

Cost of sexual violence calculator



For more information, get in touch:
Dr. Estela Capelas Barbosa
(e.capelasbarbosa@bristol.ac.uk),
University of Bristol



AIMS

Our calculator has two aims:

01



Specialist sexual violence support services can estimate the lifetime cost of their clients on society

- The organisation inputs the number of service users by children and adults.
- They are able to select the type of costs they are interested in (such as healthcare, justice, social care, quality of life losses, etc).

02

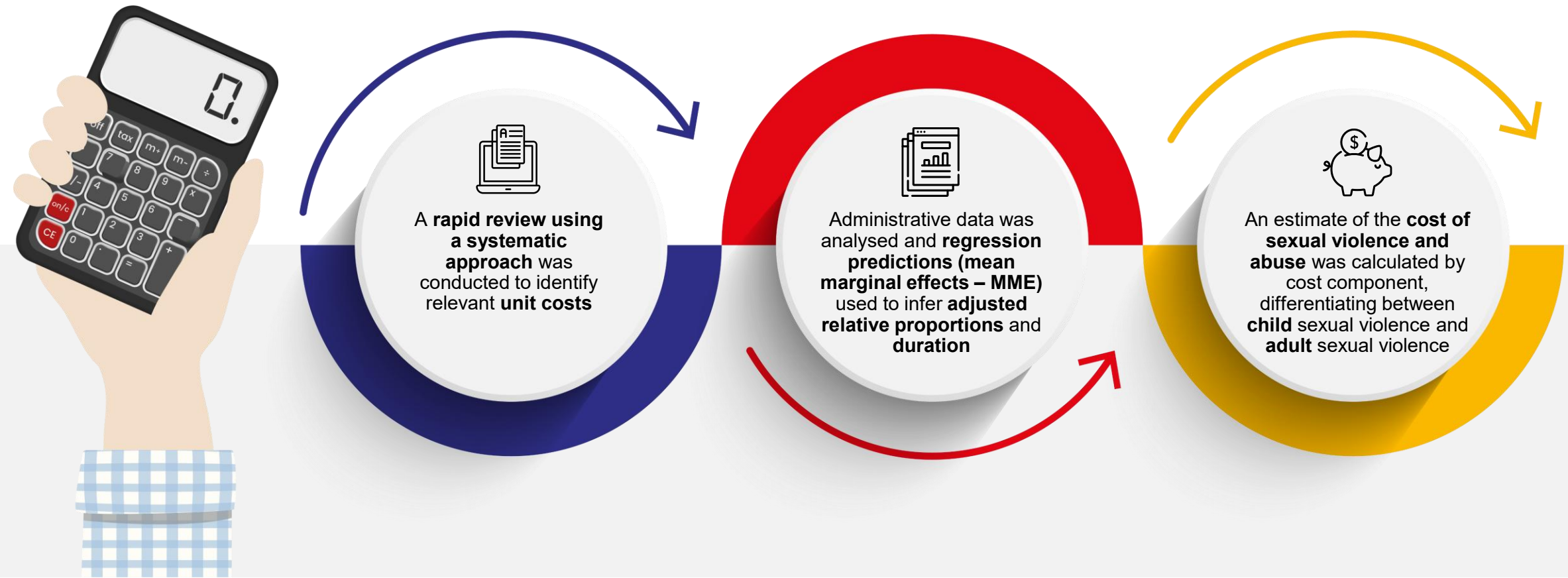


Local authorities, commissioners, MPs, and the public can use the tool to determine the burden of SVA costs in their area

- The user can select their local area and either children or adult or both.
- They are able to select the type of costs they are interested in (such as healthcare, justice, social care, quality of life losses, etc).

The resulting figure will be the total lifetime burden of sexual violence and abuse costs by children or adult population or both who experienced sexual violence in the previous 12 months in their local area.

Methods



Methods

There are four main methodological components to this calculator:

01

A rapid review using a **systematic approach** was conducted to identify relevant **unit costs** that may be attributable to child and adult sexual violence and abuse.

02

Administrative data was analysed and **regression predictions (mean marginal effects – MME)** based on **multiple imputation** was used to infer **adjusted relative proportions** attributable to each victim of sexual violence and abuse. Administrative data was also used to infer the **duration of harm** where relevant.

03

An estimate of the **cost of sexual violence and abuse** was calculated by cost component, differentiating between **child** sexual violence and **adult** sexual violence.

04

For the local area calculator, we used the **Census 2021** to define number of children (0-15) and adults (16+) in each area. The prevalence from the **self-complete module** from the **CSEW** was applied for adults, and a *calibrated* prevalence from **NSPCC youth survey** was applied for children. The calibration was based on a steady state calculation for younger children.

Rapid Review

The **18 publications** included were reviewed considering their quality and contribution.

Most relevant studies were government reports.

Some sectors like housing were completely missing of cost estimates.



COST COMPONENT	£ (2024)	SOURCE
Cost to Education	£32.5 per victim	Department for Education, 2018
Cost to Health		
Physical Health	£1,130 per year	Home Office, 2021
Mental Health	£5,990 per year	Quinn et al., 2020
Cost to Social Care**	£22,113 per victim	Home Office, 2021
Cost to the Justice System		
Criminal Justice	£ 19,822 – Child £15,607 – Adult per victim	Ministry of Justice, 2019
Civil Justice	£14,628	Home Office, 2014
Police	£7,312	Heeks et al., 2018
Incarceration	£55,456	Clark, 2021
Cost to specialist services	£28,172	VCSE Pathway Costings (Ministry of Justice), 2019
VOLY (to calculate QALY Loss)*	£70,000	HM Treasury's 'The Green Book', 2018
Productivity Loss	£28,201	Office for National Statistics, 2019

Recent Home Office VOLY update.

