



NICE PDG hearings on health responses to domestic violence

Respect: male victims and work with perpetrators
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Male victims of domestic violence

- We've run the Men's Advice Line for 10 years
- We've helped thousands of male victims
- Research controversies abound
- We use our real-time monitoring system
- Data from 3000 male victims 2010-2011 presented here

British Crime Survey



- Reports focus on frequency (how many people EVER abused – one or more) rather than incidence (how many individual incidents – without this, hard to measure repeat victimisation)
- Analysis usually ignores context and consequences
- Data often excludes sexual assault
- Data sometimes combines IPV with FV
- Data often presented in percentages, which can be misleading, as lower numbers of men than women are victims in total
- However it is good national data set and it is what we have

BCS continued: repeat victimisation

- About a third of all male victims and a quarter of all female victims were abused once only in 2007/8 (Roe, 2009)
- 2% of male victims and 5% of female victims abused more than 50 times in last year (Roe, 2009)
- Remember that there are more female victims than male, so the percentages have different effects, so:
- **Out of all the victims who were abused 6 or more times, 70.6% were female**
- **Of all the victims who were abused 50 or more times, 76.6% were female**
(Debbonaire, analysing data from Roe, 2009)

Homicide victims who knew suspects 2009-10 BCS report (Smith et al 2010)

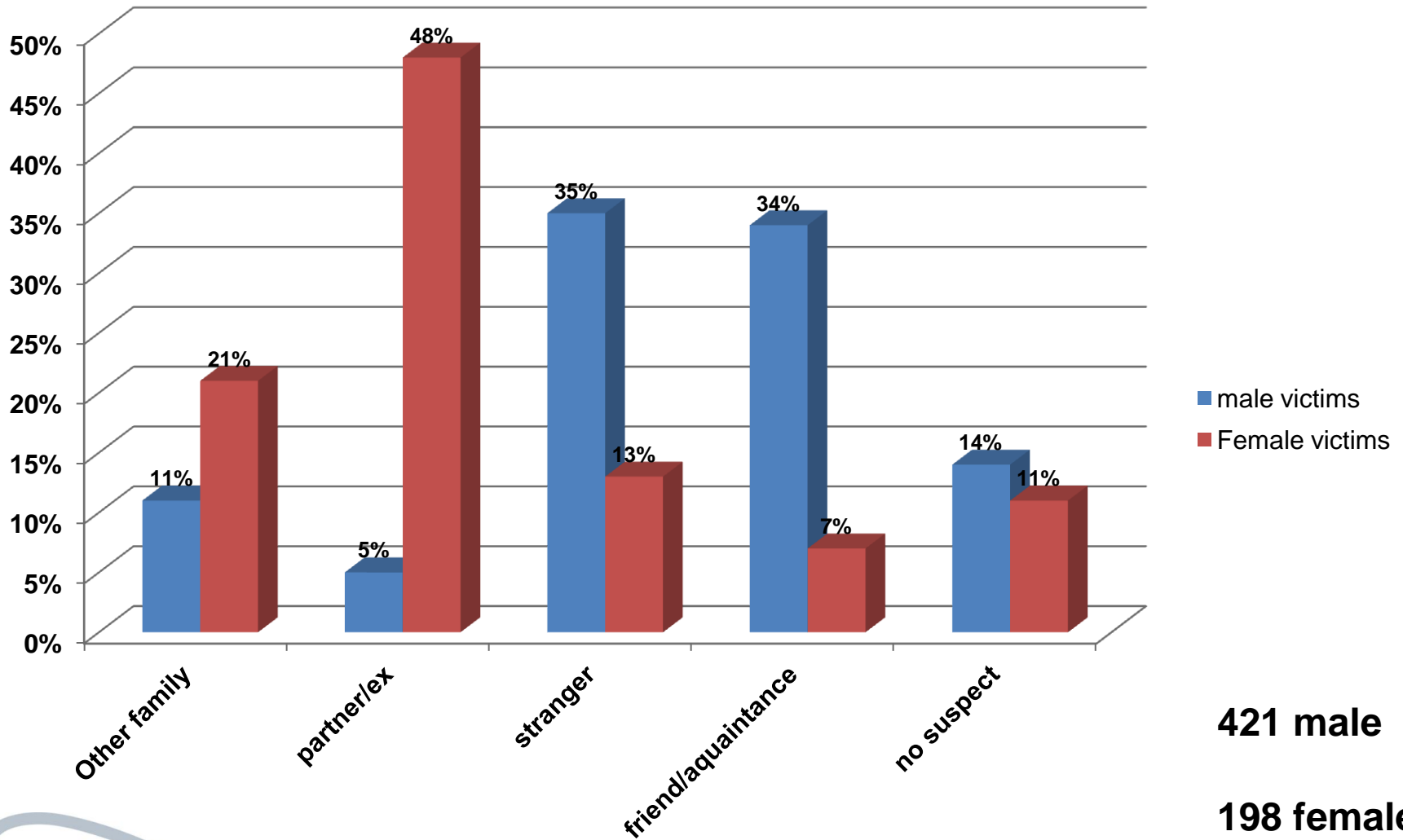
Male victims (421)

