



Department of
Justice

www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Analytical Services Group

**Experience of Domestic
Violence:
Findings from the
2011/12 to 2015/16
Northern Ireland
Crime Surveys**

Research and Statistical Bulletin 17/2017

P Campbell & A Rice

June 2017



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency

Produced by Analytical Services Group,
Department of Justice.

For further information contact:

**Analytical Services Group,
Laganside House,
23-27 Oxford Street,
Belfast BT1 3LA**

Telephone: 028 9072 4529

Email: statistics.research@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk

This bulletin is available on the Internet at:

www.justice-ni.gov.uk

DEFINITION AND KEY FINDINGS

Definition

- ◆ Within the context of the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), the concept of domestic violence (interchangeably referred to as domestic violence and / or abuse), which covers a range of emotional, financial, sexual and physical abuse, is subdivided into three main offence groups:
 - 1 **NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE** (denied access to a fair share of household money; stopped from seeing friends and relatives; having property deliberately damaged; or constantly belittled to the point of feeling worthless);
 - 2 **THREATS** (frightened by threats to hurt the individual or someone close); and
 - 3 **FORCE** (pushed, held, pinned or slapped; kicked, bitten or hit; choked or strangled; threatened with a weapon; death threats; forced to have sex or take part in sexual activity; use of a weapon; or use of other force).

Key findings

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2015/16 estimate that 12.1% of people aged 16-64 have experienced at least one form of domestic violence, by a partner, since age 16, with women (15.1%) displaying a higher prevalence rate than men (8.4%).
- ◆ NICS 2015/16 results also estimate that around one-in-twenty five adults (4.3%) experienced at least one form of partner violence and abuse within the last three years, a similar proportion to that observed in both NICS 2013/14 (5.2%) and 2014/15 (5.0%).
- ◆ At 5.9% in NICS 2015/16, women were over twice as likely as men (2.5%) to have been victims of domestic violence, by a partner, in the last three years, a gender difference that is reflected across each of the three separate offence groups examined: non-physical abuse (4.4% v 2.4%); threats (2.0% v 0.2%); and force (2.5% v 0.9%).
- ◆ When identified victims were asked to consider their 'worst' single incident of partner violence and abuse, NICS 2015/16 findings show that around three-quarters of all worst cases of partner abuse (75.8% in NICS 2015/16) were carried out within the setting of a current relationship at the time, with the perpetrator most likely to have been a current boyfriend / male partner (32.3%) or husband (24.2%).
- ◆ The police in Northern Ireland were only made aware of just over a third of all 'worst' cases of domestic partner abuse (36.6% in NICS 2015/16), meaning that they were unaware of the experiences of six-in-ten victims (63.4%).
- ◆ Most victims considered their worst incident of partner abuse to be a criminal offence (61.1% in NICS 2015/16), around a fifth (21.0%) believed it was 'wrong, but not a crime' and a further one-in-eight accepted it as 'just something that happens' (12.3%).
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2015/16 also estimate that 6.4% of people aged 16-64 have experienced at least one form of domestic violence and abuse, by a family member (other than a partner), since age 16.

NICS 2011/12 to 2015/16: Experience of Domestic Violence

- ◆ NICS 2015/16 results also indicate that 2.4% of adults were victims of domestic violence and abuse by a family member within the last three years, with similar rates estimated for women (2.4%) and men (2.5%).
- ◆ NICS 2015/16 results show that parents (50.5%) were most likely, with step-parents and children (both 1.0%) least likely, to be identified by victims as the perpetrator(s) of their 'worst' incident of family abuse.
- ◆ When partner and family abuse are combined, NICS 2015/16 results estimate that, overall, around one-in-six adults (16.2%) had experienced some form of domestic violence and abuse since the age of 16, a proportion that drops to 6.5% within the last 3 years.
- ◆ Findings indicate that around a fifth of respondents (21.0% in NICS 2015/16) believed that the government and other agencies are doing 'enough' about domestic violence compared with around a third who think 'too little' is being done (36.6%).

CONTENTS	Page
Definition and key findings	i
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 The focus of this publication	1
1.2 The NICS self-completion module	1
1.3 The fieldwork	3
1.4 Analysing the data	3
1.5 About the Northern Ireland Crime Survey	3
2. EXPERIENCE OF PARTNER VIOLENCE AND ABUSE	5
2.1 Lifetime experience of partner violence and abuse	5
2.1.1 Lifetime partner abuse reported to the police	6
2.2 Recent experience of partner violence and abuse	7
2.2.1 Experience of partner abuse in the last 3 years	7
2.2.2 Experience of partner abuse in the last year	9
2.3 Nature of 'worst' incident of partner abuse	9
2.3.1 Relationship of perpetrator to victim in 'worst' incident of partner abuse	10
2.3.2 Influence of alcohol in 'worst' incident of partner abuse	11
2.3.3 How long ago the 'worst' incident of partner abuse took place	11
2.3.4 Reporting the 'worst' incident of partner abuse to the police	12
2.3.5 Victims' perceptions of domestic violence	12
3. EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND ABUSE	15
3.1 Lifetime experience of family violence and abuse	15
3.2 Recent experience of family violence and abuse	16
3.2.1 Experience of family abuse in the last 3 years	17
3.2.2 Experience of family abuse in the last year	17
3.3 Nature of 'worst' incident of family abuse	18
3.3.1 Relationship of perpetrator to victim in 'worst' incident of family abuse	18
3.3.2 Influence of alcohol in 'worst' incident of family abuse	19
3.3.3 How long ago the 'worst' incident of family abuse took place	19
4. EXPERIENCE OF ALL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE	20
5. RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE	21
5.1 Domestic violence and abuse by demographic characteristics	21
6. PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC POLICY TO TACKLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	22
References	23
Tabular Annex	24
Technical Annex	34

CONTENTS OF TABULAR ANNEX		Page
A1	Lifetime prevalence of partner abuse among adults aged 16-64	24
A2	Detailed lifetime prevalence of partner abuse among adults aged 16-64	24
A3	Proportion of any lifetime partner abuse reported to the police	24
A4	Prevalence of partner abuse in the last 3 years among adults aged 16-64	25
A5	Prevalence of partner abuse in the last 3 years among men / women aged 16-64	25
A6	Detailed prevalence of partner abuse, last 3 years, among adults aged 16-64	26
A7	Detailed prevalence of partner abuse, last 3 years, among men / women aged 16-64	26
A8	Prevalence of partner abuse in the last year among adults aged 16-64	27
A9	Relationship of perpetrator to victim in single worst incident of partner abuse	27
A10	Influence of alcohol in single worst incident of partner abuse	27
A11	How long ago the single worst incident of partner abuse took place	28
A12	Reporting of the single worst incident of partner abuse to the police	28
A13	Victims' perceptions of whether their single worst incident of partner abuse constituted domestic violence	28
A14	Victims' perceptions of their single worst incident of partner abuse	28
A15	Lifetime prevalence of family abuse among adults aged 16-64	29
A16	Detailed lifetime prevalence of family abuse among adults aged 16-64	29
A17	Prevalence of family abuse in the last 3 years among adults aged 16-64	29
A18	Prevalence of family abuse in the last 3 years among men / women aged 16-64	30
A19	Detailed prevalence of family abuse, last 3 years, among adults aged 16-64	30
A20	Detailed prevalence of family abuse, last 3 years, among men / women aged 16-64	30
A21	Prevalence of family abuse in the last year among adults aged 16-64	31
A22	Relationship of perpetrator to victim in single worst incident of family abuse	31
A23	Influence of alcohol in single worst incident of family abuse	31
A24	How long ago the single worst incident of family abuse took place	32
A25	Prevalence of any domestic abuse (partner or family) among adults aged 16-64	32
A26	Perceptions of whether the government and other agencies are doing enough about domestic violence	32
A27	Adult victims of any domestic abuse, last 3 years, by demographic characteristics	33

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The focus of this publication

This bulletin draws on findings from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), a representative, continuous, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of 1,975 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland. Previously conducted on an ad hoc basis in 1994/95, 1998, 2001 and 2003/04, the NICS began operating on a continuous basis in January 2005.

Based on a self-completion module designed to examine the experiences of, and attitudes to, domestic violence (interchangeably referred to as domestic violence and / or abuse) among NICS respondents aged 16 to 64 years, the main aims of this publication are to:

- ◆ measure lifetime and recent prevalence of domestic violence in Northern Ireland, within both an intimate partner relationship and a wider family setting; and
- ◆ understand the nature and extent of 'worst' incidents of domestic violence (as determined by the victim).

While the bulletin focuses, primarily, on output from the 2015/16 sweep of the NICS, results derived from NICS 2013/14 and 2014/15 are also presented for the first time. Findings from NICS 2011/12 and 2012/13, also published for the first time, are included within the accompanying Excel workbook available from the Department of Justice website.

1.2 The NICS self-completion module

Since 2001, the NICS has administered a self-completion module on domestic violence using computer-assisted self-interviewing (CASI), a technique which affords anonymity and confidentiality to respondents on a subject matter that could be very sensitive and personal to victims. The module remained largely unchanged until NICS 2008/09 when it was revised to include a sub-element covering sexual violence and abuse (French and Freel, 2009). Since then, a number of methodological, analytical and presentational changes to the domestic violence component of the survey have been made with the consequence that findings from NICS 2008/09 onwards cannot be directly compared with pre-2008/09 results:

- ◆ the upper age of respondents to whom the module was offered was extended from 59 to 64 years;
- ◆ the definition of domestic abuse was widened to include the additional offence 'repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless';
- ◆ a 3-year recall period was introduced as an additional measure of recent prevalence of domestic violence;
- ◆ additional questions were introduced to measure the prevalence and nature of wider family (i.e. non-partner) domestic violence; and
- ◆ 'don't know' and 'refuse to answer' responses have been excluded from results, in line with other NICS-derived publications.

Whilst domestic violence is not a new phenomenon, it is today recognised as much more than simply 'intentional *physical* violence carried out by a *male* perpetrator', as defined by Montgomery and Bell in 1986 (cited in McWilliams & McKiernan, 1993).

In March 2016 the Department of Justice published, jointly with the Department of Health, the "Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland" Strategy. This Strategy includes a new Government definition for domestic violence and abuse:

"threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former intimate partner or family member."

(DOH & DOJ, 2016)

Within the NICS framework, the concept of domestic violence is subdivided into three main offence groups (*non-physical abuse*; *threats*; and *force*), each of which comprise a varying number of individual offence types as illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1: Offence groups and types making up domestic violence within the NICS

Offence Group	Offence Type
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives
	Deliberately damaged your property
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close to you
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you
	<i>Severe force</i>
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you
	Choked or tried to strangle you
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)
	Threatened to kill you
	Forced you to have sex or take part in another sexual activity against your will (including attempts)
	Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)
	Used some other kind of force against you

Within this bulletin, three measures of domestic violence (both partner and family) are adopted: *lifetime*; *last 3 years*; and *last year*. Lifetime prevalence is a good indicator of the percentage of NICS respondents who have experienced domestic violence at some point in their lives since aged 16. However, it does not necessarily provide an indication of current victimisation levels. While last year prevalence rates are commonly used as a robust indicator of recent levels of domestic violence, the small number of victims identified through the NICS makes it difficult to measure change in trends. Consequently, this report will focus on experience during the last 3 years as it provides both a timeframe and a larger base number (of victims) by which to analyse trends in recent domestic violence prevalence rates.

A proportion of the NICS self-completion module also asks follow-up questions to victims of domestic violence in order to ascertain further details about the nature of the single *worst* incident of both partner, and wider family, abuse.

While covering similar offence groups and types, the NICS approach differs in a number of ways to that used by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW; formerly the British Crime Survey (BCS)). Most notably, the cut-off age for completing the domestic violence module is 59 years within the CSEW compared with 64 in NICS, while offence types vary slightly between both jurisdictions with, for example, stalking being included within the CSEW measure. Thus, results from the two surveys cannot be compared on a like for like basis.

1.3 The fieldwork

Of the 1,449 NICS 2015/16 respondents aged between 16 and 64 years, 240 refused to participate in the domestic violence self-completion module, resulting in a final sample size of 1,209. Rather than the sensitivity of the topic, the main reasons given for non-participation in the domestic violence module related to unease of the respondent in using a laptop without assistance or to time constraints (linked to the location of the module towards the end the interview).

Respondents were assured in advance of the interviews that any information they provided would be treated as entirely confidential and that the level of detail produced in publications or in any subsequent analyses would not allow for identification of individuals. Given the sensitivity of the topic, respondents were given the option to skip questions they did not wish to answer.

1.4 Analysing the data

Findings from the NICS 2015/16 domestic violence module are examined across the following socio-demographic (personal, household and area) groups, the first six of which (listed below) relate to equality categories specified in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998:

1. religious belief;
2. age;
3. living arrangements (marital status);
4. sex (gender);
5. disability (or illness);
6. household type (child dependants);
7. number of hours out of the home on weekdays;
8. frequency of evening visits to a pub, bar or social club;
9. household income;
10. housing tenure;
11. type of area (urban / rural);
12. perceived level of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the local area; and
13. multiple deprivation measure rank (MDM 2010).

Throughout this report key findings are commented on in the text, with full numerical details on each section available in the relevant tables comprising the Tabular Annex.

Separate NICS reports presenting findings on a range of topics including perceptions of crime (Rice and Campbell, 2016) and experience of crime (Campbell, 2017) are published separately and can be accessed via the DoJ website: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-crime-survey> .

1.5 About the Northern Ireland Crime Survey

Closely mirroring the format and core questions of the CSEW, the NICS is an important source of information about community safety issues such as levels of, and public attitudes to, crime and anti-social behaviour. Its results play an important role in informing and monitoring government policies and targets including Indicator 1 within the Draft 2016-21 Programme for Government. Other strategies which use NICS findings include the Community Safety Strategy (DoJ, 2012) and the Northern Ireland Annual Policing Plan 2016-2017 (Northern Ireland Policing Board, 2016).

