

Overview of domestic violence in Europe

CEP – Europris Working group on domestic violence in prison and probation

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WWP//EUROPEAN NETWORK

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European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

The "European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence" (WWP EN) was founded as formal organisation on April 9th, 2014 in Copenhagen with 18 founding members from 13 different countries. Today we unite a total of 51 members and are...

[Show full member list](#)

Background



- Informal founding: 2009 – 18 members, 13 countries
- Formal founding: 2014
- Membership now: 66 members from 32 countries
- Funding: European Commission, Oak Foundation, Membership Contributions



The Mission



- Address violence in close relationships as a gender-based phenomenon
- Foster gender equality
- Improve safety of women and their children/others at risk from violence

Through: Promoting effective work with perpetrators



Main Activities



- Exchange of good practice: Annual Conferences, study visit, webminars,
- Training and capacity building
- Policy and good practice recommendations
- Annual Campaign
- Resources: child protection, Covid-19, Expert papers, support for shadow reports to Greio,
- Evaluation: Impact
- Projects: over 10 projects and bids developed and running



The Network



WWP EN

European Network
for the Work with
Perpetrators of
Domestic Violence

Organisational Chart 2019



www.work-with-perpetrators.eu

MEMBERSHIP (FULL/AFFILIATE)

Individuals/organisations offering perpetrator work or victim/survivor support;
Individuals/organisations doing or managing research on intimate partner violence

BOARD

5-11 board
members including
min. 2 women's
support services;
elected by
representatives of
full members at
the general
meeting

CURRENT COMMITTEES

Election Committee
Equality Sub-Committee

CURRENT WORKING GROUPS

Working with(in) Migrant Populations
Collaboration with Prisons & Probation
Quality Assurance
IMPACT Toolkit

COOPERATION WITH WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES

Min. 2 board members
Joint webinars
Participation in working groups
Expert papers

STAFF

Staff members
coordinating the
network activities;
office based in Berlin,
Germany

Effect of the Pandemic on DV in Europe



Very few Member States adopted a comprehensive national policy or action plan addressing potential spikes of intimate partner violence in the context of Covid-19

To ensure continuity of service delivery throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, legislation was used to classify victim support services as essential in a limited number of Member States

Legislative measures providing additional accommodation for victims were more common than those removing perpetrators

Shortages in shelter accommodation caused by Covid-19 restrictions sparked cross-sectoral initiatives



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Effect of the Pandemic on DV in Europe



Lack of sufficient funding and guidance from Member States placed an additional burden on service providers

All Member States recognised the need to raise awareness of the risk of a spike in intimate partner violence in the context of the pandemic

There was a limited focus on providing specialised support for children and disadvantaged groups affected by intimate partner violence