- 50% acquainted with main suspect (212)
- 5% (one in 20) killed by partner, ex-partner or lover (21 victims)

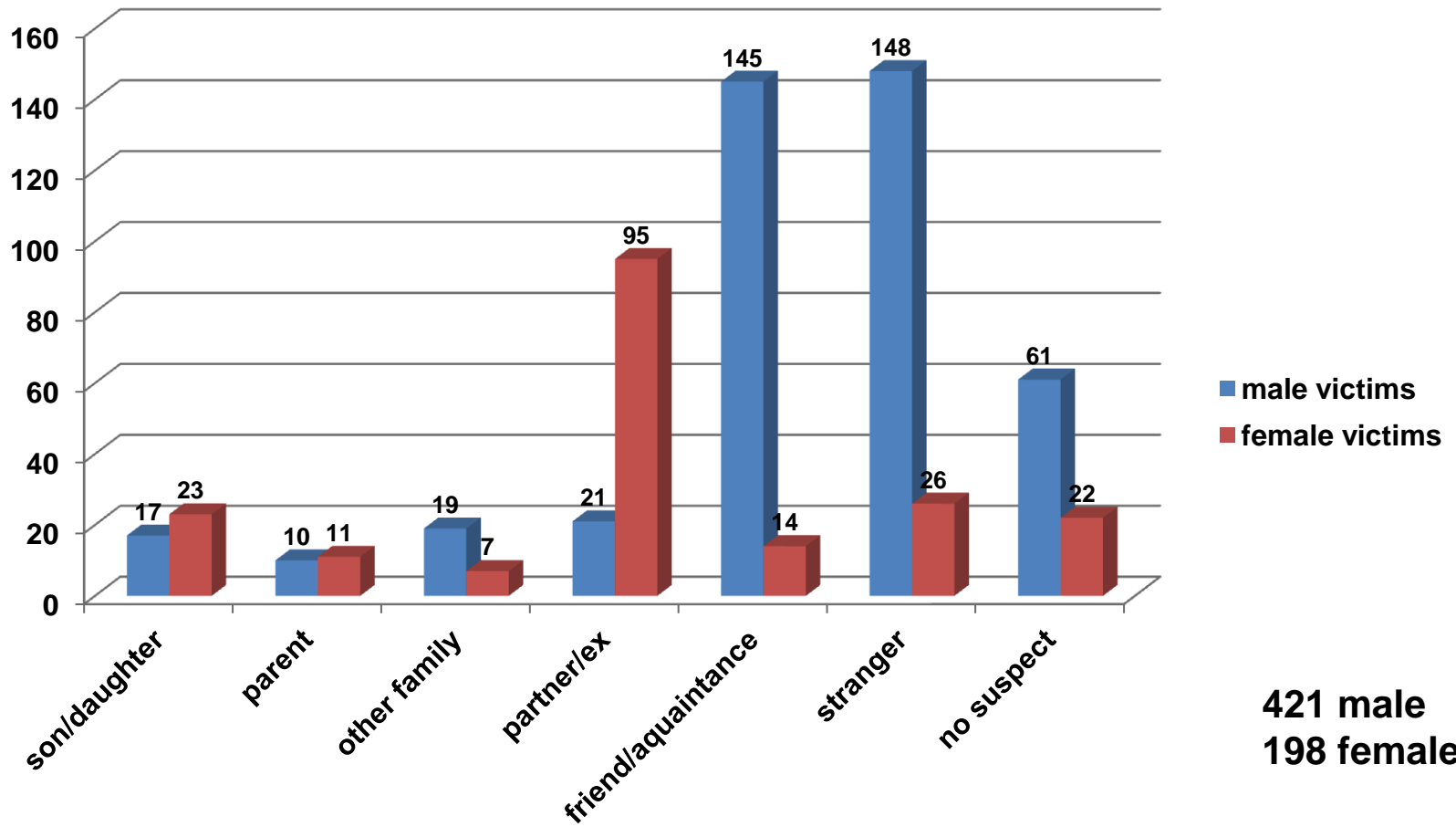
Female victims (198)

