

D O N N A J O N E S

MORE POLICE
SAFER STREETS

H A M P S H I R E & I S L E O F W I G H T

Violence Against Women and Girls

- **VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls)**
- **Safer Streets and VAWG**
- **ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and trauma**



- **Tackle the epidemic that is VAWG**

“VAWG is recognised as a worldwide issue of epidemic proportions ; 1 in 3 women will experience VAWG at some point in their lifetime”

- **PCC VAWG Task Force**

“VAWG offences cause significant harm and distress to victims and through the task group I want to ensure that crimes of violence against women and girls are given the focus they need across the whole criminal justice system.”

- **Joint APCC Victims Lead role**

“I am pleased to be able to take up the role as the victims lead to be an advocate for victims at a national level as well as locally”

- **Call for Evidence and Problem Profile**

“We want to learn more about how the day to day lives of women are being affected by misogynistic and sexually inappropriate behaviours and to uncover the true extent of harm being experienced as a result of VAWG across our communities, both in person and online.”

National – year ending March 2020:

- 188 women were murdered.
- 46% of adult female homicides were found to be domestic homicides.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight (Jan to Dec 2021)

- There were **37,317 recorded violent crimes** (with and without injury) where the victim was a woman. There were also **2,287 rapes** and **3,137 sexual offences** committed against women.
- 3 women were murdered.
- More rapes were committed in Southampton (402), followed by Portsmouth (336) and Basingstoke (188)
- Other sexual offences also happened more often in these districts - Southampton (564), Portsmouth (397) and Basingstoke (233)
- Violent offences (with or without injury) against women - Southampton (7,082), Portsmouth (5,930) and Basingstoke (2,769)

Domestic Abuse Data – scale of the problem

National – year ending September 2021:

- **872,911 offences** flagged as domestic abuse related

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight – January 2021 to December 2021:

- **20,124 offences against women** were flagged as domestic abuse. This included 3,776 offences in Southampton, 3,117 in Portsmouth and 1,518 in Havant



VAWG Call for Evidence: what we've heard so far

Public survey

- 49% have seen abusive or degrading content aimed at women and girls online. 55% did not report it.
- 34% are not confident local police are tackling VAWG well
 - 37% have been victim of groping/inappropriate touching
 - 31% have been victim of indecent exposure
 - 28% have been victim of domestic abuse.
 - 68% did not report the incident.
- 43% report that they have experienced some form of violence in their home.

Practitioner survey

- 82% believe VAWG is a rising epidemic in this country.
- 83% say VAWG is a priority in their everyday work.
- 39% say their organisation is good at tackling VAWG and related issues.

The top three challenges in tackling VAWG:

- staff capacity
- availability of funds
- effective partnership working
- 76% of services have seen increased demand in their workplace since the beginning of Covid-19

VAWG Challenges and barriers



In the year ending June 2021, 60% of police recorded crimes described as “rape of a female aged 16 years and over” were closed as a result of “evidential difficulties”.



ONS explored reasons why people don't report VAWG crimes; that more than half (56%) gave embarrassment as a reason for not telling someone, and just under half (48%) said they did not think anyone would believe them.



90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys surveyed, said they had been sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see.

Safer Streets

- Government initiative which targets crime prevention initiative in the areas that need them the most.
- Safer Streets- VAWG approach: Crimes which take place in public places such as sexual harassment disproportionately affect women

In June 2021, the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey showed that **89% of women** in Great Britain who had experienced harassment said they felt **“very or fairly unsafe” walking on their own after dark** in a park or other open space.

YouGov data in 2021 tells us that one in five women (19%) don't ever walk alone at night in the first place – a number twice as high as men (9%). Along with 41% of women say they take steps on a regular basis to protect themselves from sexual assault, up from 32% in 2018.



Safer Streets: public spaces

In December 2021, OPCC undertook a survey on sexual assault, harassment and spiking in public spaces, female participants told us:

- **Only 9.9% they felt safe using public spaces at night**
- Personally experienced the following in a public space
 - Being stared at(90%)
 - Being cat-called or wolf-whistled (82%)
 - Unwelcome touching,/body rubbing/groping (55%)
 - Being physically followed (38%)
 - Unwelcome sexual advances/requests for sexual favours (38%)

SSF4 has just opened up with a focus on neighbourhood crimes, violence against women and girls and anti-social behaviour.



Adverse Childhood Experiences

ABUSE

Physical



Emotional



Sexual



NEGLECT

Physical



Emotional



DYSFUNCTION at HOME

Mental Illness



Incarcerated relative



Mother treated violently



Substance Abuse



Divorce



Adverse Childhood Experiences

- 4 times more likely to be a high risk drinker
- 6 times more likely to have had or caused unintended teenage pregnancy
- 6 times more likely to smoke e-cigarettes or tobacco
- 6 **times more likely** to have had sex under the age of 16 years
- 11 **times more likely** to have smoked cannabis
- 14 **times more likely** to have been a victim of violence over the last 12 months
- 15 **times more likely** to have committed violence against another person in the last 12 months
- 16 **times more likely** to have used crack cocaine or heroin
- 20 **times more likely** to have been incarcerated at any point in their lifetime



ACEs and Trauma: The Impact

Of women who were victims of rape or assault by penetration (including attempts) since the age of 16 years (CSEW):

- 63% reported mental or emotional problems
- 10% reported that they had tried to kill themselves as a result
- 21% reported taking time off work
- 5% reported losing their job or giving up work



57% of women who had experienced abuse before the age of 16 years, also experienced domestic abuse later in life.

What's next?

[Have A Word - YouTube](#)

