



DOMESTIC ABUSE IN BRISTOL

Findings from a 24-hour snapshot



Our thanks go to all the organisations that took part in this snapshot of domestic abuse.

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CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Bristol Snapshot of Domestic Abuse

The first snapshot of domestic abuse in Bristol took place on Thursday 10th March 2005. It was commissioned by Bristol Community Safety and Drugs Partnership (Safer Bristol) on behalf of Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum (BDAF), and funded by the Government Office for the South West. The research team consisted of Nicole Westmarland and Prof. Marianne Hester from the University of Bristol, who were assisted by Angeline Carrozza from Safer Bristol.

The Bristol domestic abuse snapshot was inspired by the work of Prof. Betsy Stanko, who directed 'The Day to Count' - the first snapshot of domestic violence, in 2000 (Stanko, 2000). Prof. Stanko was consulted early in the process of designing the Bristol snapshot. Norwich Voices Against Violence Forum conducted a snapshot in September 2003 (Arthurton, Pascoe and Coggle, 2004), and they were also consulted. The Norwich report was used as the starting point for the Bristol snapshot of domestic abuse.

1.2 Why carry out a snapshot of domestic abuse in Bristol?

Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum (BDAF) has a large membership, however the amount of co-ordinated multi-agency information sharing has been limited. This meant there was a lack of information on the number of victims experiencing domestic abuse, the type of abuse they were experiencing, and which organisations they went to for support. Strategic development was difficult, because the data used to plan services and allocate resources relied heavily on police data, meaning that those who did not report abuse to the police were largely excluded. The Bristol snapshot of domestic abuse aimed to produce a wider, more comprehensive picture as a basis for strategic development in the future.

The Government Office for the South West is also committed to developing good practice in relation to domestic abuse. In order to assess good practice and the impact of domestic abuse interventions, it is important to have baseline data that is comparable between agencies and areas, which can then be used to track change over time. The snapshot was welcomed by Government Office for the South West because it represents a vehicle for sharing information which is sustainable over time, at a relatively low cost, involving a large range of organisations.

The setting of a baseline is also important for Safer Bristol, in order for them to set targets and monitor performance as part of Bristol's Domestic Abuse Strategy and the Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy. They will also use the mapping of service provision aspect of the snapshot, to determine which local organisations and agencies provide services to victims, survivors and children affected by domestic abuse, and improve their existing databases of organisations and agencies working with victims. This will highlight any gaps or duplication in service provision, raise awareness in organisations who do not usually get involved in multi-agency work around domestic abuse, and help identify training needs.

1.3 About the report

This report is of the first snapshot of domestic abuse in Bristol. Chapter Two describes how we did the snapshot. It includes an overview of some difficulties we encountered in the hope that it will inform future snapshots in Bristol and elsewhere. The agencies that took part in the snapshot are also listed in Chapter Two. In Chapter Three we estimate the prevalence of domestic abuse in Bristol and begin the snapshot findings, focusing on information about the individuals experiencing domestic abuse. Chapter Four describes the type of abuse experienced, including the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and Chapter Five describes the nature of the contact and work that was done with the client during the 24 hour snapshot and estimates costs. The report is concluded in Chapter Six.

CHAPTER TWO – HOW WE DID THE SNAPSHOT

2.1 Getting people on board

We used a number of methods in an attempt to get as many organisations as possible involved in the snapshot. The main ones are listed below:

- Information sheets were given out at a conference on domestic abuse in Bristol.
- Four key stakeholder meetings were held, where we met separately with health, criminal justice, social services and the city council.
- A general stakeholder meeting was held, where we offered lunch, a presentation about the snapshot, and a discussion about the practical aspects of doing the snapshot with a mixed group of organisations.
- E-mails were sent and phone calls were made to organisations, asking them if they would like to take part.

The organisations that agreed to take part were informed the snapshot would take place during a 24-hour period in March. We chose a Thursday on the basis of it being a ‘normal day’, where domestic abuse reporting was not expected to be exceptionally higher or lower than average. The actual date of the snapshot was not publicised in advance because of concerns raised by a key stakeholder that campaign groups might attempt to skew the results by encouraging increased or even false reporting on the day. This was accepted as a legitimate concern, since several organisations in Bristol had recently been contacted by a well-known men’s campaign group.

2.2 Data collection

Domestic abuse, or domestic violence, is abuse within some form of inter-personal relationship. Some definitions of domestic abuse include only intimate relationships (e.g. partner, spouse), while others also include abuse by other family members (e.g. parents, children, siblings).

Data was only collected on people aged 16 or over, and we used the BDAF definition of domestic abuse, which includes both intimate and familial abuse.

BDAF definition of domestic abuse

- Domestic abuse is the misuse of physical, emotional, sexual, or financial control by one person over another who is or has been in a relationship. This includes family members.
- Domestic abuse covers a wide range of behaviours and may be actual or threatened.
- Domestic abuse is usually perpetrated by men against women but not exclusively.
- Domestic abuse occurs in all groups and sections of society and may be experienced differently due to, and compounded by race, sexuality, disability, age, religion, culture, class or mental health.

