

Assaults in the home in Lancashire: an analysis of emergency department data, January 2009 to December 2011

Domestic violence remains an important public and social health concern in the UK. The British Crime Survey from 2010/11 reports that around 30% of women and 17% of men aged 16-59 had experienced some form of non-sexual partner abuse (emotional or financial abuse, threats or physical force) since the age of 16, and 7% and 5% respectively in the past year (1). The effects of domestic violence can be severe and widespread for the victims and their family. In addition it has been estimated that domestic violence costs the UK economy around £23 billion per year (2). The prevention of domestic violence is therefore a continued focus for criminal justice and public health bodies (3).

This report provides an indication of the burden of assaults in the home on emergency departments (EDs), and residents of Lancashire over the three-year period January 2009 to December 2011. It uses data on assaults in the home from all EDs in Lancashire¹.

Numbers of assaults in the home: cases and trends

Over the three-year period, 3,293 assault in the home attendances were recorded at Lancashire EDs. Of these 2,839 were residents of Lancashire. Between 2009 and 2011 there was a 15% decrease in the number of assaults in the home ED attendances (2009: n=1,197; 2010: n=1,073; 2011: n=1,023). Where gender was known, just over half (53%) of attendees were male.

¹ Blackburn & Burnley EDs do not currently collect data on location.

Age and gender of assaults in the home patients

Between 2009 and 2011 almost half (48%) of ED assault in the home attendances by Lancashire residents were for persons aged 30-59 years and for all age groups most assault in the home attendances were male (51%). In 2009 to 2011, Blackpool residents made the most attendances to EDs for an assault in the home (37%), followed by residents of Preston (19%) and Wyre (9%) (**Table 1**). The month with the highest recorded number of assault in the home attendances across gender was May (n=310) (**Figure 1**).

Figure 2 shows three-year trend data by local authority area of residence. The number of ED assaults in the home attendances made by Lancashire residents decreased by 10% over the three-year period, from January 2009 to December 2011. Assaults in the home attendances by Lancaster residents had the greatest increase (52%) however, Ribble Valley (57%), Chorley (44%), West Lancashire (40%) and South Ribble (35%) residents decreased considerably.

Patient disposal

The disposal of a patient gives an indication of the severity of the injuries sustained. Most ED assault in the home attendees were discharged (52%), whilst 27% had a follow-up/referral, and 8% were admitted to hospital (**Table 2**). More ED assault in the home attendances from Blackpool, Preston and West Lancashire were admitted (28%, 27% and 12% respectively) than other areas (**Table 3**). A greater

proportion (56%) of male 30 to 59 year olds were admitted than any other age group; this male number was nearly double the female number for the same age group (Table 4).

Area of residence of ED assault in the home attendances

Figure 3 shows crude rates of ED assault in the home attendance by Lancashire residents by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA), January 2009 to December 2011 combined. However, care should be taken when interpreting this data. It cannot be used to compare incidence of injuries in Lancashire residents as individuals may attend EDs outside of Lancashire. This particularly affects local authorities on county

borders. Crude rates were greatest for residents of the following MSOAs: Blackpool 13 (n=122 [695.63 per 100,000 population]), Blackpool 08 (n=142 [651.34 per 100,000 population]), Blackpool 10 (n=113 [493.66 per 100,000 population]), Blackpool 06 (n=88 [462.30 per 100,000 population]), and Blackpool 07 (n=65 [392.01 per 100,000 population]).

Table 1: Number of assault in the home attendances to EDs by age and gender, January 2009 to December 2011 combined* **

	Age group and gender												
	0-4		5-14		15-29		30-59		60+		Total		Persons
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
Total Lancashire ED attendances	6	18	39	54	626	742	777	795	71	101	1519	1710	3293
Total ED attendances: Lancashire residents only	5	15	37	48	556	631	693	674	65	87	1356	1455	2839
Local authority of residence													
<i>Blackburn with Darwen</i>	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	5
<i>Blackpool</i>	***	6	14	17	185	256	221	296	15	26	436	601	1037
<i>Burnley</i>	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	<5
<i>Chorley</i>	***	***	5	***	59	39	59	48	***	9	127	99	226
<i>Fylde</i>	***	***	***	***	14	47	35	37	6	***	56	91	147
<i>Hyndburn</i>	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	<5
<i>Lancaster</i>	***	***	***	***	36	33	35	34	***	7	78	80	158
<i>Pendle</i>	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	0
<i>Preston</i>	***	***	5	5	142	85	156	100	13	15	319	207	526
<i>Ribble Valley</i>	***	***	***	***	***	***	8	***	***	***	10	***	14
<i>Rossendale</i>	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	<5
<i>South Ribble</i>	***	***	***	***	40	32	80	41	5	***	126	77	203
<i>West Lancashire</i>	***	***	***	10	28	53	48	62	7	14	85	140	225
<i>Wyre</i>	***	***	***	5	49	84	49	50	12	12	115	152	267
Total ED attendances: area of residence not known[^]	***	***	***	***	19	28	16	28	***	***	38	61	101
Total ED attendances: area of residence outside Lancashire^{^^}	***	***	***	5	51	83	68	93	***	11	125	194	353

