

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.

This document sets out to review the domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and police recorded crime (Year ending March 2024 edition) and applying those rates to Wirral population.

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Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and police recorded crime (Year ending March 2024 edition).

Definition of Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse (DA) is a high harm and high-volume crime that often remains largely hidden. Anyone can be affected, and it can manifest itself in different ways within different communities.

Domestic Violence Abuse (DVA) is defined by the government as:

- 'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.'
- This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional, honour-based violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage. ([Home Office: Information for Local Areas on the change to the Definition of Domestic Violence and Abuse](#))

Wirral has adopted the statutory definition described in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Office, 2022) (Legislation, 2021), the development of which was intended to improve the response to domestic abuse by:

- Protecting and supporting victims
- Transforming the justice process
- Improving performance
- Promoting awareness

The new statutory definition not only takes in to consideration the different and complex nature of domestic abuse but highlights the importance of a multi-agency collaboration to deliver an effective response.

Characteristics of victims of domestic abuse based on findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and police recorded crime.

This is produced annually and next expected release November 2025 for data up to and including March 2025.

1.0. Imputed prevalence (using national rates compared to local populations)

1.1. Imputed prevalence in one year (national rates)

Tables 1 to 3 show the estimated prevalence rates of DA for people aged 16 years and over, who experienced DA in one year, as reported by the public in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), March 2024.

Table 1 below shows domestic abuse (DA) in the Crime Survey for England and Wales by partner and family related figures. National prevalence rates in year to March 2024 as a percentage by sex, plus imputed numbers of people (aged 16 years and over) experiencing DA in Wirral in 2023/24 applied to the population of Wirral at 2021 Census

Table 1: Any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking, Crime Survey for England and Wales, March 2024

	National Prevalence Females	National Prevalence Males	National Prevalence Persons	Imputed Wirral Nos: Females	Imputed Wirral Nos: Males	Imputed Wirral Nos: Persons
Any DA in previous year	6.6%	3.0%	4.8%	9,040	3,754	12,581
Any partner related	4.6%	1.9%	3.2%	6,301	2,378	8,387
Any family related	2.5%	1.3%	1.9%	3,424	1,627	4,980

Source: [Census population estimates](#) (2021), [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics](#) (2024)

Note: People could report more than one type of DA. They can be counted against many headings but are only counted once within each heading.

Table 2 below shows domestic abuse in the Crime Survey for England and Wales, national prevalence rates in year to March 2024 as a percentage by sex, plus imputed numbers of people (aged 16 years and over) experiencing DA in Wirral in 2023/24, applied to the population of Wirral in 2021.

Table 2: Data for Partner, Family, Sexual, Stalking by sex, as National and Wirral prevalence, Crime Survey for England and Wales, (Data to March 2024)

	National Prevalence Females	National Prevalence Males	National Prevalence Persons	Imputed Wirral Nos: Females	Imputed Wirral Nos: Males	Imputed Wirral Nos: Persons
Any DA in previous year	6.6%	3.0%	4.8%	9,040	3,754	12,581
Partner-related abuse: non-sexual	4.0%	1.7%	2.9%	5,479	2,127	7,601
Family-related abuse: non-sexual	2.1%	1.2%	1.7%	2,876	1,502	4,456
Stalking	1.2%	0.5%	0.9%	1,644	626	2,359
Actual or attempted sexual assault*	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	822	125	786

Source: [Census population estimates](#) (2021), [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics](#) (2024)

Note: People could report more than one type of DA. They can be counted against many headings but are only counted once within each heading. Person's imputed figures may not add up to the total of female and male imputed figures due to estimation calculations. *Includes abuse other than partner or family, which is not in the overall DA total

A breakdown of DA reported in the Crime Survey by four sub-categories is shown in **Table 2**.

Overall, the most common form of DA to be reported was partner-related, non-sexual abuse (including verbal threats and/or actual force) with 2.9% of persons, followed by family-related, non-sexual abuse with 1.7% of persons; this was followed by stalking with 0.9% of persons, and 0.3% for actual or attempted sexual assault. (Due to the way the survey was conducted, the stalking sub-category included people stalked by someone other than family or a partner. This was also true of the sexual assault category).

Overall national male rates were approximately just under half the level of overall female rates, and within the sub-categories proportions varied between women and men, with men always lower.

Table 3 below shows the breakdown of domestic abuse split by gender and ethnicity. National prevalence rates in year to March 2024 as a percentage, plus imputed numbers of people (aged 16 years and over) experiencing DA in Wirral in 2023/24 applied to the population of Wirral at 2021 Census

Table 3: Domestic abuse by gender and ethnicity as National and Wirral prevalence, Crime Survey for England and Wales, (Data to March 2024)

Ethnic Group by Sex	Approximate prevalence of Domestic Abuse in adults in past 12 months (from CSEW)	Wirral Population in 2021 Census (aged 16 years and over) *	Imputed numbers experiencing Domestic Abuse in Wirral (aged 16 years and over, 2021 population)
All females	6.6%	136,975	9,040
White (female)	6.7%	131,190	8,790
Mixed (female)	7.2%	265	19
Asian/Asian British (female)	4.6%	2,110	97
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (female)	5.5%	100	6
All males	3.0%	125,134	3,754
White (male)	3.2%	119,630	3,828
Mixed (male)	X	X	X
Asian/Asian British (male)	1.8%	1,725	31
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (male)	1.0%	140	X

Source: Census population estimates (2021), Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics (2024)

Note: Imputed numbers for Wirral are an under-estimate as the rates have had to be applied to the population 2021 Census population in which robust ethnicity figures were estimated. Other ethnic group prevalence has been excluded because of suppressed figures for CSEW estimates due to disclosure constraints.

*Due to statistical disclosure risk, the totals may be slightly different across categories reported in this section.

**Person's imputed figures may not add up to the total of female and male imputed figures due to estimation calculations.

X: [X] Denotes suppressed figures for CSEW estimates because of disclosure constraints.

Table 3 reports the prevalence of DA for adults in the previous year from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (year to March 2023) by ethnic group and sex. The lowest prevalence rates were reported in Asian/Asian British females (4.6%) and Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (male) (1.0%) while the highest prevalence rates were reported for females of mixed ethnicity (7.2%) and White females (6.7%).

