



13 September 2018

New figures show welcome rise in men reporting domestic abuse to the police – doubling in five years

Figures obtained by the ManKind Initiative from 41 police forces across England and Wales showed that 158,974 men reported to them as being victims of domestic abuse in 2017 – one in four of all victims (24.8%) where the gender of the victim was recorded. A further 9,842 men reported the same in Scotland.

Of the 43 Police authorities in England and Wales which were sent the Freedom of Information request by the charity, 37 provided figures for 2012 and last year. On that like for like basis, the figures rose from 72,157 in 2012 to 149,248 in 2017 – more than double in five years.

Mark Brooks, Chair of the ManKind Initiative, said:

“These figures are both shocking yet welcome. They show the level of domestic abuse against men and the growing confidence they have in coming forward. Friends, family and work colleagues are also playing a key part in supporting them and many police forces are actively encouraging men to report.

“These figures should act as a spur for even more men to reach out as many feel they are the only man in the world this has ever happened to and they suffer in silence behind their front door. They now know they are not alone.

“Society as a whole is taking a more modern and inclusive view of domestic abuse – increasingly realising that domestic is a crime against women and men in heterosexual and same-sex relationships. More always needs to be done to challenge stereotypes as we still see some people not taking domestic abuse as seriously as they should when a man is a victim but we are moving in the right direction.

“A key challenge remains in ensuring there are male-victim friendly services in every county and city that men are aware of and where professionals know and do refer them to. Failure to ensure a basic level of support across the country will fail those men and of course, fail their children where they are involved. At the moment there are low numbers of men actually accessing domestic abuse services so whilst more are going to the police we need to encourage better take up of local services that are available to them”.

The figures were collated by Ian McNicholl, a male survivor of domestic abuse and ambassador for the charity.

Overall figures for female victims for the 41 police forces across England and Wales showed that 482,157 women reported to them as being victims of domestic abuse in 2017. A further 44,216 women reported the same in Scotland. The figures on the like for like basis show that the amount of women who police recorded as victims has increased by almost 50% from 306,411 in 2012 to 447,568 last year.

The charity is clear that it welcomes improvements in female reporting rates and that there needs to be more funding and support for female victims, as well as more funding and support for male victims too.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About the ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative (www.mankind.org.uk), is a national charity which runs a help-line, providing a listening service, information and signposting service for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence. The help-line number is 01823 334244 (weekdays 10am-4pm). It received 1,800 calls from male victims (or from people on behalf of victims – often mothers and sisters) every year.

Statistics

The full spreadsheet of statistics can be found at: <https://www.mankind.org.uk/statistics/>

Since the age of 16, an estimated 1.6 million men in this country have been victims of partner abuse in the country (450,000 per year). In 2016/17, 13 men died at the hands of their partner or ex-partner. 1 in 6 men will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime.

A full range of statistics on male victims can be found on the ManKind Initiative website here: <https://www.mankind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/35-Key-Facts-Male-Victims-March-2018-1.pdf>

Men or their friends/families can call 01823 334244 or www.mankind.org.uk

Media

Journalists requiring further information please Mark Brooks on 07834 452357
chairman@mankind.org.uk

Flook House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1BT
Registered Charity No. 1089547 – Company Registration No. 3869893
Honorary Patrons – Paul Chivers, Lord Cotter, Ann and Derek Goodchild, Ian McNicholl, John Penrose MP, Erin Pizzey, Alex Skeel and Sara Westle