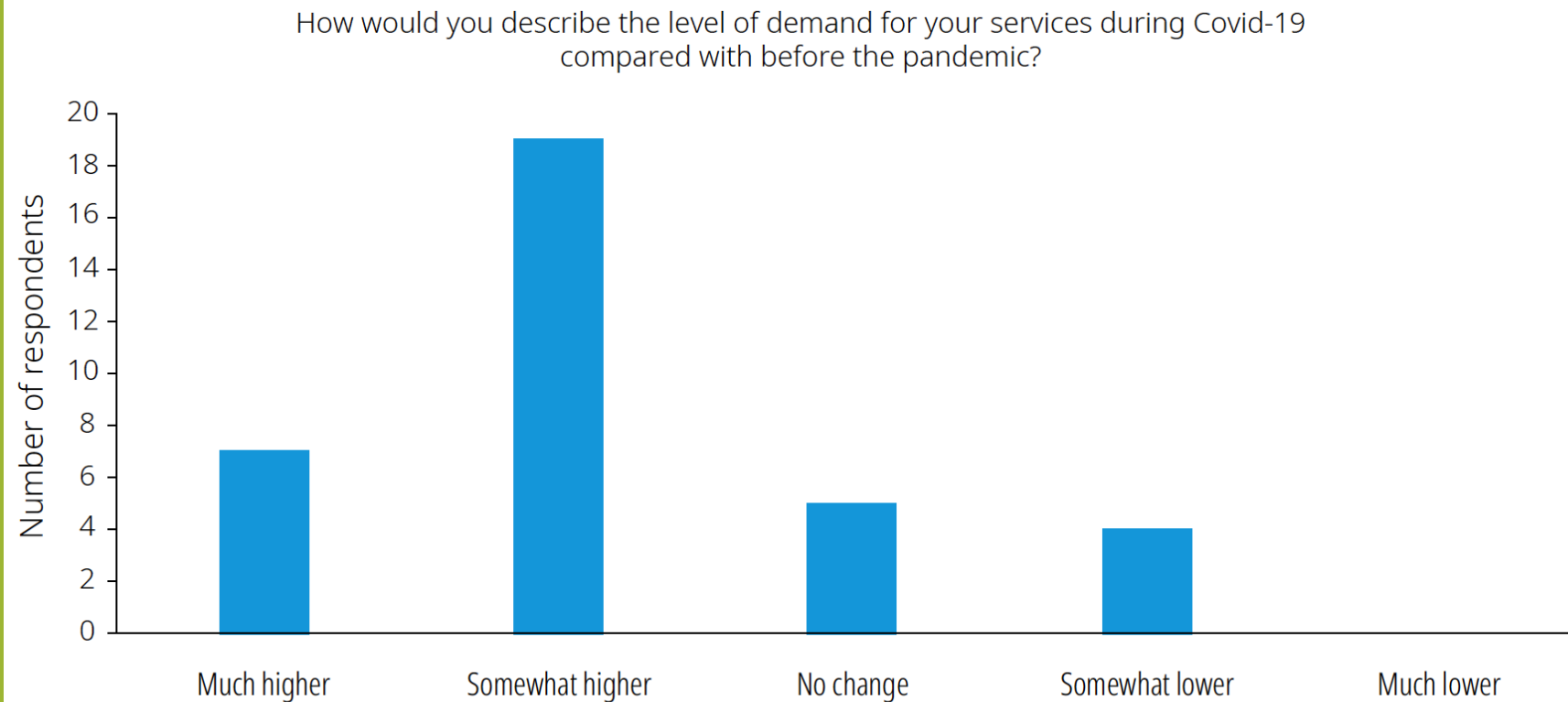


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Annex 4. Additional results from the survey