1.2. Imputed prevalence in one year (Wirral numbers) when applying Crime Survey for England and Wales

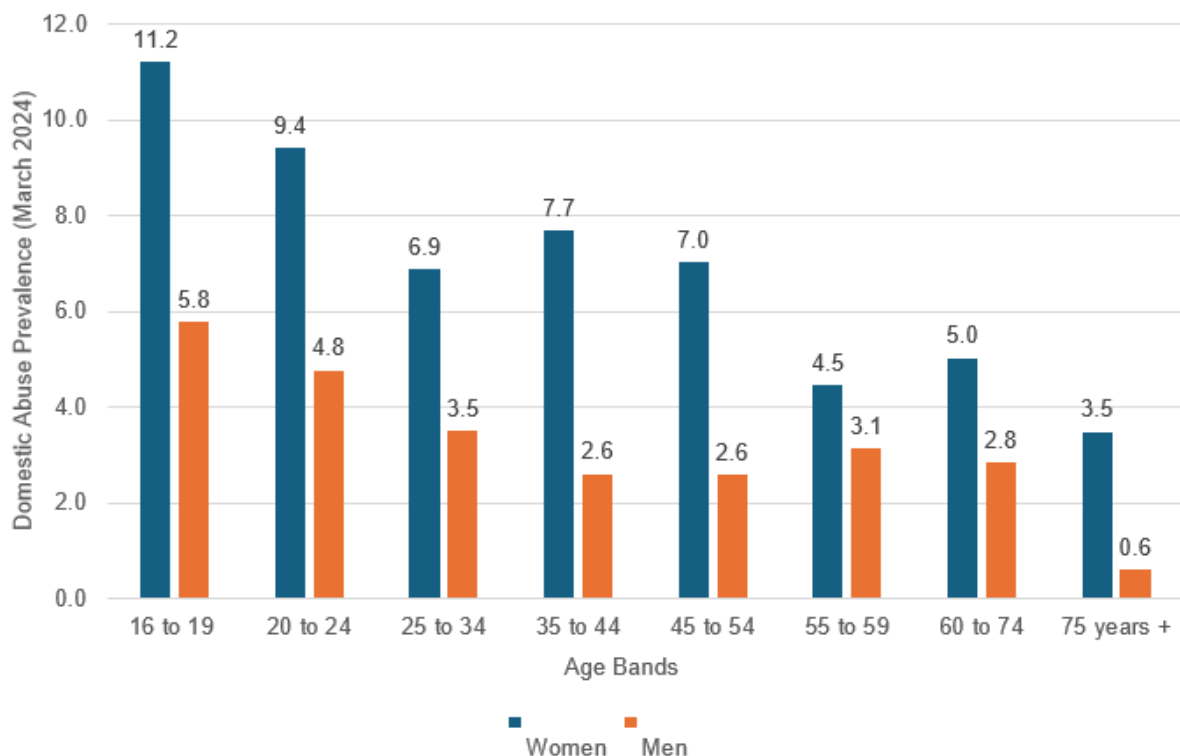
- The CSEW contains data at national and Police Force Area level. Merseyside Police Force covers Wirral. In this section, imputed numbers for Wirral have been calculated by applying crude national prevalence rates to the Wirral population for 2021 to estimate expected levels of domestic abuse (DA) in Wirral.
- Using the 2021 Census population, there were 262,109 people in Wirral, with 125,134 males and 136,975 females aged 16 years and over.
- The national prevalence rate of experiencing DA in the year to March 2024 was 6.6% for women and 3.0% for men, giving an overall rate of 4.8% (**Table 1**).

- If these rates occurred in Wirral, these would equate to 9,040 women and 3,754 men, and approximately 12,581 persons in total. In approximate terms, two-thirds of both women and men who reported DA, reported partner-related abuse.
- Overall, the most common form of DA to be reported was partner-related, non-sexual abuse (including verbal threats and/or actual force) with 2.9% of persons (7,601). Approximately 4,456 of the Wirral population would experience family related abuse (non-sexual) with 2,359 experiencing stalking and 786 suffering from actual or attempted sexual assault.
- The lowest prevalence rates were reported in Asian/Asian British females (4.6%) and Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (male) (1.0%)
- the highest prevalence rates were reported for females of mixed ethnicity (7.2%) and White females (6.7%) when looking at the ethnicity breakdown.

1.3. Imputed prevalence in one year (Wirral numbers) by age band and sex, applying Crime Survey for England and Wales (Data for March 2024)

Figure 1 below shows domestic abuse in the Crime Survey for England and Wales, national prevalence rates in year to March 2024 as a percentage by age band and sex, experiencing DA in Wirral in 2023/24.

Figure 1. National Domestic Abuse prevalence for one year as a percentage by age band, by males and females (to March 2024)



Source: [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics](#) (March 2024)

The range of annual prevalence by sex and age-group for DA in the Crime Survey is shown in **Figure 1 above**. For women, the range was from a high of 11.2% in the 16 to 19 age-group to a low of 3.5% in the oldest group (75 and over).

For men, the prevalence ranged from a high of 9.4% in the 16 to 19 years age-group to a low of 0.6% in the 75 years and over age-group.