Using the Norwich Voices Against Violence Forum ‘Week of Count’ data collection questionnaire as a template (Arthurton, Pascoe and Coggle, 2004), the Bristol snapshot form collected information about:

- The organisation completing the form
- The person experiencing domestic abuse
- The type of domestic abuse
- Referrals made during the snapshot
- The type of domestic abuse work carried out during the snapshot

The snapshot form had explanatory notes at the end. These included information about:

- General details (the date and time of snapshot period, not to collect information that is not already known or easily accessible).
- Definition of domestic abuse used (the BDAF definition was given)
- Unique reference number¹ (how to work this out)
- The organisations work with the client (clarifying the type of work to be measured in the snapshot)

The form is included as Appendix One to this report. Based on the form, we designed a database to hold and analyse the data, using Microsoft Access. We chose to use a popular software brand so that data entry (and possibly analysis) in subsequent years can be done outside of the university. In addition, we made the database as user-friendly as possible. The electronic form used to enter data is shown as Appendix Two to this report.

2.3 Who took part?

In total, 33 separate organisations participated (including nil returns), returning 175 snapshot forms between them. We were pleased with the number of organisations that participated, however two issues arose regarding the extent of participation. Firstly, Social Services were not able to distribute the snapshot form as widely as we would have liked due to existing pressures on staff time. It is hoped that this will be resolved in subsequent years so that a more complete picture is obtained from Social Services.

The second issue concerned the research governance framework². This process was hugely time consuming, complex, and also frustrating at times because of the contradictory information we were given. However, it was also very important, and at one stage we had to consider the possibility of postponing the whole snapshot. The snapshot only asked for information already known by an agency or easily accessible to them. It did not involve any direct patient contact, any identifiable

¹ Using unique reference numbers runs the risk of non-compliance with the 1998 Data Protection Act. Alongside the referencing system, we had a range of systems in place to minimise the risk of people being identified by their unique reference number, and other areas planning snapshots should ensure that their system is DPA compatible. As there were such a small number of duplicates (4 out of 175) we suggest that it may be safer during a 24-hour snapshot not to use any form of identifier. If a longer snapshot is taking place (e.g. a week) that involves tracking individuals between agencies, identifiers will be necessary and should be checked with a Data Protection Officer.

² Research governance is a regulatory framework introduced by the Department of Health. It is designed to safeguard the interests of research participants who have been recruited through a health or social care setting. It has been necessary for researchers to adhere to this framework since 2001, even if their research is of a non-clinical nature. Among other things, this includes formally registering research, nominating a research sponsor and obtaining approval from an ethics committee. For an up to date guide to research governance, see Department of Health (2005).

information about them or any NHS employees. This meant that it was not necessary to go through the research ethics committee part of the Research Governance Framework, because it constituted the first stage of an audit cycle (initial survey of current practice). Despite going through the appropriate procedures and having the snapshot classified as an audit, some people disagreed with this classification. This may have resulted in a lower response rate from health organisations. The line that is drawn between audit and research is a difficult one to distinguish, however it is hoped that in subsequent years the decision made under the Research Governance Framework will be accepted by all. Opinions are also likely to vary in different geographical areas, and it important that in other snapshots advice is taken from their local research ethics committee.

Table 2.1 shows the organisations that participated in the snapshot.

Table 2.1 Participating organisations			
Organisation name	Organisation type	Number of forms returned	%
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	Criminal and legal (6 organisations)	53	30
CAFCASS			
Crown Prosecution Service			
Victim Support			
2 x branches of solicitors			
Awaz Utaoh	Specialist domestic abuse (6 organisations)	54	31
Knowle West Health Association			
Next Link			
Touchstone/Southmead Project			
WISH			
Womankind	Health (8 organisations)	34	19
Bristol North PCT			
Bristol South West PCT			
Robert Smith Unit			
Southmead Heath Care			
UBHT			
3 x GP surgeries/medical centres	Housing (5 organisations)	16	9
Bristol City Council - Supporting People			
Bristol City Council – Housing Dept.			
Dean Crescent Hostel			
Novas			
Redland Housing Association	Social and community (8 organisations)	17	10
Addiction Recovery Agency			
Age Concern Bristol			
Battle Against Tranquillisers			
Bristol City Council Equalities Team			
Bristol Samaritans			
Jobcentre Plus			
Social Services			
Sure Start			
Not known	Not known	1	1
Total	33 organisations	175	100

CHAPTER THREE – WHO WAS EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE?

3.1 Prevalence of domestic violence in Bristol

The snapshot was not designed to measure the incidence or prevalence of domestic abuse in Bristol because it measured help-seeking and support given during the 24-hour period, not the amount of domestic abuse experienced. It is, however, important to have some idea of the scale of domestic abuse in Bristol. Using British Crime Survey data (Walby and Allen, 2004), we estimate that in Bristol:

- 30,747 women aged between 16 and 59 have experienced some form of non-sexual domestic abuse since the age of 16. This figure only includes intimate partners, so the figure using the BDAF definition of intimate partners and other family members would be higher.
- 8,278 women aged between 16 and 59 have experienced serious sexual assault (including attempted serious sexual assault) at some point in their lives. 4,967 of these fall within the BDAF definition of domestic abuse.
- 6,504 women aged between 16 and 59 will have been raped (including attempted rape) at some point in their lives. 4,097 of these fall within the BDAF definition of domestic abuse

3.2 Snapshot forms returned

A total of 175 snapshot forms were returned. Of these, four forms were identified as duplicates via their Unique Reference Number. This left 171 forms providing information regarding 171 individuals experiencing domestic abuse.

