

Article

# Partner abuse in detail, England and Wales: year ending March 2022

Information from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) on the amount, type and nature of partner abuse experienced in the last year.

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# 1 . Other pages in this release

- [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2022](#)
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- [Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2022](#)
- [Domestic abuse and the criminal justice system, England and Wales: November 2022](#)
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## 2 . Main points

- According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) year ending March 2022, an estimated 3.5% of adults aged 16 years and over had experienced partner abuse in the last year.
- There was no significant change in the prevalence of partner abuse experienced by adults aged 16 to 59 years in the last year compared with the year ending March 2020; a year largely unaffected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the last time the data were collected.
- More than four in five victims of partner abuse in the last year (84.3%) experienced non-physical abuse, 12.9% experienced sexual assault and 20.8% experienced stalking.
- In 72.3% of households where a child was present, the partner abuse victim reported the child or children did not see or hear what happened.
- Four in five victims of partner abuse (80.4%) reported they had told someone about the abuse they had experienced in the last year with the majority (70.7%) stating they had told someone they knew personally.
- Around 1 in 10 (13.3%) victims of partner abuse told the police about the abuse they had experienced in the last year.

Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) data presented in this release for the year ending March 2022, are not badged as [National Statistics](#). They are based on a six-month collection period from the face-to-face CSEW, between October 2021 and March 2022. Caution should be taken when using these data owing to the impact of the reduced data collection period and lower response rates on the quality of the estimates. When the CSEW returned on 4 October 2021, the upper age limit of 74 years was removed. As a result, estimates presented in this article are not comparable with previously published nature of partner abuse estimates.

## 3 . Partner abuse in England and Wales data

### [Partner abuse in detail](#)

Dataset | Released 25 November 2022

Data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales on the prevalence and nature of partner abuse.

## 4 . Glossary

### Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is not limited to physical violence and can include a range of abusive behaviours. It can also be experienced as repeated patterns of abusive behaviour to maintain power and control in a relationship. The [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) defines domestic abuse as any incident or pattern of incidents between those aged 16 years and over who:

- are a partner
- are an ex-partner
- are a relative
- have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 outlines the following behaviours as abuse:

- physical or sexual abuse
- violent or threatening behaviour
- controlling or coercive behaviour
- economic abuse
- psychological, emotional, or other abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises children under the age of 18 years who see, or hear, or experience the effects of the abuse, as a victim of domestic abuse if they are related or have a parental relationship to the adult victim or perpetrator of the abuse.

### Partner abuse

Within the Crime Survey in England and Wales (CSEW), partner abuse is a subcategory of domestic abuse, which includes:

- non-sexual abuse – physical force, emotional or financial abuse, or threats to hurt the respondent or someone close to them, carried out by a current or former partner
- sexual assault – rape or assault by penetration (including attempts), or indecent exposure or unwanted touching carried out by a current or former partner
- stalking – two or more incidents (causing distress, fear or alarm) of receiving obscene or threatening unwanted letters, emails, text messages or phone calls, having had obscene or threatening information about them placed on the internet, waiting or loitering around home or workplace, or following or watching by a current or former partner

### Stalking

Defined in the CSEW as two or more incidents (causing distress, fear or alarm) of receiving obscene or threatening unwanted letters, emails, text messages or phone calls, having had obscene or threatening information about them placed on the internet, waiting or loitering around home or workplace, or following or watching.

## 5 . Data sources and quality

Further quality and methodology information can be found in the [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview](#).

### Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

For reasons outlined in Section 2, CSEW estimates for the year ending March 2022 are not badged as National Statistics and should be treated with caution.

More information about the CSEW can be found in our:

- [User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales](#)
- [Domestic abuse QMI](#)
- [How domestic abuse data are captured through the criminal justice system article](#).

Work to improve the data collected to measure domestic abuse from the CSEW is ongoing. More information can be found in our [Redevelopment of domestic abuse statistics: research update November 2022 article](#).

## 6 . Related links

[How domestic abuse data are captured through the criminal justice system](#)

Article | Released 25 November 2022

Information on the stages of the criminal justice process in England and Wales, and how data are captured at each stage.

[Domestic abuse quality and methodology information \(QMI\)](#)

Article | Released 25 November 2022

Quality and Methodology Information for domestic abuse detailing the strengths and limitations of the data, methods used, and data uses and users.

## 7 . Cite this article

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