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Statistics and Research Branch

**Experience of Domestic
Violence:
Findings from the
2008/09 to 2010/11
Northern Ireland
Crime Surveys**

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R Freel

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Produced by Statistics and Research Branch,
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For further information write to:

**Statistics and Research Branch
Department of Justice
Knockview Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SL**

Telephone: 028 9052 2658

Email: statistics.research@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

This bulletin is available on the Internet at:

www.dojni.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 2010/11 estimate that 15.7% of people aged 16-64 have experienced at least one form of domestic violence, by a partner, since age 16, with women (19.3%) displaying a higher prevalence rate than men (11.5%).
- ◆ NICS 2010/11 results also estimate that around one-in-twenty adults (5.2%) experienced at least one form of partner violence and abuse within the last three years, a similar proportion to that observed in both NICS 2008/09 (6.4%) and 2009/10 (6.3%).
- ◆ At 6.9% in NICS 2010/11, women were over twice as likely as men (3.2%) 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 (5.6% v 2.7%); threats (1.9% v 0.2%); and force (3.5% v 0.8%).
- ◆ When identified victims were asked to consider their 'worst' single incident of partner violence and abuse, NICS 2010/11 findings show that around four-fifths (83%) 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 (35.9%) or husband (31.8%).
- ◆ The police in Northern Ireland were only made aware of around one-third of all 'worst' cases of domestic partner abuse (31.1% in NICS 2010/11), meaning that they were unaware of the experiences of seven-in-ten victims (68.9%).
- ◆ While most victims did consider their worst incident of partner abuse to be a criminal offence (56.2% in NICS 2010/11), over two-fifths did not, with around a quarter (28.8%) believing it was 'wrong, but not a crime' and a further one-in-seven accepting it as 'just something that happens' (12.6%).
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2010/11 also estimate that 6.2% 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, with women (7.7%) displaying a higher prevalence rate than men (4.5%).

NICS 2008/09 to 2010/11: Experience of Domestic Violence

- ◆ NICS 2010/11 results also indicate that 2.6% of adults were victims of domestic violence and abuse by a family member within the last three years, with no significant difference in the estimated rates for women (3.2%) and men (1.9%).
- ◆ NICS 2010/11 results show that parents (56.6%) were most likely, with step-parents (3.4%) and children (4.9%) 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 2010/11 results estimate that, overall, around one-in-five adults (19.0%) had experienced some form of domestic violence and abuse since the age of 16, a proportion that drops to 7.0% within the last 3 years.
- ◆ For women, the risk of partner abuse (26.6%), and any domestic abuse (partner or family; 30.8%), was at its highest among single adults with children who displayed prevalence rates significantly above the respective NICS 2010/11 averages of 6.9% and 9.2%.
- ◆ Findings indicate that around two-fifths of respondents (38.2% in NICS 2010/11) believed that the government and other agencies are doing 'too little' about domestic violence, a rate almost twice that of those who think 'enough' is being done (21.1%).

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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 some 4,000 adults per year 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;
- ◆ understand the nature and extent of 'worst' incidents of domestic violence (as determined by the victim); and
- ◆ identify the characteristics and circumstances of recent victims and the risk factors associated with domestic violence.

While the bulletin focuses, primarily, on output from the 2010/11 sweep of the NICS, results derived from NICS 2008/09 and 2009/10 are also presented for the first time.

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).

The joint (Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety and Northern Ireland Office) strategy for addressing domestic violence and abuse in Northern Ireland, '*Tackling Violence at Home*', defines domestic violence as:

"threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on one person by another where they are or have been intimate partners or family members, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation"

(DHSSPS & NIO, 2005)

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 3,050 NICS 2010/11 respondents aged between 16 and 64 years, 617 refused to participate in the domestic violence self-completion module, resulting in a final sample size of 2,433 (c.f. 1,984 in 2008/09; 2,547 in 2009/10). 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. Leaflets on services available to victims of crime were also given to each NICS respondent.

1.4 Analysing the data

Findings from the NICS 2010/11 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. policing district (see Technical Annex for details);
13. perceived level of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the local area; and
14. 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 experience of crime (Toner and Freel, 2013), perceptions of crime (Campbell and Freel, 2013) and the night-time economy (Toner and Freel, 2012) are published separately and can be accessed via the DoJ website: <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm>.

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 levels of crime and public attitudes to crime. Its results play an important role in informing and monitoring government policies and targets, such as, strategies relating to public confidence, crime reduction and community safety.

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 drug misuse and 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 PSNI Crime Statistics User Guide: http://www.psni.police.uk/user_guide.pdf.

For the most part, the NICS interviewer-administered modules are based on the CSEW questionnaire. However, 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 on the NICS, covering issues such as sample design and methodology, is contained within the NICS User Guide, Quality and Technical Reports, available from the DoJ website:

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm>.

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.

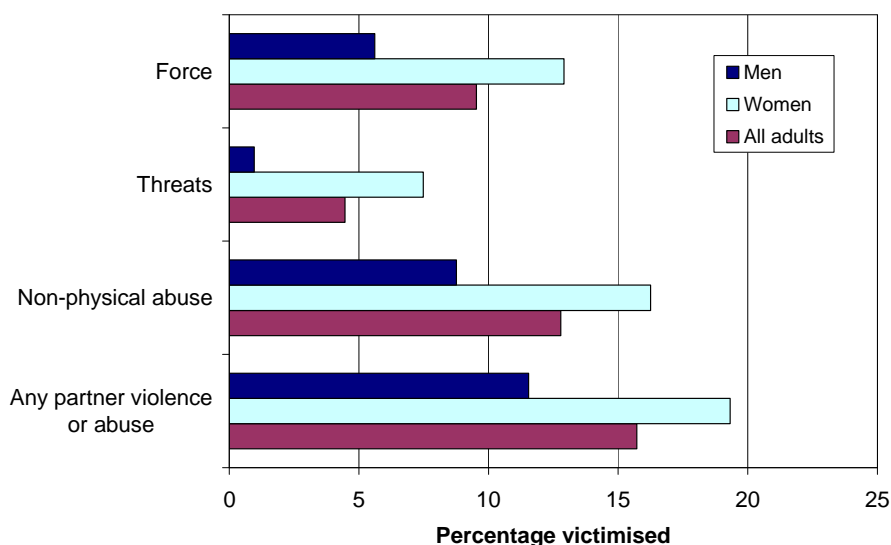
2.1 Lifetime experience of partner violence and abuse

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 2010/11 estimate that 15.7% 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 19.3% in 2010/11, women were much more likely than men (11.5%) 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 (12.8% in 2010/11) displayed the highest prevalence rate, ahead of physical force (9.5%) and frightening threats (4.5%) (Table A1; Figure 2.1).
- ◆ NICS 2010/11 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 (16.3% v 8.8%); threats (7.5% v 1.0%); and force (12.9% v 5.6%) (Table A1; Figure 2.1).

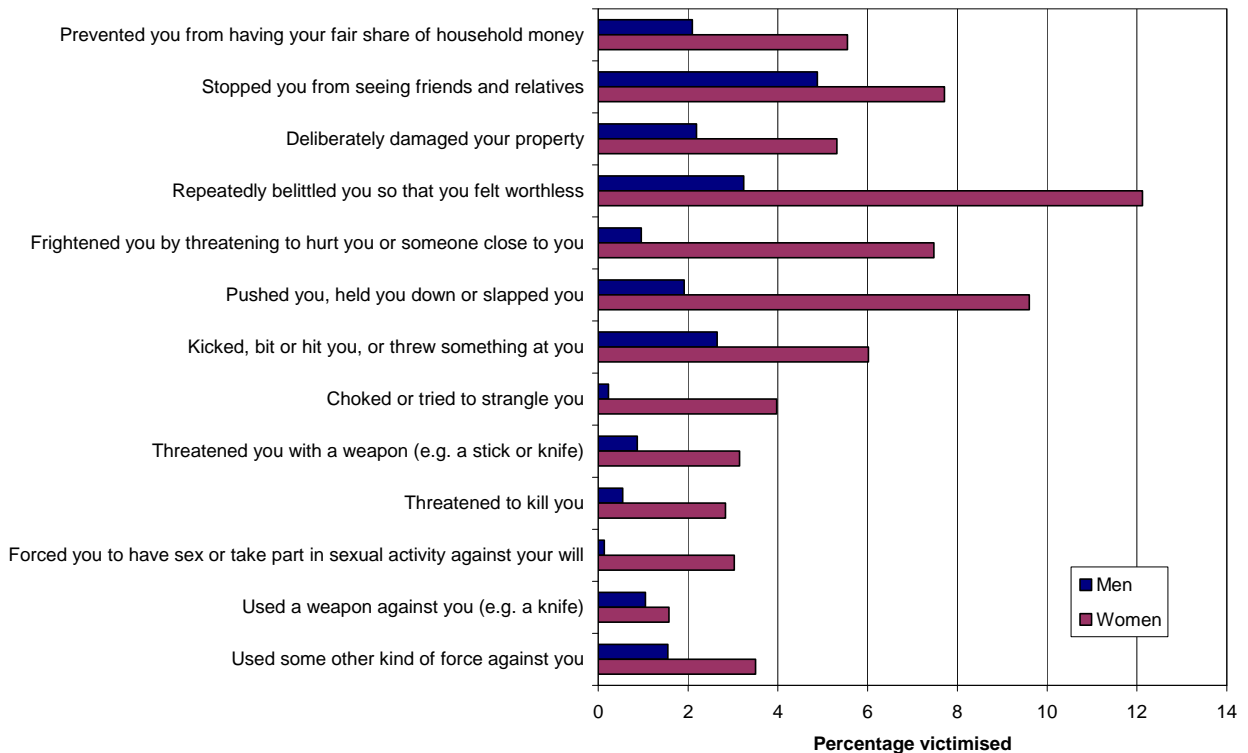
Figure 2.1: Lifetime experience of partner abuse by offence group (%)



Source: NICS 2010/11

- ◆ When consideration is given to individual offence types (as opposed to groups) a similar gender difference emerges. With the exception of ‘used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)’ (1.0% of men v 1.6% of women), the lifetime prevalence rates of partner abuse displayed by women were significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) than those for men. The greatest disparity in each NICS sweep (2008/09 to 2010/11) was found in the proportions who had been forced to have sex or take part in a sexual activity against their will (3.0% of women v 0.1% of men; NICS 2010/11) (Table A2; Figure 2.2).

