



Safe at Home Survey as of 23rd April 2020

This is the 5th iteration of our survey of survivors currently experiencing domestic abuse which was launched on the 20th March 2020. Key findings include:

- The most common response to concerns around safety, with a third of the total responses (33%), was a fear of the perpetrator
- 12% of respondents who were concerned about their own safety said they couldn't escape or were in isolation, 8% had concerns around finances, 7% feared for the safety of their children, and 4% had concerns around their mental health.
- 8% of respondents who were concerned about their own safety felt that the courts or police were not responding quickly enough. Both criminal and civil courts and protective orders have been cited as a concern alongside the police not responding to incidents of domestic abuse.
- Although only a small number of respondents cited stalking and harassment as an issue, this category has been a more recent theme and has been particularly highlighted in the past two weeks of the survey.
- This week we have seen an increase in comments from survivors who want more emotional support from specialist services – either more frequently or face-to-face but socially distanced.
- When responding to a question about what would increase their safety, (31%) felt that the way to increase their safety was to be away from the perpetrator. This included those who lived with the perpetrator and wanted to leave or wanted the perpetrator to leave, as well as those who were living away from the perpetrator but feared that the perpetrator knew where they lived, that they would see the perpetrator in the area or that the perpetrator could contact them at any time.

A total of 107 respondents have completed the survey.

Updates to the survey

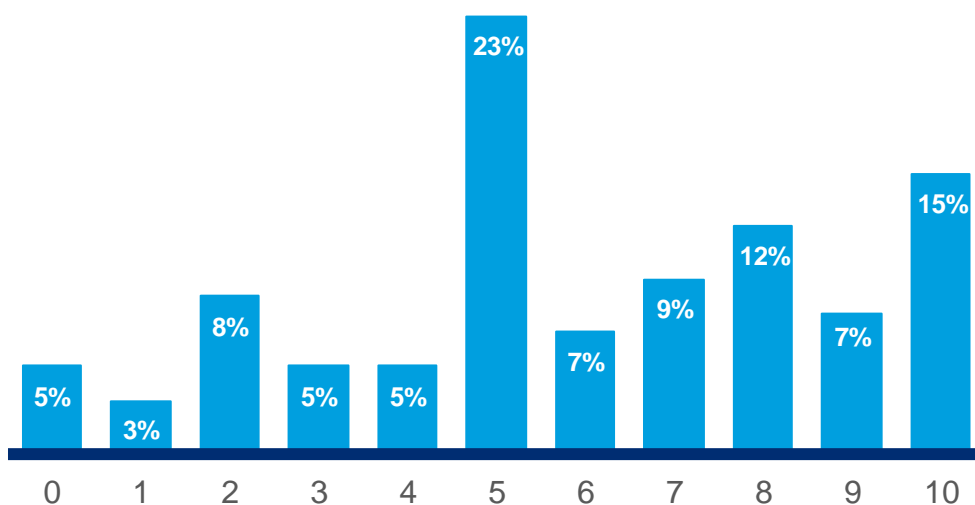
On the 17th April 2020 we added four extra questions to the survivor survey. These questions look at victims and survivors access support. It asks where survivors have gone to ask for support, where they would like to access support and what they would hope to find online if they were looking for advice, guidance and support on the internet.

We hope to be able to analyse these responses for the next survivor survey update.

