

Comisiwn
Cydraddoldeb a
Hawliau Dynol

Equality and
Human Rights
Commission

Domestic violence

Who do you see?

Living together in Wales



Key Findings

- Overwhelmingly, Welsh adults felt that domestic violence is not acceptable.
- A significant number of people in Wales believed that domestic violence should be treated as a private matter.

Domestic violence

Introduction

This document provides the findings of the questions on domestic violence. Due to both time constraints and the limitations of a telephone method when considering such a sensitive topic area, just two questions about domestic violence were included.

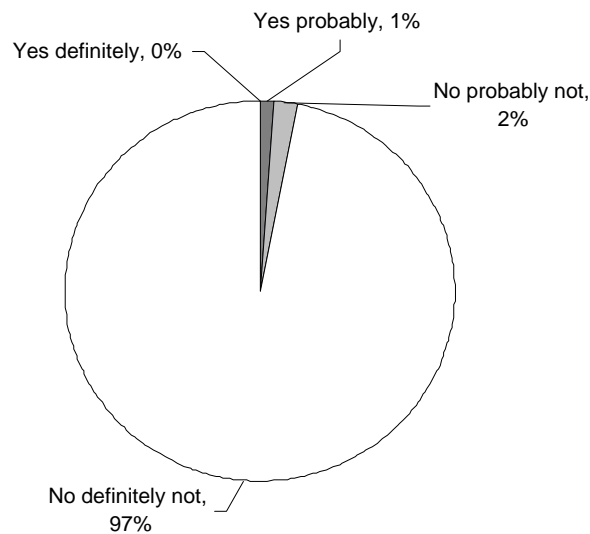
It is acknowledged that two questions is insufficient to deliver an in-depth understanding of people's views, but the findings provide some insight into how Welsh adults think such violence should be dealt with.

Violence and bullying towards partners

Overwhelmingly, Welsh adults felt that it was never OK to bully or hit a partner – 97 per cent said that it was definitely not OK, whilst 2 per cent felt that it was probably not OK. Further analysis showed that 100 per cent of women opposed domestic violence compared with 98 per cent of men; no other significant differences were in evidence by subgroup.

The similar nature of response across all subgroups suggests that the notion of bullying or hitting a partner is deemed to be highly socially unacceptable. However, despite what the majority say, domestic violence remains prevalent in society.

Figure 1.1 Do you personally think it is every ok to bully or hit a partner?

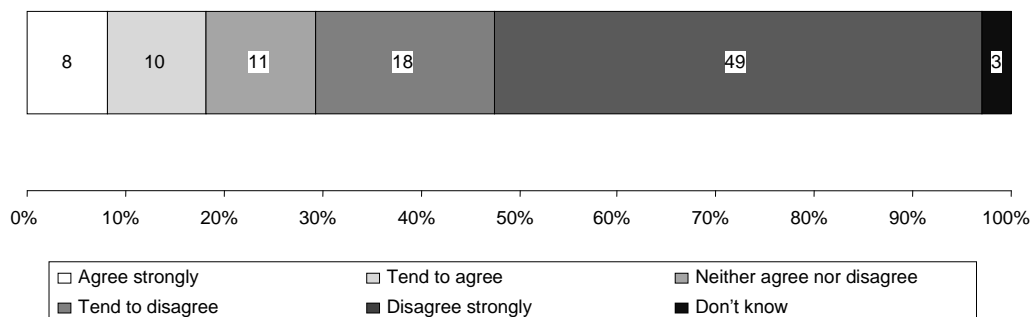


Base: All respondents (1,589 unweighted; 1,589 weighted). 'Don't know' and 'refused' not shown (< 0.5%)

Dealing with domestic violence

When faced with the statement that domestic violence is best handled as a private matter instead of by the police: around a fifth of adults (19 per cent) agreed, whilst two thirds (67 per cent) were in disagreement. A further 11 per cent would neither agree nor disagree with the statement.

Figure 1.2 Do you think that domestic violence is best handled as a private matter instead of by the police?



Base: All respondents (1,589 unweighted; 1,589 weighted). 'Don't know' and 'refused' not shown (< 0.5%)

Further analysis revealed differences in opinion between some demographic groups. Those more likely to agree with the statement included:

- men (22 per cent agreed compared with 15 per cent of women)
- older adults (24 per cent of those aged 65+ agreed compared with 17 per cent or less of those aged 54 and younger)
- non-white adults (29 per cent compared with 18 per cent of white British/Welsh adults)

As a further point, AB and C1 adults were more likely to *disagree* with the statement than those DE social grades.

Table 1.1 Agreement with statement ‘domestic violence is best handled as a private matter instead of by the police’

	<i>Unweighted base, n=</i>	<i>Weighted base, n=</i>	<i>Tend to or strongly agree (per cent)</i>
Total	1,589	1,589	19
Male	744	768	22
Female	845	821	15
Age: 16-34	385	413	15
35-54	598	581	17
55-64	262	248	21
65+	344	347	24
White British/Welsh	1438	1555	18
Other	151	34	29
AB	382	376	18
C1	533	538	16
C2	242	241	20
DE	428	431	21

Summary

Welsh adults overwhelmingly agreed that it is never OK to bully or hit a partner. The similar nature of response to this question across all demographic subgroups confirms that it is highly socially unacceptable to be seen to disagree with this sentiment.

In terms of how best to deal with domestic violence, around a fifth of adults (19 per cent) thought that it was better handled as a private matter than by the police, and this was more likely to be the case amongst men, older adults and those from non-white ethnic groups.

The majority of the population appears to know that it should say domestic violence is unacceptable and yet almost 1 in 5 say it is best handled as a private matter. This implies no criminal justice involvement and keeps the issues 'hidden'. This, therefore, suggests some level of acceptability by significant numbers. This would seem to be borne out by research cited by Women's Aid (and others) which shows that 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence¹ and on average two women per week are killed by their male partner or former partner in Britain, accounting for a third of all homicides of women².

¹ Council of Europe (2002)

² Povey (ed) 2004,2005; Home Office,1999; Department of Health,2005

Notes

Further information on the research is available on the Commission in Wales pages on our website at:

www.equalityhumanrights.com

About the attitudinal survey

EHRC Wales commissioned GfK NOP to undertake research into people's attitudes towards discrimination, human rights and social cohesion in Wales. The research seeks to explore people's attitudes towards discrimination relating to gender, ethnic minority groups, disabled people, gay men and lesbians, issues on age, religion and faith and also the Welsh language. These results establish a baseline measurement of attitudes which could be repeated at future intervals.

The overall sample was 1,589 respondents. The survey was carried out by telephone. All respondents were offered the option of completing the survey in Welsh. Access issues were addressed by offering those with hearing impairments the opportunity to use a TypeTalk service. Those who found it difficult to communicate in English were offered the chance to have the interview interpreted using Language Line.

The sampling method used in the survey combined the selection of Random Digit Dial (RDD) numbers with the application of quotas to control the profile of those taking part in the survey. Quotas were set by region within Wales (five regions), by gender interlocked with working status, by age band and by ethnic origin based on demographic information derived from the 2001 Census. These were set to ensure that the sample would be representative of the Welsh population by these factors.

An interviewing boost was carried out in areas with higher proportion of ethnic minority people in the population.

Comparisons with Scotland and GB

Comparisons have been drawn with the findings from the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2006 and the perceptions audit carried out by GfK NOP. It should be noted that only broad comparisons are possible because different methodologies were used in both these surveys. Therefore, any similarities or differences between the findings from these surveys and the results of the EHRC Wales survey must be treated as indicative rather than absolute.