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



Source: NICS 2010/11

2.1.1 Lifetime partner abuse reported to the police

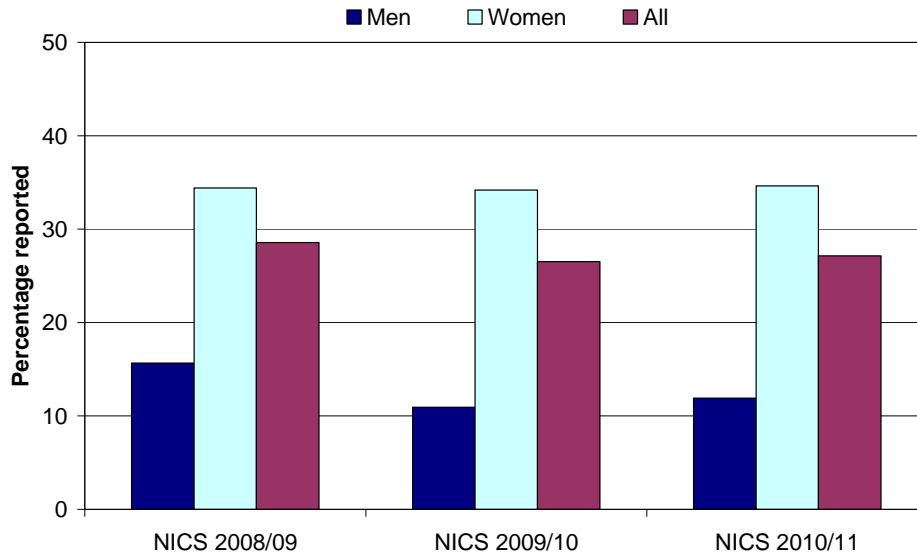
Given the often on-going nature of domestic violence, which frequently escalates over time, it is perhaps more useful to know the proportion of victims that the police are aware of rather than merely the percentage of individual incidents (Mirrlees-Black, 1999). In turn, NICS participants who had experienced 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 in recent years through a multi-phased advertising campaign entitled ‘*Domestic abuse can only stop when you report it*’.

- ◆ Table A3 and Figure 2.3 illustrate that the police are unaware of almost three-quarters of all lifetime victims of partner abuse identified through the NICS, with only 27.1% of NICS 2010/11 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 a third (34.6%) of female victims, compared with around one-tenth (11.9%) 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

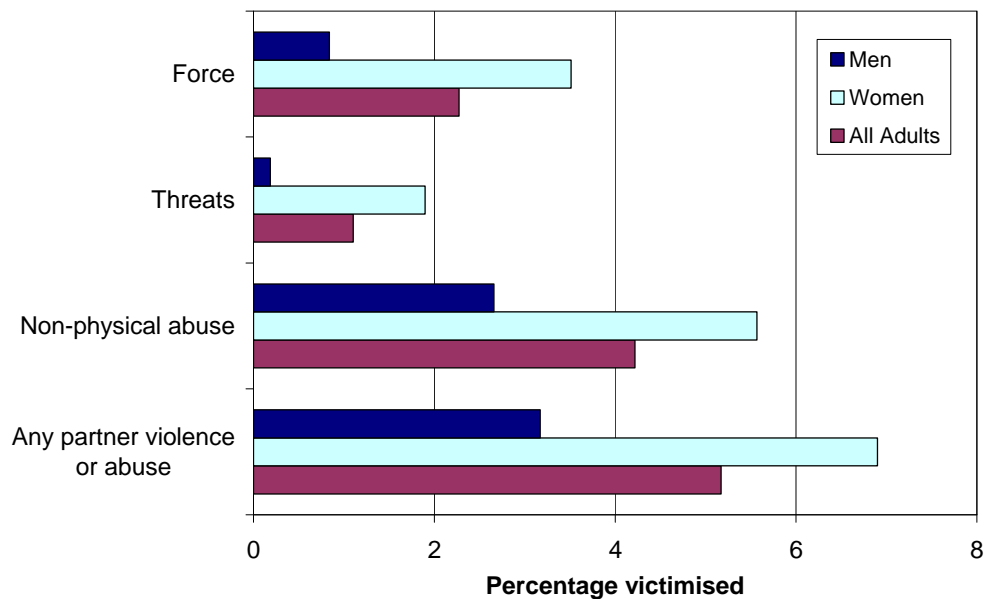
To reflect the fact that people’s circumstances, lifestyles and, thus, associated levels of risk of domestic violence change over time it is important to examine the experience of domestic abuse in recent years. Due to sample size limitations, and to enable meaningful socio-demographic analyses to take place, 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, although last year prevalence rates have been calculated at a headline level for domestic offence groups.

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 5.2% in NICS 2010/11, results estimate that around one-in-twenty 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 2008/09 (6.4%) and 2009/10 (6.3%) (Table A4; Figure 2.4).
- ◆ Similar to findings based on lifetime prevalence of partner abuse (Section 2.1), NICS 2010/11 respondents were more likely to have reported experiencing non-physical abuse within the last 3 years (4.2%) than either physical force (2.3%) or frightening threats (1.1%) (Table A4; Figure 2.4).

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



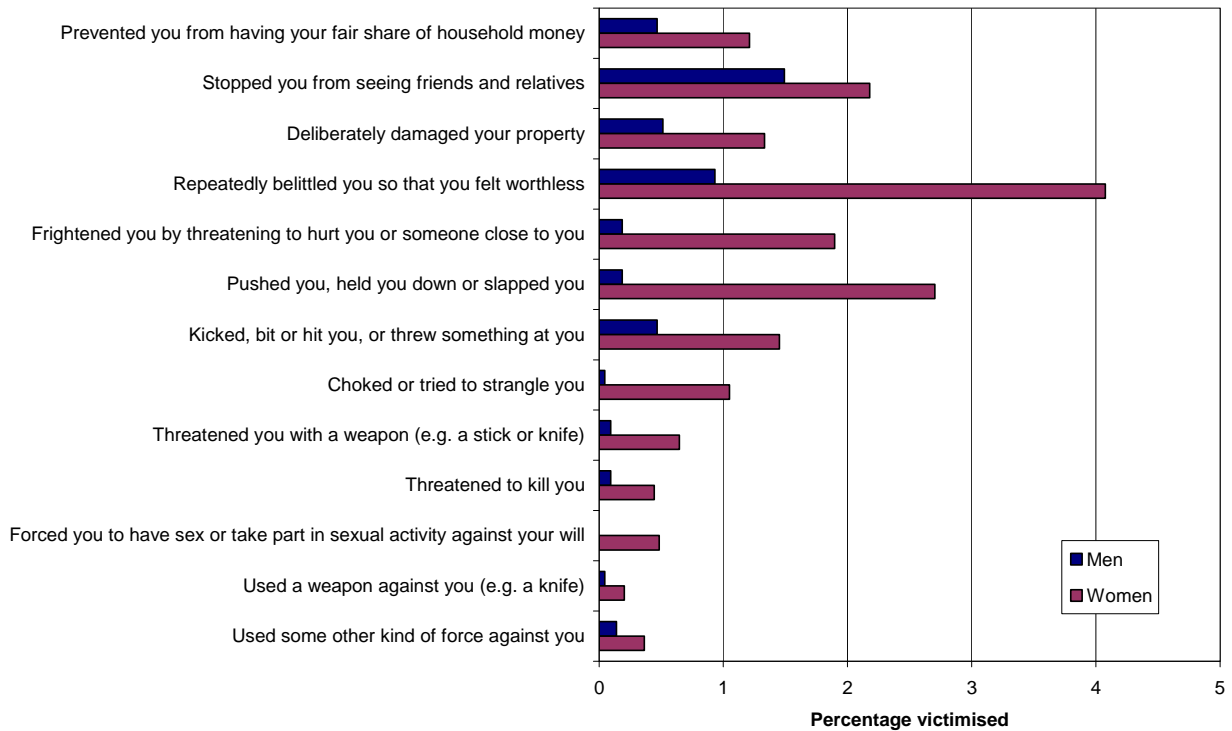
Source: NICS 2010/11

- ◆ NICS results suggest that the prevalence rate for partner ‘threats or force’ (combined) within the last three years has fallen ($p < 0.05$) from 3.6% in 2008/09 to 2.4% in 2010/11 (Table A4). Much of this decrease can be attributed to a reduction in the male prevalence rate of force, which fell from 2.2% to 0.8% over the same period (Table A5).

Findings from each sweep of the NICS (2008/09 to 2010/11) consistently show that women were more likely than men to have experienced recent (last 3 years) domestic abuse by a partner across the various offence groups examined (Table A5). This is in contrast to findings on overall violent crime victimisation from face-to-face NICS interviews which show that men, and in particular young men, were much more likely than their female counterparts to have been a victim of violent crime *per se* (Toner and Freel, 2011).

- ◆ At 6.9% in NICS 2010/11, women were over twice as likely as men (3.2%) 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 (5.6% v 2.7%); threats (1.9% v 0.2%); and force (3.5% v 0.8%) (Table A5; Figure 2.4).
- ◆ The apparent gender differences in recent (last 3 years) partner victimisation, as shown in Table A7 and Figure 2.5, were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) with women displaying higher prevalence rates than men in seven of the 13 offence types examined:
 - repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless (4.1% v 0.9%);
 - frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close to you (1.9% v 0.2%);
 - pushed you, held you down or slapped you (2.7% v 0.2%);
 - kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you (1.5% v 0.5%);
 - choked or tried to strangle you (1.0% v <0.05%);
 - threatened you with a weapon, e.g. a stick or knife (0.6% v 0.1%); and
 - forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts) (0.5% v 0.0%).

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



Source: NICS 2010/11

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 2010/11 estimate that 2.6% of adults experienced at least one form of domestic abuse, by a partner, at some point in the last year. This compares with 3.9% in 2008/09 and 3.1% in 2009/10 (Table A8).
- ◆ Last year prevalence of partner violence and abuse reinforce the findings based on ‘lifetime’ and ‘last 3 years’ victimisation rates that: women (3.4%) were more likely than their male counterparts (1.5%) 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 (1.4% and 2.8% 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.

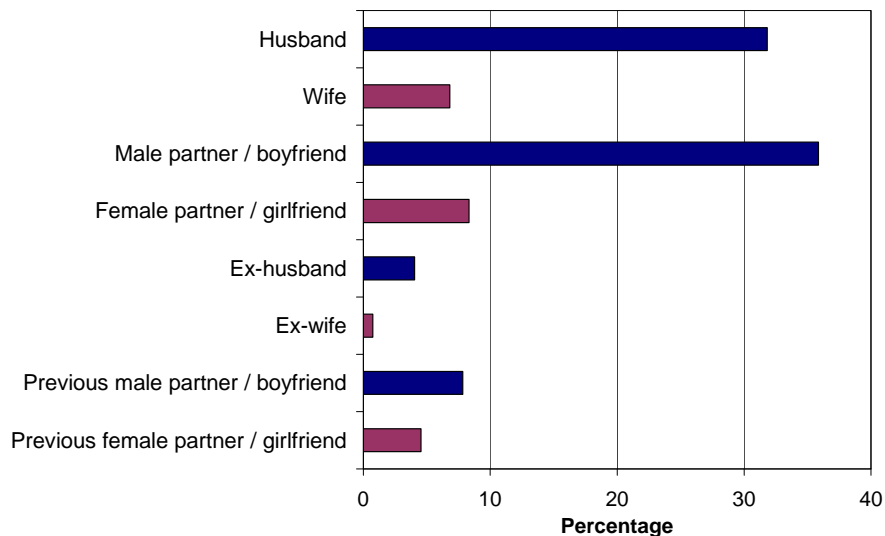
2.3.1 Relationship of perpetrator to victim in ‘worst’ incident of partner abuse

The vast majority of ‘worst incidents’ of partner violence and abuse, ranging from 95% in NICS 2008/09 to 98% in 2010/11, took place within a heterosexual relationship, with around four-fifths 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 four-fifths of all worst cases of partner abuse (83% in NICS 2010/11) were carried out within the setting of a current relationship at the time, with the remainder (17%) 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 (35.9%) or husband (31.8%). These proportions compare with female equivalent rates of 8.3% and 6.8% (respectively) (Table A9; Figure 2.6).
- ◆ Findings indicate that in four-fifths (80%) of all worst incidents of partner abuse identified through NICS 2010/11, the assailants were male (Table A9; Figure 2.6).