Safety of Respondents

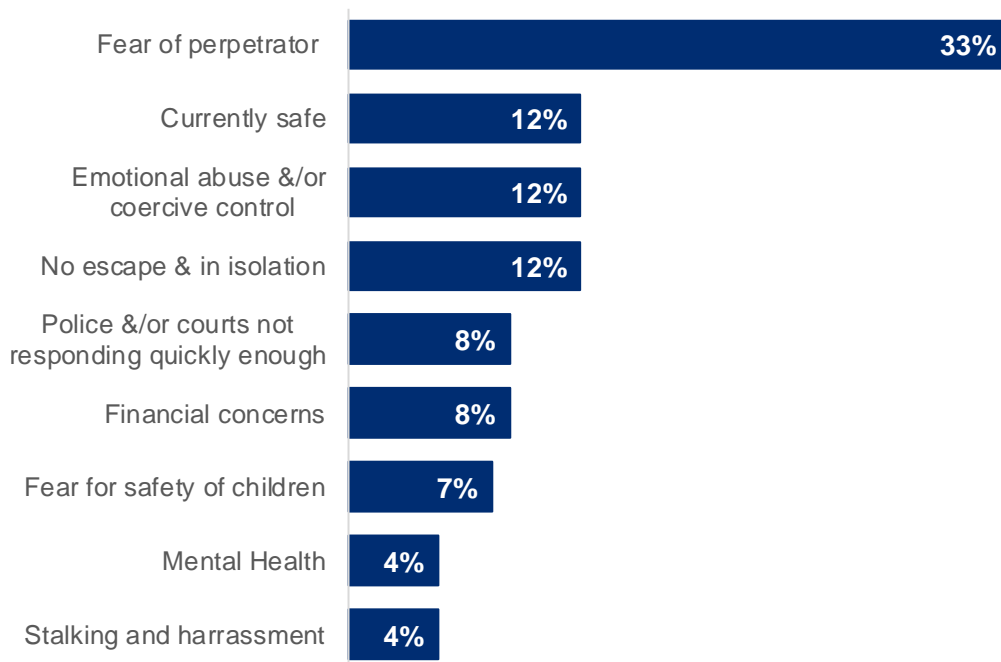
Respondents were asked to state, on a scale of 0 to 10, how safe they felt (0 = not at all safe, 10= safe). All but one respondent (n=106) answered this question. Just under a quarter (23%) of respondents rated themselves at a 5 out of 10 in terms of safety. In this week's analysis, a quarter (25%) respondents rated themselves below the mid-point scale of five.

How safe do you feel?	n	%
0	5	5%
1	3	3%
2	9	8%
3	5	5%
4	5	5%
5	25	23%
6	7	7%
7	10	9%
8	13	12%
9	8	7%
10	16	15%



Concerns around safety

Respondents were asked to respond in their own words about their concerns around their safety at this time. A total of 91 respondents answered this question. If their answers covered more than one topic it was split into multiple comments leading to 113 comments in total. The totals given are a percent out of the total number of comments.



Fear of Perpetrator

The most common response to concerns around safety, with a third of the total responses (33%), was a fear of the perpetrator. All forms of domestic abuse and violence were mentioned in this category. Fear of perpetrator includes concerns around safety when living with the perpetrator as well as those who were not living in the same home. For those not in the same household concerns for safety included the perpetrator turning up at the place they were staying or in the area where they lived.

“My son's mother hits me and reports me to Police for things I have not done.”

“Girlfriend gets violent when angry or upset.”

“My ex...when he first left he kept coming back and attacked me and raped me.”

Safe from the perpetrator

Just over one in ten survivors who answered the survey (12%) felt that they were now safe from the perpetrator.

Emotional abuse and / or coercive control

Over one in ten (12%) felt that emotional abuse and / or coercive control was a concern for their safety.

“Constant anxiety about my daughter’s safety and also more false/malicious allegations”

“...Psychological harms. Smear campaign. Not just the harm of direct abuse but the harm from the abuser trying to befriend anyone I know and turning them against me”

No escape and in isolation

Similarly, 12% of respondents felt that the isolation of the current situation was causing them concerns for their safety.

“...Victim of honour based crime and domestic abuse and feel isolated from help”

“The lockdown has forced me to stay with my ex's parents so I can see my daughter”

Police and/or Courts not responding adequately or quickly

Victims and survivors were concerned about the police and courts in 8% of responses.

“Non molestation has run out, 9 weeks now since courts paid... divorce papers not filed. Legal Aid going out of their way to not help with an occupation order...”