Calculating lifetime cost



Where there is a duration longer than a year, the relevant lifetime cost is calculated as follows:

Lifetime cost component = REL PROB * UNIT COST * DURATION

Where duration is not applicable, the formula is:

Lifetime cost component = REL PROB * UNIT COST

Lifetime cost of child sexual abuse

Cost of CHILD sexual abuse per victim	Relative probability (adjusted)	Duration (in years)	Total cost (£2024)
Cost to Education	0.02	-	£0.65
Cost to Health and Social Care			£49,178.31
Physical Health	1.157	-	£976.78
Mental Health	1.078	4.5	£29,112.13
Cost to Social Care	0.863	-	£19,089.40
Cost to the Justice System			£60,034.78
Police	0.85	-	£6,226.44
Criminal Justice	0.62	-	£12,456.95
Civil Justice	0.61	-	£8,947.17
Incarceration	0.06	9.8	£32,404.22
Cost to Specialist Service	1.12	1.14	£35,899.76
QALY Loss	0.338§	14.75	£349,378.67
Productivity Loss	0.012	37.4	£12,656.80
GRAND TOTAL			£507,148.97

Duration not applicable or not longer than 1 year. * Unit cost measured in per victim terms.



While regression results yielded a relative probability of just over a third of survivors experiencing quality of life loss, this is very unlikely given the severe impact of sexual violence.

Lifetime cost of adult sexual abuse

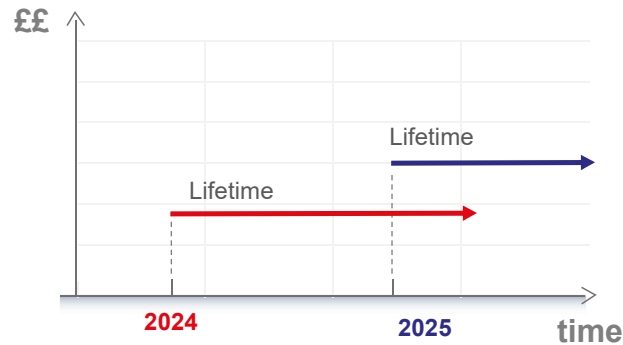
Cost of ADULT sexual abuse per victim	Relative proportion (adjusted)	Duration (in years)	Total cost (£2024)
Cost to Health and Social Care			£20,384.87
Physical Health	1.157	-	£976.78
Mental Health	1.08	3	£19,408.09
Cost to the Justice System			£44,930.02
Police	0.85	-	£6,226.44
Criminal Justice	0.798	-	£12,456.95
Civil Justice	0.55	-	£8,107.83
Incarceration	0.05	6.4	£18,138.81
Cost to Specialist Service	1.118	1.15	£36,214.66
QALY Loss	0.338	6.6	£156,332.15
Productivity Loss	0.02	17.4	£9,509.67
GRAND TOTAL			£267,371.38

Duration not applicable or not longer than 1 year. * Unit cost measured in per victim terms.



Interpreting the results

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:



For the **support services calculator**, it multiplies the cost per victim by the number of victims inserted in the calculator and provides the **lifetime costs** for the victims supported by that service.

For the **local area calculator**, it 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.**

Limitations of the calculator

There are important caveats to note when using the calculator and interpreting the results. The results are likely to be **conservative estimates** of the ***lifetime cost burden of sexual violence***.



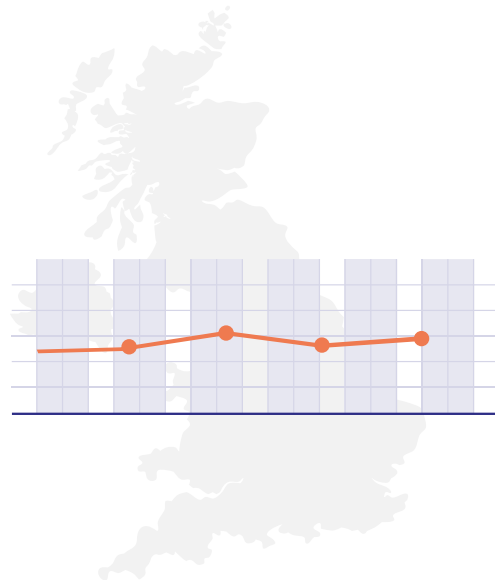
Cost of housing was not factored into our calculations because it is not captured in the Rape Crisis dataset. Therefore, we could not estimate its relative probability or duration.



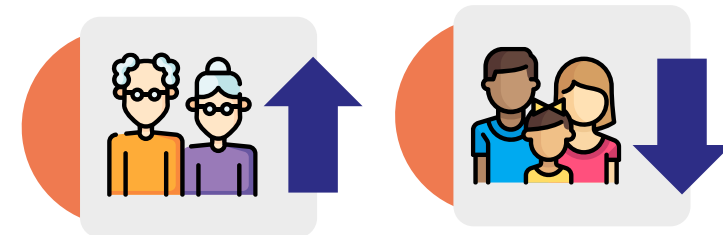
Further Limitations

The **variation in prevalence** of sexual violence and abuse between local areas was **not factored in**. This is because the relatively low prevalence in the population means that very few respondents appear in survey samples, making such data unavailable at the local level in the CSEW and the NSPCC statistical briefings.

The prevalence of SVA is not the same across England and Wales localities.



As result the **calculator 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 SVA, 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.



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