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



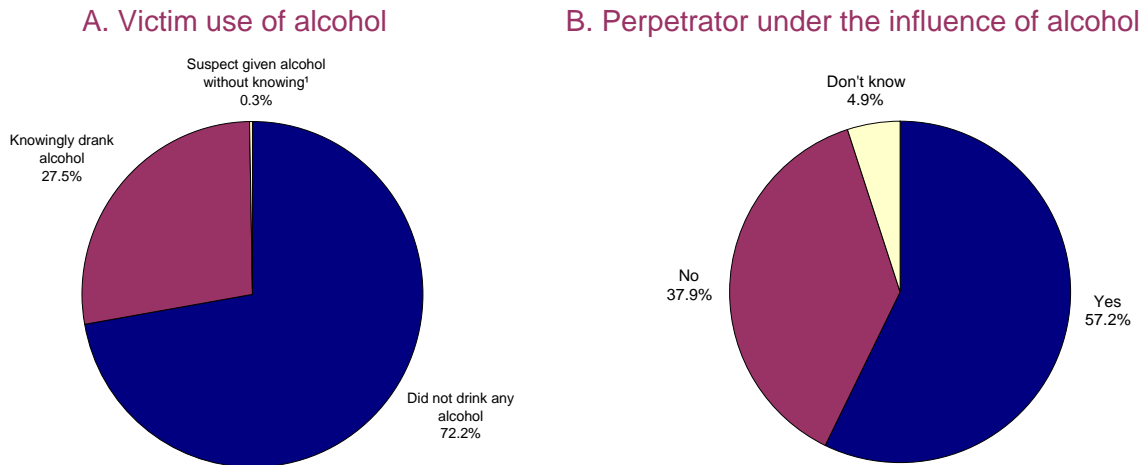
Source: NICS 2010/11

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 (Finney, 2003; Toner and Freel, 2013). 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.

- ◆ Around three-quarters of NICS victims (75.8% in 2009/10 and 72.2% in 2010/11) 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 2009/10 (44.6%) and 2010/11 (57.2%) suggest that in around half 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 (%)



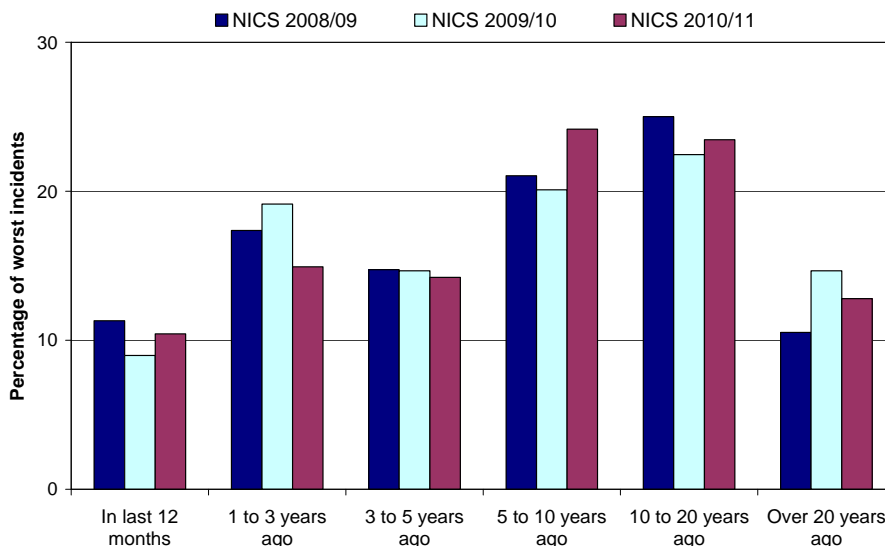
1. Includes being given 'more' or 'stronger' alcohol without victim knowing.

Source: NICS 2010/11

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 (48% in 2010/11), while for a further 13% it was more than two decades ago. However, for around one-in-ten (10.4%), 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 (%)

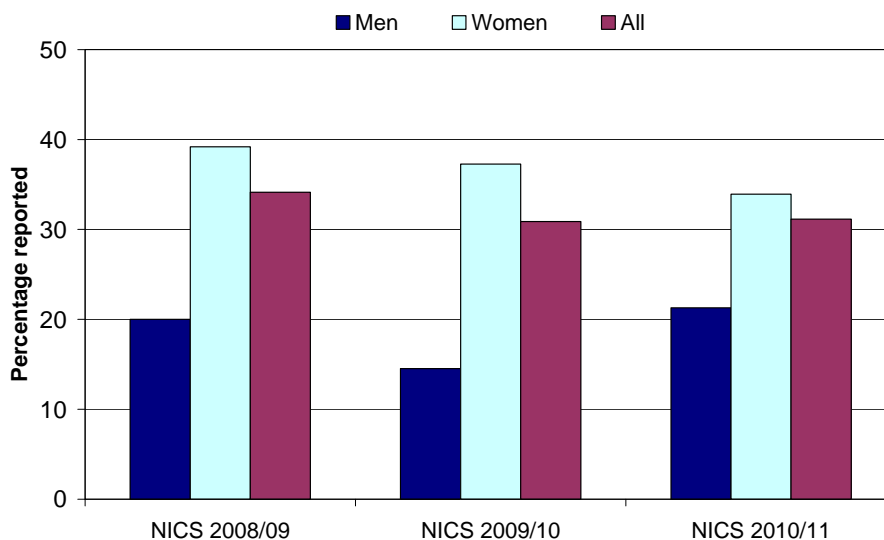


2.3.4 Reporting the ‘worst’ incident of partner abuse to the police

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 around one-third of all worst cases of domestic partner abuse (31.1% in NICS 2010/11), meaning that they were unaware of the experiences of seven-in-ten NICS victims (68.9%) (Table A12; Figure 2.9).
- ◆ Levels of reporting of the worst incident varied considerably by gender of victim. Mirroring the trend in lifetime reporting (Section 2.1.1), the police were more likely to know about domestic violence against women than men, with the greatest difference apparent in NICS 2009/10 when the reporting rate for female victims (37.3%) was more than twice that of males (14.5%) (Table A12; Figure 2.9).

Figure 2.9: Proportion of worst incidents of partner abuse reported to police (%)



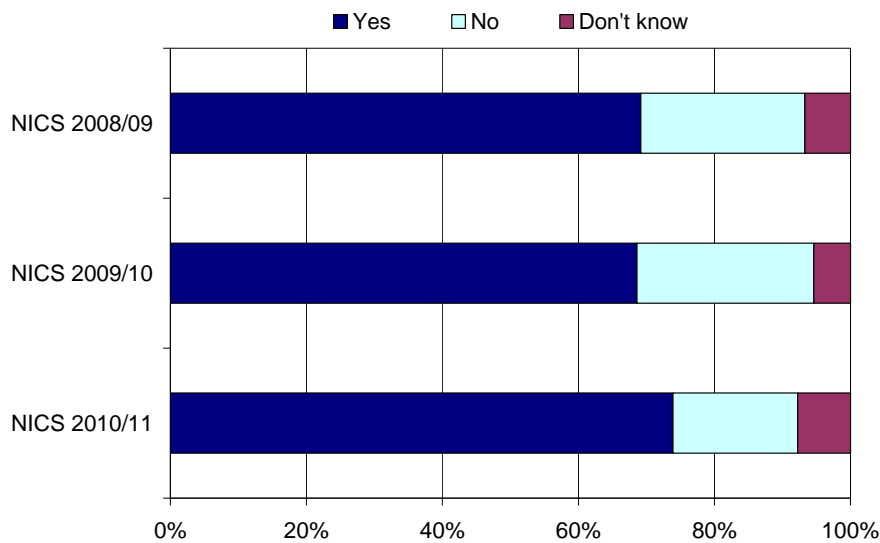
2.3.5 Victims’ perceptions of domestic violence

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 (73.9% in 2010/11), around a fifth to a quarter of victims (ranging from 18.4% in 2010/11 to 26% in 2009/10) did not believe that their experience constituted domestic violence (Table A13; Figure 2.10).

- ◆ A proportion of victims, ranging from 5.4% (NICS 2009/10) to 7.8% (NICS 2010/11) claimed they did not know if their worst experience of partner abuse could be defined as domestic violence (Table A13; Figure 2.10).
- ◆ Female victims were more likely than their male counterparts to perceive their worst case of partner abuse as domestic violence. At 80.2% in NICS 2010/11, four-fifths of female victims believed their experience amounted to domestic violence, compared with half (51.0%) of men (Table A13).

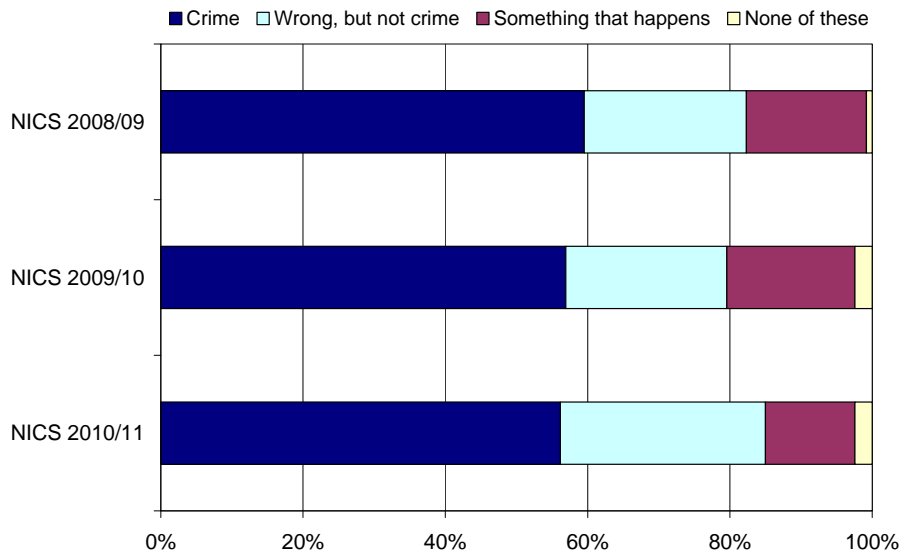
Figure 2.10: Perceptions of whether the worst incident of partner abuse constituted domestic violence (%)



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. Findings are consistent in showing a marked difference in how partner abuse is interpreted by gender with women appearing much more likely than men to consider it a crime.