Figure A1. Changes in level of demand for services during the Covid-19 pandemic



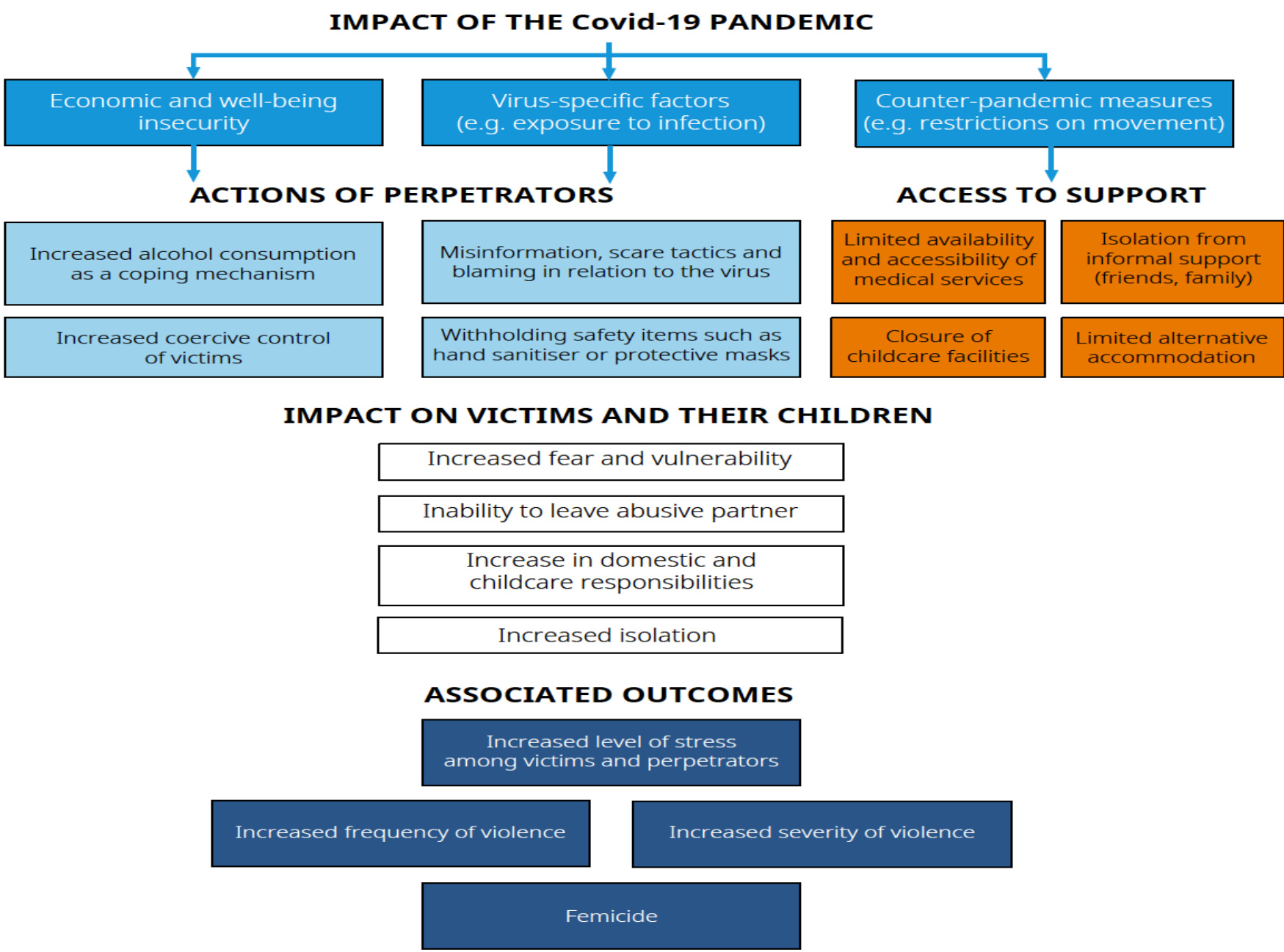
Source: Created by the authors.