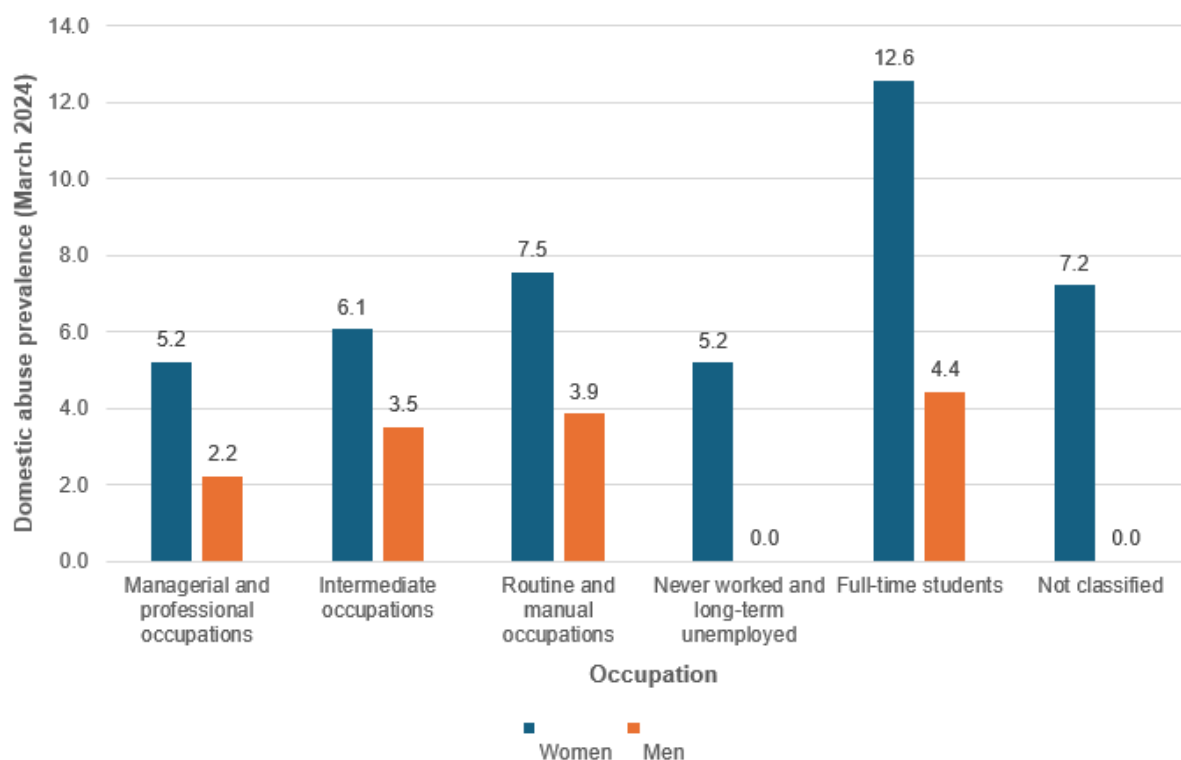
Using data from Figure 1 above this would suggest that from the mid-year population estimates for Wirral (2023) the percentages above would equate to the number below in Wirral.

- Wirral estimated number for 16-19 year old females is approximately 750 (11.2%).
- Wirral estimated number for those aged 75 or over in females is over 700 (3.5%)
- Wirral's estimated number for males aged 16 to 19 is approximately 400 (9.4%)
- Wirral estimated number for those aged 75 or over in males is less than 100 (0.6%)

1.4. Imputed prevalence in one year (Wirral numbers) by occupation and sex, applying Crime Survey for England and Wales (Data for March 2024)

Figure 2 below shows domestic abuse in the Crime Survey for England and Wales, national prevalence rates in year to March 2024 as a percentage by sex and occupation group, experiencing DA in Wirral in 2023/24.

Figure 2. Percentage of adults aged 16 years and over reporting DA in the last year by sex and occupation group, March 2024, as a percentage



Source: [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics](#) (March 2024)

A breakdown of reporting of DA at a national level by occupational group, was presented in the Crime Survey for England and Wales to March 2024. This socio-demographic categorisation is depicted in **Figure 2** above.

A social gradient, favouring more affluent people is evident for both women and men, yet the relationship between 'social status' and overall DA is not straightforward. The prevalence for women rose from 5.2% in the managerial/professional group to 7.5% in the routine and manual group, with the highest prevalence seen in full time students at over double the lowest percentage, with 12.6%.

For men, the managerial/professional occupation had the lowest prevalence (2.2%) rising to 3.9% in the routine and manual occupations group and the highest prevalence of DA in males was reported in full-time students at 4.4%.

Using data from Figure 2 above this would suggest that using figures from the NOMIS (insert link) the estimated numbers in Wirral would look like:

- Wirral female student population estimated numbers for 2024 would be just over 1,700 (12.6%) and for males just under 600 (4.4%).
- Wirral is numbers for female managerial and professional occupations would be approximately 4,440 (5.2%) and for males just under 1,900 (2.2%).
- Note the figures in NOMIS are not split by gender but overall total for each occupation above.

1.5. Imputed prevalence in one year (Wirral numbers)) by occupation and sex, using Crime Survey for England and Wales (Data for March 2024)

Table 4 below shows domestic abuse in the Crime Survey for England and Wales by national prevalence rates over lifetime since age of 16 years, March 2024, as a percentage by sex, plus imputed numbers of people (aged 16 years and over) experiencing DA over a lifetime in Wirral in 2023 and applied to the population of Wirral at the 2021 Census.

Table 4: Domestic abuse over lifetime since age of 16 years, National and Wirral, using Crime Survey for England and Wales, March 2024

	National Prevalence Females	National Prevalence Males	National Prevalence Persons	Imputed Wirral Nos: Females	Imputed Wirral Nos: Males	Imputed Wirral Nos: Persons
Any DA since age of 16 years	27.4%	13.7%	20.5%	37,531	17,143	53,732
Any partner related	22.9%	9.7%	16.3%	31,367	12,138	42,724
Any family related	11.1%	6.2%	8.7%	15,204	7,758	22,803

Source: [Census population estimates](#) (2021), [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics](#) (2024)

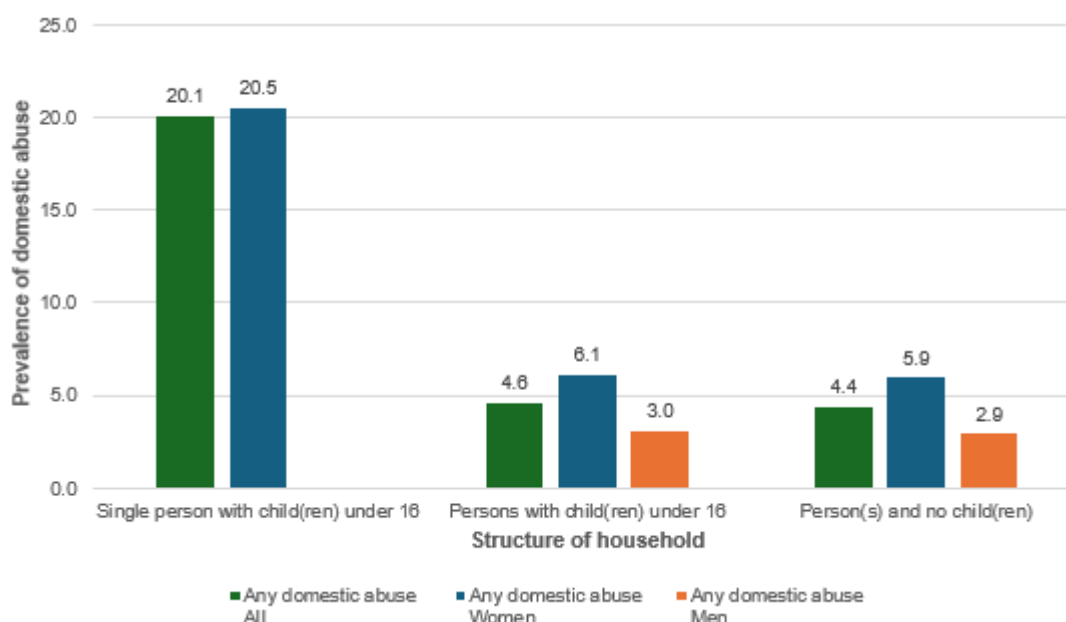
Note: People could report more than one type of DA. They can be counted against many headings, but are only counted once within each heading

