

## **Domestic abuse during COVID-19**

Domestic violence, also called domestic abuse, includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse in couple relationships or between family members. Domestic violence can happen against anyone, and anybody can be an abuser. During the COVID-19 pandemic, domestic abuse charities and other organisations are reporting an increase in cases:

- General online domestic abuse searches have increased by 352.5%
- Support lines and web chat activity has increased by 53.9% and 70.4%, respectively.
- There has been a substantial rise in self-referrals to ChildLine
- An increase of up to 50% in Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) domestic abuse referrals

### **Public information on domestic abuse**

The NHS website has [advice online for the public](#) on spotting the signs for domestic abuse and domestic violence and where to go for help. The NHS also has a [help page](#) for those who have been raped or sexually assaulted.

The Home Office is promoting the freephone 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline number is **0808 2000 247** and associated online support available at [nationaldahelpline.org.uk](https://nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

As part of the campaign, the [Home Office has produced detailed advice](#) for those experiencing domestic abuse and domestic violence. In addition, [Respect](#) is an anonymous and confidential helpline for men and women who are harming their partners and families. The helpline also takes calls from partners or ex-partners, friends and relatives who are concerned