3.3 Gender

Most of the individuals experiencing domestic abuse were female. There were 148 females (89%) and 19 males (11%). Most of the domestic abuse perpetrators were male (n=141, 85%). Table 3.1 shows the gender of those experiencing and perpetrating domestic abuse. In most cases the victim was female and the perpetrator was male (n=134, 81%).

Gender of victim	Gender of perpetrator	Number	%
Female	Male	134	81
	Female	6	4
	Male and female	6	4
Male	Male	7	4
	Female	10	6
	Male and female	2	1
Total		165	100

Taking the type of relationship between the victim and perpetrator into account and removing cases where there was more than one perpetrator, Tables 3.2 and 3.3 show that the pattern of female victim and male perpetrator was most pronounced when the abuse was within an intimate relationship. Only one snapshot form recorded same-sex abuse within an intimate relationship, and this involved a male victim and male perpetrator.

Gender of victim	Gender of perpetrator	Number	%
Female	Male	116	91
	Female	0	0
Male	Male	1	1
	Female	10	8
Total		127	100

Gender of victim	Gender of perpetrator	Number	%
Female	Male	10	53
	Female	5	26
Male	Male	4	21
	Female	0	0
Total		19	100

3.4 Nature of relationship between victim and perpetrator

The tables above have included some information about the type of relationship between the victim and perpetrator, but their focus has been on gender. This section looks in more detail at the nature of these relationships.

Table 3.4 shows that most of the domestic abuse was perpetrated within an intimate relationship (n=129, 82%).

Type of relationship	Number	%
Intimate	129	82
Familial	23	15
Both	5	3
Total	157	100

In 50 per cent of cases the victim and perpetrator were partners, and in 35 per cent they were married. This is shown in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5 Nature of intimate relationship		
Intimate relationship	Number	%
Married	45	35
Separated/divorced	2	2
Partners	65	50
Ex-partners	17	13
Total	129	100

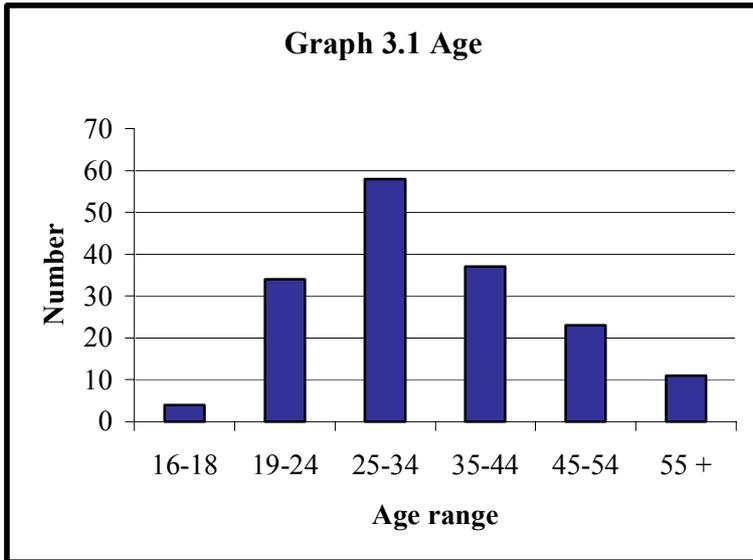
Table 3.6 shows that where the relationship was familial, it was most likely to be the victim's child that was the perpetrator (n=12, 52%).

Table 3.6 Nature of familial relationship		
Familial relationship	Number	%
Brother in law	2	9
Adopted parents	1	4
Child	12	52
Father in law	1	4
Grandparent	1	4
in laws	1	4
Mother in law and brother in law	1	4
Parent	2	9
Sister	1	4
Son and daughter in law	1	4
Total	23	100

In the five cases where abuse within both an intimate and a familial relationship were experienced, the perpetrators were partner and child (n=2), partner and other family member (n=2) and married and mother in law (n=1).

3.5 Age

Most of the individuals experiencing domestic abuse were aged between 25 and 34 years old (n=58, 35%). This is shown in Graph 3.1.



This replicates what research in other parts of England has found. In a sample of 4,402 women using projects funded under the Home Office Crime Reduction Programme’s ‘Violence Against Women Initiative’ exactly the same proportion – 35 per cent – were aged between 25 and 34 old (Hester and Westmarland, 2005).

3.6 Ethnicity

As expected, Table 3.7 shows that most of the victims were white (n=133, 80%). There were more victims from Black and other minority ethnic groups in the snapshot than would be expected using Office for National Statistics census data. This suggests that organisations in Bristol are effective in reaching out to Black and other minority ethnic communities.

