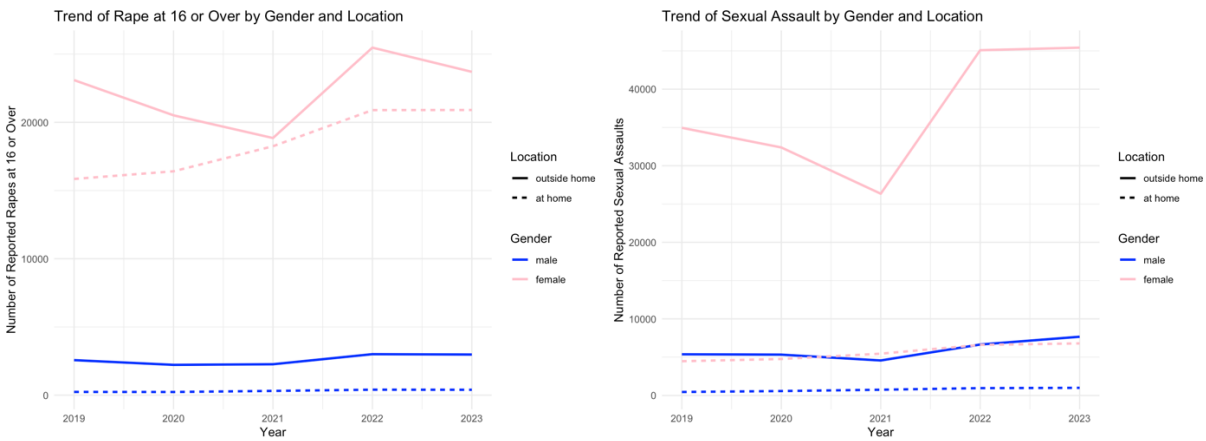


Inside or outside their homes? A brief report about sexual violence in England and Wales.

Understanding where sexual violence is most prevalent is crucial for policymaking. Only by grasping the details of this delicate and complex issue can we design effective interventions to tackle it. Unfortunately, in some countries, sexual violence often occurs within the home, with perpetrators frequently being relatives of the victim. In this article, we explore data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) to better understand the English case.

The two graphs below were created using data about domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics for 2019 until 2023. The first key point from the graph is that the behavior of the data does not seem to change much for men, regardless of the type of sexual violence reported. The most frequent reports among men occur outside the home, as shown by the solid blue line in both graphs below. Additionally, it can be generally stated that the frequency of reports involving sexual violence is higher for women than for men.

Figure 1 - Sexual Violence in England and Wales across time



Note: these graphs were independently made using data from CSEW. The raw data can be found [here](#).

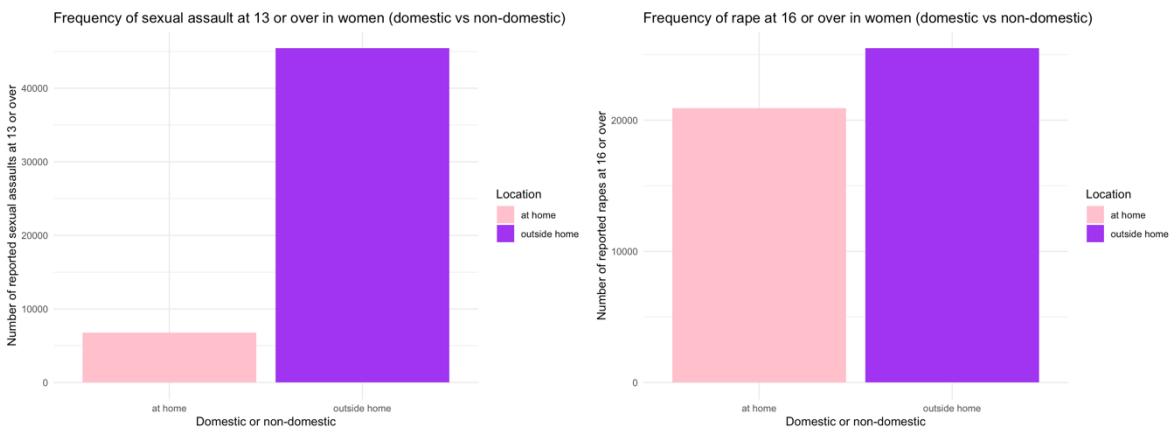
Another interesting fact is the similarity between the records for rape and sexual assault cases outside the home among women. There is a peak between the years 2021 and 2022 for both types of sexual violence, with the "sexual assault" category showing a more "accelerated" curve, with sharper declines and increases. An interest further research in this matter could be the impact of the pandemic in altering patterns of sexual violence, considering the abrupt socioeconomic changes that can affect criminality.

Among women who reported rape during this time period, there seems to be an opposite trend depending on the location between 2019 and 2021 – rapes outside the home are decreasing while those occurring inside the home are increasing. In fact, the line for

rapes occurring inside the home shows a slight continuous upward trend, only stagnating in 2022. Meanwhile, reported sexual assault at home by women shows low levels and a neutral, stagnant trend line.

Finally, the graphs below might provide a more direct answer to the question. A brief analysis of these data suggest that girls in England are indeed safer at home when evaluating records of sexual assault, which appear to be much more frequent outside the home. The same cannot be said about the records of rape. The frequency remains lower in homes but competes closely with the frequency outside the home.

Figure 2: frequency of sexual violence in England and Wales



Note: these graphs were independently made using data from CSEW. The raw data can be found [here](#).

The insights presented here can help design impactful social policies to understand how a girl exposed to sexual violence at home can report it. These insights are especially relevant to educators, as schools can be crucial in diagnosing cases of sexual violence at home.