



R/SE

CRIMINAL SANCTIONS AGENCY

# Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence expert group meeting 7.-8.3.2019 Vilnius

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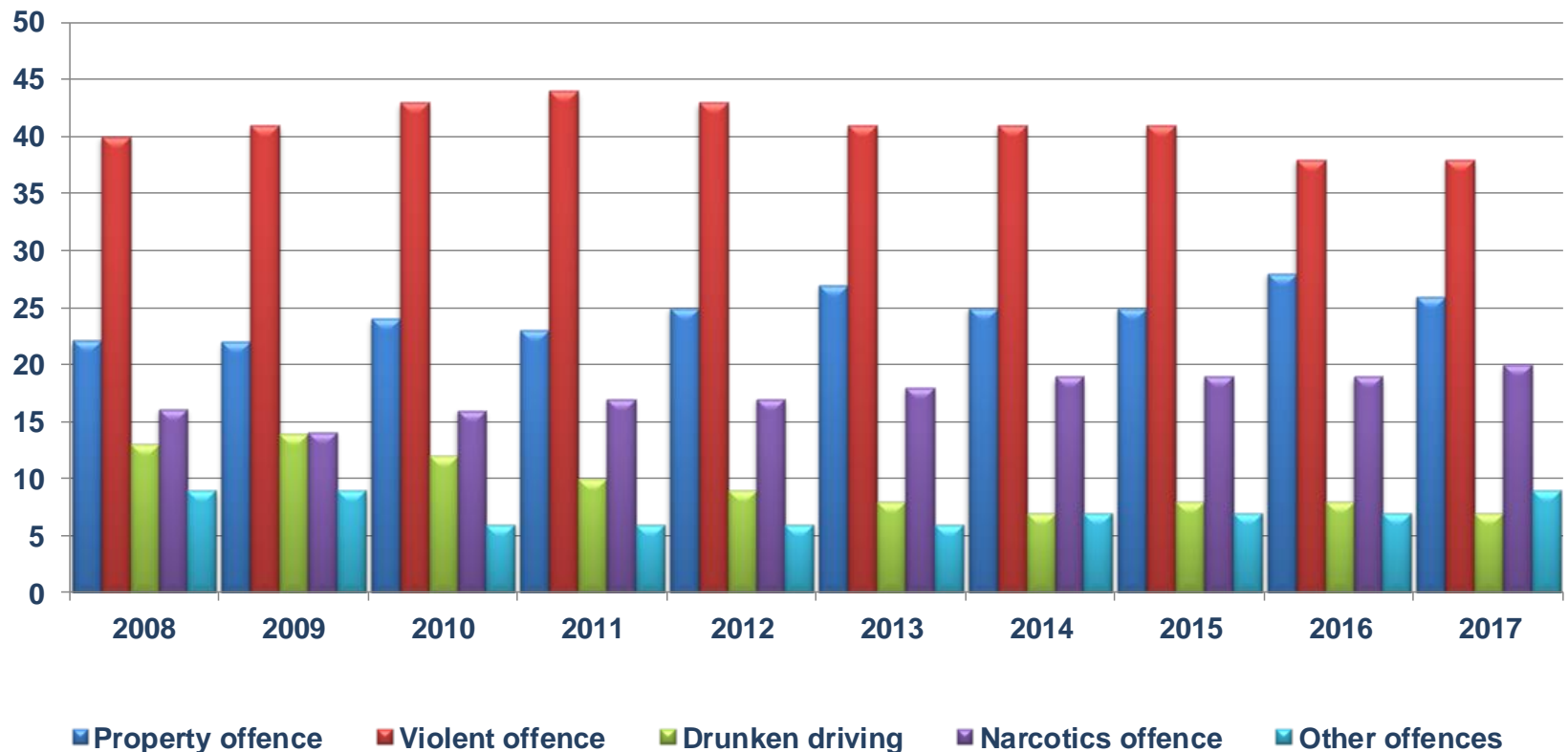
## PREPARING FOR A LIFE WITHOUT CRIME – SAFELY TOWARDS MORE OPEN ENFORCEMENT

- The Central Administration of the Criminal Sanctions Agency is in Helsinki.
- Approximately 70 per cent of the prisoner places are in closed prisons and 30 per cent in open prisons or open prison wards.
- In Finland we have 26 prisons and 14 community sanction offices and branch offices.
- Finland is divided into three criminal sanctions regions.
- Each criminal sanctions region has its own assessment center, which is in charge of the placement of prisoners and the assessment of remand prisoners as well as the planning of the sentence terms based on the assessment.