Table A20. Variation in level of demand for services during the Covid-19 pandemic (% (n))

How would you describe the level of demand for your services during Covid-19 compared with before the pandemic?							
	Much higher	Somewhat higher	The same	Somewhat lower	Much lower	Not applicable	Response total
During lockdown (people allowed to leave their houses only if absolutely necessary, e.g. to go to a grocery, pharmacy, etc.)	22.9 % (8)	34.3 % (12)	5.7 % (2)	11.4 % (4)	2.9 % (1)	22.9 % (8)	35
During high levels of restrictions (people advised to stay at home but allowed to leave home, e.g. for exercise, socially distanced meetings)	22.9 % (8)	42.9 % (15)	8.6 % (3)	20.0 % (7)	2.9 % (1)	2.9 % (1)	35
Once restrictions were lifted	28.6 % (10)	42.9 % (15)	20.0 % (7)	2.9 % (1)	0.0 % (0)	5.7 % (2)	35

Source: Created by the authors.

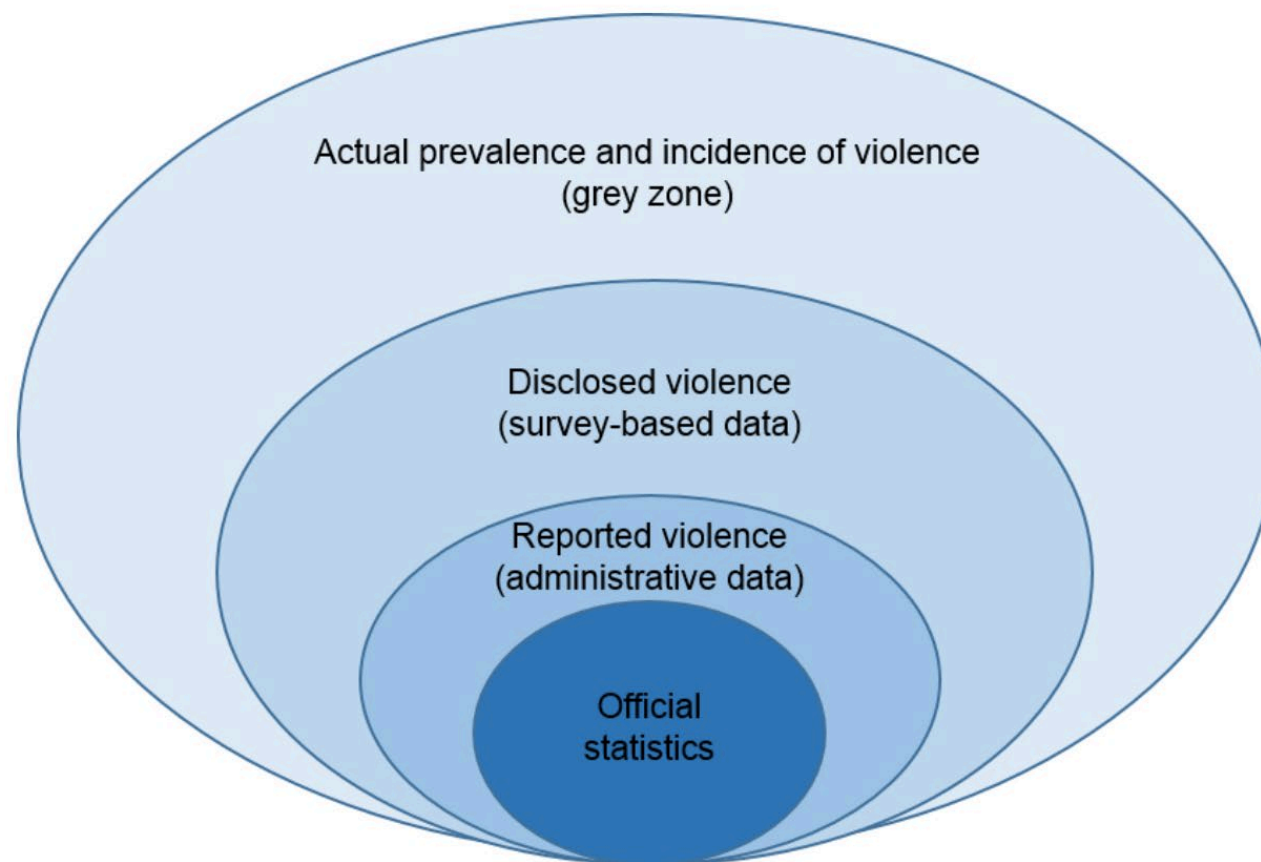
Figure 1. Risk factors during previous pandemics and natural disasters as they relate to Covid-19