- ◆ While most victims did consider their worst incident of partner abuse to be a criminal offence (56.2% in NICS 2010/11), over two-fifths did not, with around a quarter (28.8%) believing it was 'wrong, but not a crime' and a further one-in-seven accepting it as 'just something that happens' (12.6%) (Table A14; Figure 2.11).
- ◆ Across each of the three NICS sweeps, female victims were most likely to believe their experience of partner abuse was a crime, ranging from 64% (2010/11) to 70% (2009/10). In contrast, male victims were more likely to view their victimisation as 'wrong, but not a crime' (40.4% in 2010/11) or 'just something that happens' (42.3% in 2008/09; 41.4% in 2009/10) (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' (73.9%) than 'a crime' (56.2%), 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.

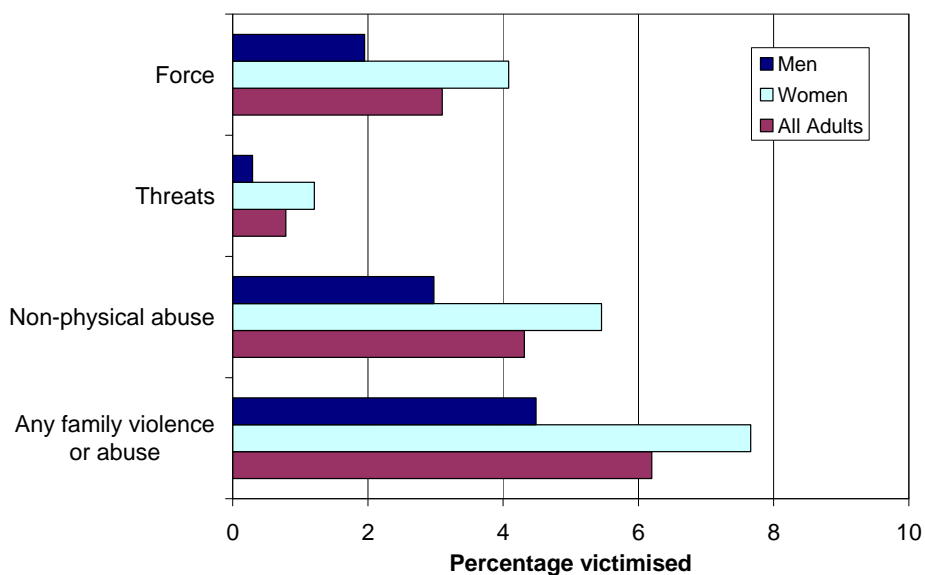
3.1 Lifetime experience of family violence and abuse

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 2010/11 estimate that 6.2% 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 7.7% in NICS 2010/11, women appeared to be at greater risk than men (4.5%) of experiencing some form of family violence or abuse (Table A15; Figure 3.1).
- ◆ Of the three offence groups examined, non-physical abuse (4.3%) displayed the highest (lifetime) prevalence rate for family violence and abuse, ahead of both physical force (3.1%) and frightening threats (0.8%), with female respondents displaying higher rates ($p < 0.05$) than their male counterparts in each of these groups (5.5% v 3.0%; 4.1% v 2.0%; and 1.2% v 0.3% respectively) (Table A15; Figure 3.1).

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

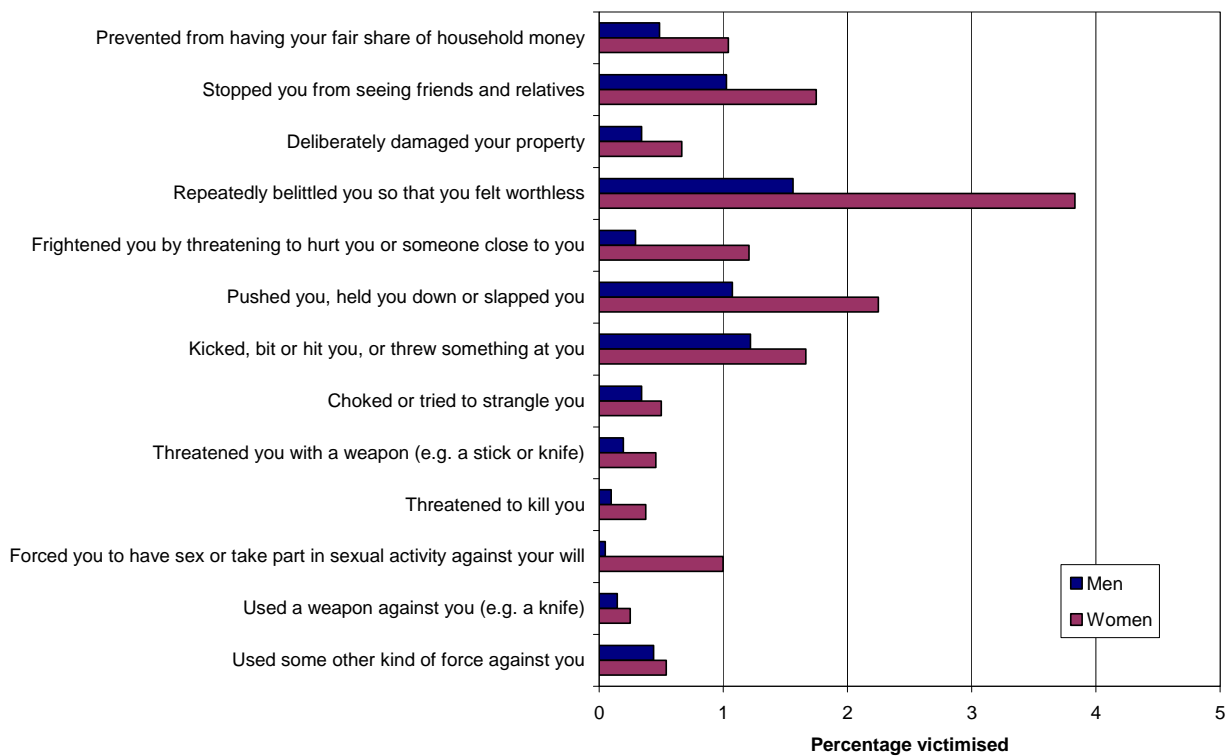


Source: NICS 2010/11

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 6.2% and 15.7% (respectively) being recorded in 2010/11. 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, with respondents most likely to have been a victim of non-physical abuse 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 (Table A16 and Figure 3.2), statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$) were evident, with women displaying higher prevalence rates than men in four of the 13 offence types examined in NICS 2010/11:
 - repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless (3.8% v 1.6%);
 - frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close to you (1.2% v 0.3%);
 - pushed you, held you down or slapped you (2.2% v 1.1%); and
 - forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts) (1.0% v $< 0.05\%$).

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



Source: NICS 2010/11

3.2 Recent experience of family violence and abuse

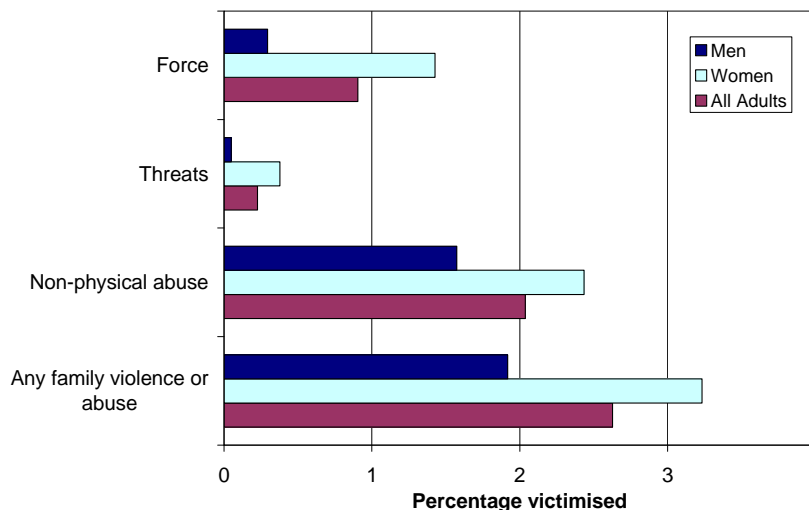
As outlined in Section 2.2, given that an individual's situational circumstances, thus, their susceptibility to domestic victimisation, can change over time, it is important to monitor the prevalence of such violence within a recent, rather than a lifetime, context.

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 2010/11 estimate that 2.6% 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 (Table A17; Figure 3.3).
- ◆ While women (3.2%) appear to be at greater risk than men (1.9%), this difference is not statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). Indeed, within the various offence groups examined, the only significant difference in gender was evident within force, with women (1.4%) displaying a higher prevalence rate than their male counterparts (0.3%) (Table A18; Figure 3.3).
- ◆ At 2.6% in 2010/11, the proportion of adults who had been victims of family violence and abuse within the last three years represented a statistically significant decrease ($p < 0.05$) to that estimated in 2009/10 (4.6%) (Table A17; Figure 3.3).
- ◆ This decrease in the overall prevalence rate of family violence or abuse (from 4.6% to 2.6%) was brought about by a statistically significant reduction ($p < 0.05$) in the rate of non-physical abuse (3.8% in 2009/10 to 2.0% in 2010/11) which, in itself, was largely due to a reduction in the proportion of adults who were 'stopped from seeing friends and relatives (1.4% to 0.6%) over the same period (Tables A17 and A19).
- ◆ At 1.9% in NICS 2010/11, the proportion of men who had experienced at least one type of family violence or abuse in the three years prior to interview had fallen ($p < 0.05$) since first observed in 2009/10 (5.3%) (Table A18; Figure 3.3).
- ◆ Results also show that men were more likely to have been victims of non-physical abuse by a family member (1.6% in 2010/11, down from 4.6% in 2009/10) than any other form of domestic violence examined (Table A18; Figure 3.3).
- ◆ While the overall prevalence rate of family violence and abuse for women showed no real change between NICS 2009/10 (4.0%) and 2010/11 (3.2%), a statistically significant increase ($p < 0.05$) was observed in the prevalence rate of severe force (from 0.3% to 1.0%) (Table A18; Figure 3.3).