- 76% (150 victims) acquainted with main suspect
- 48% killed by partner, ex-partner or lover (94 victims)

Comparison: percentages



Comparison: numbers



British Crime Survey: is it equal?

At first glance:

- *“there’s nearly equal male and female victims”*
- *“11% of men and 18% of women experienced 6 or more incidents in last year”*
- *“Men less likely to report than women”*

But actually that’s...

- Only for “one or more” incidents in lifetime – not for repeats, injuries, fear
- This looks close is a misquote – it’s 11% of m/victims - so in fact 72.5% of all victims of 6 or more incidents in last year are women
- BCS is not police; Hester shows men do report to police anyway

So...

- Men and women experience domestic violence;
- BCS doesn't say when it is self-defence or defending children - we lack context;
- **Women experience majority of sexual assault, ongoing domestic violence, fear, injury and domestic homicide;**
- Proportions of 6 or more incidents in last year victims seem to be roughly one quarter male and three quarters female – **good estimate for starting to quantify local provision?**
- **We help thousands of male victims – and do work with female perpetrators too**

Experiences and needs of male victims

- Many similar experiences
- Female perpetrators more likely to use weapons – so when violence is serious, risk of injury high
- Specific injury areas e.g. Groin, face
- Sometimes mis-diagnosis – men presenting as victims can be perpetrators whose victim has used violence, or men in unhappy relationships
- Some fear won't be believed – as women
- However, men do call the police and use the legal system (Hester 2009)

Sexual abuse

- Very few heterosexual men talk about sexual abuse
- Nearly half of gay men report sexual abuse
- Many gay men report rape

- Heterosexual victims report being sexually humiliated or belittled or told they are not father of children

What do male victims ask for (2010 and 2011 combined)?

| Type of help | Number asking for this (out of 3,049) |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Legal advice | 975 (32%) |
| Counselling | 558 (18%) |
| Police | 533 (18%) |
| GP | 285 (9.5%) |
| Housing helpline (Shelter) | 217 (7%) |
| Local authority housing department | 214 (7%) |
| Parenting support | 175 (6%) |
| Perpetrator programme | 82 (3%) |
| LGBT support | 45 (1.5%) |
| Local male victims' support | 35 (1%) |
| Debt counselling | 34 (1%) |
| Drug/alcohol counselling | 22 (0.75%) |
| Men's refuge | 16 (0.5%) |

H&SC services for male victims

- Proportionate – British Crime Survey figures suggest 3 to 1 in amount based on figures for 4 or more incidents in last year
- Recognising the likelihood that some perpetrators will present or be mis-diagnosed as victims especially if partner has used violent resistance
- Knowledge of assessment tools helpful
- Knowledge of local specialist support – particularly for GBT men
- Understanding of different needs as well as same

Interventions with perpetrators

- Likely to be group work with up to 12 men, 2 facilitators m+f
- Linked partner support/contact (proactive)
- Case and risk management
- Aim to increase safety of victim and children

- Substance misuse can affect participation
- Ditto mental ill health
- New developments include co-location in children's services

Evidence re perpetrator programmes

- Mixed evidence – some concerns re RCT
- Some claims that there are no effects -0 but these are often small sample, low follow up
- Some claims modest effect – 10% is good enough for some clinical trials
- Some claims for programme effect + system effect – Gondolf 2002
- Gondolf 2012 provides good overview of current debates and developments in evidence based practice with perpetrators