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Source: Authors’ summary based on Parkinson and Zara, 2013; First et al., 2017; Fraser, 2020; Peterman et al., 2020.



Chain of accountability

Law is passed

- Cultural Change
- Cycle of accountability

Legal charges are pressed

- Women
- society

Legal provisions

- Police
- Judicial

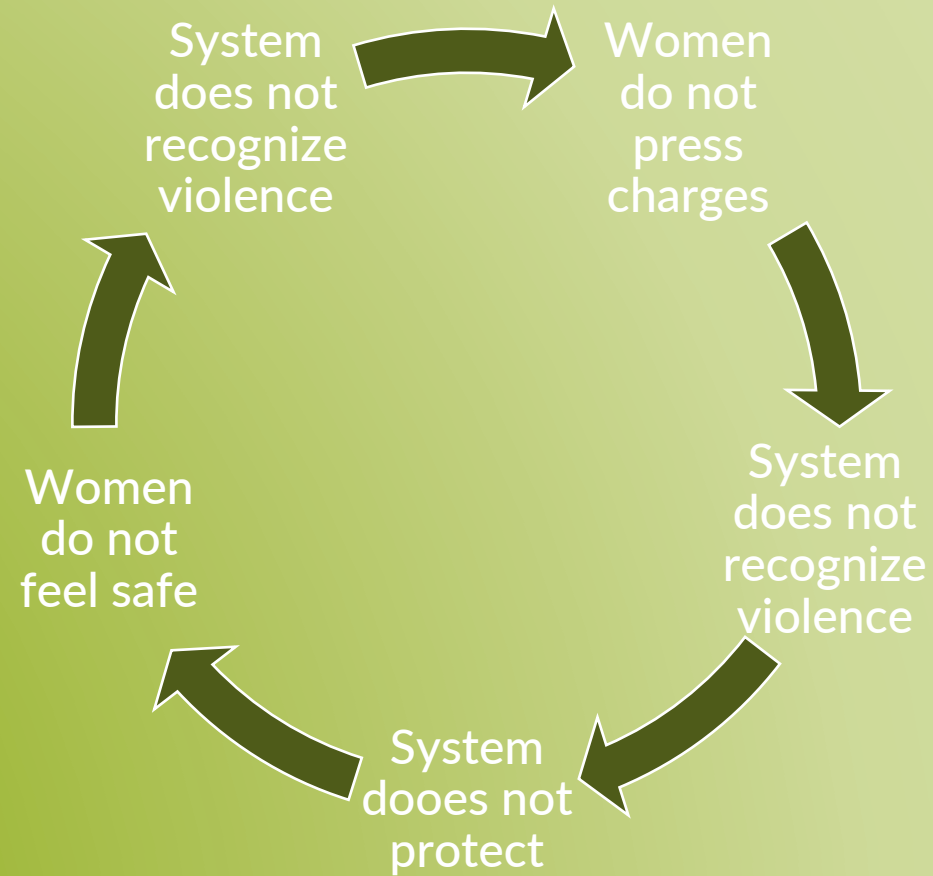
Sanctions

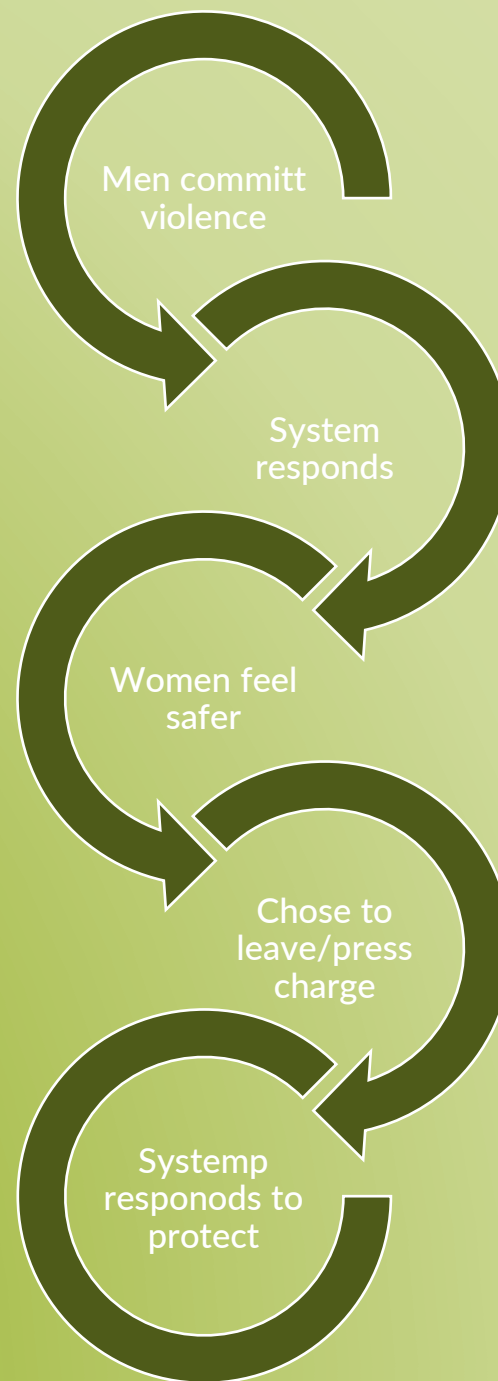
- Judges
- Coordinated community response

Application of sanctions

- Services are available

Cycle of accountability





Why are perpetrator programs important?



1. Because they interrupt violence?
2. Because they break the intergenerational cycle of violence?
3. Because women ask for somebody to stop their partner's violence?

BUT ALSO BECAUSE

Domestic violence is about men's accountability to the system



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What is perpetrator work?



- Perpetrator work is an element of combating and preventing violence against women
- The objective of Istanbul Convention based perpetrator work is to increase the safety and well-being for women and children by interrupting violent behavior through a gendered lens of work with men
- In collaboration with the Specialized Women's support services and is part of a coordinated community response
- Perpetrator programs are about assuring accountability of the men to their partners, to the WSS and to society



What do perpetrator programs do?



- Intake and assessment
- Evaluation of risk factors and screening for violence
- Pro active contact with partner (through partner service or in collaboration with WSS)
- Groups
- Individual counselling



How do men arrive to the programs?



- Voluntarily
- As part of measures from probation
- Sent by Child/social services or a judge
- Their partners have given them an ultimatum
- Programs within the Probation system
- Programs in prison settings



What kind of programs are present in Europe?



- Social- educational feminist models
- Cognitive-behavioral
- Criminological models
- Restorative justice (often Probation)
- Psychotherapeutic models
- Family models
- Mental health/dependency models



Do perpetrator programs work?

- What do we want to measure?
- Recidivism rates
- How do measure this?
- Re-arrest
- Re-offence
- As reported by offender
- As reported by partner or ex-partner

Do perpetrator programs work?



- Controversial data on the outcome: what kind of violence are you measuring? How do you know if there has been re-offence? How do you compare different treatment programs? (In some studies men that had finished the programs were summed to ones that had only attended one session)
- Largest scale study so far is MIRABEL in 2018 UK: six measures of success.
 1. improved relationship
 2. expanded “space for action”
 3. safety and freedom from violence and abuse for women and children
 4. safe and positive shared parenting
 5. enhanced awareness of self and other
 6. safer, healthier childhoods



IMPAC measures:



1. Behavior change
2. Safety/Well being
3. Changes in the life of children
4. Attitude changes in the male participants in domestic violence intervention programs
5. Perceived changes as a result of being in the program