Fears for safety of children and financial concerns

Concerns around children were highlighted in 7% of responses and finances in 8% of responses from the survey respondents.

“Constant anxiety about my daughter’s safety and also more false/malicious allegations”

“Financial security”

Stalking and harassment

Stalking and harassment continue to be a theme in recent responses to the survey. Although it only has 4% of responses, it was mentioned again by respondents in this week’s responses.

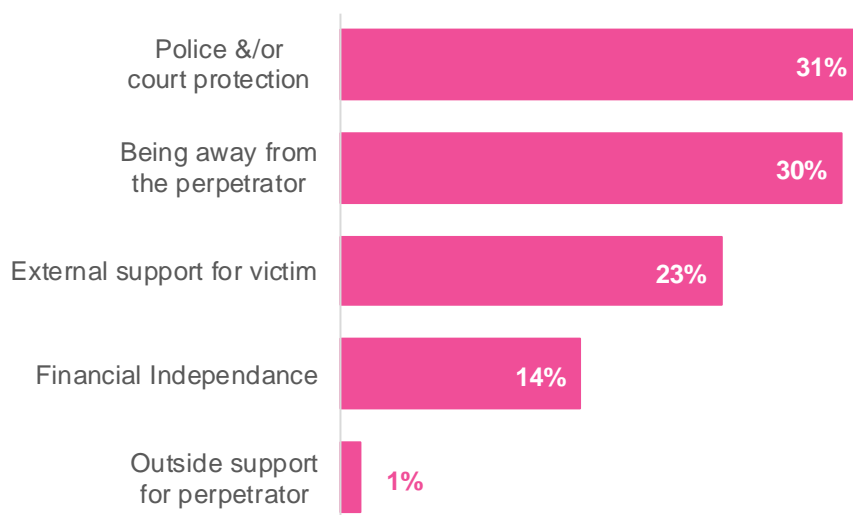
“Ongoing stalking and intimidation.”

Mental Health

There were no new responses about mental health this week. It, however, remains a concern in 4% of the responses.

Making people safer

Respondents were asked what they felt could make them feel safer at home during this time. If their answers covered more than one topic it was split into multiple comments. This led to 83 comments in total. The comments were split into five categories.



Police and/or court protection

The police and courts protection in order to make respondents feel safer was particularly highlighted by those respondents who completed the survey in the later weeks. Nearly a third (31%) of respondents felt that the police protecting victims as well as providing them with protection such as court orders or panic buttons would make the respondents feel safer.

“My complaint to the police being taken seriously (sexual assault, coercion and control)”

“Police not telling me that they think I am just trying to "score points in court" when I reported her for physical assault would be a start...”

Being away from the Perpetrator

The same number of responses (30%) felt that the way to increase their safety was to be away from the perpetrator. This included those who lived with the perpetrator and wanted to leave or wanted the perpetrator to leave, as well as those who were living away from the perpetrator but feared that the perpetrator knew where they lived, that they would see the perpetrator in the area or that the perpetrator could contact them at any time.

“To live far away”

“...him to be in prison”

Support for the Victim/Survivor

There was an increase in responses seeking support for the victim or survivor with nearly two out five responses highlighting this would make them feel safer.

“More support for separated families to get through the lockdown”

“...not being cut off from support charities that were helping me”

“...Good access to support especially phone support”

Financial Independence

Over one in ten respondents (14%) felt financial independence or stability in relation to money, work and housing would increase their safety.

