

17 November 2021

Domestic Violence – Injuries Treated in A&E / ED

As I am conducting research into domestic violence in the household, I would like to kindly request data pertaining to Northern Ireland - can you please direct me as to where I can find the following stats:

How many victims where their injuries are classified as being a result of domestic abuse do you treat in A&E Departments per year?

Please find below information in relation to Domestic Violence for the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust area only. I would like to note this data may be inaccurate due to how data is collated in the Emergency Department (ED). Data is based on diagnosis, e.g. if a patient presents to ED with a head injury due to domestic violence, their diagnosis would be recorded as “head Injury”, not domestic violence.

The Trust asked for a free text search of “domestic violence” from the ED computer system - this is generally generated from the Triage information but again it may not be until later in the patient journey that any form of domestic violence is disclosed.

Belfast Trust Emergency Department attendances with text including “Domestic Violence” or “Domestic Abuse” mentioned
Source- BOXI

Period of attendance	Male	Female	Total
19/20	1	10	11
20/21	2	9	11

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What is the total cost to A&E departments per year of treating injuries as a consequence of Domestic Violence?

To provide a total cost would mean a trawl of patient files, going into each case specifically and determining clinical interventions, medications and time spent etc. It would take more than 18 hours to retrieve the information requested.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information

However we can advise that the average cost of an ED attendance in 2019/2020 was £288 and in 2020/2021 £302.

Note: Other Health and Social Care Trusts within Northern Ireland may be able to provide information with regard to their geographic areas of responsibility, as Belfast Trust would not have access to their information.