

# SOMETIMES, THE IMPOSSIBLE IS TRUE.

## CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE IN ENGLAND AND WALES:

117,627 OFFENCES recorded by police in the year ending March 2019

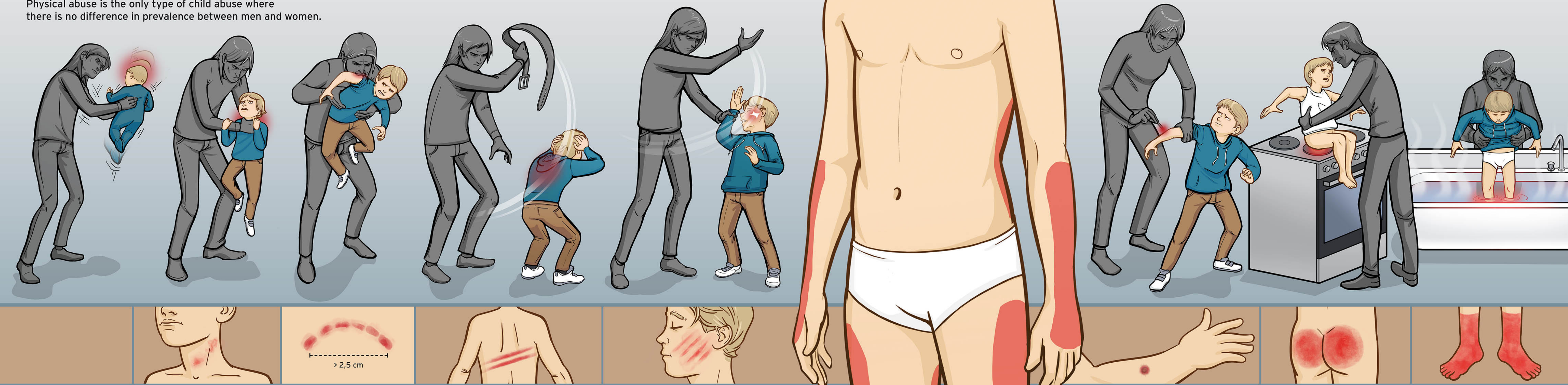
## THE ABUSE WAS MOST COMMONLY PERPETRATED

BY THE CHILD'S PARENT(S) around 4 in 10 were abused by their father, around 3 in 10 were abused by their mother.

93 CHILD HOMICIDES in the year ending March 2018

Physical abuse is the only type of child abuse where there is no difference in prevalence between men and women.

Source: Office of National Statistics, 2020



Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), commonly known as shaken baby syndrome (SBS) leads to severe injuries in the brain. External injuries are not often visible.

If signs of choking are present, the child should be seen by a doctor immediately!

Space between canine teeth: larger than 2.5 cm or 1 inch = adult smaller than 2.5 cm or 1 inch = child

Strike with a belt, or other elongated item = double streaks

Strike to the Face = parallel streaks

A typical cigarette burn is circular or slightly oval. Cigarette burns on the back of the hand can be a sign of abuse as children do not grab with the back of their hand.

Sharply defined, circular injuries

Scalds from immersion are circular and display sharply defined borders.

Injuries commonly seen after simple falls or hitting an object during play



Injuries that cannot be explained with a simple fall or collision during play.

If you're worried that a child or young person is at risk or is being abused contact the children's social care team at their local council. You'll be asked for your details, but you can choose not to share them.

**Call 999** if the child is at immediate risk.

If it's not an emergency, you can report the crime online or call 101.

Calls to 999 or 101 are free.

London Ambulance Service NHS Trust

### Evidence for abuse:

1. Absence of a plausible and conclusive explanation.
2. Does the development level of motor skills match the given explanation? For example, a one year old child is not able to climb onto a cooker and turn it on without help.
3. Changing stories about the history of the injury.
4. Conspicuous behaviour of the child during the examination: Fear, complete passivity, attempts to overly please, extreme deference, aggression, destructive behaviour, inappropriate lack of distance to the examiner.
5. Many different injuries at various places around the body point towards abuse.
6. Any delay in seeking medical help with severe injuries is highly suspicious.