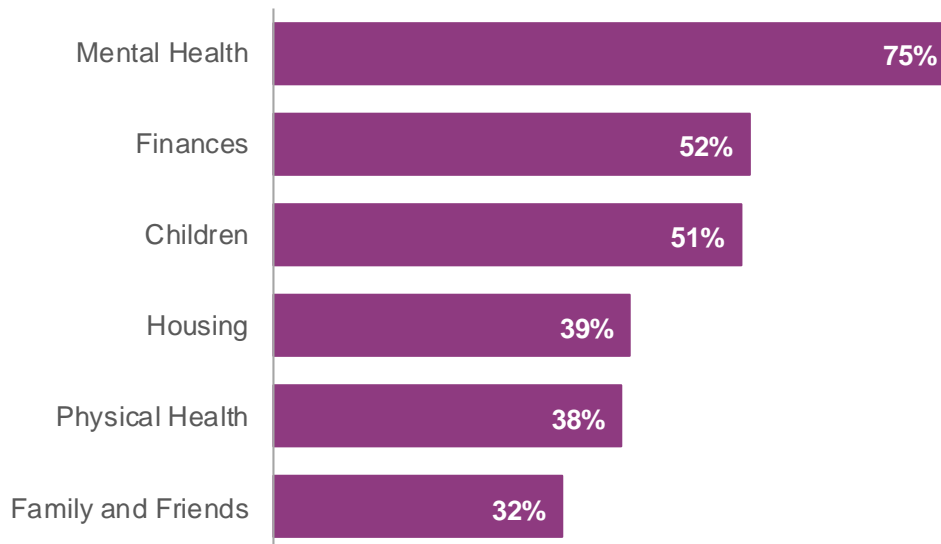
“Self employed people getting help sooner”

Perpetrator Support

One response felt that they would be safer if the perpetrator received support.

What else?

Finally, respondents were asked what else they were worried about. They were given a specific list, as shown in the graph. Nearly all respondents (96%) answered this question. There was also an option to state ‘Other’ and name what this concern was. Four respondents commented in this section with answers ranging from the availability of food, children in the local area, the safety of others from the perpetrator and victim’s voice at Marac.



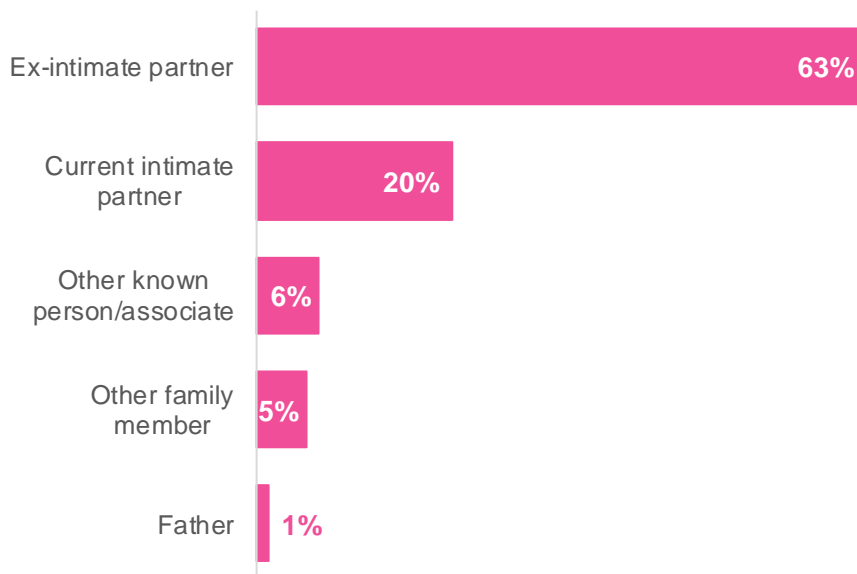
Relationship to Perpetrator

The first 14 respondents were not asked who the perpetrator of abuse was. The answers to this question, therefore, are the responses of the later 93 respondents. The most common relationship to a perpetrator was ex-intimate partner.

What is your relationship to the person abusing you?	n	%
Current Partner	18	19%
Ex-intimate partner	59	63%
Father	1	1%
Other family member	5	5%
Other known person/associate	7	8%

Other family members and known persons included:

- Daughter
- Brother
- Father of the children
- Landlord
- Workplace
- Grandchildren
- In-laws
- Friend
- Historic childhood abuse



Demographics

As well as safety concerns, SafeLives requested demographic information from those that participated in the survey. These are as follows:

Country

Capturing where the survivor lives was introduced to the survey on the 1st April 2020. Responses are, therefore, only from the 45 respondents who completed the survey since this date. The question is not compulsory and 37 respondents answered this question.