Table 4 above shows the lifetime prevalence of DA experienced by men, women and persons, that is, reports of any experience of DA since the age of 16 years, as reported in the Crime Survey for England and Wales. In all, 27.4% of women and 13.7% of men, 20.5% of persons, reported some form of DA in their adult lifetime.

Using this prevalence data we can estimate:

- In terms of men, women and persons and reports of any experience of DA since the age of 16 years, using CSEW to estimate Wirral numbers, then this would equate to 37,531 women and 17,143 men, approximately 53,732 persons.
- This indicates that some experience of a form of DA at some point is a relatively common experience during an adult life.

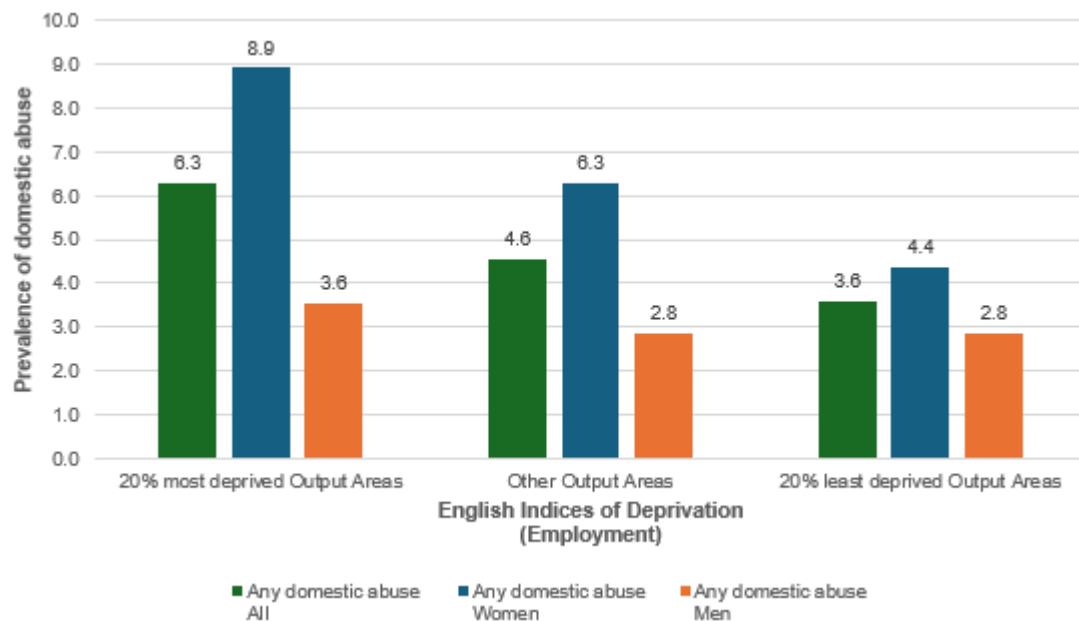
Figure 3: Domestic abuse by structure of household (March 2024)



Source: [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics](#) (March 2024)

Figure 3 above shows the prevalence of domestic abuse by type of household structure (by male, female and person) in 2023/24. Those household structures that are classified as single are 3x more likely to suffer domestic abuse than those in persons with children under 16 and also with persons with no children. Domestic abuse occurs in just over 20% for single persons (with children) compared to 6% or under for the other two categories. Unfortunately, there is no direct data source we that can be used to estimate Wirral figures for the household structure as above in figure 3.

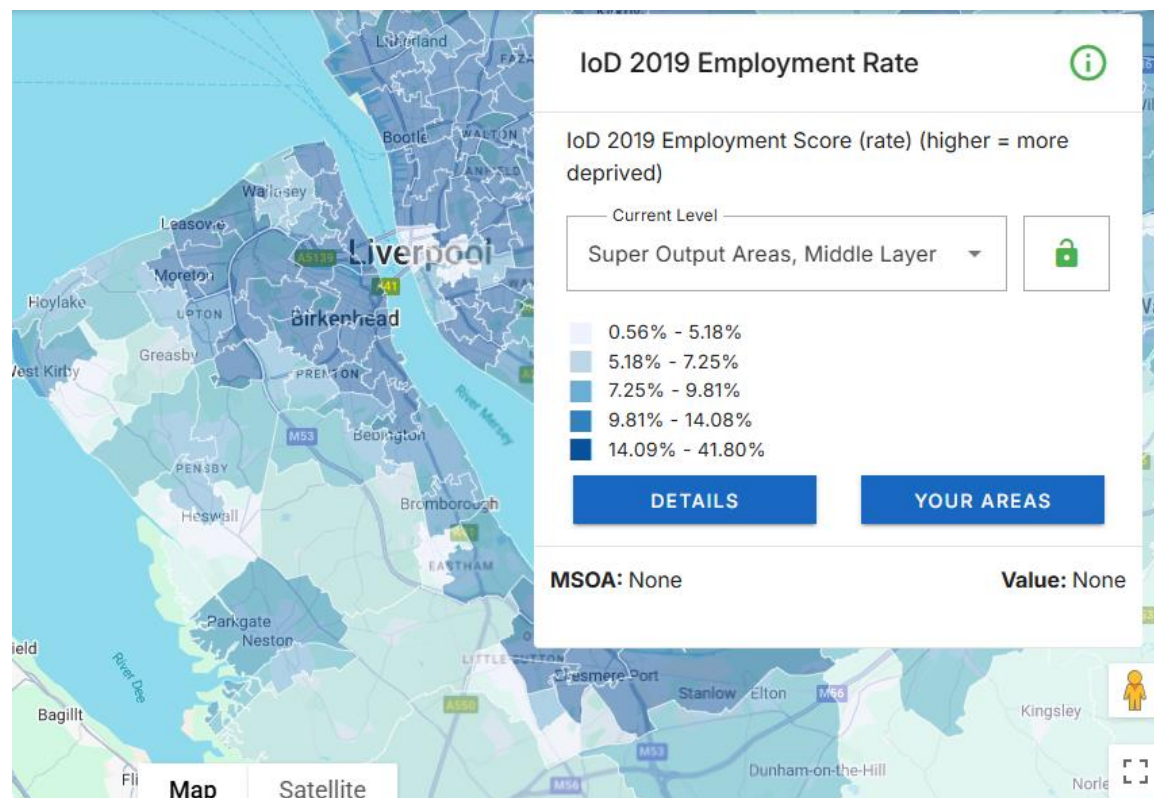
Figure 4: Domestic abuse by Deprivation (Employment) (March 2024):