An alternative, but complementary, measure of crime to offences recorded by the police, the main aims of the NICS are to:

- ◆ measure crime victimisation rates experienced by people living in private households, whether or not these crimes were reported to, or recorded by, the police;
- ◆ monitor trends in the level of crime, independent of changes in reporting levels or police recording practices;
- ◆ measure people's perceptions about, and reactions to, crime (for example, the level and causes of crime, the extent to which they are concerned about crime and the effect of crime on their quality of life);
- ◆ identify the characteristics and circumstances of people most at risk from, and affected by, different types of crime;
- ◆ measure public confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system; and
- ◆ collect sensitive information, using self-completion modules, on people's experiences regarding crime-related issues such as domestic violence.

Recorded crime figures cannot, by their nature, provide an impression of the extent of concern about crime (often described as 'fear of crime') among different sections of the community. Hence, it is necessary to complement the police figures with information drawn from the NICS, which, for the crime types it covers, provides a more complete measure of the extent and impact of crime against private households and their adult occupants. Further information on recorded crime statistics can be found in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics (PSNI, 2017).

While core modules for NICS were generally based on CSEW, some modification has been necessary to reflect local issues and the fact that the smaller NICS sample size would not have generated robust results for follow-up questions asked of small sub-sections of the sample.

Additional information, covering issues such as sampling design and methodology is available within the NICS User Guide (DoJ, 2016a) and associated Quality Report (DoJ, 2016b).

2. EXPERIENCE OF PARTNER VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) respondents aged 16 to 64 were asked a series of questions on their personal experience of domestic violence, covering emotional, financial, sexual and physical abuse, by any partner (previous or current) including a boyfriend or girlfriend, as well as husband or wife.

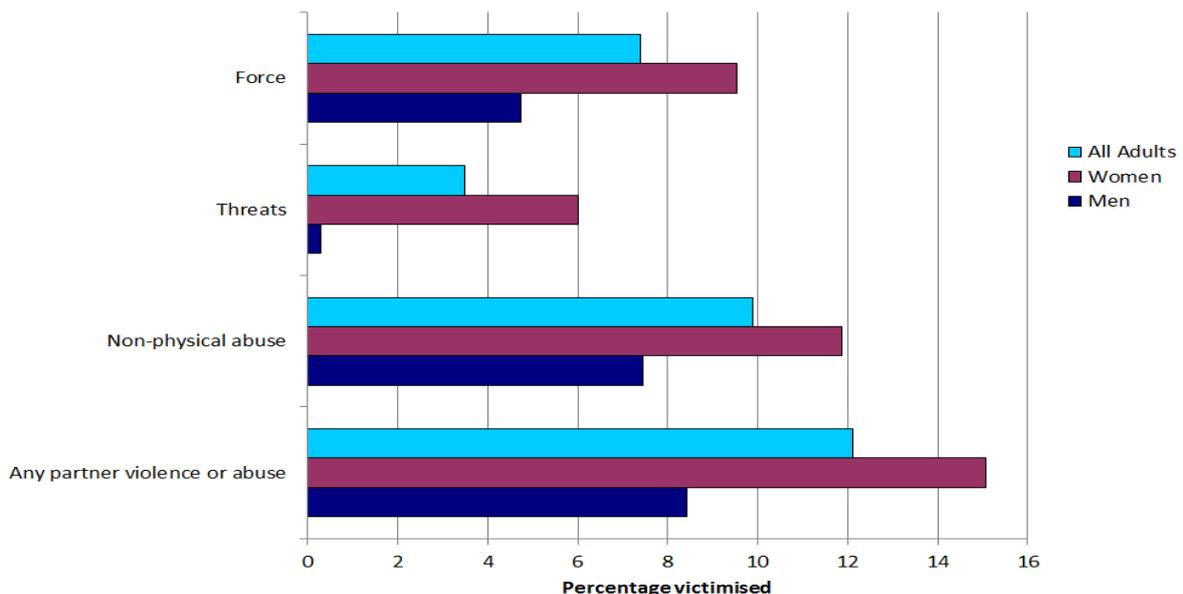
2.1 Lifetime experience of partner violence and abuse

Tables A1 and A2 illustrate lifetime prevalence (victimisation) rates of partner violence and abuse, since age 16, among men and women aged between 16 and 64. These rates are subdivided into three main offence groups: non-physical abuse; threats; and force (minor and severe).

As lifetime prevalence rates do not necessarily provide an indication of current victimisation levels (see Section 1.2), testing for statistical change between years has not been carried out.

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2015/16 estimate that 12.1% of people aged 16-64 have experienced at least one form of domestic violence or abuse, by a partner, at some stage in their lives since age 16 (Table A1; Figure 2.1).
- ◆ At 15.1% in 2015/16, women were much more likely than men (8.4%) to have reported experiencing some form of partner violence or abuse since age 16 (Table A1; Figure 2.1).
- ◆ Of the three domestic violence offence groups examined within the NICS, non-physical abuse (9.9% in 2015/16) displayed the highest prevalence rate, ahead of physical force (7.4%) and frightening threats (3.5%) (Table A1; Figure 2.1).
- ◆ NICS 2015/16 results also show that women displayed higher lifetime prevalence rates than men across each of the (partner) domestic violence offence groups examined: non-physical abuse (11.9% v 7.4%); threats (6.0% v 0.3%); and force (9.5% v 4.7%) (Table A1; Figure 2.1).

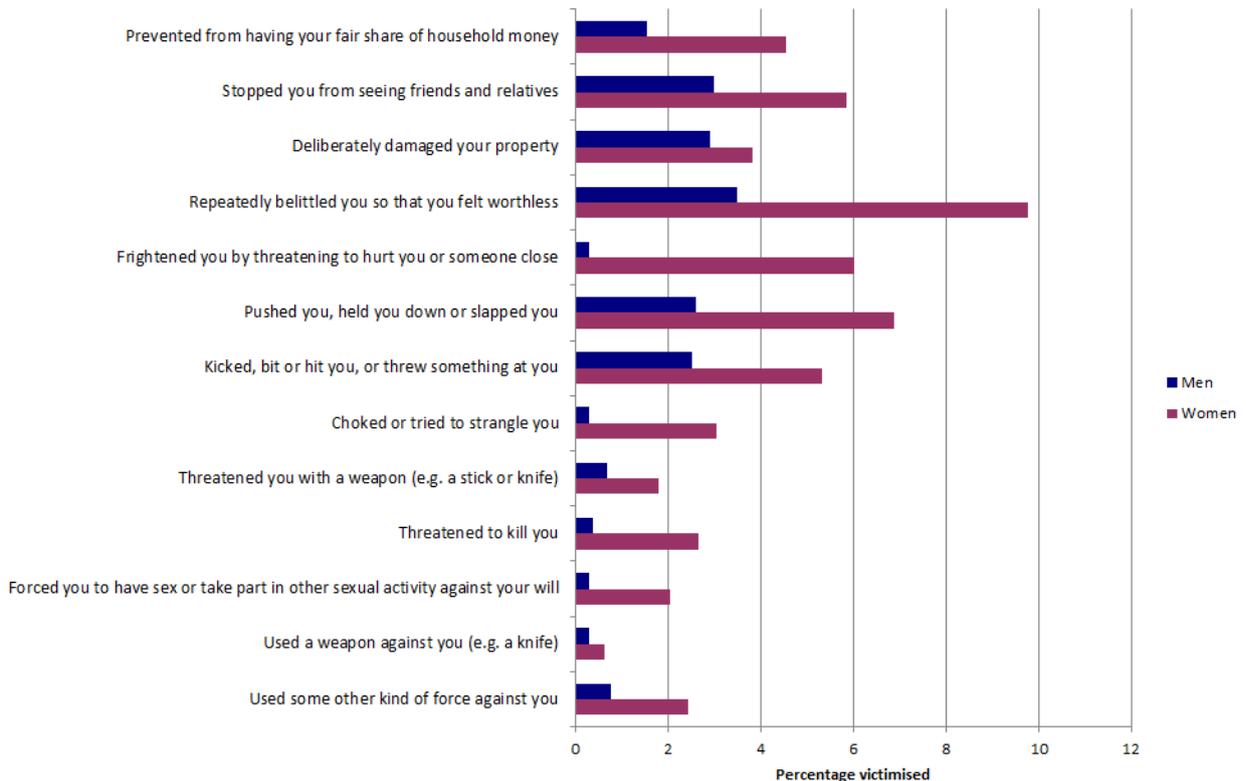
Figure 2.1: Lifetime experience of partner abuse by offence group (%)



Source: NICS 2015/16

- ◆ When consideration is given to individual offence types (as opposed to groups) a similar gender difference emerges. With the exception of ‘deliberately damaged your property’ (2.9% of men v 3.8% of women) and ‘used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)’ (0.3% of men v 0.6% of women), the lifetime prevalence rates of partner abuse displayed by women across the offence types were significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) than those for men. The greatest disparity, in percentage point terms, was observed in the proportions who had reported being repeatedly belittled so that they felt worthless, with the rate for women at 9.8% compared with 3.5% of men (Table A2; Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.2: Lifetime experience of partner abuse by offence type, by gender (%)



Source: NICS 2015/16

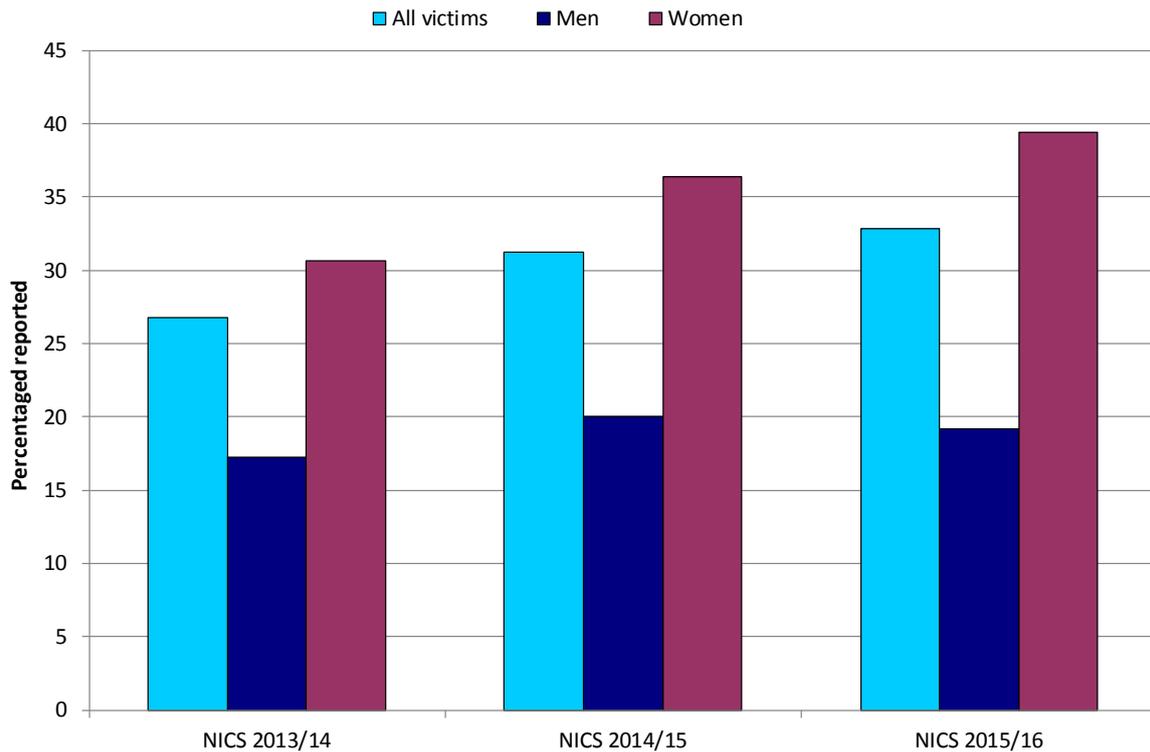
2.1.1 Lifetime partner abuse reported to the police

Given the often on-going nature of domestic violence, which frequently escalates over time, it is perhaps more useful to know the proportion of victims that the police are aware of rather than merely the percentage of individual incidents (Mirrlees-Black, 1999). In turn, NICS participants who had experienced some form of partner abuse since age 16 were asked if the police ever came to know about any of the incidents in question. This could have been either directly from the victim or via a third party.

Results confirm that domestic violence is a largely under-reported crime, something the Police Service of Northern Ireland has attempted to address through a recent advertising campaign, the key message of which is ‘If you feel like you’re walking on eggshells that’s domestic abuse’.

- ◆ Table A3 and Figure 2.3 illustrate that the police were unaware of two-thirds of all lifetime victims of partner abuse identified through the NICS, with only 32.9% of NICS 2015/16 victims reporting that the police came to know about their experience(s).
- ◆ Results suggest that women were more likely than men to report their domestic victimisation, with the police being made aware of two-in-five (39.4%) female victims, compared with around one-in-five (19.1%) of male victims (Table A3; Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: Reporting of any lifetime partner abuse to the police (%)



2.2 Recent experience of partner violence and abuse

To reflect the fact that people's circumstances, lifestyles and, thus, associated levels of risk of domestic violence change over time it is important to examine the experience of domestic abuse in recent years. Due to sample size limitations it has been decided to focus in particular on people's experiences in the three years prior to interview, rather than the normal one-year recall associated with such crime victimisation analyses. However, last year prevalence rates have been calculated at a headline level for domestic offence groups (Section 2.2.2).