Country	n	%
England	27	71%
Wales	7	18%
Scotland	3	8%
Northern Ireland	0	0%
Outside UK	1	3%

Gender

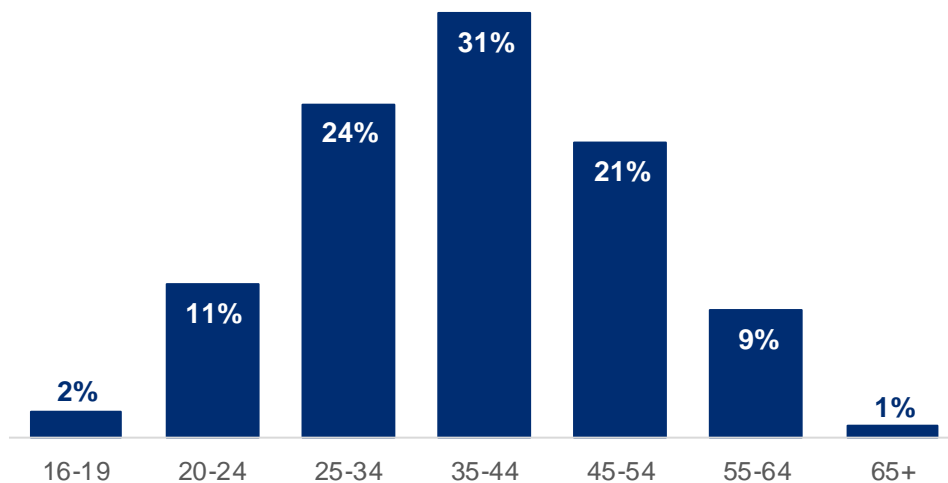
This week, there was an increase in male respondents to the survey. Out of the 13 respondents that completed the survey between the 16th and 22nd of April, over a third (38%) were male.

Gender	n	%
Female	94	88%
Male	12	11%
Describes themselves in another way	1	1%

Age

Over half of respondents were aged between 25 and 44 (55%) with the most common age group being 35-44.

Age	n	%
16-19	2	2%
20-24	12	11%
25-34	26	24%
35-44	33	31%
45-54	23	21%
55-64	10	9%
65+	1	1%



Children

Nearly four out of five (78%) of respondents had children.

Do you have children?	n	%
Yes	83	78%
No	21	20%

Of the 83 respondents that did have children, four out of five (80% n=66) had children under the age of 18. The number of children for those who did have children under 18 is as follows.

If yes, how many?	n	%
1	23	35%
2	24	36%
3	12	18%
4	5	8%
5	2	3%

Just under three quarters (72%) have their children living in the home.

Other people in the household

Other members of the household are shown in the table below:

Who else lives in the home?	n	%
Current Partner	28	26%
Ex-intimate partner	7	7%
Mother	5	5%
Step-mother	1	1%
Father	2	2%
Other family member	15	14%
Other known person/associate	7	7%

Other family members and other known persons/associates included:

- Children over the age of 18
- Grandson
- Cousin
- Niece
- Brother
- Sister
- Step-child
- Landlord
- Flat mates / house mates / lodger

Outside the household

Just under a quarter (24%) of respondents were caring for people outside of the household. The people they were caring for included:

Are you looking after anyone outside your home?	n	%
Current Partner	1	1%
Ex-intimate partner	1	1%
Mother	6	6%
Father	2	2%
Step-father	1	1%
Grandmother	6	6%
Grandfather	2	2%
Other family member	4	4%
Other known person/associate	3	3%

Other family members or known persons or associates included:

- Uncle
- Aunt
- Grandchildren