## ENFORCEMENT

- Average prison term is about ten months
- The average daily prison population is about 3100
- The average age of all prisoners is about 38 years
- The prison population structure has changed in the 21st century
- Number of offenders sentenced for violent offences has decreased
- Four out of ten prisoners serve a sentence for a violent offence  
( 2018 16,8% male prisoners and 17,8% female prisoners)
- Every fifth prisoner has been sentenced for homicide  
( 2018 19.8% male prisoners and 25,9% female prisoners)
- The share of long-term prisoners has increased

## Principal offences of sentenced prisoners in 2008-2017 (on 1 May)



In Finland all types of physical violence are condemned and are a criminal offence. The criminal charge depends on the nature of the physical violence, and the charge may change during the criminal investigation process. The police are required to investigate all assaults that occur in close or intimate relationships.

## How to recognize domestic violence?



## **Female prisoners / working with victims and offenders at the same time**

- The principal offence of every third female prisoner is a violent offence
- Most often women who have committed violent crimes have experienced domestic violence themselves.
- Most female prisoners tell about domestic violence that has often continued for years
- These women's own violent behavior has often been the last effort to end the intimate relationship and to protect oneself
- Studies show that a woman who has used domestic violence towards her children has experienced violence during her own childhood and adulthood. ( related domestic violence)
- Women who has used violence ( mistreatment) against their children is a higher risk of serious violence.

## Rehabilitation programs in prisons and community sanctions related to violence

- Anger Management, group and individual work in prisons and community sanctions
- Cognitive Self Change ( CSC) – offered to high risk offenders in closed prison.
- Programme for sex offenders, new programme from Canada, Liam Marshall (Strength-Based Sex Offender Treatment Program) and it's for high risk offenders. It's used only in one closed prison and it's named ***STEP*** ( "*new steps towards the future*")
- Uusi Suunta – "*New Direction*" – programme for sex offenders who has low risk. It's only for individual work. This programme is made by Nina Nurminen, psychology from Criminal Sanction Agency



## New project – how to talk and identify violence in prison environment?

- Challenge was to know where the inmate is directed to get help if violence behavior is identified?
- violence is not recognized
- The idea is that someone else is already taking care about it ( not my job)
- The idea, that violent is a privat thing, I can't intervene
- Opening concepts of violence; what is mental violence, physical violence, economical violence, chemical violence, abuse, stalking..
- Officers practice noticing and recognizing violence by different case studies.



## Cooperation with different associations

- \* Maria Akatemia – is specialised in the recognition and treatment of women's inner ill-being and violence and have since 2003 the Demeter programme for the prevention of violence by women.
- \* Maria Akatemia has *Hot Line* ( free for charge) for women who use or are afraid that they might use violence.
- \* Group counselling, individual counselling and therapy.
- \* work specially with young women, young mothers

## Hot Line calls 2017, the calls concerned violent behaviour acts

- 45 % Child
- 27 % Partner
- 10 % Child and partner
- 6 % violence behavior towards itself
- 5 % somebody else / unknown person
- 5 % victim of violence itself
- 1 % seeking help for a client or friend
- 1 % no answer

■ Maria Akademia 1.10.2018

## Help for men

- **Jussi – work**, help for violent people ( men) - offers help to men in crisis situations and is available in many municipalities around Finland. The main aim of Jussi –work activities is to predict dangerous situations and prevent violence.
- Jussi –work is coordinated by the Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters
- **Miessakit** ( Miessakit association) is a non –covermental expert organization established to support the mental, psychological and social growth of men. Offer support giving up intimate partner violence .
- **Hot Line** – is a service to help men who has used physical or mental violence against their intimate partner



**Thank you for your attention!**

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