2.2.1 Experience of partner abuse in the last 3 years

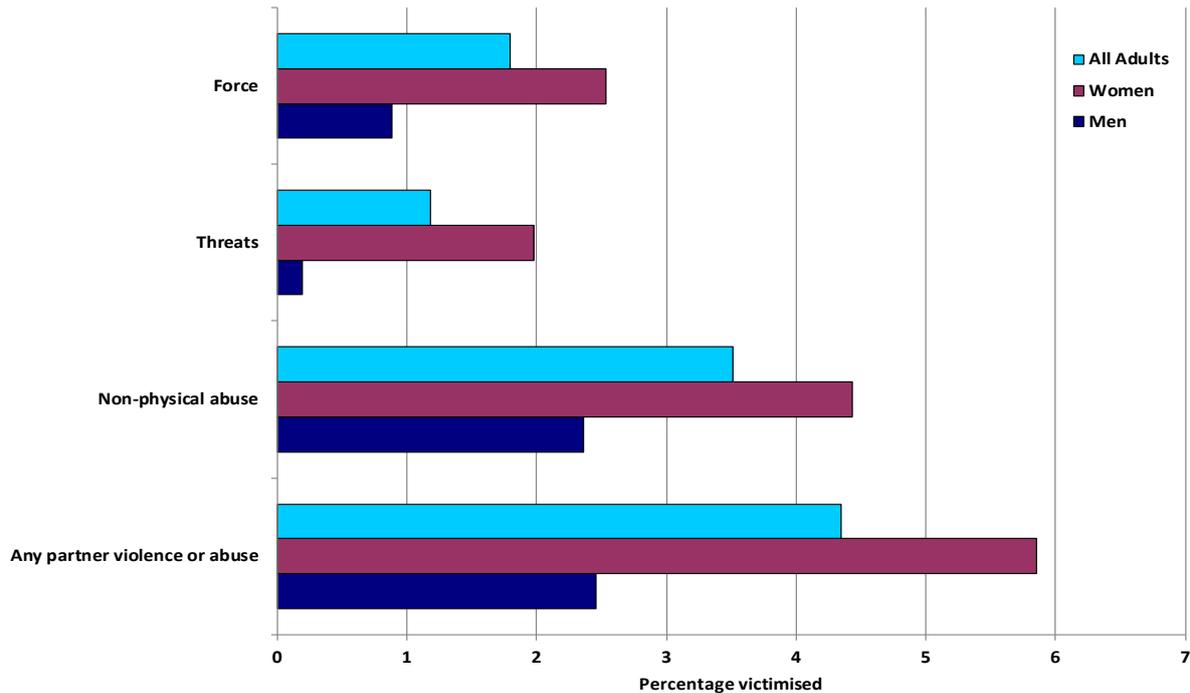
Tables A4 and A5 show recent prevalence (victimisation) rates for partner violence and abuse, by offence group, within the three years prior to interview.

- ◆ At 4.3% in NICS 2015/16, results estimate that around one-in-twenty five adults experienced at least one form of domestic abuse, by a partner, within the last three

years, a similar proportion to that observed in both 2013/14 (5.2%) and 2014/15 (5.0%) (Table A4; Figure 2.4).

- ◆ Similar to findings based on lifetime prevalence of partner abuse (Section 2.1), NICS 2015/16 respondents were more likely to have reported experiencing non-physical abuse within the last 3 years (3.5%) than either physical force (1.8%) or frightening threats (1.2%) (Table A4; Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4: Recent (last 3 years) experience of partner abuse by offence group (%)

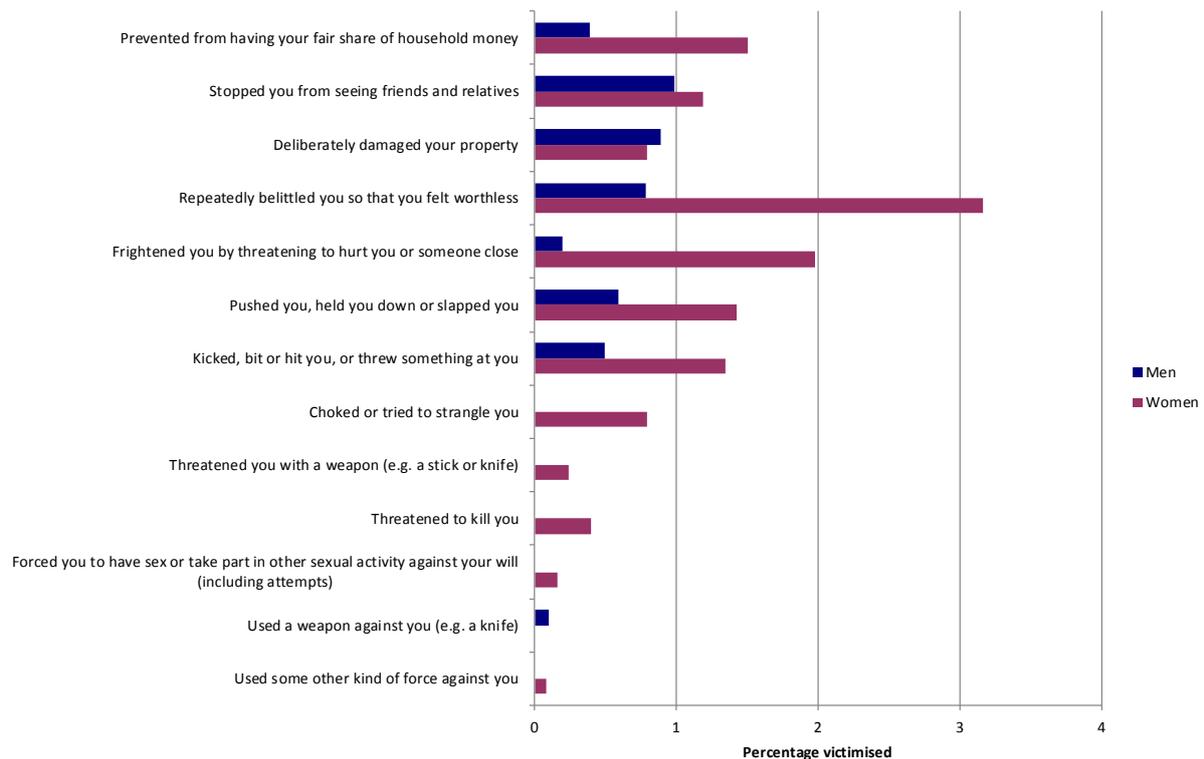


Source: NICS 2015/16

Findings from each sweep of the NICS presented in this bulletin (2013/14 to 2015/16) show that women were generally more likely than men to have experienced recent (last 3 years) domestic abuse by a partner across the various offence groups examined (Table A5).

- ◆ At 5.9% in NICS 2015/16, women were over twice as likely as men (2.5%) to have reported experiencing some form of partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, or force) in the three years preceding interview, a gender difference that is reflected across each of the three separate offence groups: non-physical abuse (4.4% v 2.4%); threats (2.0% v 0.2%); and force (2.5% v 0.9%) (Table A5; Figure 2.4).
- ◆ In terms of the more detailed offence types considered, results suggest there have been no statistically significant changes ($p < 0.05$) observed between NICS 2014/15 and 2015/16. Similar to findings for lifetime partner abuse, one of the highest prevalence rates was observed for 'repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless' (2.1% NICS 2015/16) (Table A6; Figure 2.5).

Figure 2.5: Recent (last 3 years) experience of partner abuse by offence type, by gender (%)



Source: NICS 2015/16

2.2.2 Experience of partner abuse in the last year

Table A8 presents prevalence rates for partner violence and abuse, by offence group, within the last year (12 months preceding interview).

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2015/16 estimate that 1.8% of adults experienced at least one form of domestic abuse, by a partner, at some point in the last year. This compares with 2.7% in 2013/14 and 2.4% in 2014/15 (Table A8).
- ◆ Last year prevalence of partner violence and abuse from NICS 2015/16 reinforce the findings based on ‘lifetime’ and ‘last 3 years’ victimisation rates that: women (2.5%) were more likely than their male counterparts (0.9%) to experience domestic violence by a partner; and ‘non-physical abuse’ was the most likely form of domestic violence to be experienced by both men and women (0.8% and 1.8% respectively) (Table A8).

2.3 Nature of ‘worst’ incident of partner abuse

A range of follow-up questions were asked to NICS participants who had reported being a victim of physical force and/or frightening threats by a partner, on at least one occasion since age 16. These questions sought to obtain additional information on the nature and characteristics of the single *worst* incident (as determined by the victim), which may, or may not, have been the most recent.

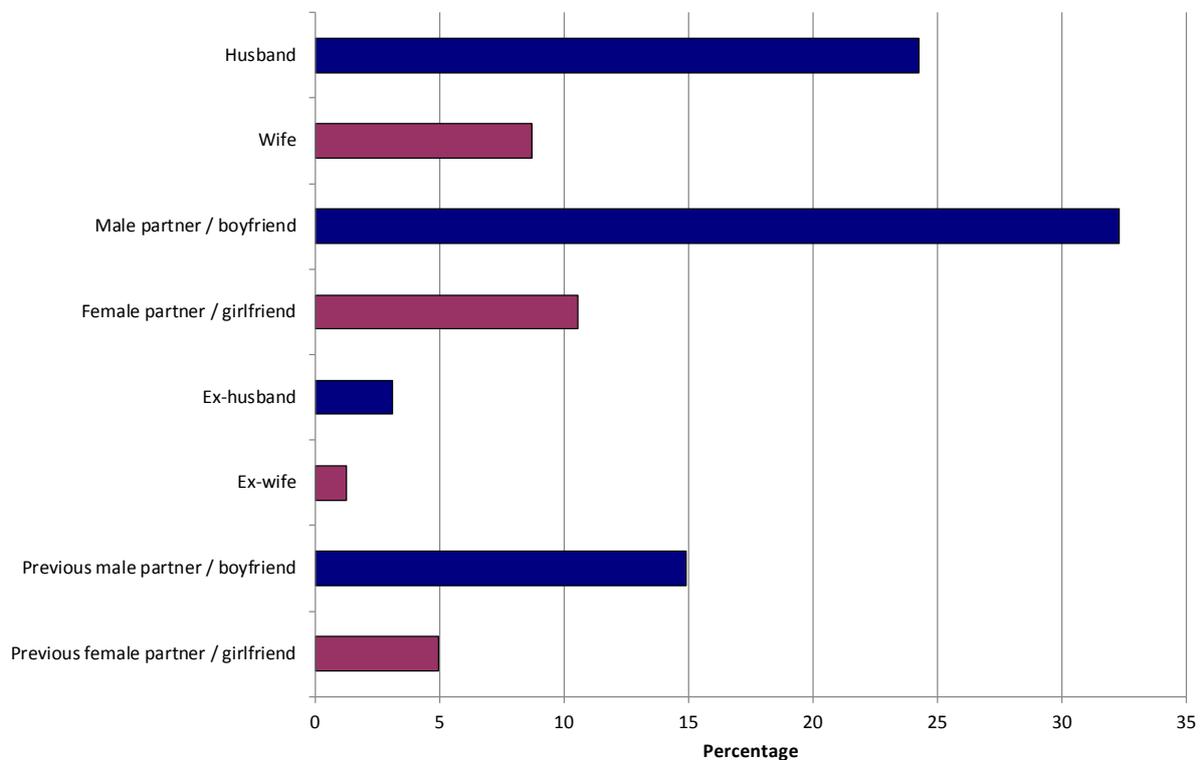
2.3.1 Relationship of perpetrator to victim in ‘worst’ incident of partner abuse

The vast majority of ‘worst incidents’ of partner violence and abuse (98% in 2015/16) took place within a heterosexual relationship, with around three-quarters involving a female victim and a male assailant.

Based on characteristics of the *worst* incident, NICS findings suggest that adults in Northern Ireland are more likely to be at risk of domestic abuse from a current partner (including spouse and boy/girlfriend) than from a previous relationship.

- ◆ Results show that around three-quarters of all worst cases of partner abuse (75.8% in NICS 2015/16) were carried out within the setting of a current relationship at the time, with the remainder (24.2%) involving a partner from a previous relationship (Table A9; Figure 2.6).
- ◆ Perpetrators of NICS victims’ worst incidents of domestic violence were most likely to have been a current boyfriend / male partner (32.3%) or husband (24.2%) (2015/16). These proportions compare with female equivalent rates of 10.6% and 8.7% (respectively) (Table A9; Figure 2.6).
- ◆ Findings indicate that in three-quarters (74.5%) of all worst incidents of partner abuse identified through NICS 2015/16, the assailants were male (Table A9; Figure 2.6).

Figure 2.6: Relationship of perpetrator to victim in worst incident of partner abuse (%)



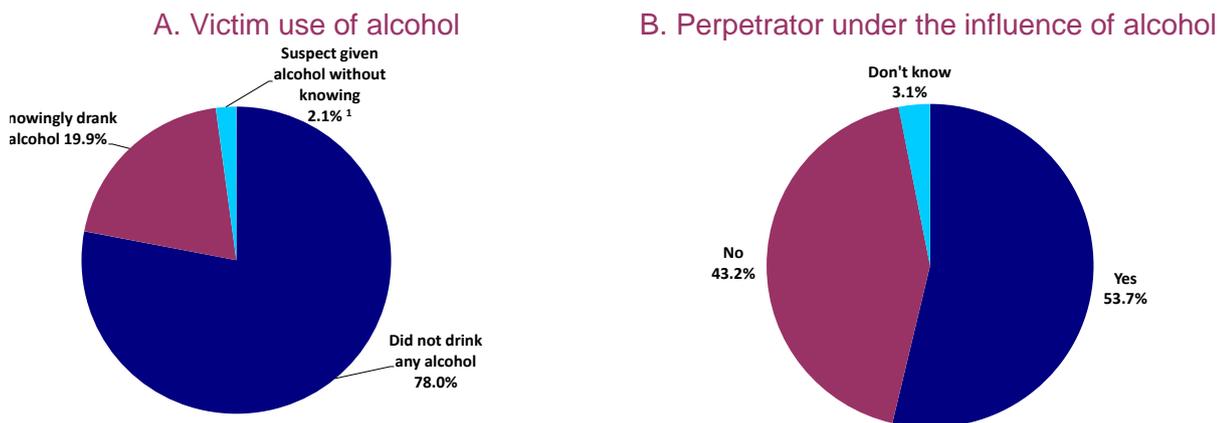
Source: NICS 2015/16

2.3.2 Influence of alcohol in ‘worst’ incident of partner abuse

The relationship between alcohol and violent crime in general has been well documented. However, it is not possible to determine whether alcohol causes violence or contributes to it happening. Accordingly, Morley and Mullender (1994) suggest that “rather than a direct cause of violence, alcohol is better viewed as a means of gaining courage to carry out the act and/or as a convenient rationale to excuse it once it has occurred”. While alcohol undoubtedly plays a role in many domestic incidents, findings from the NICS confirm that a substantial proportion takes place without it.

