



Prevalence tool data: Wirral

Slides created: May 2025

The Prevalence Tool

What is the prevalence tool?

The SafeLives prevalence tool estimates the prevalence of domestic abuse within local areas. This includes an estimation for the number of victims, perpetrators of abuse, and children in households with partner abuse. It also breaks down the victim estimations into visible victims only, Adult Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) victims only, and marginalised groups of people such as racially minoritised people, LGBT+ people, and disabled people.

How does it work?

The tool calculates the figures by using several external and internal data sources for estimations of domestic abuse amongst different groups of people. This includes both 'set figures' which are consistent across all local areas, as well as 'local specific data'. The 'set figures' include data from the ONS (Office for National Statistics) including the 'Crime Survey for England and Wales' (2020) and the 'Family Resources Survey', Stonewall data, and SafeLives estimations such as the number of children experiencing abuse in their household. 'Local specific data' includes population data for each area on gender, age and ethnicity taken from the latest Census (2021) survey, as well as data on those at the highest risk of serious harm or homicide taken from the latest Marac dataset.

Please note:

The numbers provided are estimations and have been rounded down. All calculations are based on population data from the 2021 Census. These figures do not take into account different prevalence rates within local areas. The calculation uses national level prevalence of domestic abuse figures alongside local level population census data to provide an estimate of how many victims there are within an area. The tool uses the 2020 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), we decided not to use the more recent CSEW version due to various data collection issues which means they have not been defined as national statistics.

Number of victims: Overview

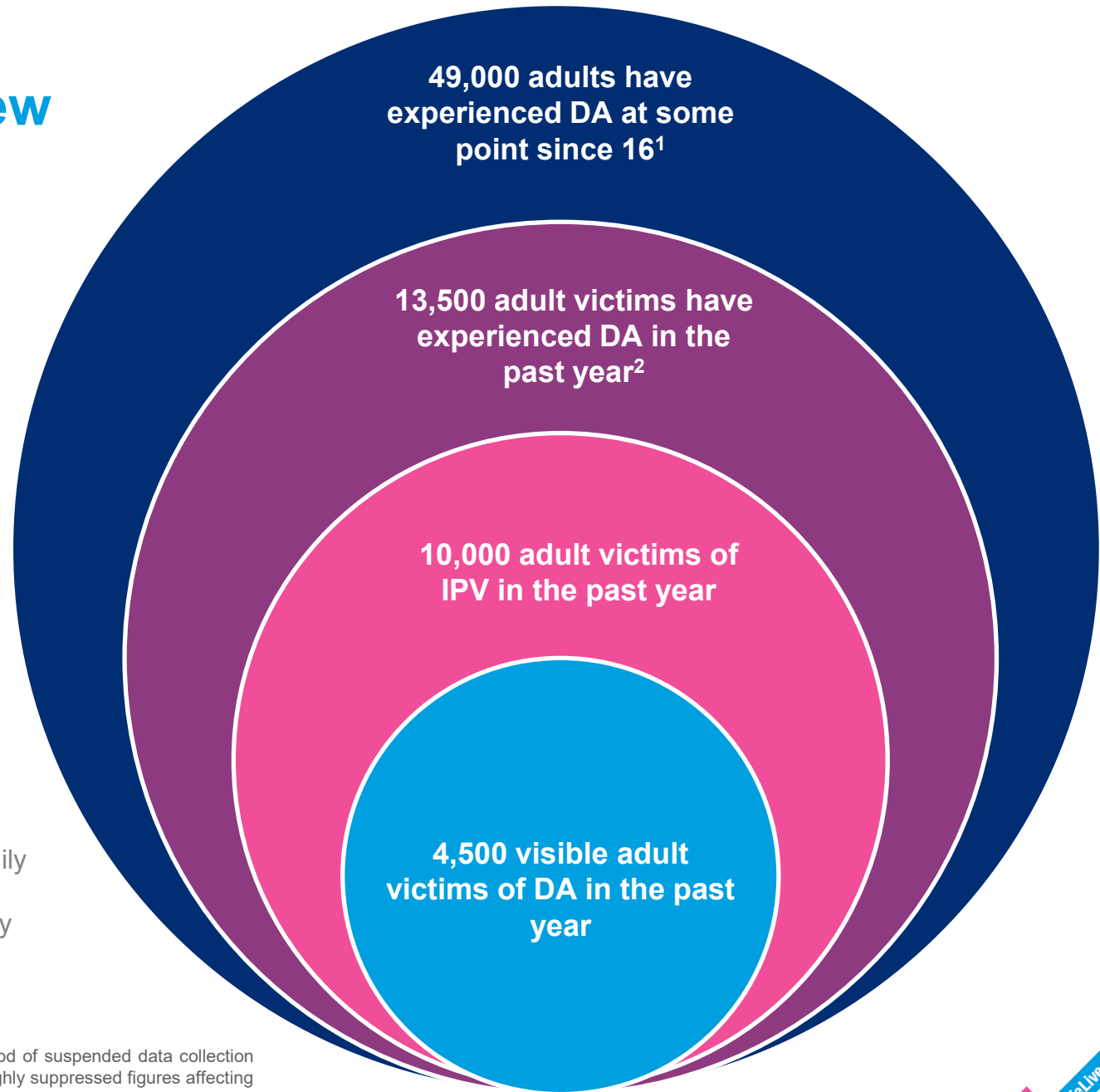
The SafeLives prevalence tool uses data from the Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW) merged with local population data. It is in the ONS domestic abuse bulletin and more specifically the prevalence and trends paper. We also use Marac data to capture a true understanding of the prevalence of domestic abuse in a local area.

