

Reducing and preventing violence against women & girls (VAWG)

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Domestic Abuse

Disproportionate impact on Women



73%

Nationally 73% of Domestic Abuse Victims are Women (Ref 1)



93%

This rises to 93% when the offence is Sexual (Ref 1)

Key Humber Data (April 20 - Mar 21)



18.7%

18.7% of recorded crime was Domestic Abuse (Ref 1)



Ranked 9th for Domestic Abuse Rate in England as Wales (Ref 3)



44

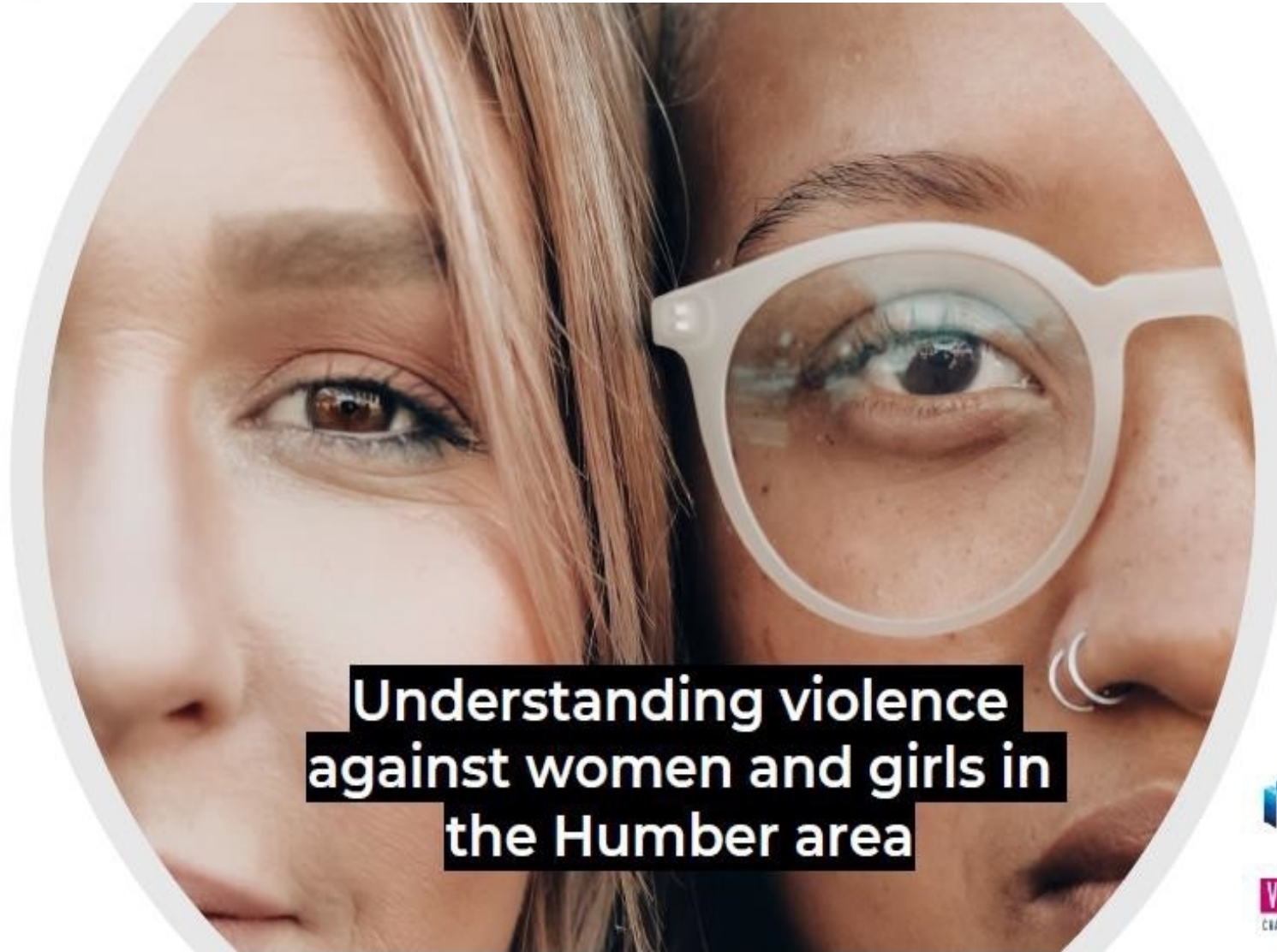
Recorded Domestic Abuse Crimes per day (Ref 2)