- ◆ Over three-quarters of NICS victims (78.0% in 2015/16) stated that they had not consumed any alcohol in the lead up to what they considered to be their worst case of partner abuse (Table A10; Figure 2.7A).
- ◆ Results of NICS 2015/16 suggest that for just over a half (53.7%) of all worst incidents of domestic abuse, the assailant was operating under the influence of alcohol (Table A10; Figure 2.7B). In general terms, these results imply that domestic assault, by a partner, is as likely to take place without a drunken offender, as with one.

Figure 2.7: Influence of alcohol in worst incident of partner abuse (%)



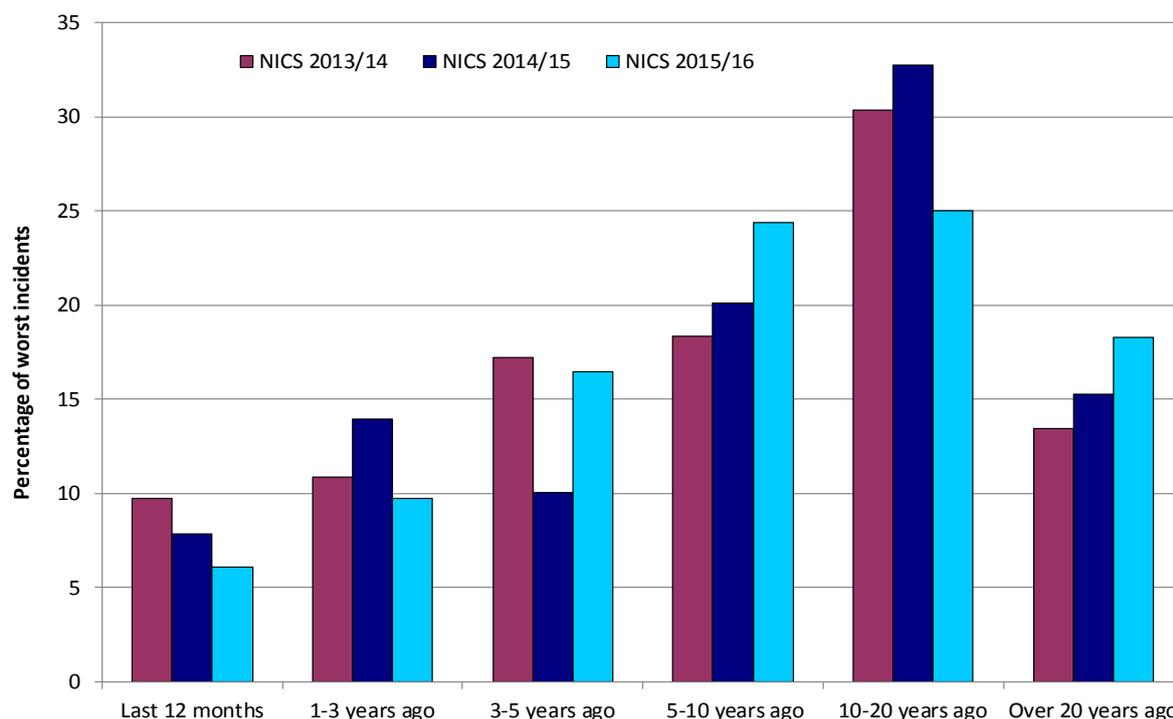
1. Includes being given 'more' or 'stronger' alcohol without victim knowing.

Source: NICS 2015/16

2.3.3 How long ago the ‘worst’ incident of partner abuse took place

- ◆ For the majority of partner abuse victims, the worst incident took place between five and 20 years ago (49.4% in 2015/16), while for a further 18.3% it was more than two decades ago. However, for around one-in-sixteen (6.1%), their worst case occurred during the 12-months prior to interview (Table A11; Figure 2.8).

Figure 2.8: When worst incident of partner abuse happened (%)



2.3.4 Reporting the 'worst' incident of partner abuse to the police

Domestic violence is considered to be the least likely of all violent crime to be reported to the police (Stanko, 2000), a view supported by findings from the NICS which show that the majority of worst cases of domestic abuse went unreported to the police. As incidents considered by victims to be less serious in nature than their 'worst' case are, perhaps, even less likely to be reported, it can be inferred that police recorded crime figures gravely undercount the true extent of domestic violence in Northern Ireland.

- ◆ Overall, the police in Northern Ireland were only made aware of just over a third of all worst cases of domestic partner abuse (36.6% in NICS 2015/16), meaning that they were unaware of the experiences of just under two thirds of NICS victims (63.4%) (Table A12).

2.3.5 Victims' perceptions of domestic violence

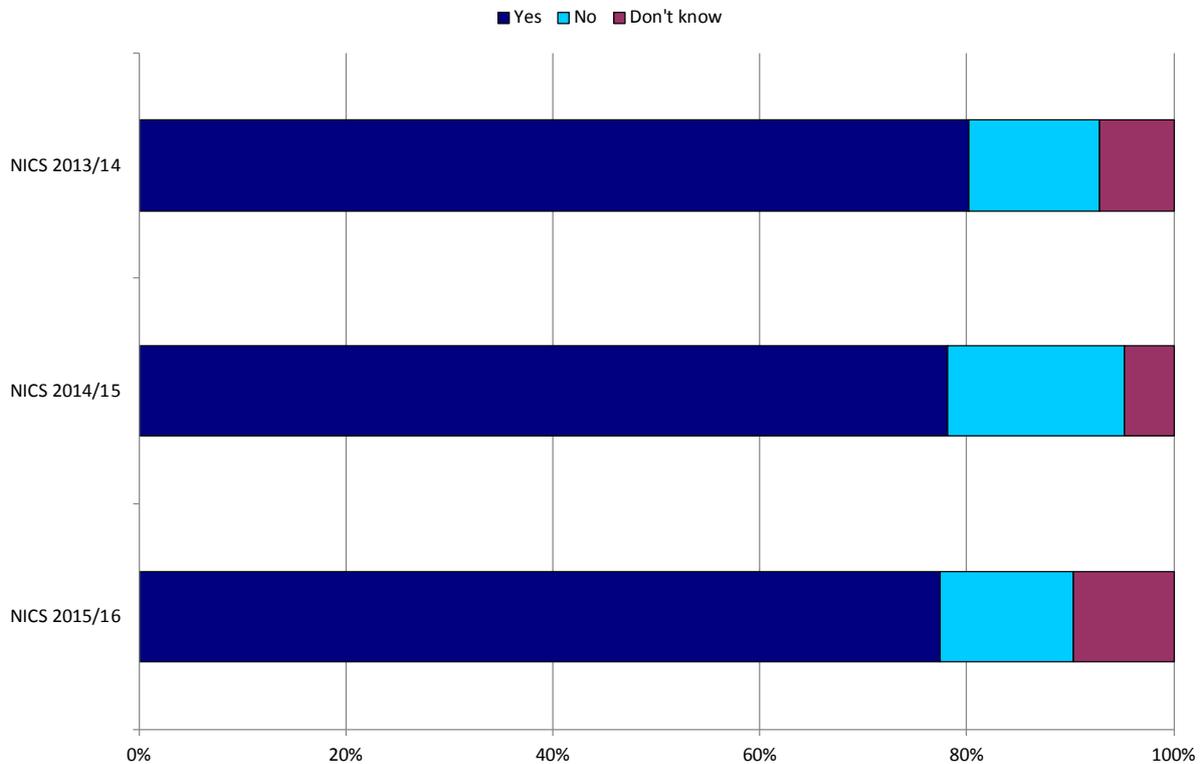
While the definition of domestic violence and abuse adopted by the Department of Justice was outlined in Section 1.2, those who suffer such abuse may hold a different definition. In turn, NICS respondents were asked whether or not they believed their worst incident constituted domestic violence. As noted by Walby and Allen (2004), "the definitions used by those suffering the violence is of importance to those seeking to encourage them to seek help, since if the vocabulary used by agencies is different from that used by victims themselves this will hinder the process".

- ◆ While the vast majority of adults who had been victims of partner abuse did consider their worst incident to be a form of domestic violence (77.4% in 2015/16), around an eighth of victims (12.8% in 2015/16) did not believe that their experience constituted domestic violence (Table A13; Figure 2.10).

NICS 2011/12 to 2015/16: Experience of Domestic Violence

- ◆ A proportion of victims, ranging from 4.8% (NICS 2014/15) to 9.8% (NICS 2015/16) claimed they did not know if their worst experience of partner abuse could be defined as domestic violence (Table A13; Figure 2.10).

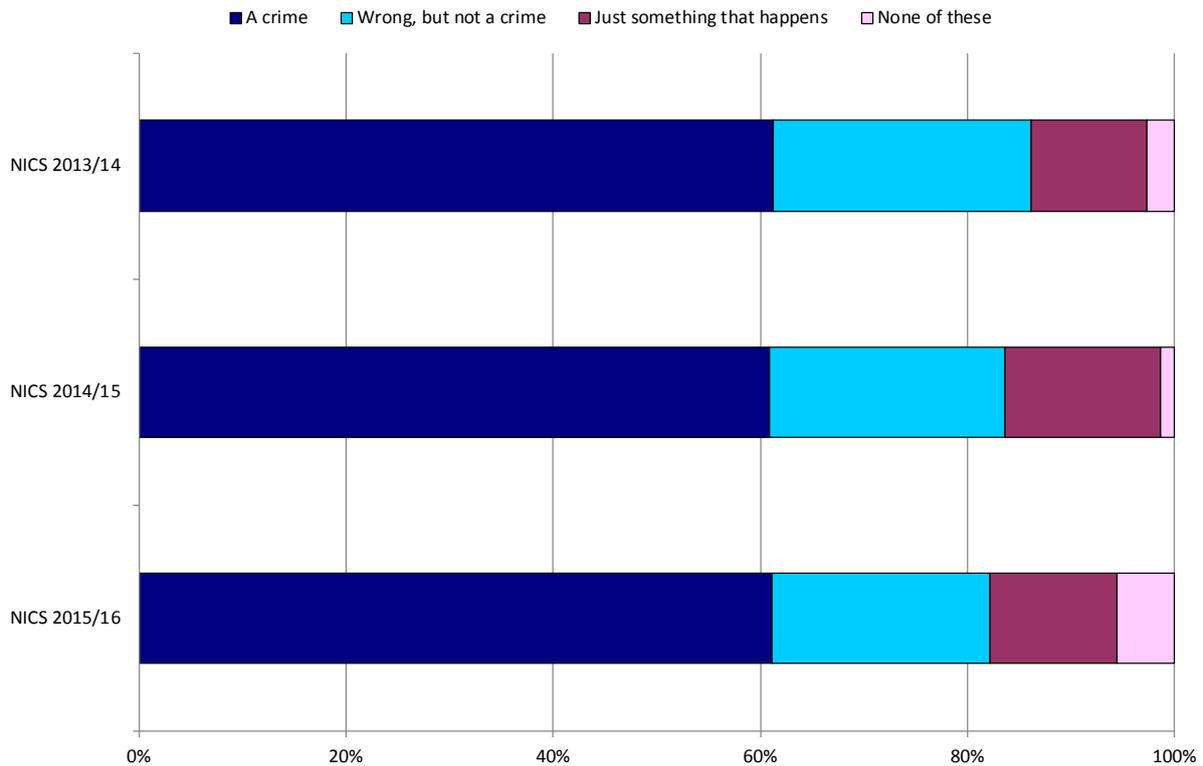
Figure 2.10: Perceptions of whether the worst incident of partner abuse constituted domestic violence (%)



Regardless of whether or not victims viewed their worst case of partner abuse as domestic violence, they were asked to describe their experience in terms of whether or not they perceived it to be a criminal act.

- ◆ Most victims considered their worst incident of partner abuse to be a criminal offence (61.1% in NICS 2015/16), around a fifth (21.0%) believed it was 'wrong, but not a crime' and a further one-in-eight accepted it as 'just something that happens' (12.3%) (Table A14; Figure 2.11).
- ◆ A similar pattern was observed in these proportions in recent years. For example, in 2014/15, 60.9% believed their experience of partner abuse was a crime, 22.7% believed it was wrong but not a crime, while 15.1% perceived it to be just something that happens (Table A14).

Figure 2.11: Victims' descriptions of their worst incident of partner abuse (%)



It is apparent from Tables A13 and A14 (along with Figures 2.10 and 2.11) that a greater proportion of victims viewed their worst case of partner abuse as 'domestic violence' (77.4%) than 'a crime' (61.1%), suggesting that some adults in Northern Ireland do not consider domestic violence to represent a criminal act. While small numbers prevent the publication of supporting statistics, NICS analyses indicate that people who believed they were victims of domestic violence were more likely to state their worst incident was a 'crime' while those who did not consider their worst incident to be domestic violence were more likely to classify it as 'wrong, but not a crime' or 'just something that happens'.

While it is difficult to know what lies behind these perceptions, Mirrlees-Black (1999) has suggested that some people who see themselves as victims of domestic violence do not believe the criminal justice system has a role to play in their experience. Others may hold a different perception of domestic violence, while a victim's relationship with the assailant can also influence their outlook.

3. EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Since 2009/10, NICS respondents aged 16 to 64 have also been asked a series of questions on their personal experience of domestic violence (covering emotional, financial, sexual and physical abuse) by any family member, other than a partner. This might include a (step-) parent, sibling, (step-) child or a wider family member.