This details the estimated number of victims who have experienced domestic abuse (DA) , not the number of victims who have accessed services.

¹Around 15% will have experienced both partner abuse and family abuse

²Around 8% will have experienced both partner abuse and family abuse

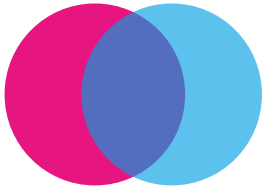
Caveat: The CSEW dataset used is for the year ending in March 2020. This is due to a period of suspended data collection during Covid resulting in the March 2022 dataset which has much lower response rates and highly suppressed figures affecting the quality of estimates. CSEW data is to be updated with the July 2023 dataset when available.



Prevalence of adult victims – since the age of 16



We estimate there are **49,000** adult victims in Wirral who have experienced domestic abuse at **some point in their lives since the age of 16**



An estimated **15%** of these adult victims will have experienced **both partner and family abuse**



Of the total estimated adult victims **33,000 (68%)** are estimated to be **female**



Of the total estimated adult victims **15,500 (32%)** are estimated to be **male**

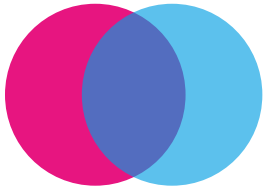
Caveat: Older (75+) victim prevalence rates are based on a proxy rate from the CSEW for abuse in the past year only for those aged 60-74. This is because there is no CSEW prevalence rate data for the year ending in March 2020 for those aged 75+.

The sum of females and males may not add up to the total due to rounding.

Prevalence of adult victims – in the past year



We estimate there are **13,500** adult victims in Wirral who have experienced domestic abuse at **some point in the last year**



We estimate that around **8%** of those adult victims will have experienced **both partner and family abuse**



Of the total estimated adult victims in the past year, **9,000 (69%)** are estimated to be **female**



Of the total estimated adult victims in the past year, **4,000 (31%)** are estimated to be **male**

Caveat: Older (75+) victim prevalence rates are based on a proxy rate from the CSEW for abuse in the past year only for those aged 60-74. This is because there is no CSEW prevalence rate data for the year ending in March 2020 for those aged 75+.

The sum of females and males may not add up to the total due to rounding.

Prevalence of adult victims – in the past year – visible victims



■ Visible victims in past year ■ Non-visible victims in past year

This shows the estimated number of **visible** adult victims in the local area in the past year. We estimate that almost **two-fifths (38%) of female victims** and a **quarter (24%) of male victims** in the past year were visible. This calculation uses a combination of Marac data to show visible high-risk victims and data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for visible non-high risk victims as they reported in the CSEW that they had “told other support professional or organisation”.