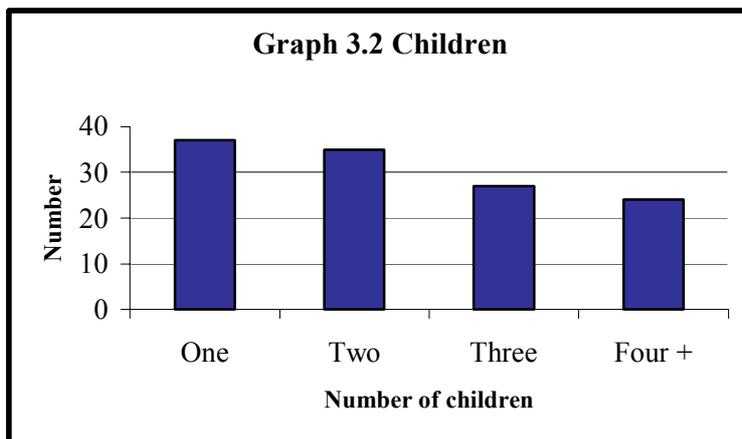
Ethnic group	Number	%	% Bristol (Census)
White	133	80	92
Mixed	1	<1	2
Asian/Asian British	14	8	3
Black/Black British	12	7	2
Chinese/Other	6	4	1
Total	166	100	100

Although less pronounced, Table 3.8 shows that this effect remains even when specialist domestic abuse organisations are removed from the analysis. This suggests that mainstream organisations are being used by Black and other minority ethnic communities.

Ethnic group	Number	%	% Bristol (Census)
White	99	88	92
Mixed	0	0	2
Asian/Asian British	4	4	3
Black/Black British	8	7	2
Chinese/Other	2	2	1
Total	113	100	100

3.7 Children

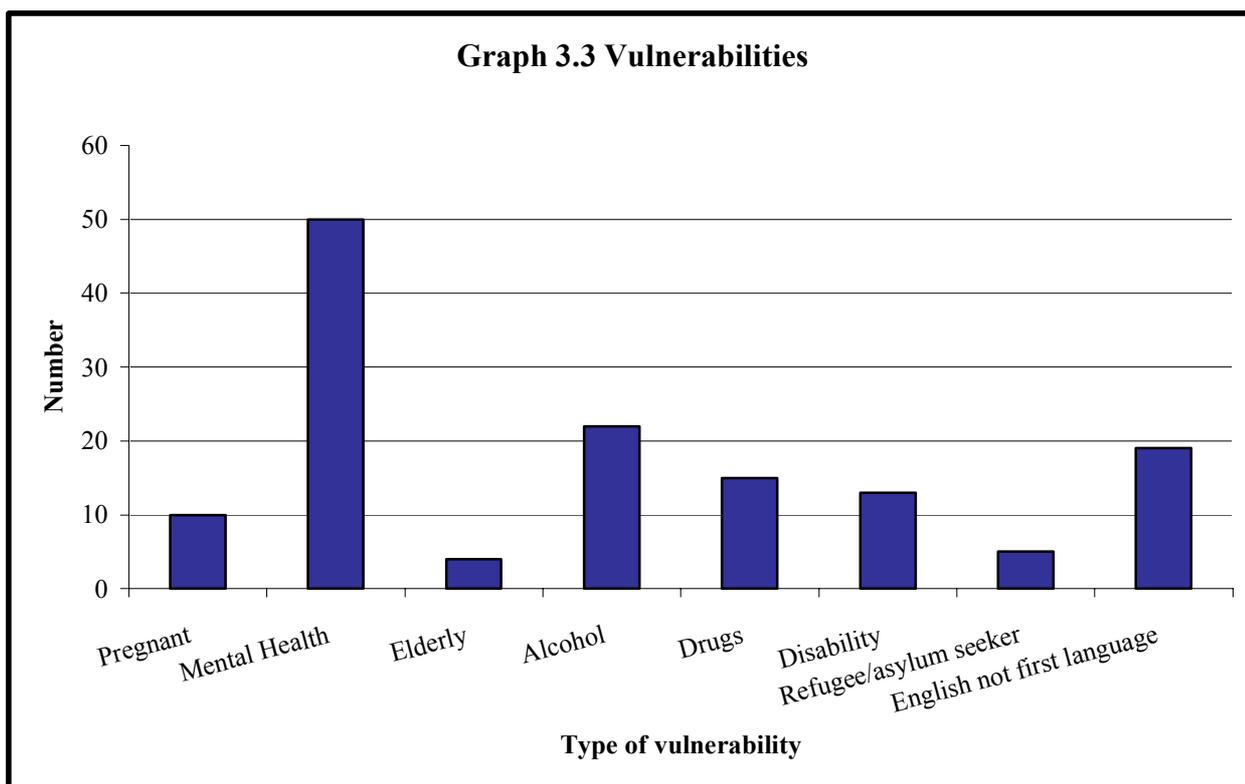
Just over three quarters of victims in the snapshot had at least one child (76%). This is higher than has been found in national research. In a sample of 5,375 women in the Home Office Violence Against Women Initiative, 63 per cent had at least one child (Hester and Westmarland, 2005). Graph 3.2 shows the number of children in the Bristol snapshot where those taking part were parents.