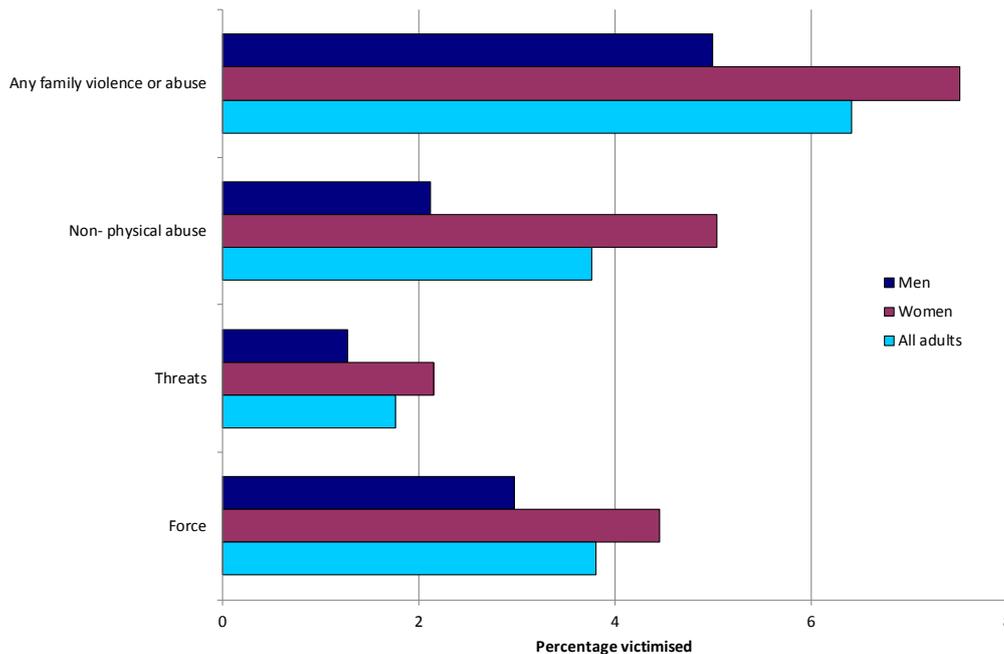
3.1 Lifetime experience of family violence and abuse

Tables A15 and A16 illustrate lifetime prevalence (victimisation) rates of family violence and abuse, since age 16, among men and women aged between 16 and 64. As in Section 2, these rates are subdivided into three main offence groups: non-physical abuse; threats; and force (minor and severe).

As lifetime prevalence rates do not necessarily provide an indication of current victimisation levels (see Section 1.2), testing for statistical change between years has not been carried out.

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2015/16 estimate that 6.4% of people aged 16-64 have experienced at least one form of domestic violence or abuse, by a family member, at some stage in their lives since age 16 (Table A15; Figure 3.1).
- ◆ At 7.5% in NICS 2015/16, women appeared to be at greater risk than men (5.0%) of experiencing some form of family violence or abuse (Table A15; Figure 3.1).
- ◆ Of the three main offence groups examined, both non-physical abuse and physical force (each 3.8%) displayed the highest (lifetime) prevalence rates for family violence and abuse, ahead of frightening threats (1.8%) (Table A15; Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1: Lifetime experience of family abuse by offence group (%)



Source: NICS 2015/16

NICS findings indicate that the prevalence of family abuse in Northern Ireland is lower than that of partner abuse (Section 2), with overall lifetime rates of 6.4% and 12.1% (respectively) being recorded in 2015/16. In addition, apparent trends in NICS lifetime prevalence rates of both family and partner abuse are similar in that both suggest women are more likely than their male counterparts to have experienced domestic violence and abuse at some point since age 16 and that non-physical abuse displayed some of the highest rates within both an intimate and family setting.

- ◆ When gender differences in lifetime experience of family violence and abuse were explored further at offence type level, results suggest that women displayed higher prevalence rates than men for some offence types, for example ‘repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless’ (4.2% v 1.5%; NICS 2015/16), while for others, rates were more closely aligned (Table A16; Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2: Lifetime experience of family abuse by offence type, by gender (%)



Source: NICS 2015/16

3.2 Recent experience of family violence and abuse

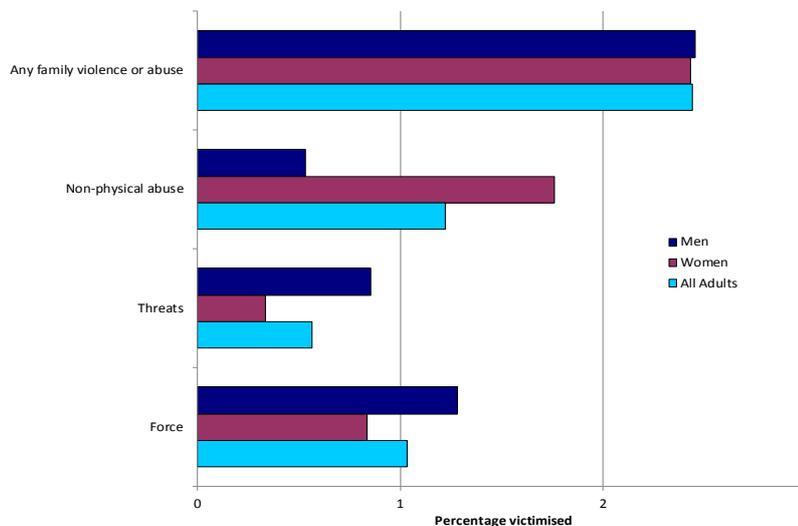
As outlined in Section 2.2, given that an individual’s situational circumstances, thus, their susceptibility to domestic victimisation, can change over time, it is important to monitor the prevalence of such violence within a recent, rather than a lifetime, context.

3.2.1 Experience of family abuse in the last 3 years

Tables A17 to A20 present prevalence rates for family violence and abuse during the three years prior to interview.

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2015/16 estimate that 2.4% of adults were victims of at least one form of domestic abuse by a family member, other than a partner, in the last 3 years, showing no statistically significant change from the previous year (Table A17; Figure 3.3).
- ◆ At 1.5% in 2015/16, a statistically significant increase ($p < 0.05$) was observed when compared with 2014/15 (0.5%) for the (combined) offence group of threats or force (Table A17).
- ◆ When findings are considered by gender, results for NICS 2015/16 suggest that similar proportions of both men (2.5%) and women (2.4%) had been victims of family violence over the last 3 years. Both rates showed no statistically significant change ($p < 0.05$) when compared with 2014/15 (Table A18; Figure 3.3).
- ◆ NICS 2015/16 results indicate that, for the three main offence groups considered, prevalence rates for women showed no change ($p < 0.05$) between 2014/15 and 2015/16, while for men, a statistically significant increase ($p < 0.05$) was observed in the prevalence rate for force, from 0.1% to 1.3% (Table A18).

Figure 3.3: Recent (last 3 years) experience of family abuse by offence group (%)



Source: NICS 2015/16

3.2.2 Experience of family abuse in the last year

Table A21 presents last year (i.e. the 12 months preceding interview) prevalence rates for family violence and abuse, by offence group.

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2015/16 estimate that 1.0% of adults aged 16-64 were victims of at least one form of domestic violence or abuse, by a family member other than a partner, during the last year. This compares with equivalent rates for men and women at 0.4% and 1.4% respectively (Table A21).

3.3 Nature of ‘worst’ incident of family abuse

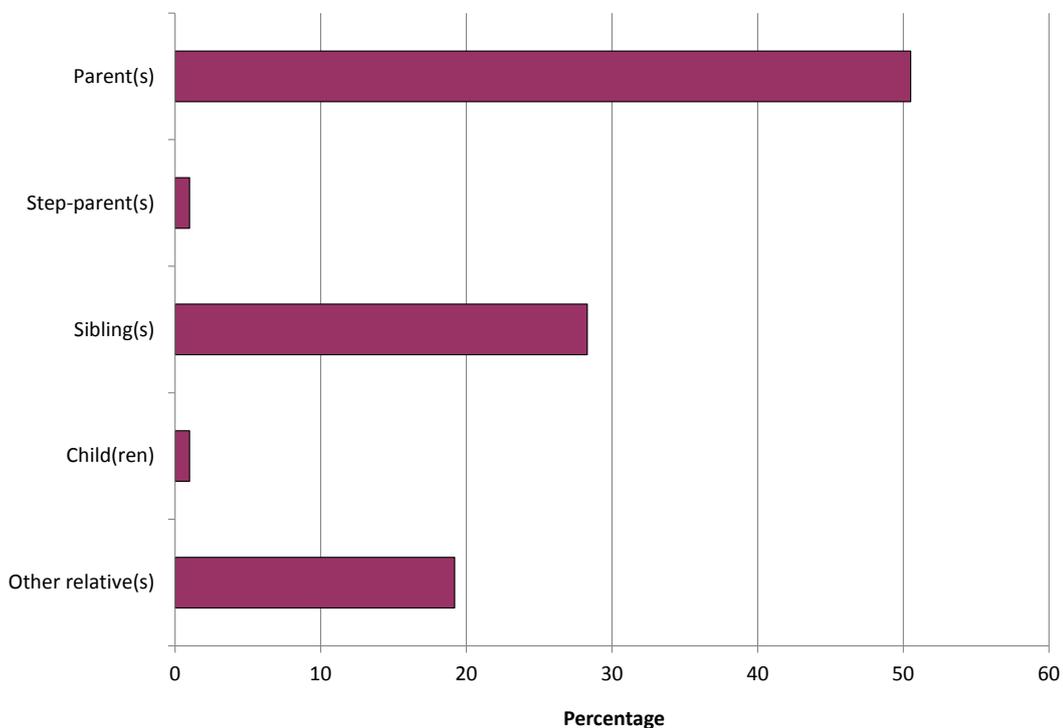
NICS respondents who had reported being a victim of family violence or abuse since age 16 were asked a series of follow-up questions to obtain additional information on the nature of their single worst incident, which may, or may not have been the most recent. While the equivalent questions relating to partner abuse (Section 2.3) were restricted to those respondents who suffered physical force and/or frightening threats, all victims of family violence and abuse were asked, including those who endured non-physical abuse.

3.3.1 Relationship of perpetrator to victim in ‘worst’ incident of family abuse

Results presented in Table A22 suggest that, in around half of all cases identified, the worst incident of family abuse was carried out by the parent(s) of a victim.

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2015/16 (50.5%) show that parents were most likely to be identified by victims as the perpetrator(s) of their worst incident of family abuse (Table A22; Figure 3.5).
- ◆ In contrast, step-parents and children (both 1.0% in 2015/16) of victims were least likely to have been identified as having carried out the worst incident of family abuse (Table A22; Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: Relationship of perpetrator to victim in worst incident of family abuse (%)

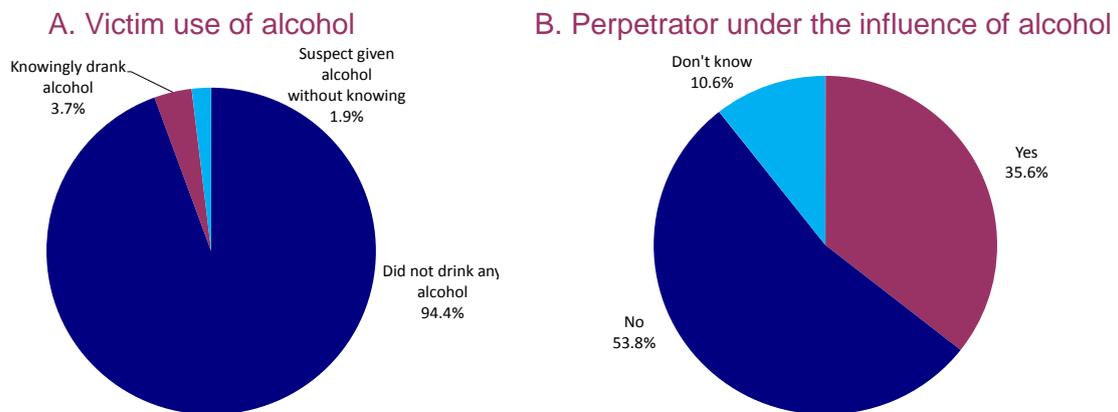


Source: NICS 2015/16

3.3.2 Influence of alcohol in 'worst' incident of family abuse

- ◆ Around nine-in-ten victims (94.4% in 2015/16) stated that they had not consumed any alcohol in the lead up to what they considered to be their worst case of family abuse (Table A23; Figure 3.6A).
- ◆ NICS results also show that just over half of the worst incidents of family abuse (53.8% in 2015/16) took place while the assailant was not believed to have been acting under the influence of alcohol (Table A23; Figure 3.6B).
- ◆ In contrast, around a third of identified victims (35.6% in NICS 2015/16) claimed that the perpetrator of their worst incident of family abuse was acting under the influence of alcohol at the time (Table A23; Figure 3.6B).

Figure 3.6: Influence of alcohol in worst incident of family abuse (%)



1. Includes being given 'more' or 'stronger' alcohol without victim knowing.

Source: NICS 2015/16

3.3.3 How long ago the 'worst' incident of family abuse took place

NICS results indicate that those incidents of family abuse, considered by victims to be their worst, took place over several decades.