Visible victims = the estimated number of adult victims in the local area who have experienced domestic abuse in the past year and who could be considered as wishing to access services. This is as they reported in the CSEW that they had “told other support professional or organisation”. This calculation uses a combination of Marac data to show visible high-risk victims and CSEW data for visible non-high risk victims.

Non-visible victims = the estimated number of adult victims in the local area who have experienced domestic abuse in the past year and who could be considered as not wishing to access service / not visible to services.

Caveat: Marac data recording can vary amongst local areas depending on their Marac processes, for instance some have triaging systems where not all the initial referrals are recorded. These differences will impact on the prevalence estimations for visible high-risk victims.

Prevalence of adult victims – in the past year – marginalised groups



We estimate that there were **2,000 Young victims** aged 16-24¹

- Useful resource: see our [Spotlights on Young People and DA](#)



We estimate that there were **2,500 Older victims** aged 60+²

- Useful resource: see our [Spotlights on Older People and DA](#)



We estimate that there were **300 Black, Asian and racially minoritised victims** who have experienced domestic abuse in the past year³

- Useful resource: see our [Spotlights on 'Honour'-based Violence and Forced marriage and DA](#)



We estimate that there were **3,000 Disabled victims** of domestic abuse in the past year - based on national disability prevalence of **26%** females 16+ and **22%** males 16+ ⁴

- Useful resource: see our [Spotlights on Disabled people and DA](#)



We estimate that there were **2,000 LGBT+ victims** of domestic abuse in the past year⁵

- Useful resource: see our [Spotlights on LGBT+ people and DA](#)

1. The CSEW only provides prevalence rates for 16-19 and 20-24 year olds, therefore an average of these two was calculated for the 18-24 group.

2. Older (75+) victim prevalence rates are based on a proxy rate from the CSEW for abuse in the past year only for those aged 60-74. This is because there is no CSEW prevalence rate data for the year ending in March 2020 for those aged 75+.

3. The CSEW does not accurately reflect the impact of domestic abuse on Black Asian and racially minoritised people, thus, we multiply the number of victims with the Black Asian and racially minoritised proportion of the area including the following: 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh', 'Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African', 'Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups', 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller', 'White: Roma', and 'Other ethnic group' (data obtained from the ONS census 2021)

4. Disability figures are taken from the Family Resource survey (FRS) (2022-23), for females and males self-identifying as having a disability within the FRS. The definition of disability used in the FRS is consistent with the core definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010. A person is considered to have a disability if they have a long-standing illness, disability or impairment which causes substantial difficulty with day-to-day activities. This can include both physical and/or mental health issues.

5. The prevalence statistic for LGBT+ people is based on the CSEW aggregate for Gay/Lesbian & Bisexual people. It does not include trans people as the sample size is too small

Prevalence – in the past year – partner abuse (IPV)



We estimate that there were **10,000** adult victims in the local area who have experienced partner abuse in the past year¹.



We estimate that there were **7,500 children living in a household with partner abuse** in the past year²

- Useful resource: see our [Spotlights on Parenting and DA](#) and our [Spotlights on Young People and DA](#)



We estimate that there were **8,000 people using abusive behaviours** in their intimate partner relationships in the past year in the local area



Of those **20%** are estimated to be **serial perpetrators of domestic abuse**³

1. Older (75+) victim prevalence rates are based on a proxy rate from the CSEW dataset for the year ending March 2020 for those aged 60-74 only. This is because there is no CSEW prevalence rate data for the year ending in March 2020 for those aged 75+.

2. Uses estimations of 41% of households with partner abuse having children in with an average of 1.85 children per household – this data comes from the ONS, with details in SafeLives [‘A safe fund’ report](#).

3. Robinson, A.L., Clancy, A. and Hanks, S., 2014. Prevalence and characteristics of serial domestic abuse perpetrators: Multi-agency evidence from Wales.