3.8 Vulnerabilities

The area of vulnerability recorded most frequently (in 29% of cases) was a mental health issue. This is consistent with a range of previous research, which has shown that experiencing domestic abuse can lead to a range of mental health problems (see Itzin, 2005). This also replicates the Norwich Week of Count that also found mental health issues as the area of vulnerability recorded most frequently, applying to one in five victims (Arthurton et al., 2004).

Graph 3.3 shows the vulnerabilities recorded (it was possible for more than one to be recorded per snapshot form).

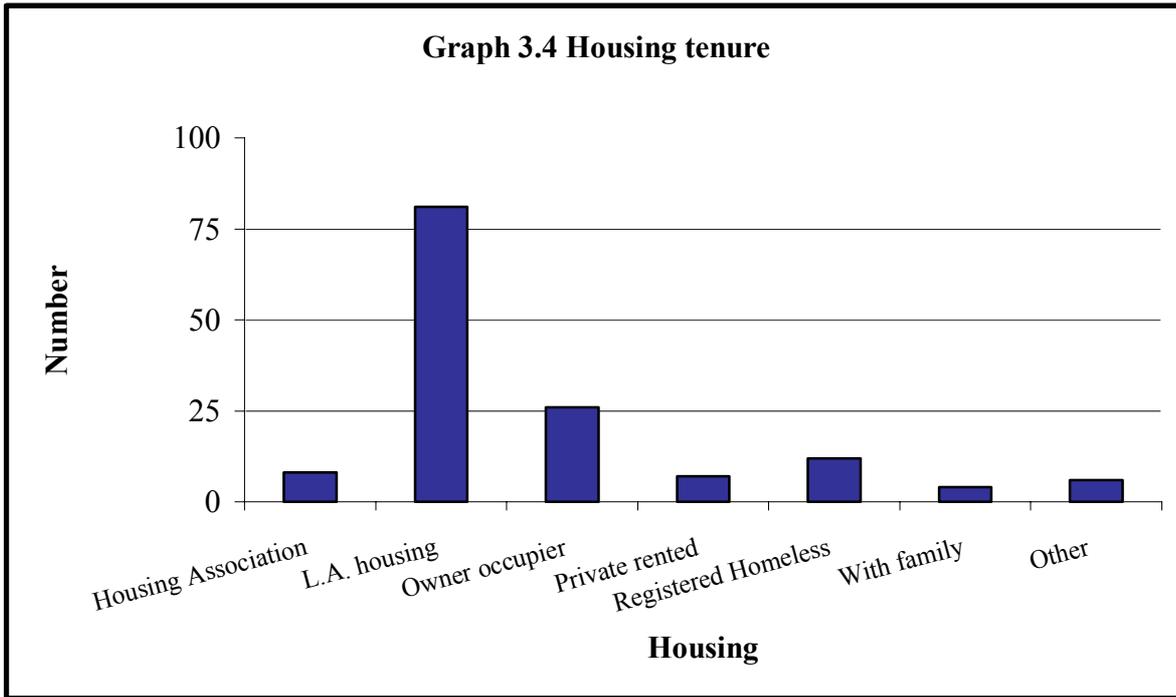


3.9 Housing

Table 3.9 shows that victims were slightly more likely to be living apart from the perpetrator than living together (n=77, 52%).

Living arrangements	Number	%
Living apart	77	52
Living together	62	42
Varies	10	7
Total	149	100

Housing tenure was most likely to be Local Authority Housing (n=82, 57%), as shown in Graph 3.4.



The data for owner occupiers and those in rented accommodation can be compared with Bristol overall, using 2001 census data. Table 3.10 shows that those in LA housing are over-represented in the snapshot compared with Bristol overall.

Tenure	Number	%	% Bristol (Census)
Owner-occupier	26	21	64
LA housing	81	66	17
HA/RSL	8	7	4
Private rented	7	6	12
Other rented	-	-	4
Total	122	100	101³

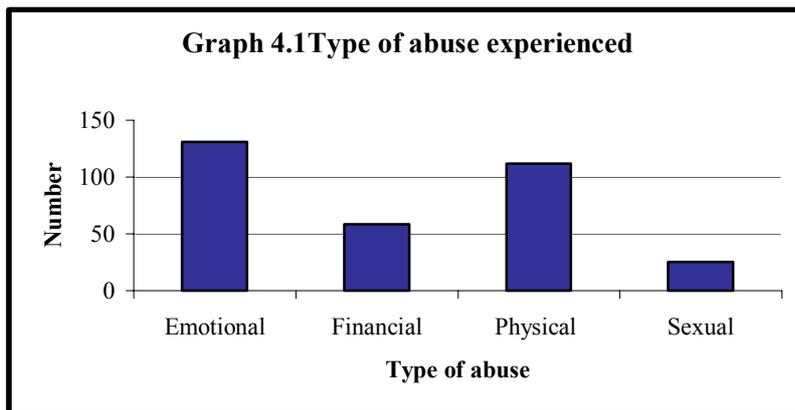
Only 21% were owner-occupiers, compared with 64% in Bristol overall (Office for National Statistics, 2001). Very few snapshot forms referred to those living in the more affluent areas of Bristol (e.g. no forms from BS6 (Redland) and only one from BS8 (Clifton)). Previous research has found that women in poorer households are more likely to seek help than women in more affluent households (Walby and Allen, 2004). This might be because organisations are not effective in reaching out to these groups, or because victims who have access to money find it easier to leave without the need for agency support.

