

Information and guidance: How to use the calculator to estimate Sexual Violence and interpret the results

We hope you will find this calculator useful for demonstrating the value for money of providing specialist services to people who have experienced sexual violence and abuse, and for investing in effective prevention measures.

The calculator estimates the **lifetime** cost of child and adult sexual violence and abuse (SVA) across a range of services and multiplies this by the yearly prevalence of SVA in each local area and in England and Wales. This gives the **lifetime cost of SVA** for those localities and England and Wales for the people who were victims of SVA in that year. It is important to remember these are lifetime costs for a cohort of victims/survivors in a given year. Therefore, each year there will be a new group of victims/survivors whose violence suffered will add up to a certain amount across their lifetime. **The results can be quite large and understanding they are lifetime costs is important.**

PLEASE NOTE: The guidance to use the tool is on page 3. But first, please read about the datasets used and the limitations of the calculator before using it. This will aid in understanding and interpreting the results. Thank you.

Data

The data used for this calculator are:

1. 2021 Census data for England and Wales
 - a. This provides the number of children (0-15) and adults (16+) living in England and Wales, and the number living in each LA in England and Wales.
2. Crime Survey for England Wales (CSEW) from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) – the self-completion module, year ending in September 2024 (published in January 2025)

- a. These data are used to calculate the prevalence of sexual violence in the adult population.
3. National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty against Children (NSPCC), Child sexual abuse: statistics briefing, 2025
 - a. This statistical briefing is used to calculate the prevalence of sexual abuse in the child population (those under 16 years of age). Given the youth survey asks young people aged 11-17 about their experiences of sexual violence, we used calibration methods to obtain a steady state that accounts for younger children (ages 0-10).
4. A scoping review was conducted to obtain unit cost for all types of cost available in this tool. Rape Crisis data was used to obtain relative probability of service use, productivity losses and quality of life losses. It was also used to estimate duration of service use, productivity losses and quality of life losses. Rape Crisis data contained both children and adults in their sample.

Limitations of the calculator

There are important caveats to note when interpreting the results.

1. The results are likely to be conservative estimates of the lifetime cost burden of sexual violence.
2. Cost of housing was not factored into our calculations because it is not captured in the Rape Crisis dataset. Therefore, we could not estimate its relative probability or duration.
3. The variation in prevalence of sexual violence and abuse between local areas was not factored in. This is because this due to relative low prevalence in the population, this data is not made available by local area by CSEW or the NSPCC statistics briefing. The prevalence of SVA is not the same across England and Wales localities. As result the calculation could overestimate the burden of SVA in wealthy areas with older populations and underestimate it in poorer areas with younger populations. This means a result for any local area could be an overestimate of cost or an underestimate. While the tool may overestimate the burden of sexual violence and abuse, given its conservative nature and that some costs attributable to sexual violence were not taken into account, this is unlikely, albeit possible. **It is important to note that the calculator results are just an estimate.**

Calculator guidance

Follow the simple step-by-step instructions for using the calculator below.

The only information you will need to hand is:

- The number of service users (child and/or adult) if using the Specialist Services Calculator
- Your Local Area if using the National and Local Area Calculator

Step 1:

Select either “National and Local Area Calculator” or “Specialist Services Calculator” from the grey tabs at the top of the page.

- Choose “**National and Local Area Calculator**” to estimate the total burden of SVA costs by children or adult population in your local area or in England and Wales.
- Choose “**Specialist Services Calculator**” if you are a specialist victim support service who wants to estimate the lifetime cost of your clients on society.

Step 2:

If using the National and Local Area Calculator, choose whether you’d like to include adult or child service users, or both. Then select your Local Area from the dropdown menu. You can choose one Local Area or England and Wales for the National levels.

If using the Specialist Services Calculator, type in the number of adult and/or child service users for your service.

Step 3:

Choose which types of services you want to include in your calculation. Please see Definitions on page 4 for the descriptions of services.

Step 4:

Click “Calculate”. All of the modelling and calculations are done via Excel behind the scenes, so just wait for your results to appear. Your results will be displayed in a yellow box at the bottom of the page. You can also submit a form to have them sent to you via email.

Remember that the total figure represents the current year’s prevalence of the lifetime cost. The data used for this calculator will be updated annually every March or April.

What should I do with my results?

We hope that you find the results useful and that you share them far and wide. If you are a local organisation, you can use the results to demonstrate the value for money of your services in funding applications and in your general advocacy work.

Local Authorities, commissioners, MPs and the public can use the results to advocate for specialist services for people who have experienced or used sexual violence and abuse in their area, and for investing in effective prevention.

Definitions

Child service users: Defined as under 16 years old (the age of consent)

Physical health: Cost of harm to physical health as a direct or indirect result of SVA and its treatment

Mental health: Cost of harm to mental health as a direct or indirect result of SVA and its treatment

Cost to social care: Relevant for children only

Police: Costs relating to police involvement in SVA cases

Criminal Justice: Costs incurred by the involvement and processes of the Criminal Justice System

Civil Justice: Costs incurred by the involvement and processes of the Civil Justice System

Incarceration: Costs related to the detainment of SVA perpetrators

Cost to specialist service: The cost of running and providing the specialist service per service user

QALY loss: Quality-adjusted life year (QALY): Measure of disease burden, including both quality and duration of life lived

Productivity loss: Lost economic productivity due to SVA through unemployment, lost earnings or output

This calculator was developed in collaboration between the [UK Prevention Research Partnership VISION consortium](#) and the [Women's Budget Group](#).