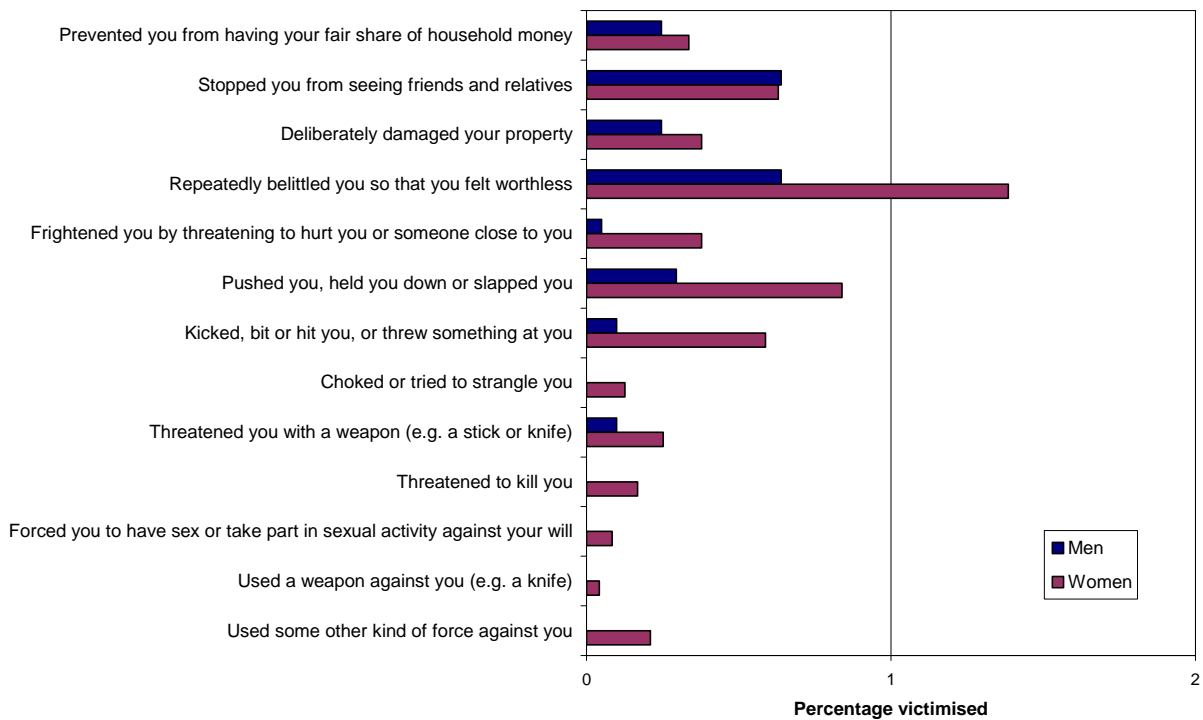
Figure 3.3: Recent (last 3 years) experience of family abuse by offence group (%)



Source: NICS 2010/11

- ◆ The observed decrease in the male prevalence rate of non-physical abuse (from 4.6% in 2009/10 to 1.6% in 2010/11) was strongly influenced by statistically significant reductions ($p < 0.05$) in the rates of both 'stopped you from seeing friends and relatives' (1.9% to 0.6%) and 'deliberately damaged your property' (1.0% to 0.2%) over the same period (Tables A18 and A20; Figure 3.4).
- ◆ In contrast, the statistically significant increase ($p < 0.05$) in the female prevalence rate of severe force, can be largely attributed to the equivalent rise in women claiming to have been 'kicked, bitten, hit, or had something thrown at them', from less than 0.05% in 2009/10 to 0.6% in 2010/11 (Tables A18 and A20; Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4: Recent (last 3 years) experience of family abuse by offence type, by gender (%)



Source: NICS 2010/11

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 2010/11 estimate that 1.6% 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 3.4% in 2009/10 and reflects the decrease observed within the last 3 year prevalence rate outlined in Section 3.2.1 (Tables A17 and A21).

3.3 Nature of 'worst' incident of family abuse

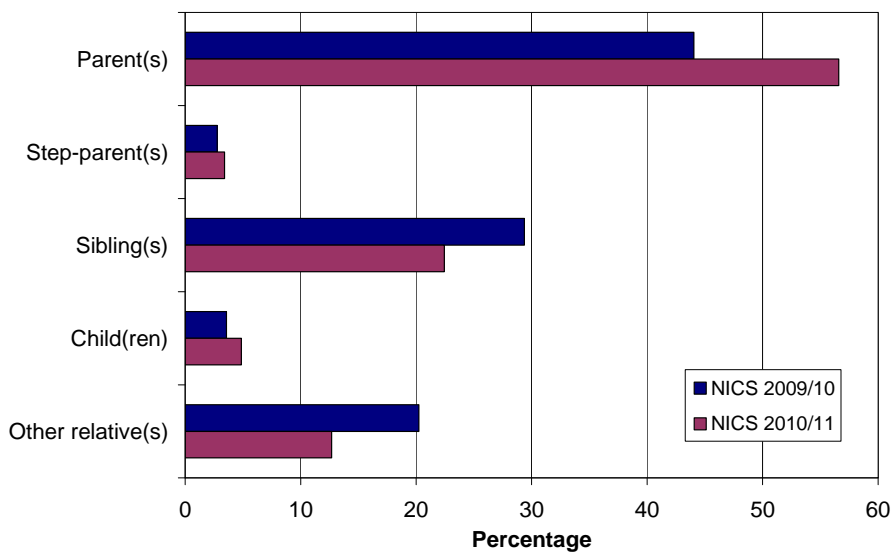
NICS respondents who had reported being a victim of family violence or abuse since age 16 were asked a series of follow-up questions to obtain additional information on the nature of their single worst incident, which may, or may not have been the most recent. While the equivalent questions relating 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

It is apparent from Table A22 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 both NICS 2009/10 (44.0%) and 2010/11 (56.6%) 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 (2.8% in 2009/10 and 3.4% in 2010/11) and children (3.6% and 4.9% respectively) 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 (%)

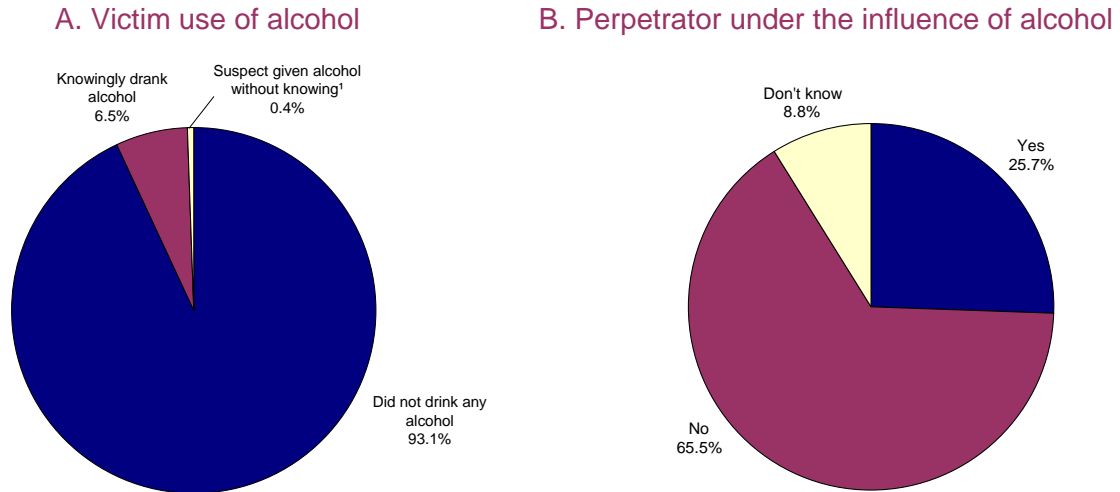


3.3.2 Influence of alcohol in 'worst' incident of family abuse

- ◆ Around nine-in-ten victims (89.4% in NICS 2009/10 and 93.1% in 2010/11) 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, at around two-thirds, the majority of worst incidents of family abuse (65.5% in 2010/11) took place while the assailant was not believed to have been acting under the influence of alcohol (Table A23; Figure 3.6b).

- ◆ In contrast, a quarter of identified victims (25.7% in NICS 2010/11) 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.

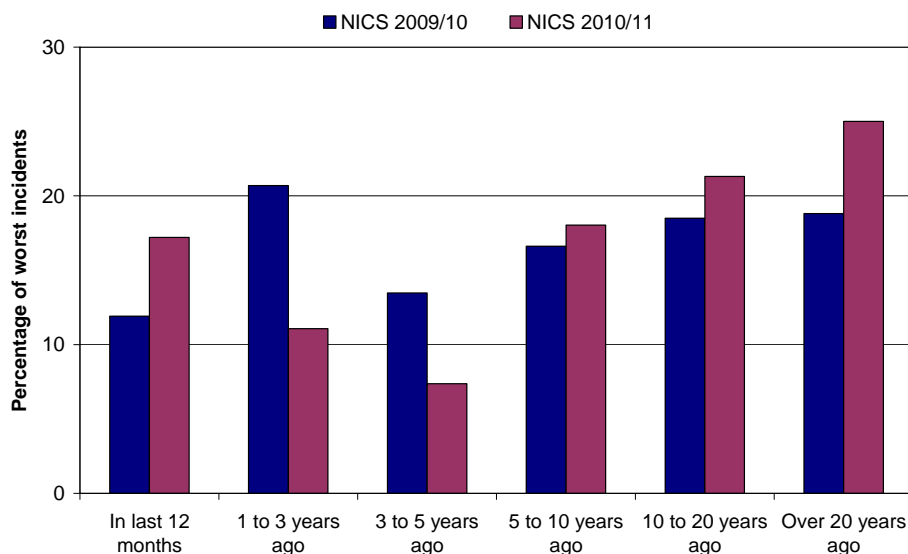
Source: NICS 2010/11

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 2010/11 show that while a quarter (25.0%) of all worst cases of family abuse were carried out more than 20 years ago, almost one-in-five incidents (17.2%) took place within the last 12 months and one-in-three (28.3%) within the last 3 years (Table A24; Figure 3.7).

Figure 3.7: When worst incident of family abuse happened (%)

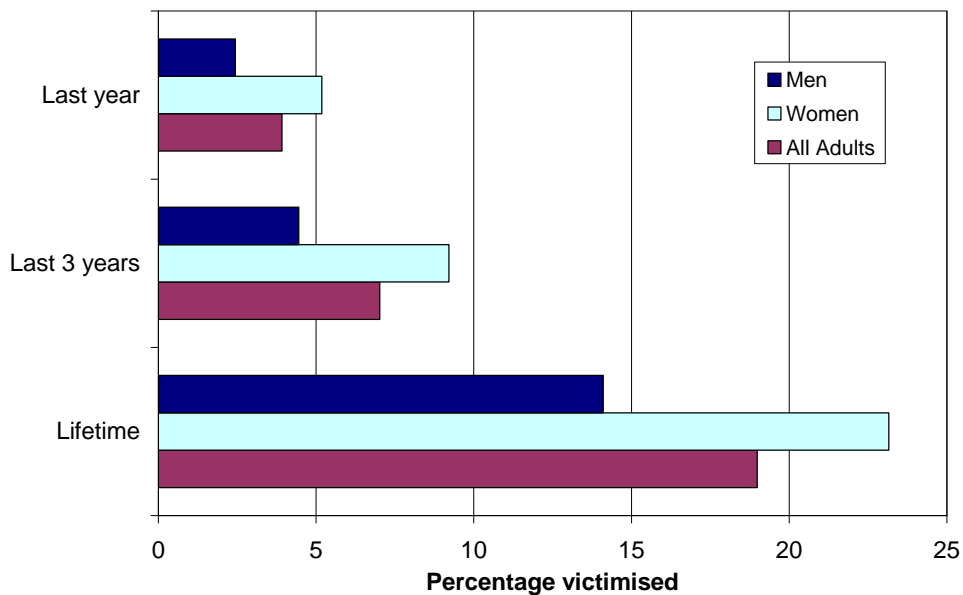


4. EXPERIENCE OF ALL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

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, just under one-in-five adults (19.0% in 2010/11) 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 7.0% when consideration is given to the last 3 years and to 3.9% for the last year (Table A25; Figure 4.1).
- ◆ When results of NICS 2009/10 and 2010/11 are compared, statistically significant reductions ($p < 0.05$) are apparent in the prevalence rates for any domestic abuse during the last 3 years (9.9% to 7.0%) and last year (6.1% to 3.9%), in line with decreases outlined in Section 3 (Table A25).
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2010/11 also show that women were more likely than men ($p < 0.05$) to have experienced any form of domestic violence across each of the three recall periods examined: lifetime (23.2% v 14.1%); last 3 years (9.2% v 4.5%); and last year (5.2% v 2.4%) (Table A25; Figure 4.1).