Between March 2018 and March 2020 a total of 9 Domestic Homicides were recorded. (Ref 1)

- 1) <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendixtables>
- 2) Average based on 16,067 crimes recorded
- 3) Comparison based on Per 1000 rate





**Understanding violence
against women and girls in
the Humber area**



- OPCC Commissioned anonymous survey of women & girls aged 16+ across Humber area, led by Dr Jessica Taylor
- Opportunity to increase our understanding of prevalence of violence and abuse, particularly unreported violence
- Survey asked about experiences of all forms of violence and abuse since birth
- Trauma Informed research team methodology
- Secondary research with key partners
- Shared via network of partners and community contacts



3 Cohorts

- Girls aged 16-17 at the time of the survey
- Adult women who experienced an incident prior to the age of 18
- Adult women who experienced an incident as an adult.

4 Incident Types

- Physical Violence
- Coercive Control
- Sexual Violence
- Harassment and Stalking



Adult women data (1425 participants aged 18 years old +)

- 52% of women have been slapped or punched in adulthood
- 31% of women have been strangled or choked in adulthood
- 9% of women have been forced or coerced into a termination in adulthood
- 75% of women had been sexually assaulted (sexually touched without consent only)
- 48% of women had been raped

**99% of all acts in adulthood were committed by men –
Partner, ex partner, father, male stranger or male friend**



Girls data (202 participants aged 16 and 17 years old)

- **Key statistics from girls in Humberside**

- 16% of girls reported that they grew up in households where their mother was subjected to domestic abuse
- 66% of girls were slapped or punched in childhood
- 62% of girls had been sexually assaulted (sexually touched without consent only)
- 23% of girls had been forced to have sex before they were 13 years old



Contact with Criminal Justice

Women aged 18+

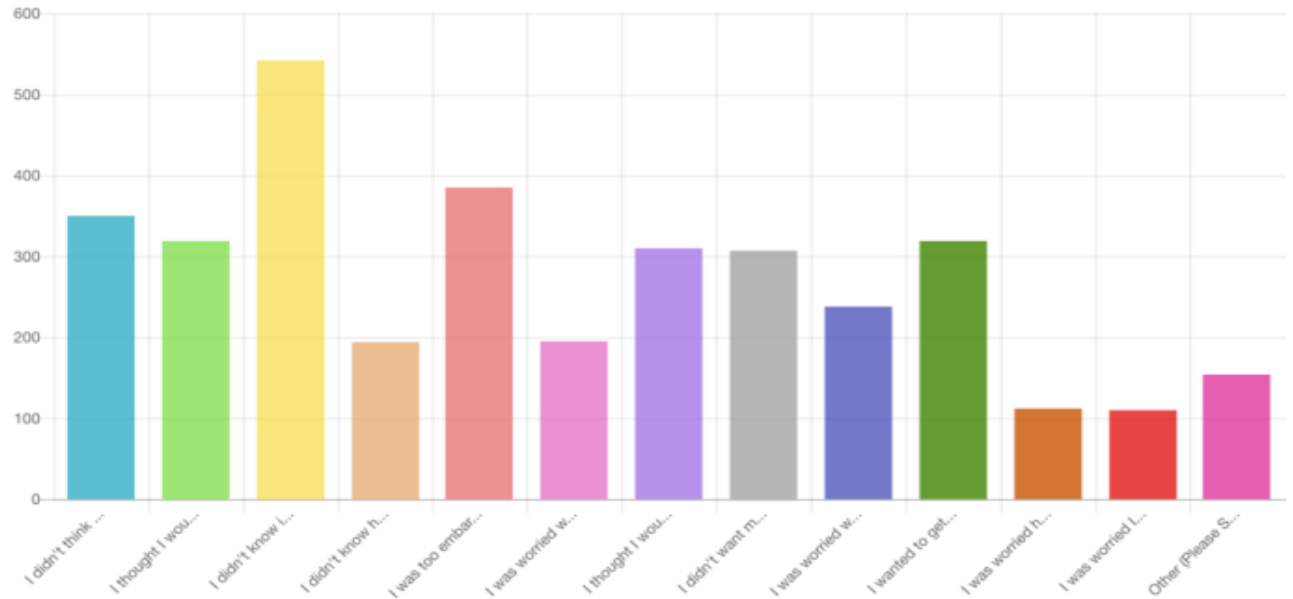
- Any crimes that happened before age of 18 only had a **10-12%** chance of being reported (this included all sexual, physical, emotional and harassment crimes)
- Despite this, **48%** said they has disclosed or sought help elsewhere
- Further, in adulthood, women were more likely to report domestic abuse physical assault crimes (**27%** have reported)
- However, this dropped to **13%** for sexual crimes and **10%** for coercive control