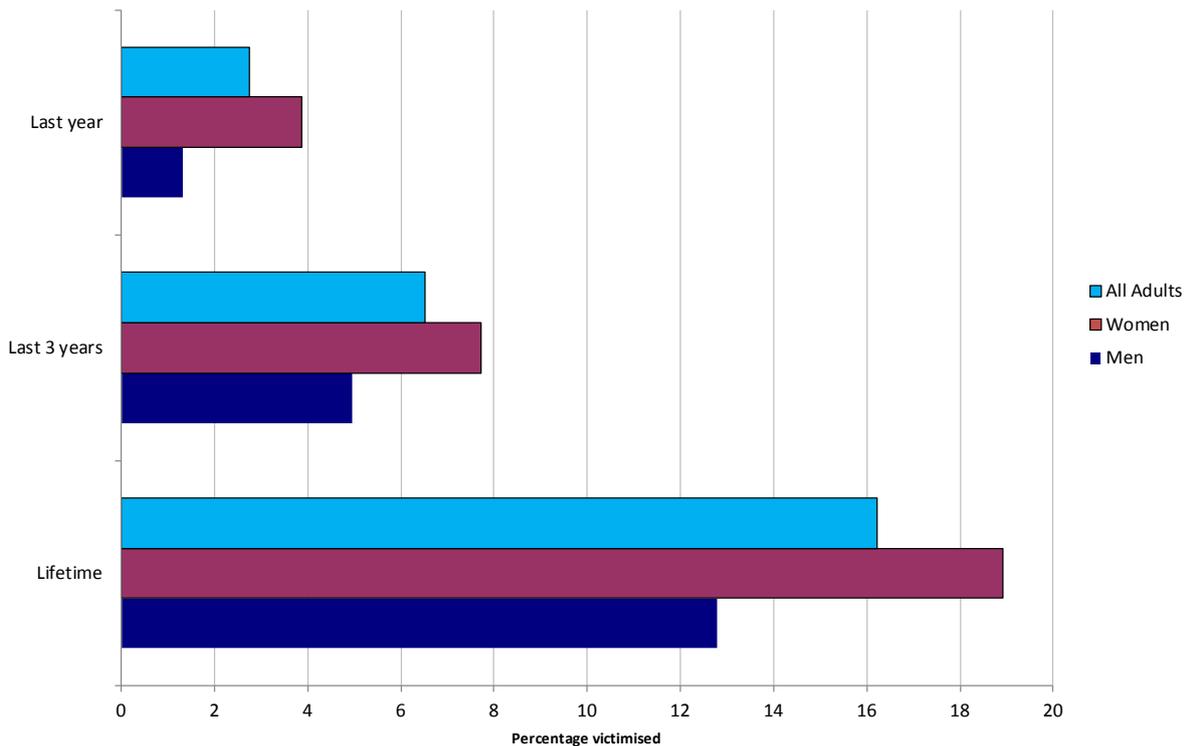
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2015/16 show that while almost a third (31.7%) of all worst cases of family abuse were carried out more than 20 years ago, one-in-six incidents (16.7%) took place within the last 12 months and almost one-in-three (28.6%) within the last 3 years (Table A24).

4. EXPERIENCE OF ALL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Table A25 combines prevalence rates of both partner (Section 2) and family (Section 3) violence and abuse to calculate overall rates of domestic violence victimisation for men and women.

- ◆ Overall, one-in-six adults (16.2% in 2015/16) had experienced at least one form of domestic violence and abuse (from a partner and/or family member) since the age of 16. This proportion drops to 6.5% when consideration is given to the last 3 years and to 2.8% for the last year (Table A25; Figure 4.1).
- ◆ Compared with the previous year (2014/15), results suggest that there have been no statistically significant changes ($p < 0.05$) in these prevalence rates for any of the three time periods covered (Table A25).
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2015/16 show that the rates for men and women across the three recall periods were estimated at 12.8% and 18.9% (lifetime); 5.0% and 7.7% (last 3 years); and (1.3% and 3.9%) (last year) (Table A25; Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Experience of any domestic abuse (partner and family), by gender (%)



Source: NICS 2015/16

5. RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

The prevalence, or extent, of domestic violence and abuse is uneven across the population and varies by social and situational characteristics. While certain demographic factors may provide an indication of which groups of people are more vulnerable to domestic abuse, they should not be mistaken for causation since they may merely reflect an association with an underlying cause.

5.1 Domestic violence and abuse by demographic characteristics

Table A27 presents last 3 year prevalence rates of partner and family abuse, for men and women, broken down by a range of personal and socio-economic characteristics. Findings suggest that not only are women at greater risk of domestic abuse than their male counterparts, but there also appears to be less variation within demographic groups in terms of male domestic victimisation, than for women.

- ◆ While women displayed higher prevalence rates than men for partner abuse (5.9% v 2.5%) and all domestic abuse (7.7% v 5.0%) in the last 3 years, rates for family abuse (2.4% v 2.5%) were more closely aligned (Table A27).
- ◆ Women who are single parents displayed prevalence rates for any domestic abuse (partner or family; 27.5%) and partner abuse (22.5%) that were substantially higher than the respective NICS 2015/16 averages of 7.7% and 5.9% respectively (Table A27).

Marital status appears to play a role in the likelihood of an adult suffering domestic abuse, with results indicating that those who were living as a couple or, more specifically, married, typically displaying lower prevalence rates than those who were not.

- ◆ NICS 2015/16 respondents who were married were less likely than their unmarried counterparts to have experienced some form of domestic abuse in the last 3 years (men: 3.0% v 7.6%; women: 1.8% v 15.3%) (Table A27).

Findings from NICS 2015/16 also suggest a tentative relationship between household income and domestic victimisation, with those from lower earning households generally displaying higher prevalence rates for domestic abuse within the last 3 years.

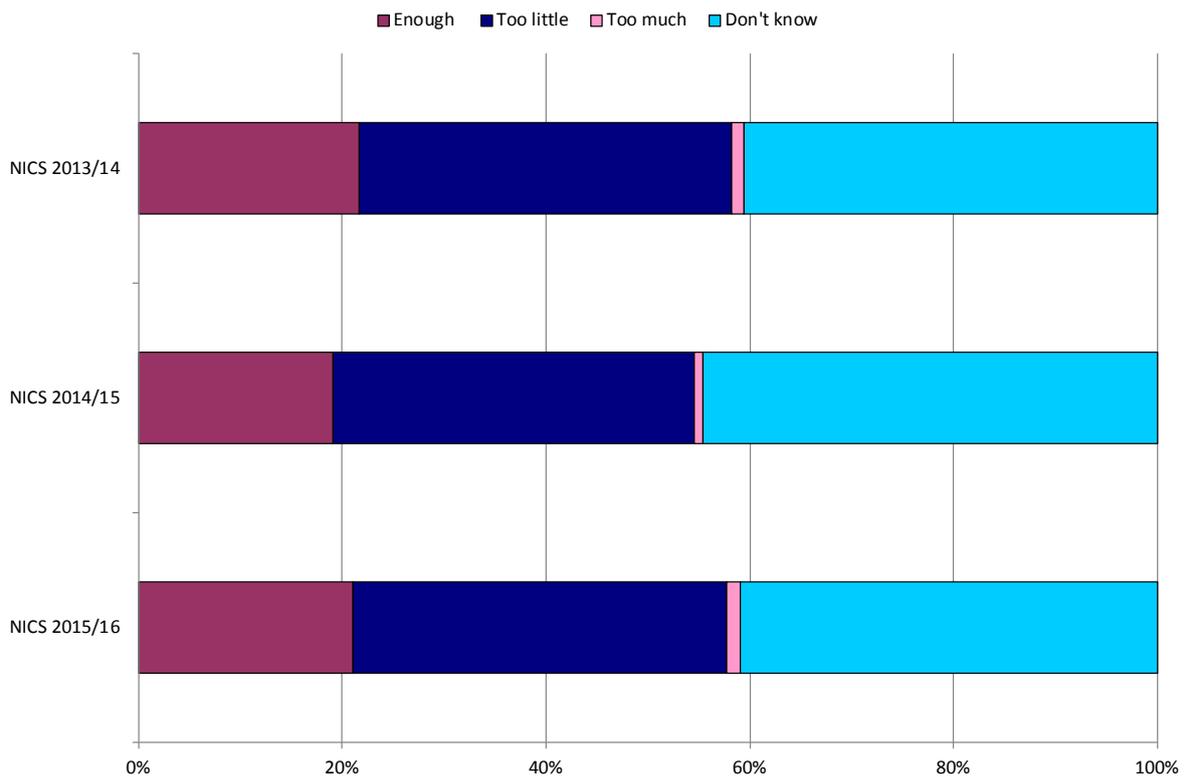
- ◆ For example, at 19.3%, female respondents from low income households (under £15,000 per year) were more likely than those from other income groups to have been the victim of any domestic abuse, contrasting with 4.1% of those with a household income between £30,000 and £45,000 per annum (Table A27).
- ◆ In summary, Table A27 shows that females displaying prevalence rates above the NICS 2015/16 average for any form of domestic violence (from a partner or a wider family member) within the last 3 years included those:
 - ◆ respondents who are single parents (27.5%);
 - ◆ living in households with an annual household income of under £15,000 (19.3%); or
 - ◆ respondents who were cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed (16.6%).

6. PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC POLICY TO TACKLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

All respondents to the self-completion module, regardless of whether or not they reported having ever experienced domestic violence and abuse, were asked if they believed enough was being done by the government and associated agencies, such as the police and courts, to address domestic violence.

- ◆ Findings indicate that around a fifth of respondents (21.0% in NICS 2015/16) believed that the government and other agencies are doing ‘enough’ about domestic violence compared with a third who think ‘too little’ is being done (36.6%) (Table A26; Figure 6.1).
- ◆ When asked, an additional two-in-five respondents claimed that they ‘don’t know’ whether enough is being done about domestic violence (41.0% in NICS 2015/16), with similar proportions of both men (42.0%) and women (40.1%) giving this response (Table A26; Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1: Views on whether or not the government and associated agencies are doing enough about domestic violence (%)



REFERENCES

Campbell, P (2017). *Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2015/16 Northern Ireland Crime Survey*. DOJ Research and Statistical Bulletin 7-2017. Belfast: DOJ.

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/r-and-s-bulletin-7-2017-experience-crime-findings-2015-16-northern-ireland-crime-survey>

Department of Justice and Department of Health (2016). *Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland: A Seven Year Strategy*. Belfast: DOJ & DOH.

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/stopping-domestic-and-sexual-violence-and-abuse-northern-ireland-seven-year-strategy-march-2016>

Department of Justice (2012) Community Safety Strategy 2012 to 2017

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/community-safety-strategy-2012-2017>

Department of Justice (2016a) Northern Ireland Crime Survey User Guide

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-crime-survey-user-guide>

Department of Justice (2016b) Northern Ireland Crime Survey Quality Report

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-crime-survey-quality-report>

McWilliams, M. and McKiernan, J. (1993). *Bringing it out in the open: Domestic violence in Northern Ireland*. Belfast: HMSO.

Mirrlees-Black, C. (1999). *Domestic Violence: Findings from a new British Crime Survey self-completion questionnaire*. Home Office Research Study 191. London: Home Office.

Morley, R. and Mullender, A. (1994). *Preventing Domestic violence to Women*. Police Research Group Crime Prevention Unit Series Paper 48. Home Office: Police Research Group.

Northern Ireland Executive (2016) Programme for Government 2016-21

<https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/topics/work-executive/programme-government>

Northern Ireland Policing Board (2016) Annual Policing Plan 2016-2017

<https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/sites/nipb/files/media-files/Policing-Plan-2016-17.pdf>

Police Service of Northern Ireland (2017) User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland (Updated May 2017)

<https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/documents/crime-user-guide-updated-may-17.pdf>

Rice, A. and Campbell, P. (2016). *Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2015/16 Northern Ireland Crime Survey*. DOJ Research and Statistical Bulletin 31/2016. Belfast: DOJ.

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/r-s-bulletin-312016-perceptions-crime-findings-201516-northern-ireland-crime-survey>

Stanko, E. (2000). *The day to count*. www.domesticviolencedata.org

Walby, S. and Allen, J. (2004). *Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: Findings from the British Crime Survey*. Home Office Research Study 276. London: Home Office.

TABULAR ANNEX

Table A1: Lifetime prevalence of partner abuse among adults aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2}

% victims once or more, since age 16	NICS 2013/14			NICS 2014/15			NICS 2015/16		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Any partner violence or abuse	8.8	17.1	13.4	9.3	17.1	13.5	8.4	15.1	12.1
Non-physical abuse	7.4	15.1	11.7	7.5	13.5	10.8	7.4	11.9	9.9
Threats or force	4.1	12.7	8.9	4.5	12.9	9.1	4.7	10.3	7.8
Threats	0.6	6.3	3.8	0.6	7.1	4.1	0.3	6.0	3.5
Force	4.0	11.9	8.4	4.2	11.9	8.4	4.7	9.5	7.4
<i>Minor</i>	1.4	8.3	5.3	1.8	9.0	5.7	2.6	6.9	5.0
<i>Severe</i>	3.8	9.4	6.9	3.4	8.5	6.2	3.8	7.5	5.8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	941	1,248	2,189	552	721	1,273	520	680	1,200

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. See Table 1 for individual offence types comprising each domestic violence group.