*There were 64 attendances whose ages were unknown; these have been included in the total figure.

**There were 28 attendances whose genders were unknown; these have been included in the total figure.

[^]There were 2 attendances whose age and gender were unknown; these have been included in the total figure.

^{^^}There were 34 attendances whose age and gender were unknown; these have been included in the total figure.



Figure 1: Number of assault in the home attendances to EDs by month and gender, January 2009 to December 2011 combined

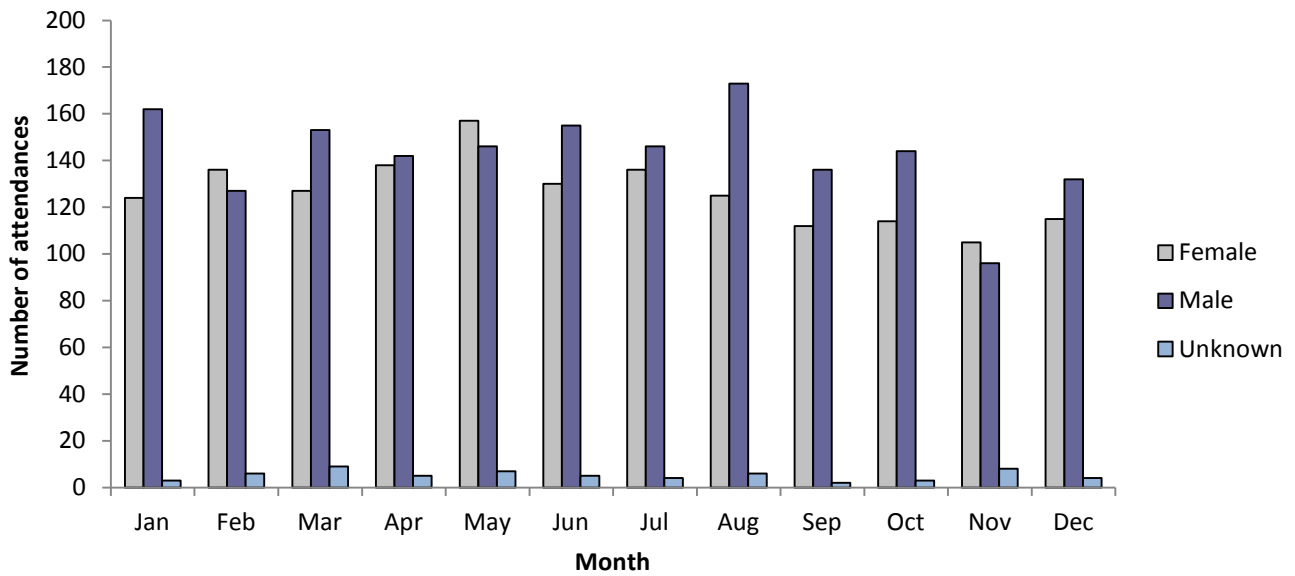


Figure 2: Lancashire residents: number of assault in the home attendances to all EDs by local / unitary authority of residence and year, January 2009 to December 2011