Girls aged 16+

- Reporting is much lower in this age group, with **5-8%** reporting any VAWG crimes to police
- Despite this, **60%** of the girls had disclosed or sought help elsewhere

Explanations for not reporting

31 If you have not reported anything to the police, what stopped you from reporting? Select as many as you like.



- 36%** (350)
I didn't think anyone would believe me
- 39%** (385)
I was too embarrassed
- 24%** (238)
I was worried what the perpetrator would do to me if I reported them
- 16%** (154)
Other (Please Specify)
- 32%** (319)
I thought I would be blamed
- 20%** (195)
I was worried what would happen to the person who did it to me
- 32%** (319)
I wanted to get over it without reporting it
- 55%** (542)
I didn't know it was a crime
- 31%** (310)
I thought I would be judged
- 11%** (112)
I was worried how my friends would react
- 20%** (194)
I didn't know how to report it to the police
- 31%** (307)
I didn't want my parents to find out
- 11%** (110)
I was worried I would get in trouble with the police



Areas for improvement



1. Consider development of a specific multi-agency VAWG strategy and framework.
2. Ensure that all organisations focus on providing the best trauma informed service possible, so women and girls leave the service feeling confident and respected.
3. Ensure individuals at all levels of partner organisations in the Humber work closer together to improve the way women and girls are supported, discussed, responded to, and perceived in order to increase trust and confidence of women and girls in the Humber.
4. All organisations to ensure known perpetrators are not referred to the same local victim services as victims.
5. Ensure all partner organisations can access critical training modules covering all elements of VAWG, myth busting, and victim blaming.

Areas for improvement



6. Provide respectful, non-blaming, anti-misogyny information resources for local women and girls to increase understanding of what acts are illegal, what constitutes each form of VAWG and why these crimes are never their fault.
7. Develop and deliver trauma-informed information for local women and girls to increase their understanding of their own trauma responses and coping mechanisms after male violence.
8. All partner organisations to work from the position that violence against women and girls is common, and a near universal experience across society.
9. Address issues and barriers to reporting discussed in this report – offer viable and effective alternatives or ways to report violence that protect women and girls and empower them.
10. All organisations to consider training to explore how staff can become desensitised, suffer compassion fatigue and lack of empathy in VAWG, especially when working with women who are repeatedly subjected to violence and abuse.

MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IS PREVENTABLE



Violence and abuse, in all its forms – whether in a domestic setting, at a party, a park, on our streets, in a pub or in a school – will not be tolerated. We need women and girls to feel safe and listened to in coming forward with reports of abuse and we need our criminal justice system to work effectively for all victims and survivors.

Statement of Intent to work collaboratively in tackling male violence against women and girls

We, the undersigned agree to the following:

1. As partners, we agree to work together to prioritise tackling violence, abuse and harassment against women and girls.
2. We will robustly identify, challenge and condemn sexism and misogyny in all its forms, whilst working to educate ourselves, our staff, volunteers and communities.
3. We will explore prevention and early intervention strategies, using education and other innovative approaches to treat the causes of violence against women and girls.
4. We will work to improve our organisational cultures by challenging inappropriate behaviours and activities.
5. We commit to sharing relevant information with key partners to ensure we can take action against those who perpetrate violence.
6. We will listen to and support victims and survivors and ensure their views are included in key decision making; we will strive to reach the most marginalised of women and girls – including but not exclusively: women marginalised by ethnicity, faith, disability, trans status, sexual orientation, socio-economic background and women working in the sex trade.
7. We will work collaboratively, making best use of resources and sharing good practice.
8. We promise to never condone, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women.



Bystander campaigns

Step up Step away

If your interaction with someone looks like this,
it's time to change your behaviour.