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



Source: NICS 2010/11

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 (6.9% v 3.2%) and all domestic abuse (9.2% v 4.5%) in the last 3 years, the apparent gender difference in family abuse (3.2% v 1.9%) was not statistically significant at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$).
- ◆ For women, the risk of partner abuse (26.6%), and any domestic violence (partner or family; 30.8%), was at its highest among single parents who displayed prevalence rates significantly above ($p < 0.05$) the respective NICS 2010/11 averages of 6.9% and 9.2% (Table A27).

Consistent with findings from England and Wales, Table A27 suggests that the risk associated with domestic violence generally displays an inverse relationship with age, whereby younger respondents tend to reveal a greater likelihood of victimisation.

- ◆ For women, the risk of domestic abuse was significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) among respondents aged between 16 and 24 than for those within the oldest age group (55 to 64): partner abuse (8.8% v 1.3%); family abuse (5.8% v 0.0%); and all domestic violence (13.6% v 1.4%) (Table A27).
- ◆ Although younger men were also generally more likely than older men to have experienced domestic abuse within the last 3 years, there was no statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in the NICS 2010/11 prevalence rates estimated for partner abuse.

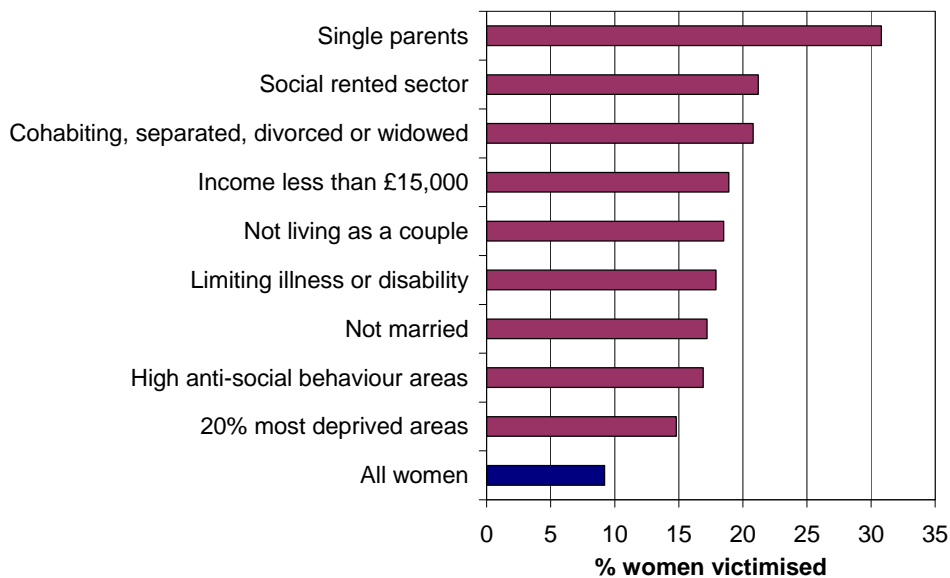
Marital status appears to play a role in the likelihood of an adult suffering domestic abuse, with results indicating that those who were living as a couple or, more specifically, married, typically displaying lower prevalence rates than those who were not.

- ◆ NICS 2010/11 respondents who were married were significantly less likely than their unmarried counterparts ($p < 0.05$) to have experienced some form of domestic abuse in the last 3 years (men: 2.1% v 7.3%; women: 2.7% v 17.2%), with those who were 'cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed' tending to display the highest estimates (Table A27).

Findings from NICS 2010/11 also suggest a tentative relationship between household income and domestic victimisation, with those from lower earning households appearing more likely to have experienced domestic violence within the last 3 years.

- ◆ At 15.3%, female respondents from low income households (under £15,000 per year) displayed a higher prevalence rate for partner abuse than those from all other income groups, contrasting with a low of 3.4% of women in households earning £45,000 or more per year (Table A27).
- ◆ In summary, Table A27 and Figure 5.1 show that females displaying prevalence rates significantly above ($p < 0.05$) the NICS 2010/11 average for any form of domestic violence (from a partner or a wider family member) within the last 3 years were those:
 - single parents (30.8%);
 - living in social-rented accommodation (21.2%);
 - cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed respondents (20.8%);
 - in households with low annual incomes of under £15,000 (18.9%);
 - not living as a couple (18.5%);
 - with an activity-limiting illness or disability (17.9%);
 - not married (17.2%);
 - resident in areas of high anti-social behaviour (16.9%); or
 - located in the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (14.8%).

Figure 5.1: Women most at risk of any domestic abuse in Northern Ireland (%)



Source: NICS 2010/11

- ◆ Table A27 and Figure 5.2 also illustrate that male respondents displaying prevalence estimates for any domestic abuse (last 3 years) significantly above ($p < 0.05$) the NICS 2010/11 average were those:
 - living in private-rented accommodation (9.9%); or
 - not living as a couple (7.7%).

Figure 5.2: Men most at risk of any domestic abuse in Northern Ireland (%)



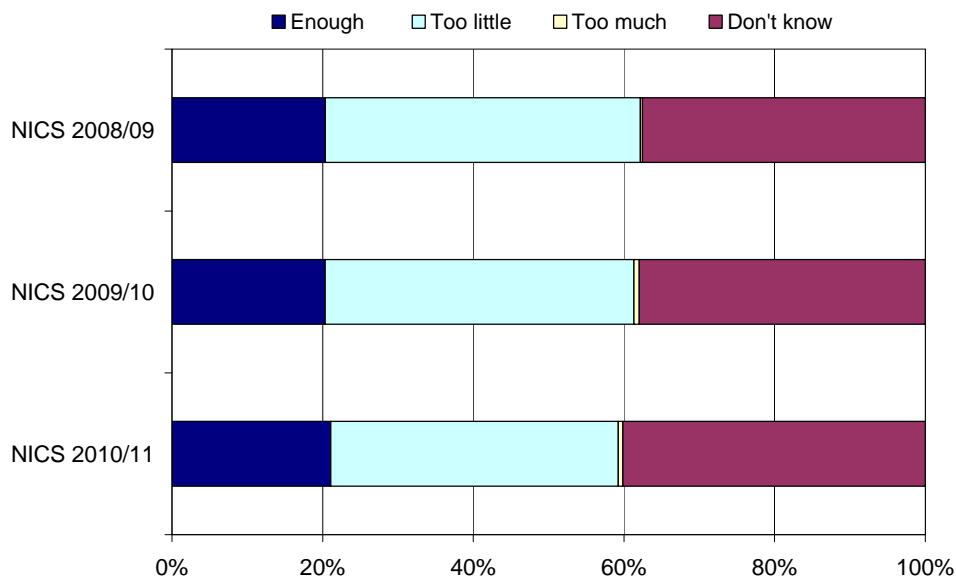
Source: NICS 2010/11

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 two-fifths of respondents (38.2% in NICS 2010/11) believed that the government and other agencies are doing ‘too little’ about domestic violence, a rate approximately twice that of those who think ‘enough’ is being done (21.1%) (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 (40.2% in NICS 2010/11), with similar proportions of both men (41.8%) and women (38.8%) 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 (%)



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TABULAR ANNEX

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

% victims once or more, since age 16	NICS 2008/09			NICS 2009/10			NICS 2010/11		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Any partner violence or abuse	9.3	17.4	13.7	10.8	16.7	14.1	11.5	19.3	15.7
Non-physical abuse	6.8	12.9	10.1	8.2	13.6	11.2	8.8	16.3	12.8
Threats or force	5.9	14.0	10.3	6.5	11.8	9.4	5.7	14.0	10.2
Threats	0.8	7.0	4.1	1.2	6.7	4.2	1.0	7.5	4.5
Force	5.9	13.0	9.7	6.4	11.0	9.0	5.6	12.9	9.5
<i>Minor</i>	2.7	10.2	6.7	2.5	7.8	5.4	1.9	9.6	6.0
<i>Severe</i>	4.8	9.8	7.5	5.0	8.3	6.8	4.6	10.5	7.8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	823	1,078	1,901	1,048	1,364	2,412	1,047	1,336	2,383

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 2008/09			NICS 2009/10			NICS 2010/11		
		Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women	All adults
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	1.5	5.3	3.5	1.6	4.3	3.1	2.1	5.5	4.0
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	4.6	5.5	5.1	3.6	6.9	5.4	4.9	7.7	6.4
	Deliberately damaged your property	1.5	3.9	2.8	2.3	4.1	3.3	2.2	5.3	3.9
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	2.9	9.9	6.6	3.2	10.1	7.0	3.2	12.1	8.0
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	0.8	7.0	4.1	1.2	6.7	4.2	1.0	7.5	4.5
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>									
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	2.7	10.2	6.7	2.5	7.8	5.4	1.9	9.6	6.0
	<i>Severe force</i>									
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	3.5	5.8	4.7	2.5	4.3	3.5	2.6	6.0	4.5
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.6	3.9	2.4	0.6	3.5	2.2	0.2	4.0	2.2
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	1.4	2.0	1.7	1.3	2.5	2.0	0.9	3.1	2.1
	Threatened to kill you	1.1	2.8	2.0	0.3	2.9	1.7	0.5	2.8	1.8
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	0.1	4.1	2.3	0.3	2.7	1.6	0.1	3.0	1.7
	Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	0.7	1.3	1.1	0.6	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.6	1.3
	Used some other kind of force against you	1.3	2.4	1.9	1.4	2.6	2.1	1.6	3.5	2.6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	823	1,078	1,901	1,048	1,364	2,412	1,047	1,336	2,383	

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 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11
All victims	28.6	26.5	27.1
Men	15.7	10.9	11.9
Women	34.4	34.2	34.6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	316	414	467

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

NICS 2008/09 to 2010/11: 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 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change	
				2008/09 to 2010/11	2009/10 to 2010/11
Any partner violence or abuse	6.4	6.3	5.2		
Non-physical abuse	4.5	4.8	4.2		
Threats or force	3.6	3.5	2.4	** ↓	** ↓
Threats	1.3	1.4	1.1		
Force	3.3	3.0	2.3		
<i>Minor</i>	1.9	1.9	1.5		
<i>Severe</i>	2.6	1.9	1.7		
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,879	2,381	2,319		

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 changes 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 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change		NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change	
				2008/09 to 2010/11	2009/10 to 2010/11				2008/09 to 2010/11	2009/10 to 2010/11
Any partner violence or abuse	4.6	4.4	3.2			7.9	7.8	6.9		
Non-physical abuse	3.3	3.2	2.7			5.5	6.1	5.6		
Threats or force	2.2	1.9	0.9	** ↓		4.8	4.7	3.8		
Threats	0.2	0.1	0.2			2.2	2.5	1.9		
Force	2.2	1.8	0.8	** ↓		4.2	3.9	3.5		
<i>Minor</i>	0.8	0.8	0.2			2.9	2.8	2.7		
<i>Severe</i>	1.6	1.2	0.7			3.4	2.4	2.5		
<i>Unweighted base</i>	819	1,039	1,020			1,060	1,342	1,299		

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 changes at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed tests) are indicated by a double asterisk (**).

