

Cultural attitudes to domestic abuse. (Police attitudes and reflection of attitudes of the general public)

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Cultural Attitudes: Brief Outline

- Domestic violence is a term normally used to describe the abuse of power within a relationship Dobash (1992). The abuse can manifest itself in many forms which can be physical, emotional and destruction of self-esteem.
- According to Wakim et al (2009), there is a general sensitivity towards domestic violence and historically police are unwilling to intervene. Women are more likely than men to experience domestic abuse across all headline types of abuse (Office for National Statistics 2014).

Summary of Main Findings

- 1 in 4 women in England and Wales will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes and 8% will suffer domestic violence in any given year (Crime Survey of England and Wales, 2013/14)
- Worldwide, 1 in 3 women will experience violence at the hands of a male partner (State of the World's Fathers Report, MenCare, 2015)
- Domestic violence has a higher rate of repeat victimization and recidivism than any other crime (Home Office, July 2002)
- On average, a woman is assaulted 35 times before her first call to the police (Jaffe, 1982). This study has however been challenged elsewhere Strang et al (2014).
- At least 2 women are killed every year in England and Wales by current or former partner (ONS 2015)

Summary of Main Findings

- Cost to society up to £15.9 billion a year Walby (2009)
- Long term psychological impacts on victim and family Horley (2002)
- Most research is victim based but there is need to research police cultural attitudes Taylor (1998)
- Negative effect on the wellbeing of children (Refuge (2016))
- Police discretion had negative effect of legitimacy Myhill et al (2015)
- Some officers view domestic violence as a civil matter Holdaway (1983)
- ‘New managerialism’. Target driven polices has also affected police attitudes Cockcroft (2012)
- Police occupational culture Skolnick (1996)

Gaps in Knowledge

- Lack of practitioners accounts i.e. police officer publications.
- A lot of publications lack UK context (majority of publications are American or Australian).

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