Source: [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics](#) (March 2024)

Figure 4 above suggests that from CSEW, DA is more prevalent in the 20% most deprived (Employment IMD indicator) compared to the 20% least deprived areas in England. The starkest difference is for women who suffer DA with 8.9% in the 20% most deprived areas compared to 4.4% in the least deprived (more than double the prevalence). For Wirral 8.9% of women in the 20 percent most deprived (employment measure) population it would be approximately 545 (8.9%) women effected by domestic abuse and under 20 in the most affluent quintile (4.4%).

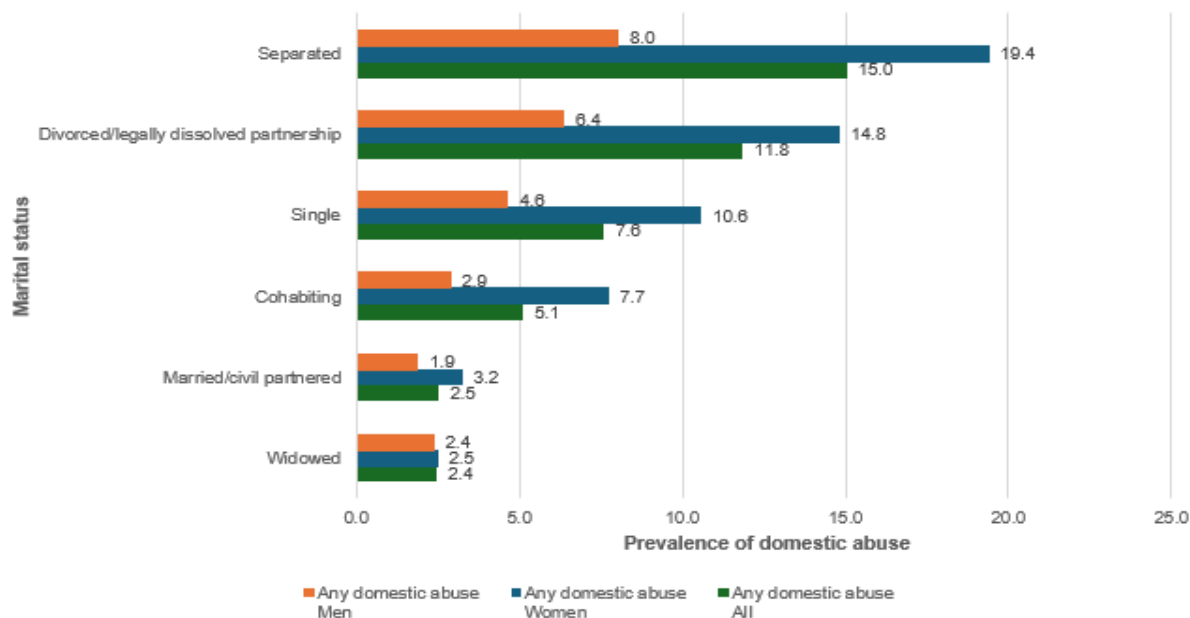
Map 1: 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation Employment rate for Wirral



Source: [Local Insight](#)

Map 1 above shows the total employment Indices of Multiple Deprivation rate for Wirral. The east of Wirral borough shows the highest concentration of the employment score (highest deprivation) compared to the West side of Wirral borough (lowest deprivation) with lower employment rate scores. This reflects the domestic abuse data (by IMD deprivation employment indicator) in **figure 4** above.

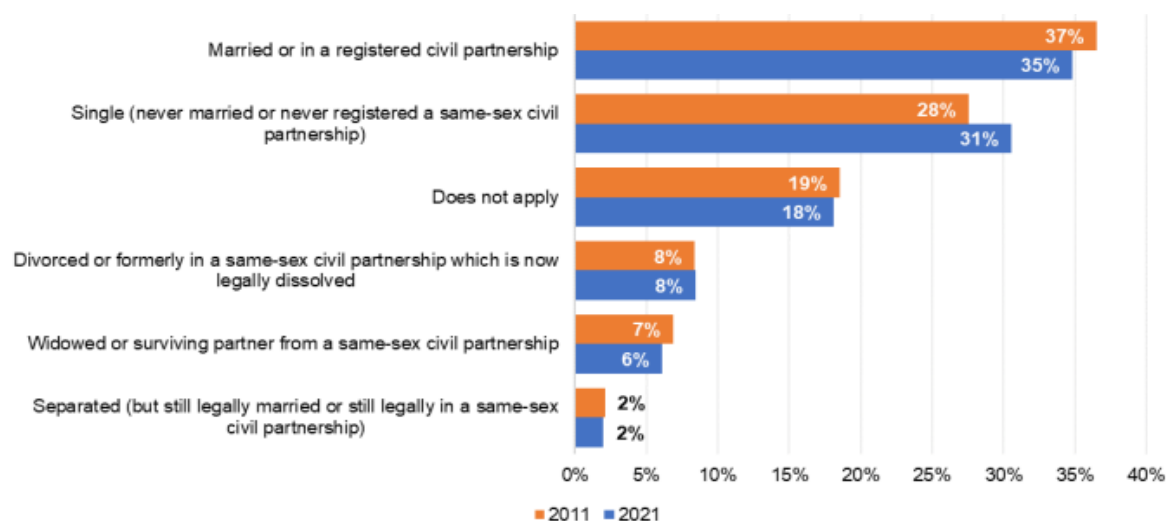
Figure 5: Domestic abuse by Marital status (March 2024):



Source: [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics](#) (March 2024)

Figure 5 above shows those that are separated are 4x more likely to suffer from any form of domestic abuse compared to those that are married/civil partnership. The second highest prevalence is in those who are divorced/legally dissolved partnership followed by those that are single. The prevalence is higher in females than males in every category of marital status breakdown.