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 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change	
					2008/09 to 2010/11	2009/10 to 2010/11
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	1.4	1.4	0.9		
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	1.6	2.1	1.9		
	Deliberately damaged your property	0.7	1.1	1.0		
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	2.5	2.8	2.6		
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	1.3	1.4	1.1		
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>					
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	1.9	1.9	1.5		
	<i>Severe force</i>					
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	1.7	0.9	1.0		
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.7	0.5	0.6		
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	0.5	0.2	0.4		
	Threatened to kill you	0.5	0.3	0.3		
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	0.2	0.5	0.3		
	Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	0.2	<0.05	0.1		
	Used some other kind of force against you	0.1	0.3	0.3		
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,879	2,381	2,319			

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

NICS 2008/09 to 2010/11: Experience of Domestic Violence

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 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change		NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change	
					2008/09 to 2010/11	2009/10 to 2010/11				2008/09 to 2010/11	2009/10 to 2010/11
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	0.4	0.6	0.5			2.2	2.1	1.2		
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	1.9	1.6	1.5			1.5	2.4	2.2		
	Deliberately damaged your property	0.4	0.6	0.5			1.0	1.5	1.3		
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	1.3	1.1	0.9			3.5	4.1	4.1		
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	0.2	0.1	0.2			2.2	2.5	1.9		
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>										
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	0.8	0.8	0.2			2.9	2.8	2.7		
	<i>Severe force</i>										
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	1.2	0.5	0.5			2.0	1.2	1.5		
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.1	0.0	<0.05			1.2	0.9	1.0		
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	0.6	0.1	0.1			0.4	0.3	0.6		
	Threatened to kill you	0.3	<0.05	0.1			0.7	0.6	0.4		
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	0.0	0.1	0.0			0.3	0.7	0.5		
	Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	0.1	0.0	<0.05			0.2	0.1	0.2		
Used some other kind of force against you	0.0	0.5	0.1			0.2	0.2	0.4			
<i>Unweighted base</i>		819	1,039	1,020			1,060	1,342	1,299		

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

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

	NICS 2008/09			NICS 2009/10			NICS 2010/11			
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	
Any partner violence or abuse	3.0	4.6	3.9	1.9	4.0	3.1	1.5	3.4	2.6	
Non-physical abuse	2.1	3.0	2.6	1.6	3.1	2.4	1.4	2.8	2.2	
Threats or force	1.3	2.9	2.2	0.5	2.1	1.4	0.4	1.7	1.1	
Threats	0.1	1.3	0.7	0.1	1.2	0.7	0.1	1.0	0.6	
Force	1.2	2.6	2.0	0.4	1.5	1.0	0.4	1.5	1.0	
<i>Minor</i>	0.5	1.6	1.1	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.0	1.1	0.6	
<i>Severe</i>	0.8	1.7	1.3	0.4	1.1	0.8	0.4	1.0	0.7	
<i>Unweighted base</i>		818	1,056	1,874	1,035	1,336	2,371	1,020	1,299	2,319

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- 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 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	
Husband	26.0	27.0	31.8	
Wife	8.9	9.2	6.8	
Male partner / boyfriend	30.2	31.5	35.9	
Female partner / girlfriend	7.8	10.4	8.3	
Ex-husband	5.5	1.5	4.0	
Ex-wife	0.6	2.0	0.8	
Previous male partner / boyfriend	17.7	14.1	7.8	
Previous female partner / girlfriend	3.3	4.2	4.5	
<i>Unweighted base</i>		230	261	269

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- 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 2009/10	NICS 2010/11
Victim use of alcohol		
Did not drink any alcohol	75.8	72.2
Knowingly drank alcohol	23.1	27.5
Suspect given alcohol without knowing ³	1.1	0.3
Perpetrator under the influence of alcohol		
Yes	44.6	57.2
No	50.0	37.9
Don't know	5.4	4.9
<i>Unweighted base</i> ⁴	275	290

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.

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

Percentage (%)	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11
Last 12 months	11.3	9.0	10.4
Between 1-3 years ago	17.4	19.1	14.9
Between 3-5 years ago	14.7	14.7	14.2
Between 5-10 years ago	21.1	20.1	24.2
Between 10-20 years ago	25.0	22.5	23.5
More than 20 years ago	10.5	14.7	12.8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	241	275	286

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 2008/09			NICS 2009/10			NICS 2010/11		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Yes	20.0	39.2	34.1	14.5	37.3	30.9	21.3	33.9	31.1
No	80.0	60.8	65.9	85.5	62.7	69.1	78.7	66.1	68.9
<i>Unweighted base</i>	50	190	240	68	205	273	54	226	280

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 2008/09			NICS 2009/10			NICS 2010/11		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Yes	42.3	78.5	69.2	53.2	74.5	68.6	51.0	80.2	73.9
No	46.2	16.7	24.1	41.9	20.0	26.0	40.8	12.4	18.4
Don't know	11.5	4.9	6.7	4.8	5.5	5.4	8.2	7.3	7.8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	52	188	240	68	209	277	55	234	289

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.

NICS 2008/09 to 2010/11: Experience of Domestic Violence

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

Percentage (%)	NICS 2008/09			NICS 2009/10			NICS 2010/11		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
A crime	36.5	67.6	59.5	20.7	70.0	56.9	27.7	64.0	56.2
Wrong, but not a crime	19.2	24.1	22.8	31.0	19.4	22.6	40.4	26.2	28.8
Just something that happens	42.3	7.6	16.9	41.4	9.4	18.0	27.7	8.1	12.6
None of these	1.9	0.7	0.8	6.9	1.3	2.4	4.3	1.7	2.4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>187</i>	<i>238</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>228</i>	<i>280</i>

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

% victims once or more, since age 16	NICS 2009/10			NICS 2010/11		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Any family violence or abuse	8.3	8.2	8.2	4.5	7.7	6.2
Non-physical abuse	6.5	6.1	6.3	3.0	5.5	4.3
Threats or force	3.1	4.0	3.6	2.1	4.3	3.3
Threats	0.9	2.1	1.5	0.3	1.2	0.8
Force	2.3	2.8	2.6	2.0	4.1	3.1
<i>Minor</i>	0.8	1.9	1.4	1.1	2.2	1.7
<i>Severe</i>	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.6	3.0	2.4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,067</i>	<i>1,375</i>	<i>2,442</i>	<i>975</i>	<i>1,260</i>	<i>2,235</i>

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 2009/10			NICS 2010/11		
		Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women	All adults
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	1.4	0.9	1.1	0.5	1.0	0.8
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	2.6	2.1	2.3	1.0	1.7	1.4
	Deliberately damaged your property	1.4	0.8	1.1	0.3	0.7	0.5
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	2.7	3.7	3.2	1.6	3.8	2.8
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	0.9	2.1	1.5	0.3	1.2	0.8
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>						
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	0.8	1.9	1.4	1.1	2.2	1.7
	<i>Severe force</i>						
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	0.9	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.7	1.5
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.3
	Threatened to kill you	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	0.2	0.7	0.5	<0.05	1.0	0.6
	Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
	Used some other kind of force against you	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,067</i>	<i>1,375</i>	<i>2,442</i>	<i>975</i>	<i>1,260</i>	<i>2,235</i>	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

NICS 2008/09 to 2010/11: Experience of Domestic Violence

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 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11?
Any family violence or abuse	4.6	2.6	** ↓
Non-physical abuse	3.8	2.0	** ↓
Threats or force	1.0	1.0	
Threats	0.4	0.2	
Force	0.6	0.9	
<i>Minor</i>	0.3	0.6	
<i>Severe</i>	0.3	0.6	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	2,426	2,212	

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 changes at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed tests) are indicated by a double asterisk (**).

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 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11?	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11?
Any family violence or abuse	5.3	1.9	** ↓	4.0	3.2	
Non-physical abuse	4.6	1.6	** ↓	3.2	2.4	
Threats or force	0.7	0.3		1.1	1.6	
Threats	0.3	<0.05		0.4	0.4	
Force	0.4	0.3		0.8	1.4	
<i>Minor</i>	0.0	0.3		0.6	0.8	
<i>Severe</i>	0.4	0.1		0.3	1.0	** ↑
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,059	965		1,367	1,247	

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 changes 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 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11?
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	0.6	0.3	** ↓
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	1.4	0.6	
	Deliberately damaged your property	0.7	0.3	
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	1.6	1.0	
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	0.4	0.2	
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>			
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	0.3	0.6	
	<i>Severe force</i>			
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	0.1	0.4	
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.1	0.1	
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	<0.05	0.2	
	Threatened to kill you	0.1	0.1	
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	<0.05	<0.05	
	Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	0.0	<0.05	
	Used some other kind of force against you	0.1	0.1	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	2,426	2,212		

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

NICS 2008/09 to 2010/11: Experience of Domestic Violence

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 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11?	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11?
NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE	Prevented from having your fair share of household money	0.8	0.2		0.4	0.3	
	Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	1.9	0.6	** ↓	1.0	0.6	
	Deliberately damaged your property	1.0	0.2	** ↓	0.4	0.4	
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	1.2	0.6		1.8	1.4	
THREATS	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you or someone close	0.3	<0.05		0.4	0.4	
FORCE	<i>Minor force</i>						
	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you	0.0	0.3		0.6	0.8	
	<i>Severe force</i>						
	Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	0.2	0.1		<0.05	0.6	** ↑
	Choked or tried to strangle you	0.0	0.0		0.1	0.1	
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	0.0	0.1		0.1	0.3	
	Threatened to kill you	0.0	0.0		0.1	0.2	
	Forced you to have sex or take part in other sexual activity against your will (including attempts)	0.0	0.0		0.1	0.1	
Used a weapon against you (e.g. a knife)	0.0	0.0		0.0	<0.05		
Used some other kind of force against you	0.3	0.0		<0.05	0.2		
<i>Unweighted base</i>		1,059	965		1,367	1,247	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Statistical significance of changes at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed tests) are indicated by a double asterisk (**).

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

% victims once or more, last year	NICS 2009/10			NICS 2010/11		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Any family violence or abuse	3.7	3.1	3.4	1.1	2.0	1.6
Non-physical abuse	3.5	2.7	3.1	1.0	1.4	1.2
Threats or force	0.3	0.6	0.5	<0.05	0.7	0.4
Threats	0.3	0.2	0.2	<0.05	0.2	0.1
Force	<0.05	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.3
<i>Minor</i>	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	<0.05
<i>Severe</i>	<0.05	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,057	1,363	2,420	962	1,245	2,207

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 2009/10	NICS 2010/11
Parent(s)	44.0	56.6
Step-parent(s)	2.8	3.4
Sibling(s)	29.4	22.4
Child(ren)	3.6	4.9
Other relative(s)	20.2	12.7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	132	126

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

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

Percentage (%)	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11
Victim use of alcohol		
Did not drink any alcohol	89.4	93.1
Knowingly drank alcohol	9.5	6.5
Suspect given alcohol without knowing ²	1.1	0.4
Perpetrator under the influence of alcohol		
Yes	25.1	25.7
No	63.5	65.5
Don't know	11.4	8.8
<i>Unweighted base</i> ³	186	161

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.