Table A2: Detailed lifetime prevalence of partner abuse among adults aged 16-64 (%)¹

% victims once or more, since age 16		NICS 2013/14			NICS 2014/15			NICS 2015/16		
		Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women	All adults
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	1.6	4.8	3.4	1.5	4.0	2.9	1.5	4.5	3.2
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	3.9	7.1	5.7	4.4	7.2	5.9	3.0	5.9	4.6
	Deliberately damaged your property	1.2	4.5	3.1	1.9	4.6	3.4	2.9	3.8	3.4
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	3.5	11.4	7.9	3.9	10.9	7.7	3.5	9.8	7.0
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	0.6	6.3	3.8	0.6	7.1	4.1	0.3	6.0	3.5
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>									
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	1.4	8.3	5.3	1.8	9.0	5.7	2.6	6.9	5.0
	<i>Severe force</i>									
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	2.3	4.7	3.6	2.1	4.8	3.6	2.5	5.3	4.1
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.5	3.4	2.1	0.7	4.5	2.7	0.3	3.0	1.8
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	1.2	2.1	1.7	0.9	2.8	1.9	0.7	1.8	1.3
	Threatened to kill you	0.3	2.5	1.5	0.6	3.5	2.2	0.4	2.7	1.6
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	0.3	2.4	1.5	0.1	2.7	1.5	0.3	2.0	1.3
	Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.5	1.2	0.3	0.6	0.5
Used some other kind of force against you	0.8	2.4	1.7	0.7	2.6	1.7	0.8	2.4	1.7	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	941	1,248	2,189	552	721	1,273	520	680	1,200	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

Table A3: Proportion of any lifetime partner abuse reported to the police (%)¹

% reporting any partner abuse since age 16	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16
All victims	26.6	31.3	32.9
Men	17.2	20.0	19.1
Women	30.7	36.4	39.4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	339	207	181

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

NICS 2011/12 to 2015/16: Experience of Domestic Violence

Table A4: Prevalence of partner abuse in the last 3 years among adults aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2,3}

% victims once or more, last 3 years	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change 2014/15 to 2015/16
Any partner violence or abuse	5.2	5.0	4.3	
Non-physical abuse	4.3	4.2	3.5	
Threats or force	2.3	2.6	2.2	
Threats	1.1	1.1	1.2	
Force	2.2	2.1	1.8	
<i>Minor</i>	1.2	1.1	1.1	
<i>Severe</i>	1.6	1.6	1.4	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	2,149	1,250	1,179	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. See Table 1 for individual offence types comprising each domestic violence group.
3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed tests) are indicated by a double asterisk (**).

Table A5: Prevalence of partner abuse in the last 3 years among men and women aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2,3}

% victims once or more, last 3 years	MEN				WOMEN			
	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change 2014/15 to 2015/16	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change 2014/15 to 2015/16
Any partner violence or abuse	3.5	3.1	2.5		6.5	6.5	5.9	
Non-physical abuse	2.7	2.6	2.4		5.6	5.5	4.4	
Threats or force	1.0	1.2	0.9		3.4	3.7	3.3	
Threats	0.1	0.1	0.2		1.8	2.0	2.0	
Force	0.9	1.1	0.9		3.1	3.0	2.5	
<i>Minor</i>	0.3	0.3	0.6		1.9	1.9	1.4	
<i>Severe</i>	0.9	1.1	0.5		2.2	2.0	2.1	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	930	543	510		1,219	707	669	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. See Table 1 for individual offence types comprising each domestic violence group.
3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed tests) are indicated by a double asterisk (**).

NICS 2011/12 to 2015/16: Experience of Domestic Violence

Table A6: Detailed prevalence of partner abuse in the last 3 years among adults aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2}

% victims once or more, in last 3 years		NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change 2014/15 to 2015/16
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	0.9	0.7	1.0	
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	2.0	2.1	1.1	
	Deliberately damaged your property	0.9	0.9	0.8	
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	2.3	2.6	2.1	
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	1.1	1.1	1.2	
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>				
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	1.2	1.1	1.1	
	<i>Severe force</i>				
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	0.9	0.7	1.0	
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.3	0.3	0.4	
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	0.3	0.2	0.1	
	Threatened to kill you	0.4	0.4	0.2	
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	0.2	0.1	0.1	
	Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	<0.05	0.1	<0.05	
Used some other kind of force against you	0.2	0.2	<0.05		
<i>Unweighted base</i>		2,149	1,250	1,179	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistical significance of change at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed tests) are indicated by a double asterisk (**).

Table A7: Detailed prevalence of partner abuse in the last 3 years among men and women aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2}

% victims once or more, in last 3 years		MEN				WOMEN			
		NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change 2014/15 to 2015/16	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change 2014/15 to 2015/16
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	0.6	0.3	0.4		1.2	1.1	1.5	
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	1.3	1.5	1.0		2.6	2.6	1.2	
	Deliberately damaged your property	0.4	0.2	0.9		1.3	1.5	0.8	
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	1.1	1.2	0.8		3.3	3.8	3.2	
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	0.1	0.1	0.2		1.8	2.0	2.0	
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>								
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	0.3	0.3	0.6		1.9	1.9	1.4	
	<i>Severe force</i>								
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	0.7	0.6	0.5		1.1	0.9	1.3	
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.6	0.6	0.8	
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	0.1	0.0	0.0		0.4	0.4	0.2	
	Threatened to kill you	0.0	0.3	0.0		0.6	0.6	0.4	
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.4	0.2	0.2	
	Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	0.0	0.0	0.1		<0.05	0.1	0.0	
Used some other kind of force against you	0.1	0.3	0.0		0.4	0.1	0.1		
<i>Unweighted base</i>	930	543	510		1,219	707	669		

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistical significance of change at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed tests) are indicated by a double asterisk (**).

NICS 2011/12 to 2015/16: Experience of Domestic Violence

Table A8: Prevalence of partner abuse in the last year among adults aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2}

	NICS 2013/14			NICS 2014/15			NICS 2015/16		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Any partner violence or abuse	1.9	3.3	2.7	1.5	3.1	2.4	0.9	2.5	1.8
Non-physical abuse	1.6	2.9	2.3	1.2	2.7	2.0	0.8	1.8	1.4
Threats or force	0.4	1.7	1.1	0.6	1.3	1.0	0.3	1.2	0.8
Threats	0.1	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.4
Force	0.4	1.5	1.0	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.3	1.0	0.7
<i>Minor</i>	0.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.3
<i>Severe</i>	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.5
<i>Unweighted base</i>	926	1,215	2,141	541	705	1,246	508	665	1,173

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. See Table 1 for individual offence types comprising each domestic violence group.

Table A9: Relationship of perpetrator to victim in single worst incident of partner abuse (%)^{1,2}

Percentage (%)	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16
Husband	36.7	27.1	24.2
Wife	5.1	5.5	8.7
Male partner / boyfriend	35.2	32.6	32.3
Female partner / girlfriend	6.0	7.3	10.6
Ex-husband	2.1	3.2	3.1
Ex-wife	0.3	1.8	1.2
Previous male partner / boyfriend	11.1	14.7	14.9
Previous female partner / girlfriend	3.3	7.8	5.0
<i>Unweighted base</i>	213	138	113

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. NICS questions on the single worst incident of partner abuse focus on incidents including threats and/or force.

Table A10: Influence of alcohol in single worst incident of partner abuse (%)^{1,2}

Percentage (%)	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16
Victim use of alcohol			
Did not drink any alcohol	78.0	74.0	78.0
Knowingly drank alcohol	21.7	26.0	19.9
Suspect given alcohol without knowing ³	0.3	0.0	2.1
Perpetrator under the influence of alcohol			
Yes	51.9	51.5	53.7
No	44.4	42.3	43.2
Don't know	3.7	6.2	3.1
<i>Unweighted base</i> ⁴	220	130	115

1. Results exclude don't knows (where appropriate) and refusals.
2. NICS questions on the single worst incident of partner abuse focus on incidents including threats and/or force.
3. Includes being given 'more' or 'stronger' alcohol without victim knowing at the time of the incident.
4. Unweighted base refers to perpetrator under the influence of alcohol. The base for victim use of alcohol will be similar.

NICS 2011/12 to 2015/16: Experience of Domestic Violence

Table A11: How long ago the single worst incident of partner abuse took place (%)^{1,2}

Percentage (%)	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16
Last 12 months	9.7	7.9	6.1
Between 1-3 years ago	10.9	14.0	9.8
Between 3-5 years ago	17.2	10.0	16.5
Between 5-10 years ago	18.3	20.1	24.4
Between 10-20 years ago	30.4	32.8	25.0
More than 20 years ago	13.5	15.3	18.3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	220	144	116

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. NICS questions on the single worst incident of partner abuse focus on incidents including threats and/or force.

Table A12: Reporting of the single worst incident of partner abuse to the police (%)^{1,2,3}

Percentage (%)	NICS 2013/14			NICS 2014/15			NICS 2015/16		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Yes	-	30.0	27.0	18.5	41.8	36.2	-	43.5	36.6
No	-	70.0	73.0	81.5	58.2	63.8	-	56.5	63.4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	43	172	215	33	108	141	25	84	109

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. NICS questions on the single worst incident of partner abuse focus on incidents including threats and/or force.
3. Statistics derived from unweighted bases of less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.

Table A13: Victims' perceptions of whether their single worst incident of partner abuse constituted domestic violence (%)^{1,2,3}

Percentage (%)	NICS 2013/14			NICS 2014/15			NICS 2015/16		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Yes	-	84.7	80.2	-	86.2	78.2	-	80.9	77.4
No	-	8.7	12.6	-	10.6	17.0	-	8.8	12.8
Don't know	-	6.7	7.2	-	3.2	4.8	-	10.3	9.8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	44	176	220	33	111	144	24	92	116

1. Results exclude refusals to answer the question.
2. NICS questions on the single worst incident of partner abuse focus on incidents including threats and/or force.
3. Statistics derived from unweighted bases of less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.

Table A14: Victims' descriptions of their single worst incident of partner abuse (%)^{1,2,3}

Percentage (%)	NICS 2013/14			NICS 2014/15			NICS 2015/16		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
A crime	-	69.6	61.2	-	69.6	60.9	-	74.2	61.1
Wrong, but not a crime	-	20.3	25.0	-	20.7	22.7	-	13.6	21.0
Just something that happens	-	8.1	11.2	-	8.7	15.1	-	9.1	12.3
None of these	-	2.0	2.6	-	1.1	1.3	-	3.0	5.6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	42	169	211	33	108	141	26	89	115

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. NICS questions on the single worst incident of partner abuse focus on incidents including threats and/or force.
3. Statistics derived from unweighted bases of less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.

NICS 2011/12 to 2015/16: Experience of Domestic Violence

Table A15: Lifetime prevalence of family abuse among adults aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2}

% victims once or more, since age 16	NICS 2013/14			NICS 2014/15			NICS 2015/16		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Any family violence or abuse	4.9	6.1	5.6	4.1	5.9	5.1	5.0	7.5	6.4
Non-physical abuse	3.1	4.0	3.6	3.3	4.8	4.1	2.1	5.0	3.8
Threats or force	2.7	3.9	3.3	2.8	3.3	3.0	3.7	4.8	4.3
Threats	0.7	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.3	2.1	1.8
Force	2.1	3.6	2.9	2.3	2.8	2.6	3.0	4.5	3.8
<i>Minor</i>	0.5	2.3	1.5	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.6	2.4	2.0
<i>Severe</i>	1.9	2.6	2.3	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.0	3.4	2.8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	880	1,179	2,059	509	680	1,189	472	638	1,110

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. See Table 1 for individual offence types comprising each domestic violence group.

Table A16: Detailed lifetime prevalence of family abuse among adults aged 16-64 (%)¹

% victims once or more, since age 16		NICS 2013/14			NICS 2014/15			NICS 2015/16		
		Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women	All adults
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.6
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.2	1.9	1.6	0.7	1.7	1.3
	Deliberately damaged your property	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.2	1.3	0.8
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	1.0	3.0	2.1	2.0	3.4	2.8	1.5	4.2	3.0
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	0.7	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.3	2.1	1.8
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>									
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	0.5	2.3	1.5	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.6	2.4	2.0
	<i>Severe force</i>									
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	1.0	1.6	1.3	0.2	0.7	0.5	1.4	1.5	1.4
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4
	Threatened to kill you	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	1.2	0.7
	Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
	Used some other kind of force against you	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	880	1,179	2,059	509	680	1,189	472	638	1,110	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

Table A17: Prevalence of family abuse in the last 3 years among adults aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2,3}

% victims once or more, last 3 years	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change, 2014/15 to 2015/16?
Any family violence or abuse	2.3	1.5	2.4	
Non-physical abuse	1.4	1.2	1.2	
Threats or force	1.1	0.5	1.5	** ↑
Threats	0.3	0.2	0.6	
Force	1.0	0.4	1.0	
<i>Minor</i>	0.3	<0.05	0.4	
<i>Severe</i>	0.9	0.3	0.7	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	2,044	1,177	1,096	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. See Table 1 for individual offence types comprising each domestic violence group.
3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed tests) are indicated by a double asterisk (**).

NICS 2011/12 to 2015/16: Experience of Domestic Violence

Table A18: Prevalence of family abuse in the last 3 years among men and women aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2,3}

% victims once or more, last 3 years	MEN				WOMEN			
	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change, 2014/15 to 2015/16?	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change, 2014/15 to 2015/16?
Any family violence or abuse	2.4	1.1	2.5		2.3	1.8	2.4	
Non-physical abuse	1.4	1.0	0.5		1.4	1.3	1.8	
Threats or force	1.0	0.1	2.0	** ↑	1.3	0.8	1.0	
Threats	0.1	0.0	0.9		0.4	0.3	0.3	
Force	0.9	0.1	1.3	** ↑	1.1	0.6	0.8	
<i>Minor</i>	0.1	0.0	0.5		0.5	0.1	0.3	
<i>Severe</i>	0.9	0.1	0.7		1.0	0.5	0.6	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	876	502	469		1,168	675	627	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. See Table 1 for individual offence types comprising each domestic violence group.
3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed tests) are indicated by a double asterisk (**).

Table A19: Detailed prevalence of family abuse in the last 3 years among adults aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2}

% victims once or more, in last 3 years		NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change, 2014/15 to 2015/16?
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	0.1	<0.05	0.2	
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	0.7	0.4	0.3	
	Deliberately damaged your property	0.2	0.1	0.1	
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	0.7	0.7	1.0	
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	0.3	0.2	0.6	
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>				
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	0.3	<0.05	0.4	
	<i>Severe force</i>				
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	0.6	<0.05	0.3	
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.1	<0.05	0.0	
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	0.2	0.0	0.0	
	Threatened to kill you	<0.05	0.0	0.1	
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	0.2	0.0	0.0		
Used some other kind of force against you	0.2	0.2	0.1		
<i>Unweighted base</i>		2,044	1,177	1,096	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistical significance of change at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed tests) are indicated by a double asterisk (**).

