomen⁴ who experience hate crime due their gender identity.
- Experiences collected of transwomen and service provision identified the need for more investment in trans-inclusion and support for all service providers.⁵

Race, language culture and religion are considered risk factors of domestic violence and abuse, and they are all elements that characterize Black and Minority Ethnic Groups, explaining partially the high rate of domestic and sexual abuse within this communities.⁶

- Even in this case under reporting has been identified due to different reasons such as fear (for insecure immigration status), language barrier, and cultural, religious and economic factors.
- Also, some members of these communities experience honour-based abuse, forced marriage, breast flattening and Female Genital Mutilation.⁷

In terms of Male service users

- What was once considered a crime solely perpetrated by men towards women is now recognised as also being perpetrated by women towards men and by those in same sex relationships.

- Studies have identified a wide range of abuse experienced by men as physical, psychological, coercive, sexual, financial, legal aggression, manipulation of parent-child relationship and false allegation.
- Men who identify as gay, bisexual and transgender refer to other types of abusive behaviours, highlighting the need to focus on different experiences and a new body of research.⁸

¹ Gill Hague, Ravi Thiara, Pauline Magowan and Audrey Mullender. *Making the links: Disabled women and domestic violence* (2015)

² Nia. *Double Oppression: Violence Against Disabled Women- a resource pack for practitioner*

³ Terminology used by Galop, as opposed LGBTQ+

⁴ Galop. Galop's statement on Women's Aid's position on the inclusion of trans women in single-sex services <https://galop.org.uk/news/galops-statement-on-womens-aids-position-on-the-inclusion-of-trans-women-in-single-sexservices/>

⁵ nfpSynergy, Stonewall. *Supporting trans women in domestic and sexual violence services* (2018), and Chaka L. Bachmann (Stonewall). *LGBT in Brintai -Trans Report*

⁶ Olabanji, O.A. *Collaborative Approaches to Addressing Domestic and Sexual Violence among Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in Southampton: A Case Study of Yellow Door*. *Societies* 2022, 12, 165. <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc12060165>

⁷ Jyoti Belur (2008) *Is policing domestic violence institutionally racist? A case study of south Asian Women*, *Policing and Society*, 18:4, 426-444, DOI: 10.1080/10439460802349312, and Geetanjali Gangoli, Lis Bates & Marianne Hester (2020) *What does justice mean to black and minority ethnic (BME) victims/survivors of gender-based violence?*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 46:15, 3119-3135, DOI: 10.1080/1369183X.2019.1650010, and Gill, A. K., & Walker, S. (2020). *On heterosexual honour, culture and violence against women in black and minority ethnic communities*. In S. Walklate, K. Fitz-Gibbon, J. McCulloch, & J. Maher (Eds.), *Emerald Handbook of Criminology, Feminism and Social Change*. Emerald.

⁸ Hine, B., Wallace, S., & Bates, E. A. (2022). *Understanding the Profile and Needs of Abused Men: Exploring Call Data From a Male Domestic Violence Charity in the United Kingdom*. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(17-18), NP16992- NP17022. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260521102801472>