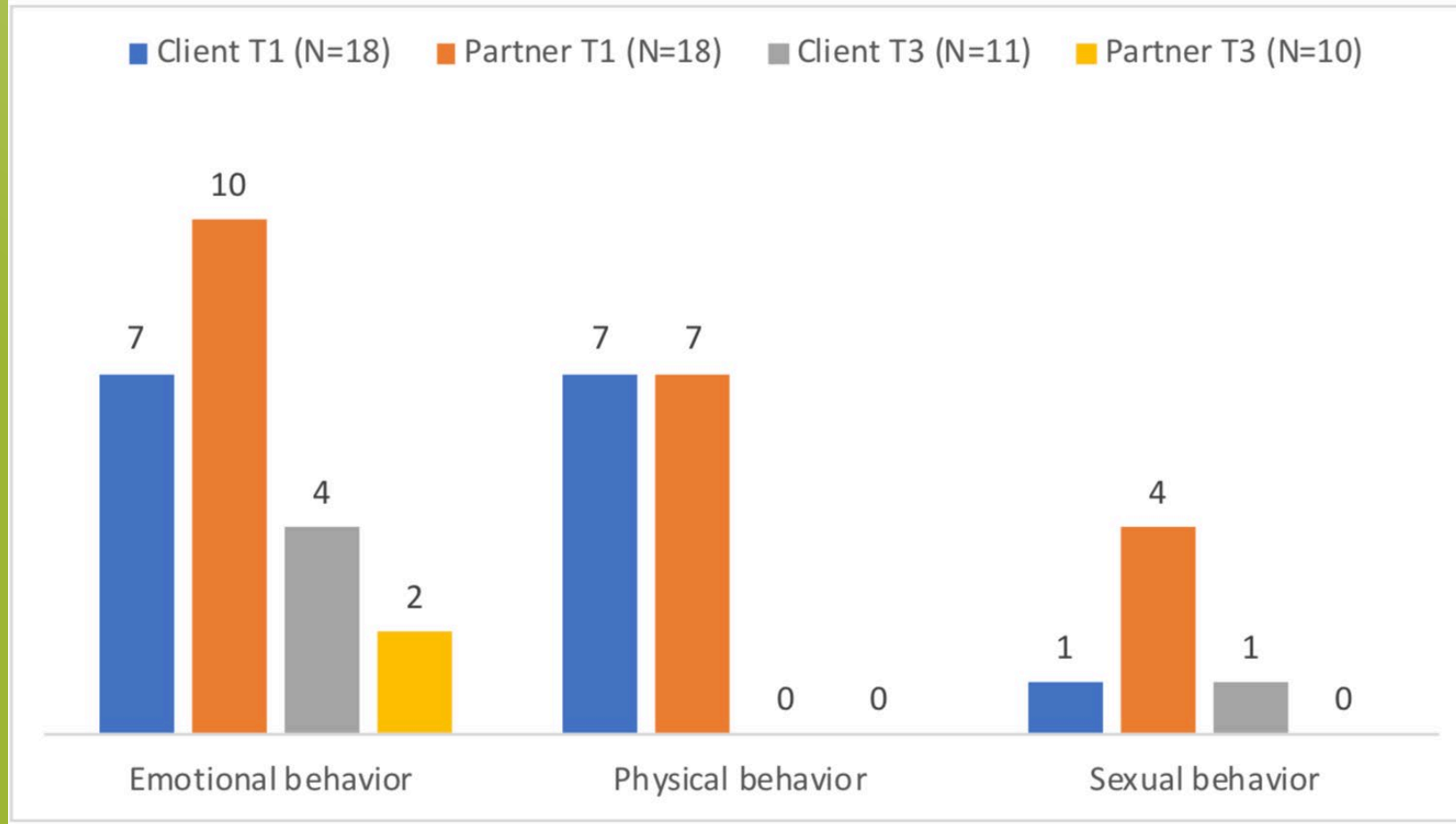
The Impact Toolkit: beyond the analysis of behavior change

Times Impact for client and (ex-) partner:

- Time 0 – as soon as possible after the client is first in touch with the programme.
- Time 1 – at the start of the programme.
- Time 2 – half way through the programme.
- Time 3 – at the end of the programme or when the man stops coming to the programme.
- Time 4 – at 6 months after programme completion.

