

Women's views on the policing of rape, domestic violence and stalking within the Cumbria Constabulary area.

Research Methods:

A sample of 141 women living within the Cumbria Constabulary area were asked their views in an online survey. They were asked how serious rape by a stranger, rape by someone known to them, domestic violence, and staking were; whether they would report these crimes to the police (and why); what priority they think the police should give these crimes; how seriously they think these crimes are taken by the police; and how seriously they think they should be taken.

Most women said these crimes were extremely/very serious



Not all women said they would definitely report these crimes if they happened to them



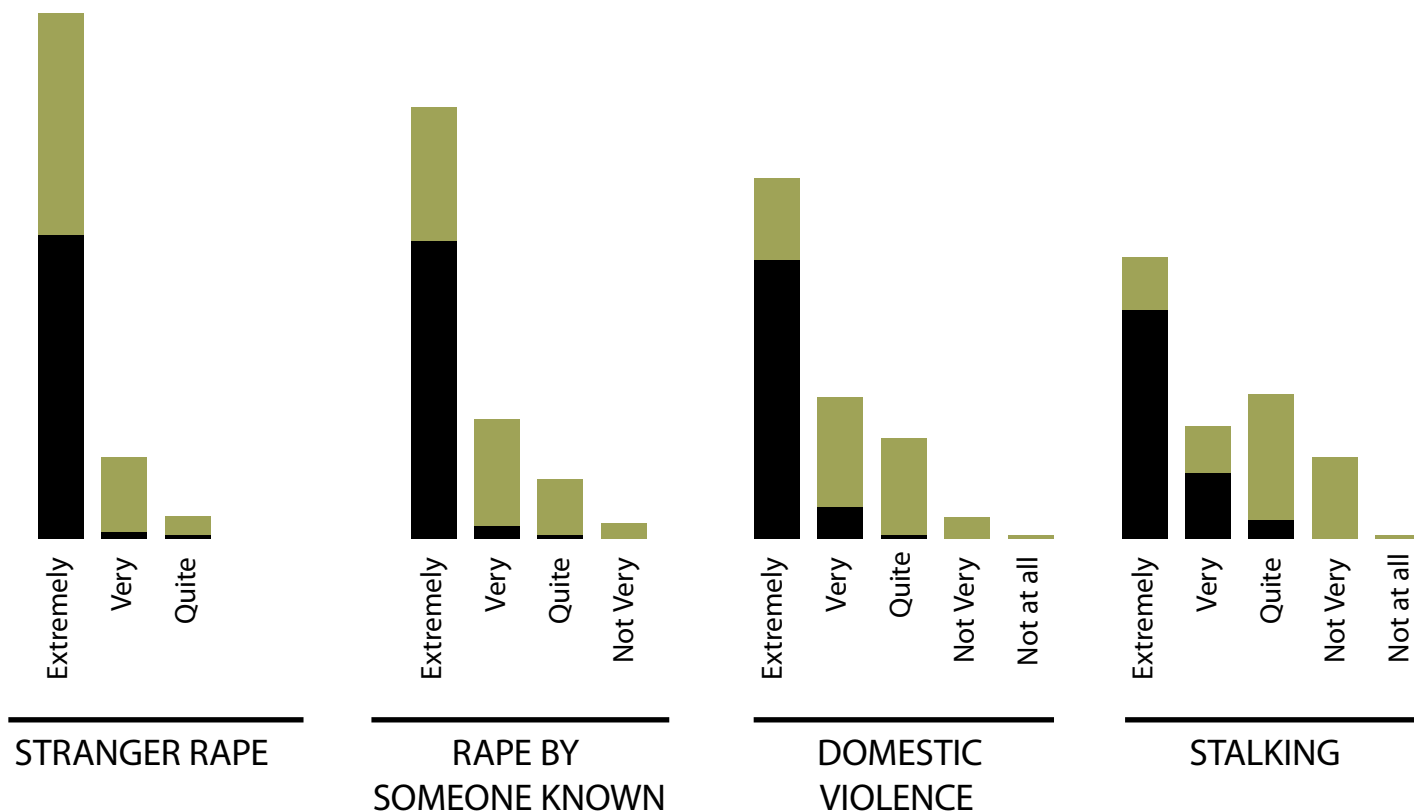
Women explained why they said they would or would not report

Women from Black and other Minority Ethnic backgrounds may be even less likely to make a police report and to access generic (not specialist BME) services.