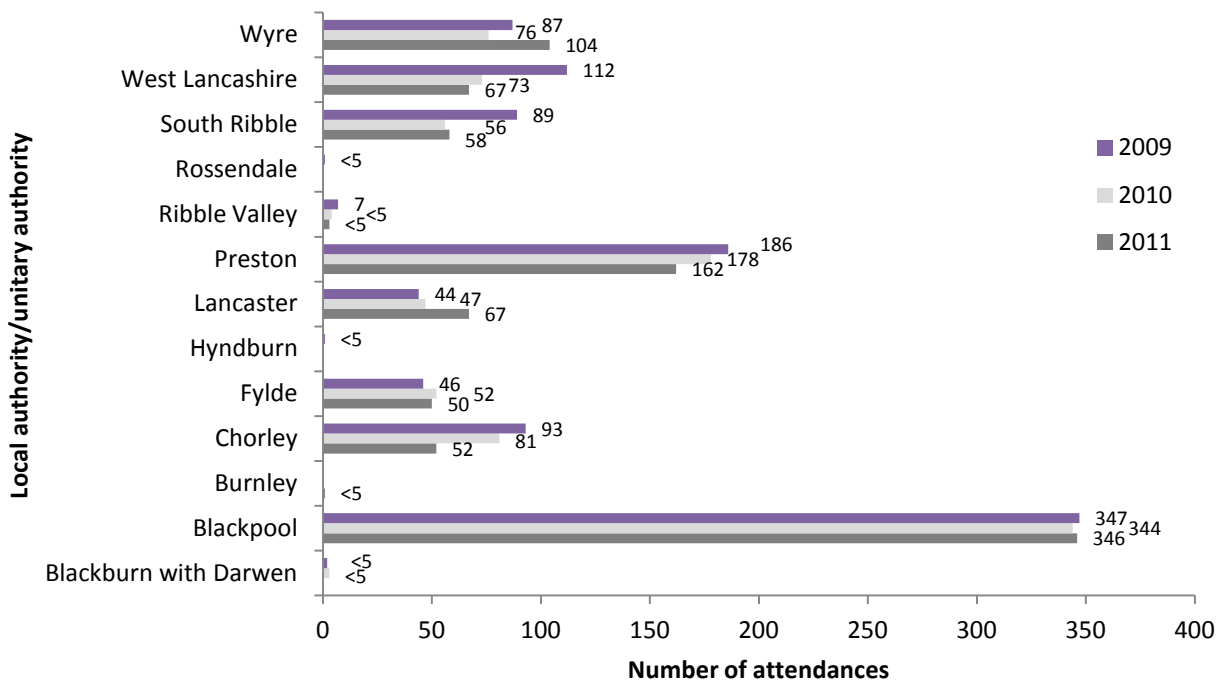


Table 2: Disposal method of assault in the home attendances to all Lancashire EDs, January 2009 to December 2011 combined

	Disposal method								
	Admitted		Discharged		Follow-up/referral		Other		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Attendances to Lancashire EDs	255	8	1723	52	879	27	436	13	3293
Blackpool Victoria Hospital	81	5	775	52	405	27	233	16	1494
Chorley and South Ribble Hospital	12	3	192	56	113	33	27	8	344
Ormskirk General Hospital	7	17	25	61	9	22	0	0	41
Royal Preston Hospital	79	11	347	49	195	27	90	13	711
Royal Lancaster Infirmary	16	9	109	62	26	15	25	14	176
Southport District General Hospital	60	11	275	52	131	25	61	12	527

Table 3: Disposal method of assault in the home attendances for Lancashire residents to all Lancashire EDs, January 2009 to December 2011 combined

	Disposal method								
	Admitted		Discharged		Follow-up/referral		Other		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Lancashire residents only	206	7	1492	53	762	27	379	13	2839
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	<5	40	<5	60	0	0	<6
Blackpool	58	6	519	50	282	27	178	17	1037
Burnley	0	0	<5	100	0	0	0	0	<5
Chorley	13	6	126	56	69	31	18	8	226
Fylde	<7	4	82	55	46	31	<15	9	148
Hyndburn	0	0	<5	100	0	0	0	0	<5
Lancaster	13	8	102	65	20	13	23	15	158
Preston	56	11	265	50	137	26	68	13	526
Ribble Valley	<5	7	8	57	<5	29	<5	7	14
Rossendale	0	0	0	0	0	0	<5	100	<5
South Ribble	17	8	92	45	68	33	26	13	203
West Lancashire	24	10	142	56	64	25	22	9	252
Wyre	18	7	152	57	69	26	28	10	267

Table 4: Disposal method of assault in the home attendances to all EDs for Lancashire residents by age and gender, January 2009 to December 2011 combined

Age group	Disposal method								
	Admitted		Discharged		Follow-up/referral		Other		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Females									
Total	73	5	756	56	356	26	171	13	1356
0-4	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
5-14	<9	22	18	49	10	27	<5	3	37
15-29	27	5	335	60	127	23	67	12	556
30-59	23	3	366	53	207	30	97	14	693
60+	<11	15	37	57	12	18	<7	9	65
Males									
Total	131	9	721	50	398	27	205	14	1455
0-4	12	80	<5	7	<5	7	<5	7	15
5-14	6	13	<30	60	<13	25	<5	2	48
15-29	31	5	322	51	187	30	91	14	631
30-59	68	10	328	49	174	26	104	15	674
60+	14	16	41	47	24	28	8	9	87