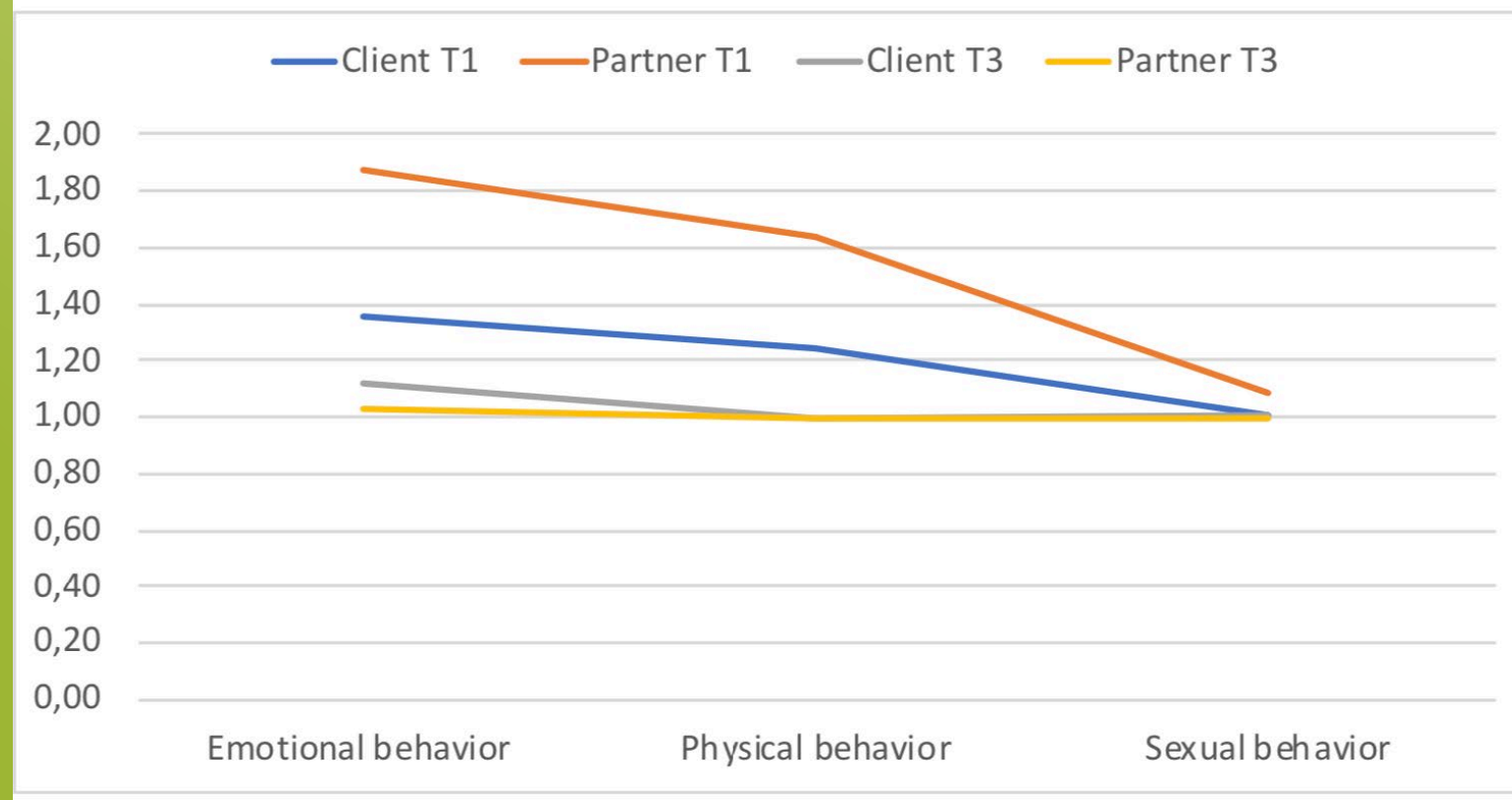
How is the violence at the end of the program?

Graphic 10. Clients' and (ex-) Partners' number of behaviours for each abusive behaviour (direct punctuations)