Table A20: Detailed prevalence of family abuse in the last 3 years among men and women aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2}

% victims once or more, in last 3 years	MEN				WOMEN				
	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change, 2014/15 to 2015/16?	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16	Statistically significant change, 2014/15 to 2015/16?	
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	0.0	0.1	0.0		0.2	0.0	0.3	
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	0.7	0.6	0.4		0.8	0.3	0.2	
	Deliberately damaged your property	0.3	0.0	0.0		<0.05	0.2	0.2	
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	0.4	0.5	0.5		1.0	0.8	1.4	
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	0.1	0.0	0.9		0.4	0.3	0.3	
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>								
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	0.1	0.0	0.5		0.5	0.1	0.3	
	<i>Severe force</i>								
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	0.6	0.1	0.4		0.6	0.0	0.2	
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.1	0.0	0.0		0.1	0.1	0.0	
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.3	0.0	0.0	
	Threatened to kill you	0.0	0.0	0.1		0.1	0.0	0.1	
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	0.1	0.0	0.0		0.1	0.2	0.3	
Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.3	0.0	0.0		
Used some other kind of force against you	0.2	0.0	0.2		0.2	0.3	0.1		
<i>Unweighted base</i>	876	502	469		1,168	675	627		

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistical significance of change at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed tests) are indicated by a double asterisk (**).

NICS 2011/12 to 2015/16: Experience of Domestic Violence

Table A21: Prevalence of family abuse in the last year among adults aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2}

% victims once or more, last year	NICS 2013/14			NICS 2014/15			NICS 2015/16		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Any family violence or abuse	0.7	1.6	1.2	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.4	1.4	1.0
Non-physical abuse	0.4	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	1.2	0.8
Threats or force	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Threats	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Force	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1
<i>Minor</i>	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Severe</i>	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	869	1,166	2,035	501	674	1,175	467	627	1,094

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. See Table 1 for individual offence types comprising each domestic violence group.

Table A22: Relationship of perpetrator to victim in single worst incident of family abuse (%)¹

Percentage (%)	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16
Parent(s)	41.7	-	50.5
Step-parent(s)	2.4	-	1.0
Sibling(s)	26.2	-	28.3
Child(ren)	8.9	-	1.0
Other relative(s)	20.8	-	19.2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	91	49	53

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

Table A23: Influence of alcohol in single worst incident of family abuse (%)¹

Percentage (%)	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16
Victim use of alcohol			
Did not drink any alcohol	94.6	90.0	94.4
Knowingly drank alcohol	4.2	10.0	3.7
Suspect given alcohol without knowing ²	1.2	0.0	1.9
Perpetrator under the influence of alcohol			
Yes	26.0	27.7	35.6
No	66.7	60.5	53.8
Don't know	7.3	11.8	10.6
<i>Unweighted base</i> ³	120	67	75

1. Results exclude don't knows (where appropriate) and refusals.

2. Includes being given 'more' or 'stronger' alcohol without victim knowing at the time of the incident.

3. Unweighted base refers to perpetrator under the influence of alcohol. The base for victim use of alcohol will be similar.

NICS 2011/12 to 2015/16: Experience of Domestic Violence

Table A24: How long ago the single worst incident of family abuse took place (%)¹

Percentage (%)	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	NICS 2015/16
Last 12 months	16.7	8.7	16.7
Between 1-3 years ago	12.7	9.6	11.9
Between 3-5 years ago	12.7	16.5	5.6
Between 5-10 years ago	12.7	36.5	19.0
Between 10-20 years ago	17.2	15.7	15.1
More than 20 years ago	27.9	13.0	31.7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	117	65	72

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

Table A25: Prevalence of any domestic abuse (partner or family) among adults aged 16-64 (%)¹

% victims once or more	NICS 2013/14			NICS 2014/15			NICS 2015/16		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Lifetime	12.1	20.6	16.9	11.4	20.3	16.3	12.8	18.9	16.2
Last 3 years	5.6	8.4	7.1	4.2	8.2	6.4	5.0	7.7	6.5
Last year	2.6	4.7	3.8	2.1	4.0	3.1	1.3	3.9	2.8
<i>Unweighted base</i> ²	889	1,199	2,088	521	697	1,218	480	646	1,126

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Unweighted base refers to 'lifetime' abuse. Bases for 'last 3 years' and 'last year' will be similar.

Table A26: Perceptions of whether the government and other agencies are doing enough about domestic violence (%)¹

Percentage (%)	NICS 2013/14			NICS 2014/15			NICS 2015/16		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Enough	26.8	17.6	21.6	20.3	18.0	19.1	24.1	18.6	21.0
Too little	34.0	38.6	36.6	34.9	36.0	35.5	31.6	40.7	36.6
Too much	1.5	0.9	1.2	1.6	0.3	0.9	2.4	0.6	1.4
Don't know	37.7	42.9	40.6	43.1	45.7	44.5	42.0	40.1	41.0
<i>Unweighted base</i>	929	1,230	2,159	544	705	1,249	505	665	1,170

1. Results exclude refusals to answer the question.

Table A27: Adult victims of any domestic abuse in the last 3 years, by demographic characteristics (%)¹

	Partner abuse		Family abuse		Any domestic abuse		Unweighted bases ²	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
ALL ADULTS	2.5	5.9	2.5	2.4	5.0	7.7	510	669
Age								
16-24	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	56	71				
25-34	3.6	7.6	<i>n</i> <100	3.3	<i>n</i> <100	9.2	103	156
35-44	4.7	7.1	2.2	2.6	<i>n</i> <100	9.4	108	158
45-54	2.7	4.1	2.2	1.7	4.8	5.5	128	154
55-64	0.5	3.5	0.0	1.4	0.5	4.7	115	130
Religion								
Catholic	2.1	6.6	3.9	2.3	5.9	8.2	195	279
Protestant	2.5	3.6	1.8	1.5	4.6	4.7	235	333
Living arrangements (respondent)								
Living as a couple	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.2	2.7	2.2	289	343
Not living as a couple	4.6	13.4	4.5	4.3	8.9	16.4	221	326
Married	1.4	0.7	1.5	1.0	3.0	1.8	256	312
Not married:	3.9	12.2	3.8	4.2	7.6	15.3	254	357
Single	4.0	11.6	5.4	4.1	9.0	14.6	158	225
Cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed	<i>n</i> <100	13.4	<i>n</i> <100	4.4	<i>n</i> <100	16.6	96	132
Disability or illness								
Long-standing illness or disability	2.9	7.3	2.1	8.0	4.8	13.6	121	146
Limits activities	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	88	99				
Does not limit activities	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	33	47				
No long-standing illness or disability	2.3	5.5	2.5	1.0	5.0	6.3	389	523
Hours out of home (weekday)								
Less than 3 hours	<i>n</i> <100	6.7	<i>n</i> <100	4.8	<i>n</i> <100	10.4	84	153
3 but less than 7 hours	4.4	5.3	0.9	2.3	4.7	7.4	110	226
7 hours or more	2.0	5.9	3.0	1.5	5.3	6.8	316	290
Evening visits to the pub								
None	2.7	5.8	2.7	2.7	5.6	7.8	228	344
Less than once a week	1.8	5.9	0.7	1.8	2.5	7.0	211	278
Once a week or more	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	71	47				
Household type³								
HRP aged under 60:								
Single adult & child(ren)	<i>n</i> <100	22.5	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	27.5	7	111
Adults & child(ren)	1.6	3.1	3.7	0.9	5.4	4.2	172	202
No children	3.0	5.6	2.2	3.9	5.1	8.2	267	274
HRP aged 60+	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	64	82				
Household income								
Less than £15,000	3.9	15.3	<i>n</i> <100	4.9	<i>n</i> <100	19.3	109	193
£15,000 less than £30,000	4.6	3.9	2.0	1.7	7.1	5.8	150	202
£30,000 less than £45,000	<i>n</i> <100	1.6	<i>n</i> <100	2.5	<i>n</i> <100	4.1	96	118
£45,000 or more	0.4	5.5	0.0	2.0	0.5	5.7	105	106
Tenure								
Owner-occupied	1.2	3.7	1.6	1.5	2.9	4.6	314	391
Social rented	<i>n</i> <100	17.8	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	79	104
Private rented	4.3	6.2	5.3	2.5	9.9	8.9	117	174
Area type								
Belfast	3.7	6.9	3.0	4.1	6.2	9.4	180	237
Urban, excluding Belfast	2.3	7.1	3.7	3.1	6.4	9.6	155	211
All Urban	3.0	7.0	3.3	3.6	6.3	9.5	335	448
Rural	1.6	4.0	1.1	0.5	2.8	4.8	174	219
Perceived level of ASB⁴								
High	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	44	89				
Low	2.3	5.2	2.5	1.8	5.0	6.7	448	558
Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank⁵								
1st quintile (most deprived)	<i>n</i> <100	5.9	<i>n</i> <100	3.1	<i>n</i> <100	8.5	89	143
2nd quintile	3.2	7.4	<i>n</i> <100	0.9	<i>n</i> <100	8.4	101	122
3rd quintile	3.3	5.8	<i>n</i> <100	3.0	<i>n</i> <100	8.1	106	140
4th quintile	0.0	6.6	<i>n</i> <100	2.5	<i>n</i> <100	7.2	102	129
5th quintile (least deprived)	1.3	4.0	0.9	2.4	2.3	6.7	111	134

Source: NICS 2015/16

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Unweighted bases refer to partner abuse. Other bases will be similar.
3. HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
4. ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to seven questions on perceptions of ASB in the local area).
5. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).
6. Results by Policing District, which were included within the 2008/09 to 2010/11 publication, are not included in this edition due to small numbers.

TECHNICAL ANNEX

Sampling and fieldwork

With effect from April 2014 the target achieved sample size of the NICS was reduced from 3,500 interviews to 2,000 interviews. This reduction was occasioned by the need to make savings generally in the levels of Departmental spending. The initial NICS 2015/16 sample consisted of 3,375 addresses, randomly selected from the Land and Property Services domestic property database. Visits to each address by an interviewer from the NISRA Central Survey Unit resulted in an eligible sample of 2,960 occupied addresses, from which attempts were made to interview one randomly selected adult respondent at each address.

Selecting only one person at each address means that individuals living in large households have a lower chance of being included in the sample than those living in small households. Accordingly, the data presented in this publication have been weighted by household size to prevent a bias towards smaller households.

In January 2005, the NICS began operating on a continuous basis. This bulletin refers primarily to fieldwork undertaken during the financial year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, which involved complete interviews with 1,975 people aged 16 years and over. This represents an eligible response rate of 67%. The interviews typically lasted just under an hour for non-victims, although those involving respondents who disclosed several crimes could last much longer.

Of the 1,449 NICS 2015/16 respondents aged between 16 and 64 years, 240 refused to participate in the domestic violence self-completion module, resulting in a final sample size of 1,209. Rather than the sensitivity of the topic, the main reasons given for non-participation in the domestic violence module related to unease of the respondent in using a laptop without assistance or to time constraints (linked to the module location at the end the interview).

Respondents were assured in advance that any information they provided would be treated as entirely confidential and that the level of detail produced in publications or in any subsequent analyses would not allow for identification of individuals. Given the sensitivity of the topic, respondents were given the option to skip questions they did not wish to answer.

Rounding, error and statistical significance

Don't knows (where appropriate), refusals and non-valid responses have been excluded from the analyses. Percentages may not always sum to 100 due to the effect of rounding or because respondents could give more than one response.

Due to a combination of both sampling and non-sampling error, any sample is unlikely to reflect precisely the characteristics of the population.

Because NICS estimates are subject to sampling error, differences between estimates from successive years of the survey or between population subgroups may occur by chance. Statistical significance tests are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance.

For the purposes of this bulletin, where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, these have been reported at the 5% ($p < 0.05$) level of probability (two-tailed tests). This means that, for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant, one can be 95% confident that this has not happened by chance.

Due to the reduction in the sample size in recent years and subsequent reduction in base numbers, results which would have been included within the previous bulletin, such as some findings for male respondents and socio-demographic sub-groups, are no longer published. Some findings may also present as zero but this does not necessarily suggest there was no occurrence of domestic violence or abuse among this group. These findings are based on the selected sample in which none of the respondents in 2015/16 reported having been a victim of the offence types covered.

Further information on the 2015/16 sweep of the NICS is contained within the NICS 2015/16 Technical Report (forthcoming, via the Northern Ireland Department of Justice website: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-crime-survey>).

NICS 2011/12 to 2015/16: Experience of Domestic Violence

Table B1: Sample profile for NICS 2015/16 domestic violence module (adults aged 16-64)

Group	Sub-group	Unweighted number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Sex	Men	524	43	45
	Women	685	57	55
Age group	16-24	130	11	15
	25-34	264	22	20
	35-44	272	22	21
	45-54	290	24	25
	55-64	253	21	20
Religion	Catholic	485	40	41
	Protestant	586	48	48
Area type	Belfast	428	35	33
	Urban, excluding Belfast	376	31	30
	Urban	804	67	62
	Rural	402	33	38
Policing district	Antrim and Newtownabbey	113	9	10
	Ards and North Down	104	9	8
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	136	11	12
	Belfast	254	21	18
	Causeway Coast and Glens	106	9	9
	Derry City and Strabane	81	7	7
	Fermanagh and Omagh	74	6	7
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	92	8	8
	Mid and East Antrim	92	8	8
	Mid Ulster	39	3	4
	Newry, Mourne and Down	116	10	9
Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank	1st quintile (most deprived)	236	20	17
	2nd quintile	232	19	19
	3rd quintile	254	21	22
	4th quintile	238	20	21
	5th quintile (least deprived)	247	20	22

1. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2010 Multiple Deprivation Measure).

Figure B1: Map of new Northern Ireland Policing Districts



1. New policing districts came into effect 1st April 2015.

Department of Justice

Analytical Services Group

Laganside House

23-27 Oxford Street

Belfast

BT1 3LA

Email: statistics.research@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9072 4554

www.justice-ni.gov.uk