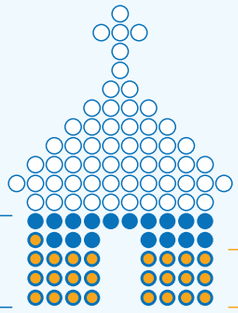
churches_A4.pdf 1 2018-04-23 10:56 AM

IN CHURCHES TOO: Church Responses to Domestic Abuse – a case study of Cumbria

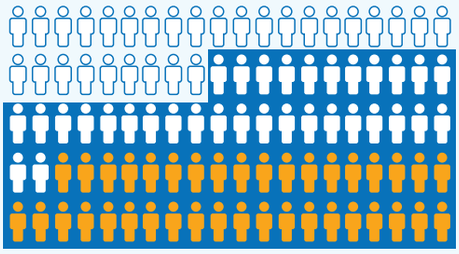
Researchers from Coventry University and the University of Leicester asked **438 CHURCHGOERS** in Cumbria, north-west England, how the church was responding to domestic abuse.

42.2%
experienced at least one abusive act in a CURRENT and/or PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP, on at least one occasion



1 in 4
of the sample have experienced at least one abusive act in a CURRENT RELATIONSHIP

only around **2** in **7** **churchgoers** consider their church to be adequately equipped to deal with a disclosure of domestic abuse



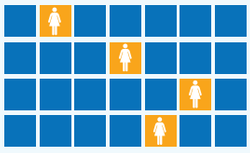
71.0% were aware of domestic abuse in their COMMUNITY

BUT ONLY **37.6%** thought it was a problem in their CHURCH

Rates of prevalence for each category of abuse are higher for women than men

WOMEN WERE MORE THAN FOUR TIMES as likely as men to report having been SEXUALLY ABUSED once or more

No men reported being PHYSICALLY ABUSED on a weekly basis, whereas 3.2% OF WOMEN did



WOMEN WERE ALMOST FOUR TIMES as likely as men to report experiencing FINANCIAL ABUSE several times a year

WOMEN WERE MORE THAN TWICE as likely as men to report experiencing SPIRITUAL ABUSE several times a year

Download the report at: **www.restoredrelationships.org/cumbriaresearch**

churches_A4.pdf 2 2018-04-23 10:56 AM

Experiences of domestic abuse

Of those who'd experienced an abusive act, 57.4% of WOMEN considered themselves to have EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC ABUSE compared to only 16.7% of MEN

90.8% of cases involve MALE PERPETRATORS and 9.2% involve FEMALE PERPETRATORS

56.7% involve CHRISTIAN PERPETRATORS and 43.3% involve NON-CHRISTIAN PERPETRATORS

JUST OVER HALF of cases involve families with CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 living at home while the respondent was being abused

Women typically reported experiencing a higher number of impacts of domestic abuse than men:

Current relationships

4.5 impacts

1.8 impacts

Previous relationships

5.9 impacts

3.6 impacts

Seeking help from the church for domestic abuse:

WOULD seek support from church: 42.9%

WOULD NOT seek support from church: 42.9%

WOULD signpost a friend to church: 59.8%

WOULD NOT signpost a friend to church: 24.6%

Over half of the sample 54% had sought support outside of the church

Fewer than 1 in 4 women (23.8%)

1 in 6 men (16.7%)

who have previously sought help for domestic abuse did so FROM A CHURCH

Older people are less likely to report having experienced domestic abuse

38%

53%

OVER 60s less likely to report having experienced abuse (37.7%), compared to UNDER 60 years old (52.9%)

Which of the following are you aware of in your church?

(% of people selecting each option)

Domestic abuse has been TALKED ABOUT in a sermon	PRAYERS have been said for people experiencing domestic abuse	The church has DONATED MONEY OR GOODS to a domestic abuse charity	The church WORKS WITH a local refuge, Safe House or domestic abuse charity	There are POSTERS and/ or LEAFLETS in church about domestic abuse
28.3%	38.6%	19%	13.3%	18.8%
0.5%	5.2%	6.5%	8.3%	15.9%
14%	28.9%	9.9%	7.8%	12.8%
57.1%	27.3%	64.6%	70.6%	52.5%

This happens REGULARLY | This happens SOMETIMES | This happens RARELY | I am not aware of this happening AT ALL

Download the report at: **www.restoredrelationships.org/cumbriaresearch**