³ Where total % exceeds 100 this is due to number rounding.

CHAPTER FOUR – THE TYPE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

4.1 The type of domestic abuse

The type of the domestic abuse experienced was recorded on 152 forms. It was possible for more than one type of abuse to be recorded on the forms. Graph 4.1 shows that domestic abuse of an emotional nature was most frequently recorded (n=131, 86%), followed by physical abuse (n=112, 74%). Nearly four in ten had experienced financial abuse (n=59, 39%) and over one in six had been sexually abused (n=25, 16%).



4.2 Emotional domestic abuse

Threats were the type of emotional abuse recorded most frequently (n=84, 55%). This is shown in Table 4.1 (in descending order).

Type of emotional abuse	Number	%
Threats	84	55
Harassment	77	51
Humiliation	64	42
Constant criticism	59	39
Other emotional abuse	38	25

Table 4.2 shows that emotional domestic abuse was most likely to be recorded by specialist domestic abuse organisations (n=53, 40%), followed by health organisations (n=27, 21%).

Type of organisation	Number	%
Specialist domestic abuse	53	40
Health	27	21
Criminal and legal	21	16
Housing	16	12
Social and community	13	10
Missing	1	1
Total	131	100

4.3 Financial domestic abuse

Withholding money was the type of financial abuse recorded most frequently (n=31, 20%). This is shown in Table 4.3.

Type of financial abuse	Number	%
Withholding money	31	20
Demanding money	24	16
Running up debt	17	11
Other financial abuse	8	5

Table 4.4 shows that financial domestic abuse was most likely to be recorded by specialist domestic abuse organisations (n=30, 51%), followed by health organisations (n=10, 17%).

Type of organisation	Number	%
Specialist domestic abuse	30	51
Health	10	17
Criminal and legal	8	14
Housing	8	14
Social and community	3	5
Total	59	100

4.4 Physical domestic abuse

Hitting with hand was the type of physical abuse recorded most frequently (n=102, 67%). This is shown in Table 4.5.

Type of physical abuse	Number	%
Hitting with hand	102	67
Other physical abuse	28	18
Hitting with object	26	17
Strangulation	19	13
Burning	3	2

Table 4.6 shows that physical domestic abuse was most likely to be recorded by specialist domestic abuse organisations (n=47, 42%), followed by health organisations (n=24, 21%).

Type of organisation	Number	%
Specialist domestic abuse	47	42
Health	24	21
Criminal and legal	22	20
Housing	10	9
Social and community	8	7
Missing	1	1
Total	112	100

4.5 Sexual domestic abuse

Table 4.7 shows that forced sexual intercourse was the most frequently recorded type of sexual abuse (n=14, 9%).

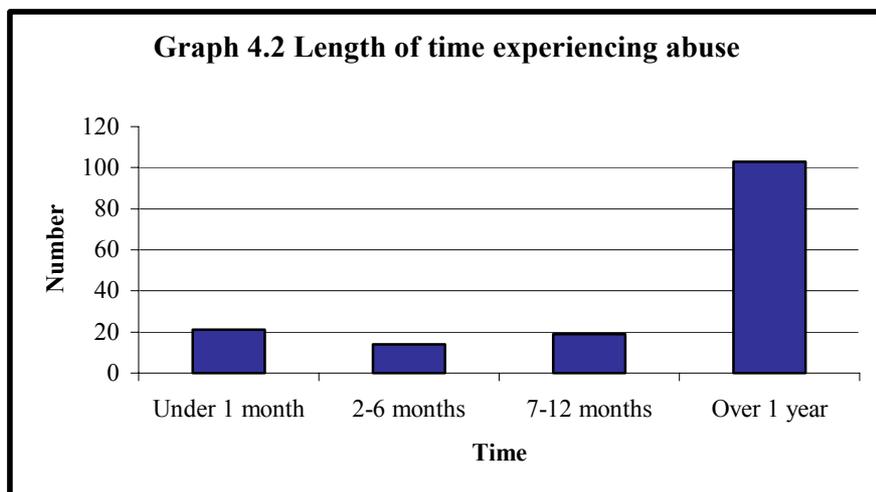
Type of sexual abuse	Number	%
Forced sexual intercourse	14	9
Sexual assault	9	6
Other sexual abuse	6	4

Table 4.8 shows that sexual domestic abuse was most likely to be recorded by specialist domestic abuse organisations (n=17, 68%), followed by health (n=3, 12%) and housing organisations (n=3, 12%).