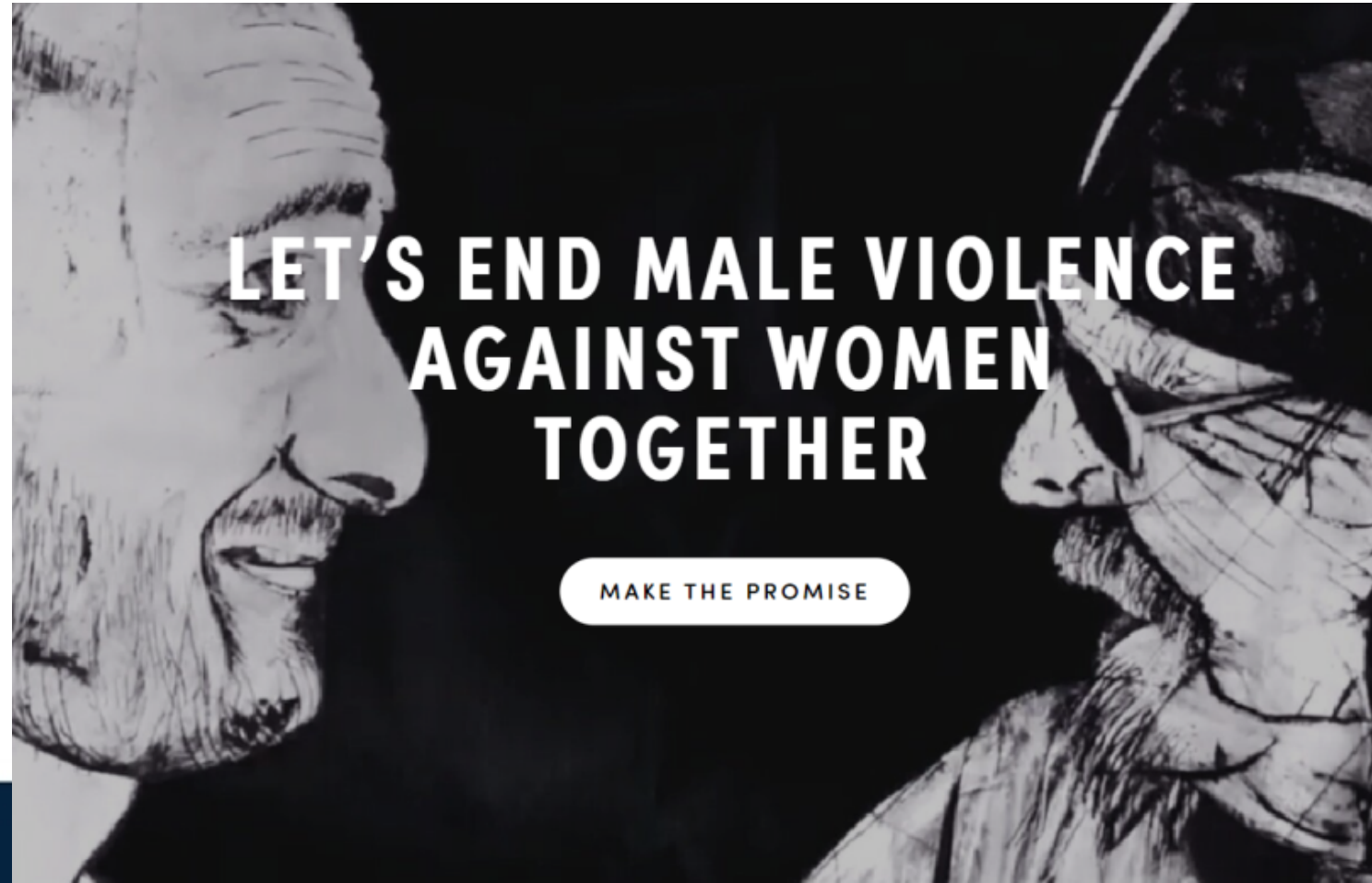
Recognise – when your behaviour is out of line

Reflect – on why it is

Revise – your behaviour, it's your responsibility

Here we **take action against sexist behaviour and harassment.**

Learn how to step up safely at www.hull.ac.uk/step-up



A LAUGH IN THE PUB, BUT A NIGHTMARE TO LIVE WITH?



If you or a mate need help to stop hurting someone, support is available.

Respect call
Phoneline 0808 8024040

**HELP TO STOP
ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR**
www.helptostop.online

REAL STRENGTH IS CONTROLLING YOURSELF, NOT YOUR PARTNER.

Using violence is a choice.

Take control of your actions and get help to change your behaviour.



Respect
Phoneline



Help to stop abusive behaviour.

www.helptostop.online

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