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

Percentage (%)	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11
Last 12 months	11.9	17.2
Between 1-3 years ago	20.7	11.1
Between 3-5 years ago	13.5	7.4
Between 5-10 years ago	16.6	18.0
Between 10-20 years ago	18.5	21.3
More than 20 years ago	18.8	25.0
<i>Unweighted base</i>	171	154

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 2009/10			NICS 2010/11		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Lifetime	15.9	21.3	18.9	14.1	23.2	19.0
Last 3 years	8.6	10.9	9.9	4.5	9.2	7.0
Last year	5.3	6.7	6.1	2.4	5.2	3.9
<i>Unweighted base</i> ²	1,044	1,363	2,407	1,003	1,300	2,303

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 2008/09			NICS 2009/10			NICS 2010/11		
	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults	Men	Women	All Adults
Enough	21.2	19.6	20.3	23.7	17.6	20.3	22.4	20.0	21.1
Too little	36.8	46.1	41.8	37.4	44.0	41.0	35.2	40.8	38.2
Too much	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.6
Don't know	41.9	33.8	37.5	38.0	37.9	38.0	41.8	38.8	40.2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	844	1,107	1,951	1,098	1,400	2,498	1,049	1,339	2,388

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	3.2	6.9	1.9	3.2	4.5	9.2	1,020	1,299
Age								
16-24	4.3	8.8	3.5	5.8	5.7	13.6	138	144
25-34	4.2	10.3	2.0	4.1	6.2	12.3	202	286
35-44	3.2	7.2	3.2	4.6	5.7	11.0	246	351
45-54	2.5	6.9	0.9	1.9	2.9	7.9	230	280
55-64	1.8	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.4	204	238
Religion								
Catholic	2.4	6.3	0.9	2.5	3.2	8.3	409	589
Protestant	2.9	7.4	2.7	4.1	4.7	10.1	510	612
Living arrangements (respondent)								
Living as a couple	1.5	2.0	1.4	1.3	2.4	3.3	575	661
Not living as a couple	5.8	14.6	2.8	6.3	7.7	18.5	445	638
Married	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.1	2.1	2.7	518	591
Not married:	5.7	13.4	2.9	5.8	7.3	17.2	502	708
Single	5.1	10.9	3.1	5.4	7.0	14.8	333	408
Cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed	7.3	17.0	2.2	6.4	8.4	20.8	169	300
Disability or illness								
Long-standing illness or disability	5.7	10.9	0.5	5.1	6.7	14.6	217	297
Limits activities	5.8	13.3	0.8	6.1	7.2	17.9	154	220
Does not limit activities	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	63	77
No long-standing illness or disability	2.6	5.9	2.2	2.8	3.9	7.9	803	1001
Hours out of home (weekday)								
Less than 3 hours	4.1	8.8	0.9	3.9	4.4	11.9	168	327
3 but less than 7 hours	4.1	6.5	2.8	2.9	5.4	8.8	203	411
7 hours or more	2.7	6.1	1.9	3.1	4.2	8.1	647	560
Evening visits to the pub								
None	2.0	6.4	1.2	3.5	2.8	8.6	435	654
Less than once a week	3.4	7.7	3.1	3.2	5.7	10.2	388	531
Once a week or more	5.3	6.0	1.3	2.0	5.7	7.8	197	114
Household type³								
HRP aged under 60:								
Single adult & child(ren)	n<100	26.6	n<100	7.8	n<100	30.8	21	218
Adults & child(ren)	1.2	4.9	1.7	2.6	2.4	6.8	326	407
No children	4.7	6.6	2.4	4.0	6.2	9.6	543	517
HRP aged 60+	2.0	0.3	0.7	0.0	2.8	0.3	130	156
Household income								
Less than £15,000	6.8	15.3	1.7	6.2	8.3	18.9	259	424
£15,000 less than £30,000	2.9	4.2	1.6	2.1	4.2	6.4	275	362
£30,000 less than £45,000	2.4	5.8	1.4	2.3	3.2	7.5	205	208
£45,000 or more	0.2	3.4	1.0	2.8	1.3	4.9	166	190
Tenure								
Owner-occupied	1.7	4.3	0.9	2.5	2.4	6.2	651	851
Social rented	5.3	16.8	1.0	6.0	6.9	21.2	129	198
Private rented	6.7	11.0	5.6	4.5	9.9	13.7	234	246
Area type								
Belfast	3.5	11.3	2.0	4.0	4.6	14.1	164	208
Urban, excluding Belfast	3.2	8.2	2.4	4.2	4.9	11.1	387	553
All Urban	3.3	8.9	2.3	4.1	4.8	11.9	551	761
Rural	3.0	4.4	1.5	2.1	4.1	5.9	469	538
Policing District								
A and B (Belfast)	3.5	11.3	2.0	4.0	4.6	14.1	164	208
C	0.3	2.4	1.0	4.4	1.3	6.1	154	201
D	5.3	9.3	3.7	2.3	8.2	10.6	166	229
E	4.0	7.2	3.1	4.0	5.4	8.7	164	194
F	3.1	7.2	1.3	3.5	3.4	10.4	115	149
G	3.2	4.2	0.0	2.3	3.3	6.8	115	161
H	2.5	6.1	1.7	2.0	4.3	7.6	142	157
Perceived level of ASB⁴								
High	2.6	12.8	1.7	5.4	4.6	16.9	134	212
Low	3.4	5.7	1.9	2.7	4.5	7.7	839	987
Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank⁵								
1st quintile (most deprived)	5.5	12.3	3.2	5.1	8.1	14.8	176	270
2nd quintile	3.7	7.6	2.7	3.3	4.9	10.7	197	255
3rd quintile	4.1	5.9	2.1	3.4	5.0	7.7	226	265
4th quintile	1.3	4.5	2.0	2.7	3.4	6.8	224	266
5th quintile (least deprived)	1.9	5.2	0.0	1.9	1.9	7.2	195	239

Source: NICS 2010/11

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).

TECHNICAL ANNEX

Sampling and fieldwork

The initial NICS 2010/11 sample consisted of 6,750 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 5,984 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.

This bulletin refers primarily to NICS fieldwork undertaken during the financial year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, which involved complete interviews with 4,081 people aged 16 years and over. This represents an eligible response rate of 68%. 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 3,050 NICS 2010/11 respondents aged between 16 and 64 years, 617 refused to participate in the domestic violence self-completion module, resulting in a final sample size of 2,433. 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 of 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. Leaflets on services available to victims of crime were also given to each NICS respondent.

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.

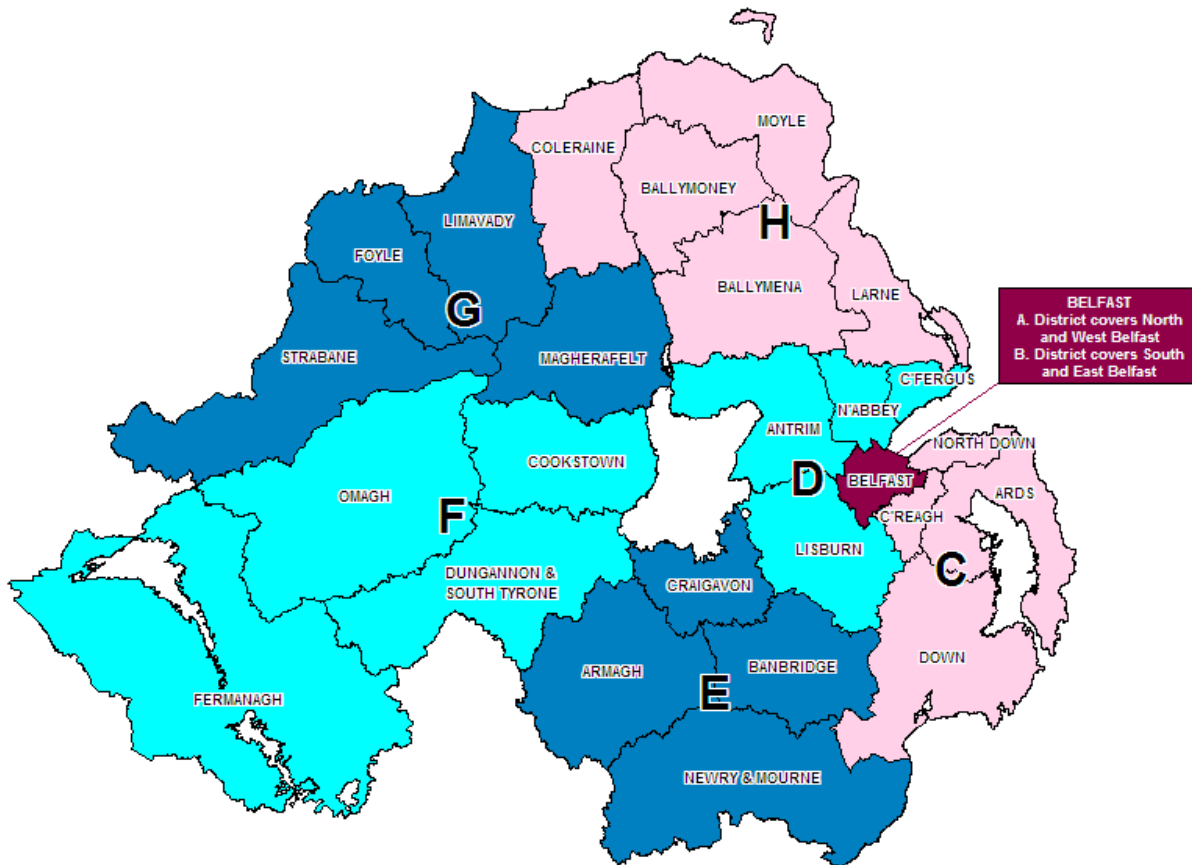
Further information on the 2010/11 sweep of the NICS is contained within the NICS 2010/11 Technical Report.

Table B1: Sample profile for NICS 2010/11 domestic violence module (adults aged 16-64)

Group	Sub-group	Unweighted number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Sex	Men	1069	44	46
	Women	1364	56	54
Age group	16-24	291	12	16
	25-34	524	22	20
	35-44	628	26	24
	45-54	537	22	22
	55-64	453	19	18
Religion	Catholic	1058	43	45
	Protestant	1168	48	47
Area type	Urban	1396	57	54
	Urban, excluding Belfast	998	41	40
	Rural	1037	43	46
Policing District¹	A and B (Belfast)	398	16	14
	C	364	15	15
	D	414	17	17
	E	376	15	17
	F	276	11	12
	G	290	12	12
	H	315	13	13
	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank²	1st quintile (most deprived)	481	20
2nd quintile		483	20	19
3rd quintile		507	21	22
4th quintile		511	21	22
5th quintile (least deprived)		444	18	20

1. See Figure B1. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area.
2. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2010 Multiple Deprivation Measure).

Figure B1: Map of PSNI Policing Districts



1. Based on Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland data © 2007.

Statistics and Research Branch

Department of Justice

Knockview Buildings

Stormont Estate

Belfast

BT4 3SL

Email: statistics.research@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9052 2658

www.dojni.gov.uk