

**Title:** Using statistics to understand the characteristics of women experiencing domestic abuse and violence

**Description:**

Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) is experienced by about 1/3 of women globally and remains a major health concern worldwide. IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety of women affected by DVA) is a complex, system-level, training and support programme, designed to improve the primary healthcare response to DVA. Following a successful trial in England, since 2011 IRIS has been implemented in eleven London boroughs.

This project will extend the previously published PRECODE [1] work that uses the IRIS datasets. Our first quantitative work evaluated the impact of the first COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 and the different school holidays over 2017-2020 on the number of DVA referrals daily referrals received by DVA service providers from general practices [2]. A very recently completed work additionally evaluated the impact of the three consecutive COVID-19 lockdowns on these DVA referrals (accepted paper for publication in September is available from Jasmina). The aim of this BSP project is to extend these published pieces of analyses to additionally explore the characteristics of people seeking care from DVA during 2017-2024 and hence characterise the determinants of risk of DVA in England. As in the previous analysis, we will be using the anonymised data on daily referrals received by DVA service providers from general practices.

The work of the project will comprise:

- 1) Undertaking of a systematic review to synthesise existing work on the characteristics of women who have experienced DVA from the published literature over the last 20 years.
- 2) Undertaking of descriptive statistics and regression analysis on data across 33 IRIS sites over the period January 2017 – May 2024.
- 3) Developing and application of different statistical models to identify key characteristics of people experiencing DVA in England over the whole study period.
- 4) Adapting of the statistical models to explore whether/how these characteristics differ across pre-pandemic (2017-2020), pandemic (2020-2022) and living with COVID-19 years (2022-2024) in England.

There is a scope to change/adapt/extent the above points if there is a direction that the student is particularly interested in exploring. Please get in touch with Jasmina if this is the case.

Outputs from the project are planned to constitute the next paper in a series of PRECODE papers.

**References:**

1. PRECODE protocol paper  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33980165/>

2. Paper evaluating the impact of the first COVID-19 national lockdowns and of school holidays on the number of referrals to DVA practices  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35291956/>

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