

Domestic violence rises by a third when England win or lose big football matches

- **Research revealed domestic violence reports rose 31 per cent after England's 4-1 defeat to Germany at 2010 World Cup**
- **Similar results after England victories but no significant change after draws**
- **Renewed calls for schools, police and footballing bodies to tackle the issue**

By Becky Evans



Abuse: Reports of domestic violence increase by as much as 30% depending on the results of England matches. (file picture posed by model)

Domestic violence rises by a third when England win or lose a big football match but stay level if the national side draws, new figures claim.

Research conducted during the 2010 World Cup showed that when England beat Slovenia 1-0, domestic beatings rose by 27.7 per cent.

Similarly when they crashed out of the contest after losing 4-1 to Germany household violence went up by 31.5 per cent.

The figures, obtained from 33 out of England's 39 police forces also showed that levels of domestic violence reported to police stayed roughly the same after a draw.

The academics behind the report have now called for footballing bodies to do more to increase awareness of the issue. When England drew with USA 1-1 domestic beatings fell by 1.9 per cent, while when the team drew 0-0 against Algeria it rose just 0.1 per cent.

Study author Professor Allan Brimicombe, from the University of East London, said the increases could be caused by alcohol that fans knock back during a game, as well as the highly emotional state the match can leave them in.

He completed the research to follow up earlier claims by the Home Office about domestic violence and football, saying the worrying trend could apply to any big football fixture.

England will take on San Marino in front of a sell-out Wembley Stadium crowd tonight in a World Cup qualifier.

Prof Brimicombe, whose research is published in journal *Significance*, called for schools, the police and footballing bodies to increase awareness of domestic violence.

He said: 'Major sporting events do not cause domestic violence, as perpetrators are responsible for their actions, but the levels of alcohol consumption linked to the highly charged emotional nature of those events seems to increase the prevalence of such incidents.'



Jermain Defoe celebrates scoring England's winning goal in the 1-0 victory over Slovenia at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. Following the win reports of domestic violence soared by 27.7 per cent



Celebration: While these fans enjoy the England victory against Slovenia, research has revealed a darker side home football. A new study showed that following the England win reports of domestic violence rose by almost 30 per cent

Prof Brimicombe said domestic violence is 'widespread' and accounts for 15 per cent of all violent crimes and 35 per cent of murders in the UK.

He said a 30 per cent of women will be affected by the crime at some point in their lives and 17 per cent of men.

Prof Brimicombe added: 'Our research shows that increased levels of domestic violence are associated with national football matches, but only if there is a definite win or lose result.

'The percentage differences that we found are so great that we believe we have established a strong case for linking wins and losses, but not draws, to increased domestic violence.

'I hope that the findings will encourage improved education around the links between major sporting events and peaks in domestic violence and greater awareness of the risk.'