Figure 6: Legal partnership status by number and percentage, usual residents aged 16 years and over, 2011 and 2021, Wirral:

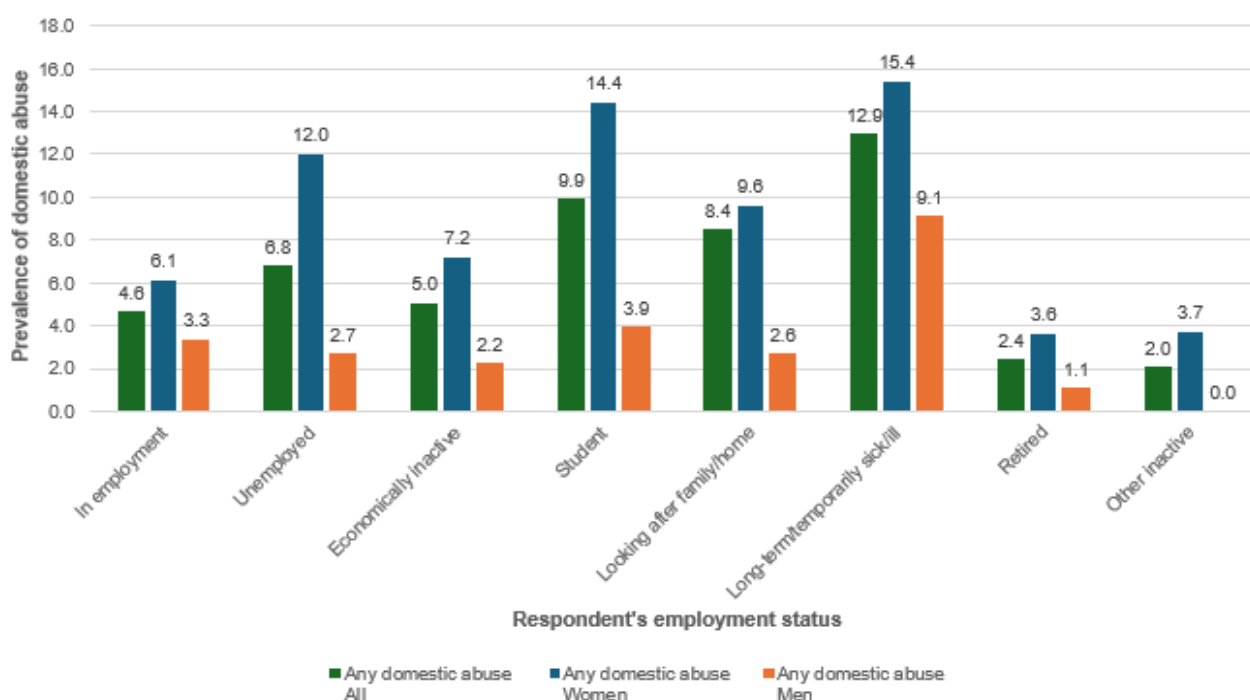


Source: Census 2021 via [Office for National Statistics](#) and Census 2011 via [NOMIS](#)

Note: 'Does not apply' is the sum of the total number of residents aged under 16 years of age, i.e. not legally allowed to marry

Data from **figure 6** above shows the 2021 census showing that our population of those separated in both 2021 and 2011 was 2% (approximately 5,200 in 2021) of the population in Wirral. Those effected by domestic abuse (for separated population in the CSEW) in 2024 was 15.0% (for persons), for females (19.4%) and for males this was 8.8%. Please note that comparing the data in the census to the crime survey for England reporting are not compatible due to collection method and respondent populations but do highlight differences that have people NOT reporting their position as separated in the Census but DO report this in the CSEW. This could be reporting bias, perception of the two surveys and/or the situation they are at the moment they respond the respective surveys.

Figure 7: Domestic abuse by respondents' employment status (March 2024)



Source: [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics](#) (March 2024)

Figure 7 above shows that those who are long-term/temporally sick/ill have the highest prevalence rate for persons (12.9%), females (15.4%) and for males (9.1%) for domestic abuse (split by employment status). Domestic abuse employment status in students has the second highest percentages (14.4% - female, 9.9% person and 3.9% males) followed by those classified as unemployed (12.0% in females, 6.8% for persons and 2.7% in males) in 2024.

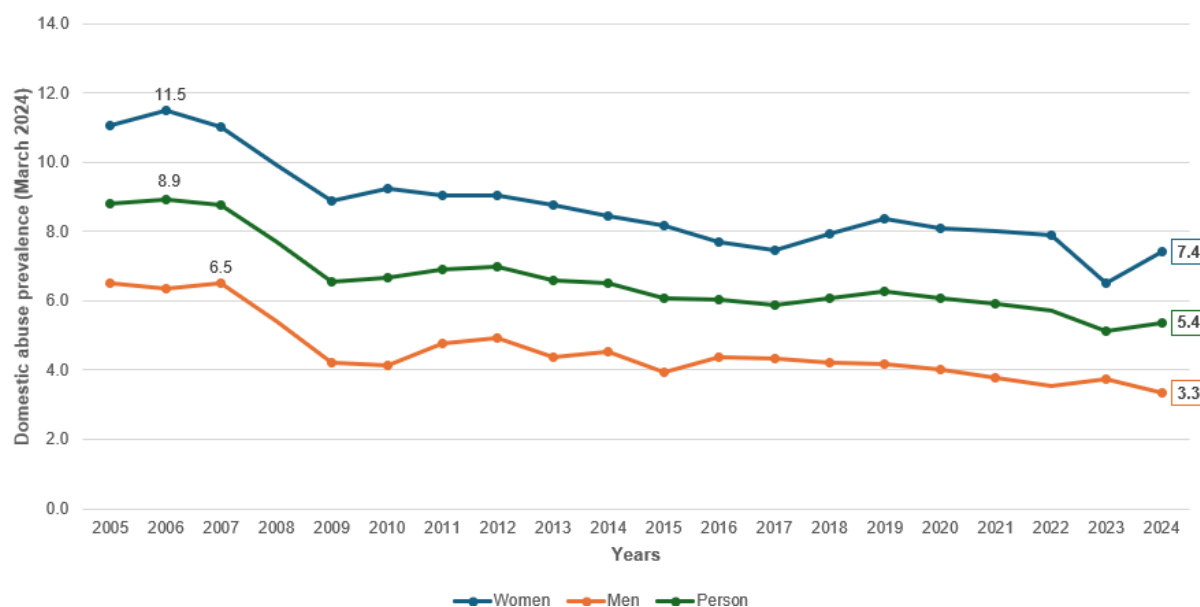
Using data from **figure 7** above this would suggest that using figures from the NOMIS ([insert link](#)) the estimated numbers in Wirral would look like:

- Wirral female long-term/temporally sick/ill population estimated numbers for 2024 would be just under 1,380 (15.4%) and for males just under 750 (9.1%).
- Wirral numbers for female student employment status would be approximately 800 (14.4%) and for males just under 220 (3.9%).
- Wirral unemployment estimated figures for females would be approximately 360 (12.0%) and for males 120 (2.7%).

1.6. Trends in prevalence for domestic abuse from 2005 to 2024, using Crime Survey for England and Wales (Data for March 2024)

Figure 8 below shows the domestic abuse in the Crime Survey for England and Wales, prevalence of any experience of DA in the previous year, in people aged 16 to 59 years, March 2005 to March 2024, as a percentage by males, females and persons

Figure 8: Trend in Domestic abuse from 2005 to 2024, Crime Survey for England and Wales, March 2005 to March 2024



Source: [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics](#) (March 2024)

Note: comparable data were not available for 2008; previously, data was only reported for people aged 16-59 years therefore it is not possible to compare data for people aged [16-74](#) years (section 2.3 in link) and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic this was not reported on.

Figure 8 above shows, for national prevalence data, that the percentage of women reporting domestic abuse declined from 11.5% in 2006 to a low in 2023 of 6.5% but has increased to 7.4% in the latest reporting year (2024). For men, the decrease was from 6.5% (in 2005 and 2007) to 3.3% (March 2024). For persons this was a decrease from 8.9% (2006) to 5.1% in 2023 with a slight increase in 2024 to 5.4%.

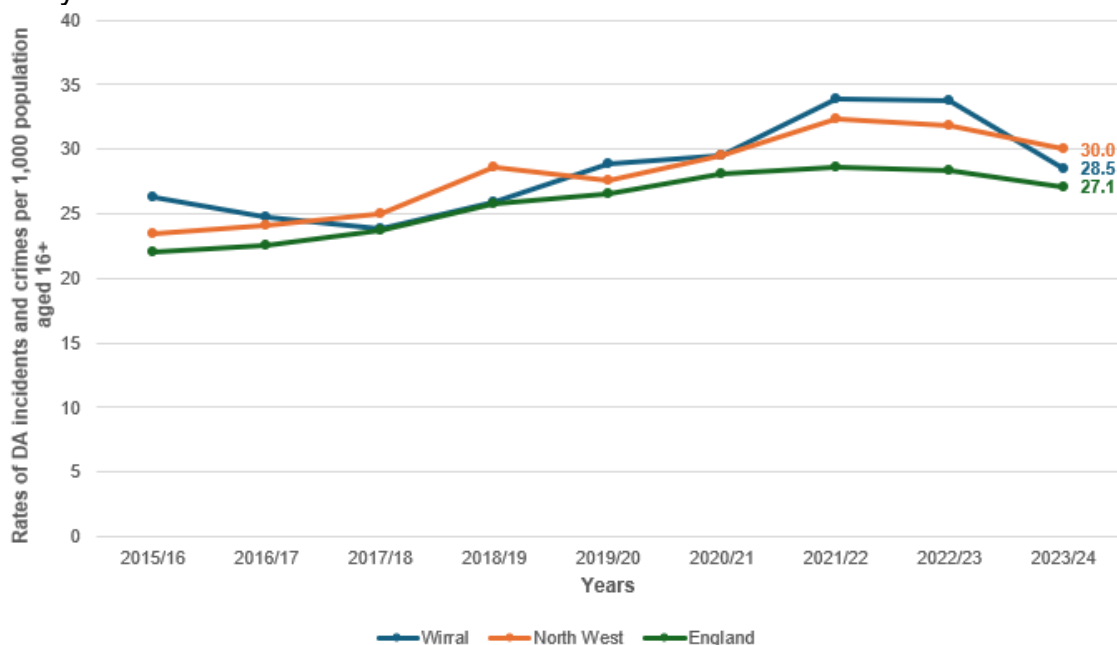
Using this national prevalence data to estimate Wirral numbers:

- 11.5% in 2006 for females would approximately affect 10,500 females based on the 2006 population.
- Using 2023 population figures the latest figure for females (7.4% in 2024) approximately would be 6,400
- For males in 2007, 5,570 would be suffering domestic abuse. Compared to approximately 2,700 in 2024 (using available mid-year population data for 2023).