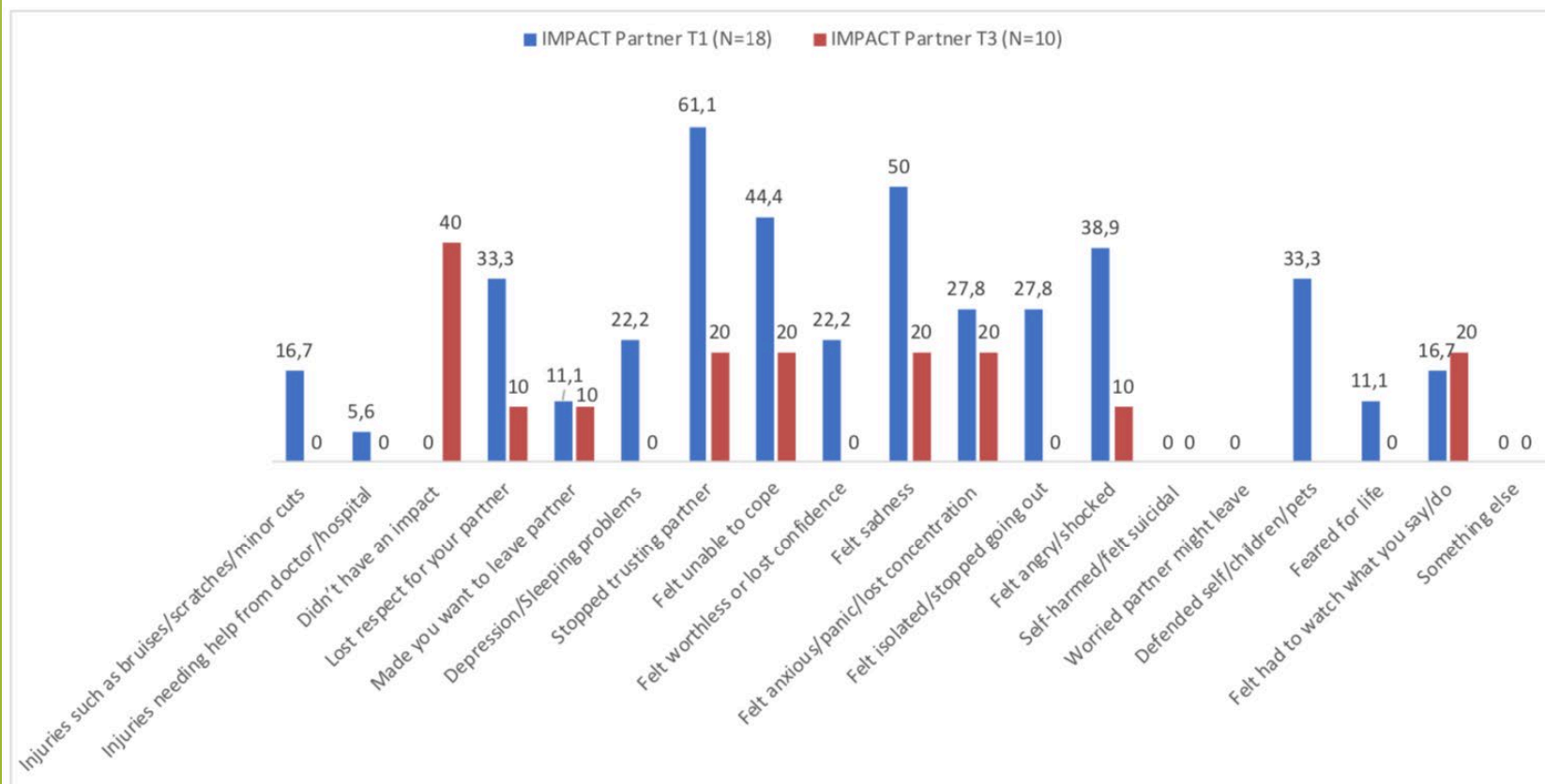
Has the intensity (frequency) of the violence changed?

Graphic 13. Clients' and (ex-) Partners' average intensity of the abusive behaviors



Partner's evaluation of the impact of violence

Graphic 15. (Ex-) Partners' Most commonly reported impact compared T1 and T3 (percentages)



Collaboration with Specialized WSS



Is crucial:

- To keep the safety of women and children at the centre of any interventions
- To aid reliable outcome measurement
- To ensure accountability of the programs towards the specialized women's sector



What works?

- Coordinated community response – social response
- Strong link with WSS – feed back from victims of domestic violence
- Different kinds of perpetrators: high/low risk, court mandated, voluntary, in prison or probation setting or in outreach programs
- Victim centered/gender informed
- Risk/need/responsivity principles
- Relationship, trust and motivation
- Trauma informed

How to engage perpetrators in programs?

- Motivational interview
- Role clarification
- Reinforcing and modeling pro-social values
- Collaborative problem-solving
- Centre on the person, focus on the violence
- Strong relationship building capacity of service provider
- Chris Trotter, Working with involuntary clients - A guide to practice, Routledge, 1999

What is the viewpoint on violence from perpetrator programs?



- The system matters: we need a coordinated community response to be effective in ending violence against women
- Men are responsible for the violence they need to be visible and they need to be held accountable
- Perpetrator programs are an important part of making perpetrators visible and accountable
- We need to change the communication on violence: we need to engage men in a different non shaming way because we want men as allies is they understand the impact of violence and we want them to become accountable if they don't



Current challenges



- Systemic change
- Anger management models
- Mediation and domestic violence
- Addiction and mental health and domestic violence
- Perpetrator programs placed within the health (or mental health) system
- Collaboration with women's support services
- Collaboration in a coordinated community response
- Funding



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What do we need to build together?



- Standards – WWP EN Guidelines to Standards
- European Accreditation system
- Evaluation outcome measurements
- Data collection
- Lobby for social change and funding of perpetrator programs
- Joint projects



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Resources



- Expert papers, National reports
- Newsletters, webinars
- Social Media
 - Facebook page
 - LinkedIn company page
 - Twitter account
 - Instagram account
- Website



Links



- Website: www.work-with-perpetrators.eu
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WwpEuropeanNetwork/>
- LinkedIn company page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/work-with-perpetrators-european-network/>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/european_network_wwp/
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/wwp_en
- More information: info@work-with-perpetrators.eu

