

## Administrative data

### Results of analysis of routinely collected data from South African Police Service (SAPS) conducted as part of the GL/MRC Gauteng GBV Indicators Pilot Project

The results presented here are from analysis of a South African Police Service (SAPS) dataset of all crimes committed in Gauteng that were coded as "domestic violence". The data included crimes perpetrated against children, as this reflects the legal definition of domestic violence in South Africa. However, for this analysis we were more interested in the reporting of intimate partner violence and therefore excluded all children (under 18 years) and crimes against children from the dataset.

There are some potentially important limitations of the SAPS dataset that should be noted. It is unclear what the circumstances were which led data capturers to use the "domestic violence" variable and this may have varied from station to station. No data on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim is available. This means that crimes occurring in a domestic setting such as an adult male child abusing an elderly male parent could have been captured as "domestic violence". This affects the validity of the results and as such should be interpreted with some caution. It is also unclear whether an episode of violence perpetrated against an intimate partner outside of the home would have consistently been captured using the "domestic violence" code.

## Victimisation

For the period April 2008 to March 2009, 3207 men and 12093 women reported being victims of an offence that was coded under "domestic violence". The mean age of victims was 33.1 years (range 19-99 years). Using the census data, an estimated 0.09% of men and 0.3% of women reported a case of domestic violence over the time period. Nearly 80% (79.04%) of cases reported to the police were reported by women and 20.96% were reported by men.

Table 1: Sex of victims of DV

Sex	Frequency	Percentage	Census population*	Prevalence
Male	3,207	20.96	3,451,069	0.09%
Female	12,093	79.04	3,515,397	0.3%
Total	15,307	100		

- These figures are adult population estimates for Gauteng province based on StatsSA

In South African law, there are a range of offences that can be labeled as physical or sexual abuse. These include common assault, assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm and rape to name but a few. For the purposes of having a comparable figure to the results of the Gauteng prevalence survey, we have regrouped offences into three categories: physical abuse, sexual abuse and verbal abuse as shown in Table 2. The sexual abuse reported here is a

subset of the total number of rape cases reported to the police as these are only cases of rape, attempted rape and other sexual offences categorized as “domestic violence”. Less than 1% of women in Gauteng reported physical abuse to the police in 2008/2009. The population-based survey found that 13.2% of women had experienced physical abuse in the past year. This finding shows that there is substantive under-reporting of physical abuse to the police in Gauteng Province.

Table 2: Women’s experience of physical, emotional or sexual violence categorized as “domestic violence” by SAPS

Abuse category	N	Population prevalence of reported abuse	Prevalence of past year abuse from Gauteng survey
		%	%
Physical	11,208	0.3	13.2
Emotional	81	*	Not reported
Sexual	349	*	Not reported

\* These are negligible percentages

The Domestic Violence Act (1998) is being used by women and men in South Africa. Contravening a protection order accounted for 3.48% of cases opened by the police.

### Perpetration

Less than 1% of men in Gauteng were accused of offences that can be categorized as physical abuse to the police in 2008/2009. The population-based survey found that 5.8% reported perpetrating physical abuse in the past year. This finding shows that there is under-reporting of perpetration as well as victimization of physical abuse.

Table 3: Men’s perpetration of physical, emotional and sexual abuse reported to the police compared to the prevalence from the population-based survey

	N	Population prevalence of reported abuse	Prevalence of past year abuse from Gauteng survey
		%	%
Physical	9,096	0.3	5.8
Emotional	162	*	Not reported
Sexual	355	*	Not reported