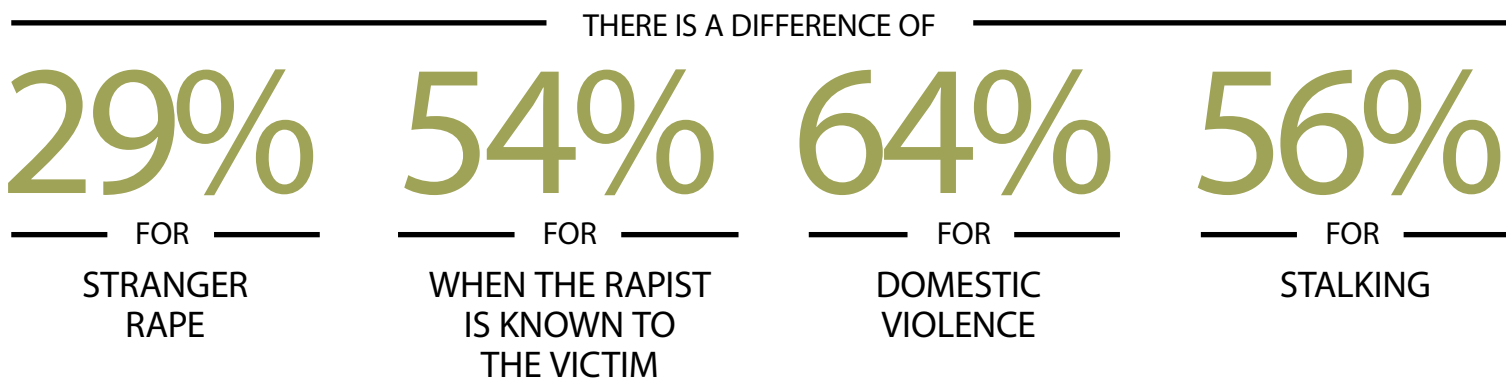
RAPE BY STRANGER	RAPE BY SOMEONE KNOWN	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	STALKING
<p>WOULD REPORT</p> <p>'Would report – because it is a crime and would bear huge consequences not only for for me but potentially for other women who could subsequently be attacked.'</p>	<p>WOULD REPORT</p> <p>'Just because it's someone you know it doesn't make it any better and if they do it once they would probably do it again.'</p>	<p>WOULD REPORT</p> <p>'I would need protection and help from the police.'</p>	<p>WOULD REPORT</p> <p>'I would want assistance.'</p>
<p>MIGHT NOT REPORT</p> <p>'The emotional strain of a prosecution on top of the rape may be too much to deal with.'</p>	<p>WOULD NOT REPORT</p> <p>'No point - would turn into a character assassination of me.'</p>	<p>WOULD NOT REPORT</p> <p>'I would probably take part of the blame for the abuse and not report this.'</p>	<p>WOULD NOT REPORT</p> <p>'Believe it or not this is currently happening to me! I feel the police would think of me as an idiot and someone who thinks they love themselves because they 'think' they're being stalked.'</p>

Women do not think the police take rape, domestic violence and stalking as seriously as they should do.

How seriously they THOUGHT they were taken and how seriously they SHOULD be taken:



There is a gap between what people say the police should take extremely seriously, and their view of what the police actually take extremely seriously:



Most women said that these crimes should be given a very high priority, even when considering all the other demands on the police