Type of organisation	Number	%
Specialist domestic abuse	17	68
Health	3	12
Housing	3	12
Criminal and legal	2	8
Social and community	0	0
Total	25	100

4.6 Length of time experiencing domestic abuse

On average, victims had experienced four different types of domestic abuse, and in the majority of cases had been experiencing domestic abuse for over one year (n=104, 66%). This is shown below in Graph 4.2.



4.7 Reporting to the police

Overall, 72 per cent were known to have reported domestic abuse to the police at some point. Not surprisingly, those using criminal and legal organisations were most likely to have reported domestic abuse to the police (n=43, 81%). Those using social and community organisations were least likely to have reported domestic abuse to the police (n=7, 44%), followed by those using housing (n=9, 56%).

Type of organisation	Number	%
Criminal and legal	43	81
Specialist domestic abuse	42	78
Health	21	68
Housing	9	56
Social and community	7	44
Total	122	72

CHAPTER FIVE – WORK WITH CLIENT DURING SNAPSHOT AND COST OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

5.1 Work with client during snapshot

The work with the client during the snapshot period was most likely to be face to face contact, as shown in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Type of work		
Type of work done during snapshot	Number	%
Face to face contact	55	37
No client contact – casework only	48	33
Telephone contact	31	21
Letter	4	3
Other contact	9	6
Total	147	100

5.2 Work relationship with client

It was the first contact the organisation had in terms of domestic abuse in over a quarter of the cases (n=40, 28%). This is shown in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 Relationship with client		
Relationship with client	Number	%
As part of ongoing case/support	103	72
First contact for domestic abuse	40	28
Total	143	100

5.3 Time spent with client during snapshot

A total of 106 hours and 8 minutes was spent working with victims of domestic abuse during the 24-hour period. The longest period of time for one client was by a specialist domestic violence service (3 hours and 30 minutes by Next Link). Table 5.3 shows that, unsurprisingly, specialist domestic abuse organisations do the most domestic abuse work in Bristol; 42 per cent of the time recorded was by these organisations. The length of time spent with a client was recorded in 146 cases, making an average (mean) of 44 minutes per victim. Table 5.3 also shows that criminal and legal and health organisations spent the least amount of time per client and specialist domestic abuse and social and community organisations spent the most.

Type of organisation	Hrs/mins recorded	%	No. forms time recorded	Average (mins)	Total number forms	Total hrs/mins
Specialist domestic abuse	44hrs 45mins	42	50	54	54	48hrs 36mins
Social and community	12hrs 10mins	11	14	52	17	14hrs 44mins
Housing	11hrs 34mins	11	15	46	16	12hrs 16mins
Health	10hrs 10mins	10	17	36	34	20hrs 24mins
Criminal and legal	27hrs 09mins	26	49	33	53	29hrs 9mins
Not known	00hrs 20mins	<1	1	20	1	00 hrs 20mins
Total	106hrs 08mins	100	146	44	175	125hrs 29mins

Table 5.4 shows the approximate staff costs for the domestic abuse reported during the snapshot. Costs were highest for specialist domestic abuse organisations (£670), followed by criminal and legal (£638). In total, we estimate the staff costs to be £2,173.

Type of organisation	Total hrs/mins	Approx cost per hour	Subtotal	Total (+ 22% on costs)
Specialist domestic abuse	48hrs 36mins	£11.30 (Youth/community/welfare worker)	£549.18	£670.00
Social and community	14hrs 44mins	£15.30 (Social worker)	£225.42	£275.01
Housing	12hrs 16mins	£18.70 (Housing officer)	£227.39	£277.42
Health	20hrs 24mins	£12.30 (Nurse)	£250.92	£306.12
Criminal and legal	29hrs 9mins	£17.95 (Police constable)	£523.24	£638.35
Not known	00 hrs 20mins	£15.11 (average of above)	£5.04	£6.15
Total	125hrs 29mins	£15.11 (average)	£1,781.19	£2,173.05

During the snapshot, the cost of staff time dealing with domestic abuse added up to £2,173. Annually, this adds up to over three quarters of a million pounds (£793,688). However, the costs of domestic abuse go much further than staff time, including the cost of managing and running an organisation and the cost of the actual service the organisation provides (e.g. housing). It was not possible in this snapshot to record all the costs associated with domestic abuse in Bristol.

To calculate the true cost of domestic abuse we rely upon the formula developed by Walby (2004). From this, we estimate that the cost of domestic abuse in Bristol per annum is £26 million, rising to just over £1 billion if the cost of human and emotional costs are included.

CHAPTER SIX – CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Domestic abuse in Bristol

The completion of 175 forms in Bristol's first ever snapshot represents a shocking reminder of the amount of domestic abuse at our doorstep. Even more worrying is that this number represents an undercount, because some organisations did not participate at all or did not participate in full. In other words, even more domestic abuse work was being done during the snapshot than we were able to measure.

The large number of forms that were completed and the time and support that individuals and organisations in Bristol have given to this snapshot, however, are also representative of the commitment that organisations in Bristol have towards tackling domestic abuse.