1.7. Trends in domestic abuse incidents and crimes (Wirral, the North West and England)

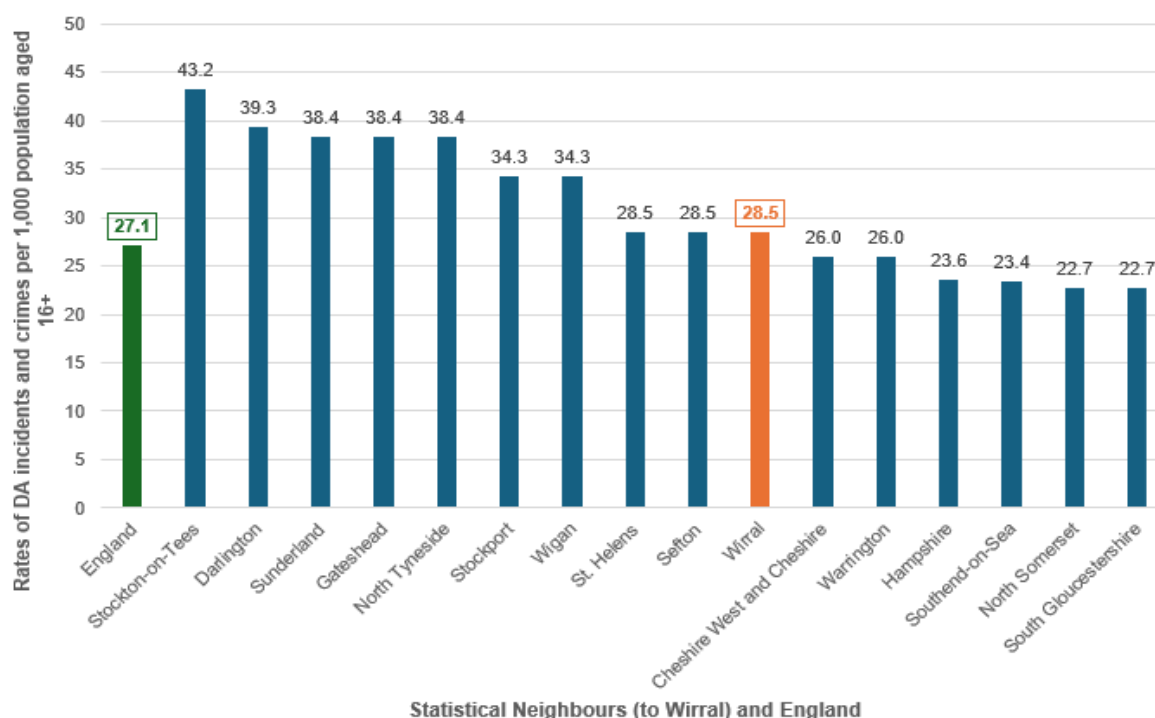
Figure 9 below shows the domestic abuse in the Crime Survey for England and Wales, prevalence of any experience of DA in the previous year, in people aged 16+, 2015/16 to 2023/24, for Wirral, the North West and England.

Figure 9. Rates of domestic abuse incidents and crimes per 1,000 population aged 16+ years: trends from 2015/16 to 2023/24



Source : [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#), accessed May 2025

Figure 10. Rates of domestic abuse incidents and crimes per 1,000 population aged 16+ years: comparison with CIPFA statistical neighbours, 2021/22



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#), accessed May 2025

Figures 9 and 10 above, show the rate of DA incidents and crimes combined as reported in the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) by local Authority using data at police area level (Merseyside Police Force area covering Wirral).

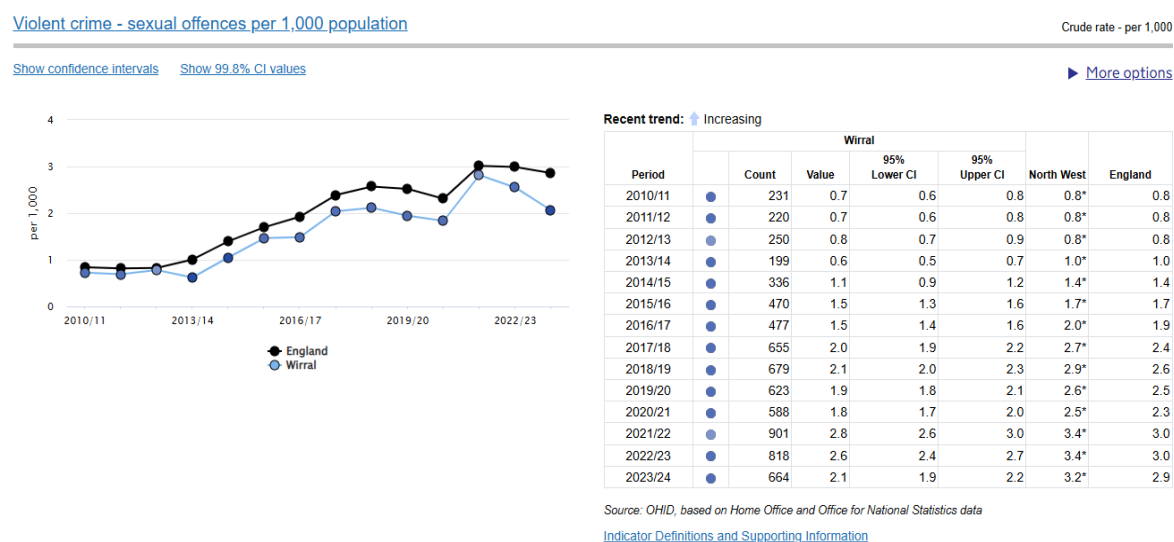
In terms of crude rates per 1,000 people aged 16 years or more, the most recently available data shows that Wirral had a rate of 28.5 incidents per 1,000 people in 2023/24, compared with a rate of 30.0 for the North West, higher at a statistically significant level than the England rate of 27.1 (**Figure 9**).

In comparison to its CIPFA socio-demographic neighbours, **Figure 10** suggests, Wirral has a comparative lower domestic abuse incidents and crimes per 1,000 population than a number of its peers. However, these comparisons are of limited value because Wirral crime data is aggregated within Merseyside Police data which combines Wirral with the rest of Merseyside (Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Knowsley) and so probably do not reflect the situation within the area of Wirral accurately.

1.8. Trend in violent crime – sexual offences for Wirral and England (2010/11 – 2023/24)

Figure 11 below shows the crude rate per 1,000 population subject to a sexual offence, from 2010/11 to 2023/24.

Figure 11: Violent crime – sexual offences per 1,000 population



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#)

Figure 11 above shows the violent crime (sexual offences) per 1,000 population for Wirral (2.1 per 1,000, n=654) in 2023/24. This is lower than the North West rate and England rate for the same time period (2.2 per 1,000 and 2.9 per 1,000 respectively).

Since the data has been published (2010/11) the overall trajectory in Wirral has been an increasing rate in violent crime (sexual offences) from 0.7 in 2010/11 (n=231) to a high of 2.8 in 2021/22 (n=901). The recorded data in the last 2 years has shown a decline in the rate of 0.7 per 1,000 population.