Figure 3: MSOA of residence for assault in the home attendances to all EDs (Lancashire residents only): Crude rate per 100,000 population 2009 to 2011 combined (LA boundaries overlaid)

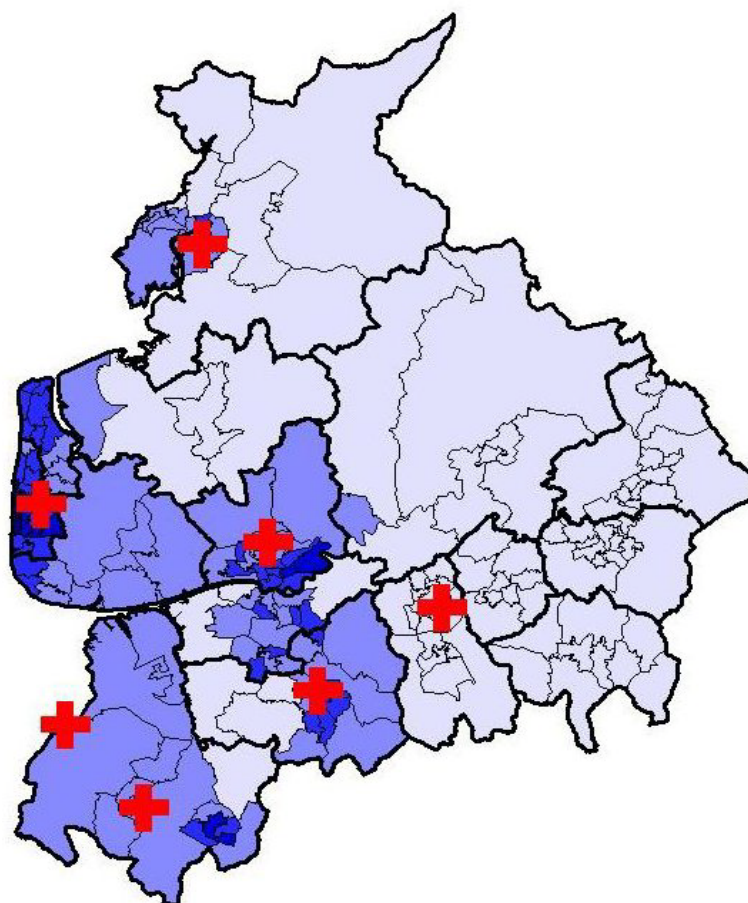
a) Top five MSOAs

MSOA	MSOA name	n	Crude rate/100,000 (- + 95% confidence intervals [CI])
E02002645	Blackpool 13	122	695.63 (577.68 - 830.58)
E02002640	Blackpool 08	142	651.34 (548.62 - 767.71)
E02002642	Blackpool 10	113	493.66 (406.85 - 593.52)
E02002638	Blackpool 06	88	462.30 (370.78 - 569.57)
E02002639	Blackpool 07	65	392.01 (302.54 - 499.65)

Quintiles of crude rate per 100,000 population

- 1 (0 – 25.67)
- 2 (25.68 – 88.76)
- 3 (88.77 – 192.21)
- 4 (192.22 – 392.01)
- 5 (392.02 – 695.63)

 Emergency department



References

- 1 Smith, K. et al (2012), *Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2010/11*, Home Office: London. Available from: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0212/hosb0212?view=Binary>
- 2 Walby, S. (2004), *The cost of domestic violence*, London: Women and Equality Unit.
- 3 Wood, S. Bellis, M. & Watts, C. (2011), *Intimate partner violence: a review of evidence for prevention*, Liverpool: Centre for Public Health.

Please note: all numbers less than five have been suppressed in line with patient confidentiality and if there is only one number less than 5 in a category then two numbers will be suppressed at the next level.

Author

Johnathan Rooney
Published April 2012

For further information contact:

Centre for Public Health

WHO Collaborating Centre for Violence Prevention
Faculty of Health and Applied Social Sciences
Liverpool John Moores University
2nd Floor,
Henry Cotton Campus,
15-21 Webster Street,
Liverpool,
L3 2ET
Tel: 0151 231 4539
Email: j.rooney@ljmu.ac.uk

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