This report contains the most comprehensive data on domestic abuse that Bristol has ever had. It provides a solid base for future strategic development, to ensure that resources are allocated where are most needed, and that people experiencing domestic abuse in Bristol are able to access services appropriate to their circumstances. The commitment of Safer Bristol to conduct the snapshot annually ensures that this will be revised on a regular basis.

6.2 Conducting a 24-hour snapshot – lessons learned

- Invite as many organisations as possible to take part in the snapshot, even if they have not previously engaged in multi-agency domestic abuse work. Try not to restrict it only to domestic abuse forum members.
- Try to pick an 'average' day where domestic abuse reports are not expected to be unusually high. This generally means choosing between a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Check that the date does not clash with anything that may be associated with increased levels of domestic abuse, for example large sporting events.
- Inform people of the week the snapshot will take place, but disclose the actual date on a 'need to know' basis.
- Ensure that plenty of time is allowed for procedures under the Research Governance Framework and consult a Data Protection Officer if unique identifiers are to be used.
- The snapshot form should be as long as needed, but as short as possible. It is important that any data collection is realistic and 'doable' (Hester and Westmarland, 2005). We were able to extract a large amount of data analysis from one double-sided A4 sheet (see Appendix One).
- Make sure that the snapshot form is not piloted, but not too widely. Our pilot form was circulated more widely than intended, and we had some returns based on the pilot rather than the final form.
- The analysis of the referrals made on the day provided little useful information, and has not been reported here. Only snapshots or research studies over longer time periods are likely to gain any useful information regarding referral patterns.

- Organisations should only be asked to only record information that is already known or is easily accessible to them. It was very important to us that no client/organisation relationships were adversely affected by the snapshot.
- The first snapshot in an area provides a ‘toolkit’ for the future. It is important that others can easily use both the form and the database in subsequent years.

APPENDIX 1. SNAPSHOT FORM

1. ORGANISATION DETAILS						
a) Name of organisation	_____					
b) Job title	_____					
2. INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE						
a) Unique Ref. No.	_____ / _____					
b) Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male				
c) Age	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 19-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 35-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 45-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 55+
d) Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Other ethnic group			
e) Children	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> One	<input type="checkbox"/> Two	<input type="checkbox"/> Three	<input type="checkbox"/> Four +	
f) Vulnerabilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health	<input type="checkbox"/> Elderly			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Refugee/Asylum seeker	<input type="checkbox"/> English not first language				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____					
g) Housing tenure	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered Homeless	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Private rented			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner Occupier	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
h) First part of postcode	BS___					
3. INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOMESTIC ABUSE						
a) Perpetrator gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female				
b) Relationship of victim to perpetrator	<input type="checkbox"/> Married	<input type="checkbox"/> Partners	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Child	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
c) Living arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/> Living together	<input type="checkbox"/> Living apart	<input type="checkbox"/> Varies			
d) Types of abuse experienced						
Emotional:	<input type="checkbox"/> Humiliation	<input type="checkbox"/> Constant criticism	<input type="checkbox"/> Threats	<input type="checkbox"/> Harassment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other emotional	
Financial:	<input type="checkbox"/> Demanding money	<input type="checkbox"/> Withholding money	<input type="checkbox"/> Running up debt	<input type="checkbox"/> Other financial		
Physical:	<input type="checkbox"/> Hitting with hand	<input type="checkbox"/> Hitting with object	<input type="checkbox"/> Burning	<input type="checkbox"/> Strangulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other physical	
Sexual:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forced sexual intercourse	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual assault	<input type="checkbox"/> Other sexual			
Other:	_____					
d) Length of time experiencing abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 1 month	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-6 months	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-12 months	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 1 year		
e) Has the abuse ever been reported to the police?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No				

APPENDIX 2. SNAPSHOT DATABASE

Microsoft Access - [Snapshot data]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help

1. ORGANISATION DETAILS

ID Organisation Position

2. INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE

URN Gender Age Ethnicity Children

Vulnerabilities: Pregnant Mental Health Elderly Alcohol Drugs Disability
 Refugee/asylum seeker English not first language Other

Housing tenure First part of postcode

3. INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOMESTIC ABUSE

Perpetrator gender Relationship of victim to perpetrator Living arrangements

Abuse types: Emotional Humiliation Constant criticism Threats Harassment Other emotional
 Financial Demanding money Withholding money Running up debt Other financial
 Physical Hitting with hand Hitting with object Burning Strangulation Other physical
 Sexual Forced sex Sexual assault Other sexual

Other types of abuse

Length of time experiencing abuse Ever reported to police?

Record: 172 of 172

Form View

Start | Mulberry (Co... | Bristol snapshot | INBOX | Bristol snaps... | Snapshot of ... | Snapshot d... | 12:07

Other types of abuse

Length of time experiencing abuse Ever reported to police?

4. REFERRALS MADE TODAY

Any referrals today? A and E CAB Police Social Services Victim Support Solicitors Next Link
 Awaz Health Visitor Health Centre Benefits Housing Other list other

5. YOUR WORK WITH CLIENT TODAY

Relationship with client Type of contact today Brief desc. of work
 Time spent hrs Time spent mins misc info

Record: 172 of 172

Form View

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