

# ESRC SDAI Application

## 1 Intro

Domestic abuse is a complex phenomenon affecting people from all walks of life. It is increasingly recognised as a major public policy concern in many countries, including the UK (European Parliament, 2018). While anyone can become a victim of domestic abuse, women are disproportionately affected, with more than 25% of women, and 15% of men in England and Wales reported to have experienced some form of domestic abuse since the age of 16 (Office for National Statistics, 2018). The current legal definition in the UK (Home Office, 2018) aims to capture the multifaceted nature of domestic abuse, by recognising that domestic abuse encompasses a wide range of behaviours, including emotional, sexual, and physical abuse, threatening, intimidating, coercive and controlling behaviour.

Domestic abuse has substantial mental health implications, with an estimated three-quarter of survivors experiencing posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms, along with a significantly higher likelihood of reporting symptoms of anxiety and depression, compared to the general population (Ferrari et al., 2016). In addition, witnessing domestic abuse at home can have severe developmental impacts on children, including an increased risk of experiencing mental and physical health problems and encountering difficulties in interpersonal relationships in later life, worse educational attainment, and increased likelihood of engaging in criminal behaviours (Callaghan, Alexander, Sixsmith, & Fellin, 2015).

In the most extreme cases, domestic abuse can culminate in domestic homicide. In the period between April, 2017 and March, 2018, 70 people in England and Wales were killed by their current or former partner, 90% of the victims were women (Office for National Statistics, 2019). While the pervasive problem of underreporting poses a significant obstacle to deriving reliable estimates of the true extent of the problem, the economic cost of

domestic abuse in England and Wales between April, 2016 and March, 2017 was estimated to be £66 billion (Rhys Oliver, Barnaby Alexander & Wlasny, 2019). The largest component of this cost is represented by the physical and emotional consequences of abuse, reflected in a reduced expected quality of life for survivors. In addition, lost economic output resulting from missed workdays and reduced productivity, and costs to the health care system also significantly contribute to the overall figure.

Recognising the severity of this widespread societal problem led the UK government to develop a strategic plan to tackle domestic abuse with a funding of £100m for the period between 2016 and 2020. The action plan focuses on a range of areas to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, including increasing awareness and willingness to report through education and information campaigns, introducing legal measures to increase victim safety (e.g., Domestic Violence Protection Order, Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, intervention programmes), and improve the responses of support services and health care professionals (HM Government, 2016). *Sentence about that while violent crime is decreasing, if repeat victims of domestic abuse is taken into account, domestic violence against women shows an increasing trend*

## 2 Data

Our datasets include the

## 3 Aims

### 3.1 Victim-offender profiles - comparison of CSEW and WMPD

Aim 1: Who perpetrates? Who becomes a victim? - our police dataset allows us to explore what other types of criminal behaviours abusers are likely to engage in/be a victim of; same for victims with police and CSEW; victim/perpetrator characteristics (gender/ethnicity); deprivation and domestic abuse? Find out what kind of cases get reported. Break down the 17% based on socioeconomic and incident characteristics.

## 3.2 Reporting behaviour

Aim 2: The timecourse of abuse. The decision to report. Breaking point theory - do we see a long string of abuse being reported after certain days (Xmas, Valentine's day)? Hazard model? Tim knows the birthdays. Separation.

## 3.3 Association with other criminal behaviours

Aim 3: explore the lasting effect of domestic abuse on the victims and their children (do we see kids having behavioural problems? No control group unfortunately)- CSEW question about gang membership - are those who report having a child gang member more likely to be victims of domestic abuse? Following people over time (Dynamic topic modelling for victims)- what's the temporal order?

## 3.4 Protective factors - shouldn't this go into the victim-offender profiles?

Aim 4: Protective factors and interventions. various aspects of alcohol-involvement. Is it worse when alcohol is involved? Outlawed: Coventry domestic abuse interventions? Protective factors identified in CSEW data—e.g., having a job, car, no litter outside, living with other relatives,

## References

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