

Older People and Domestic Abuse

A case of some surprises...

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Outline

- Definitional constraints,
- Hidden nature and intersections,
- 2014 UK- wide DASH RIC data N=27,292 responses,
- 2013 Wales- wide study (2551 types of abuse),
- ATJ 131 qualitative case studies (2012),
- Welsh Women's Aid qualitative data,
- What does current data suggest?
- Agencies multiple constructions of domestic violence victims ?

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 and over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

The abuse can encompass but is not limited to:

Psychological

Physical

Sexual

Financial

Emotional

Data – the hidden nature of abuse

- **1.4 million of women** (140,000 high risk) & **700,000 men** (16-59 years)
- **2.6% prevalence** of abuse/neglect of older people in UK
- Disabled women, regardless of age, sexuality, ethnicity or class, may be **abused or raped at a rate at least twice** that of non-disabled women
(Crime Survey for England and Wales)

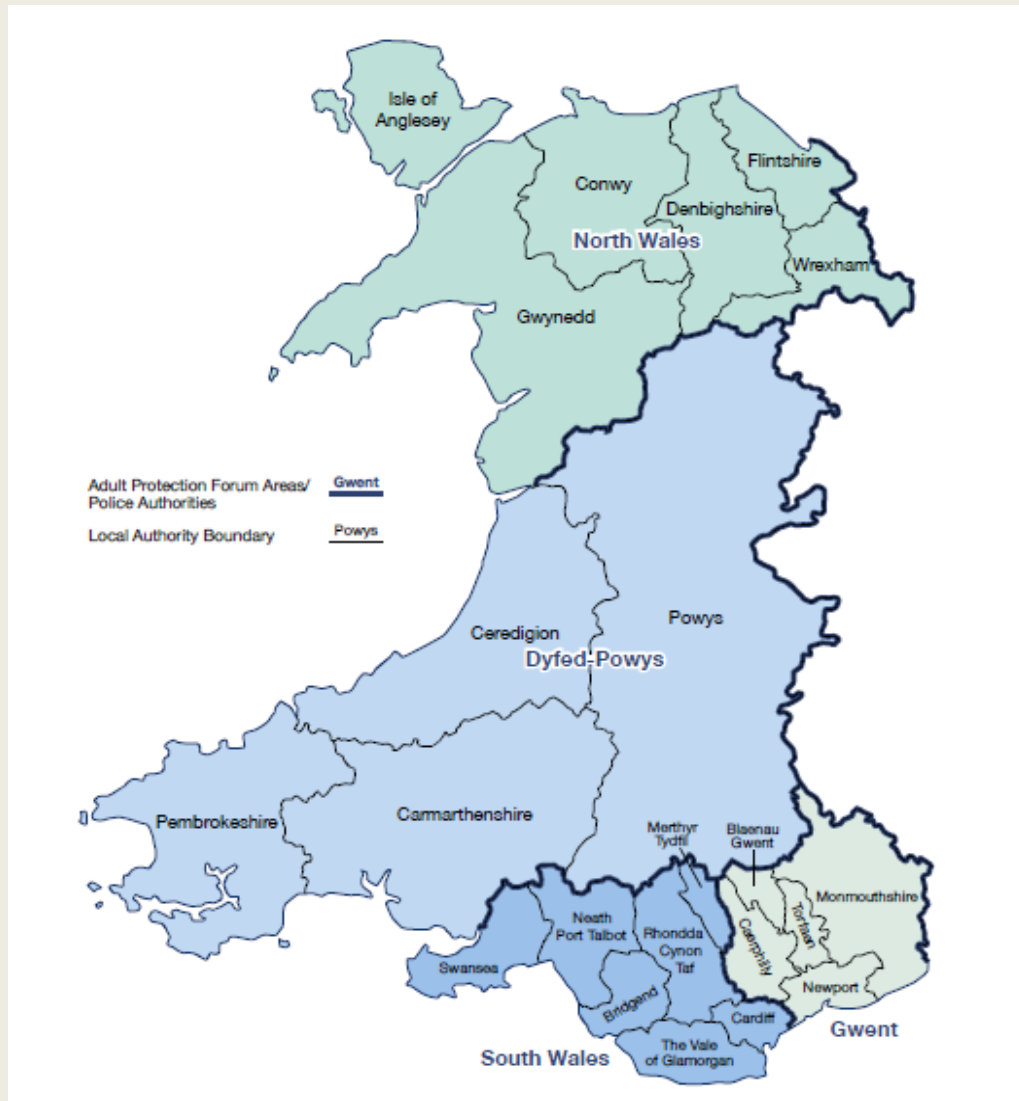
Older People and Domestic Abuse

http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/adult_protection/aberystwyth_report.asp

Objectives:

- Data Management Systems
- Attrition
- Recognising and recording abuse

22 Local Authorities



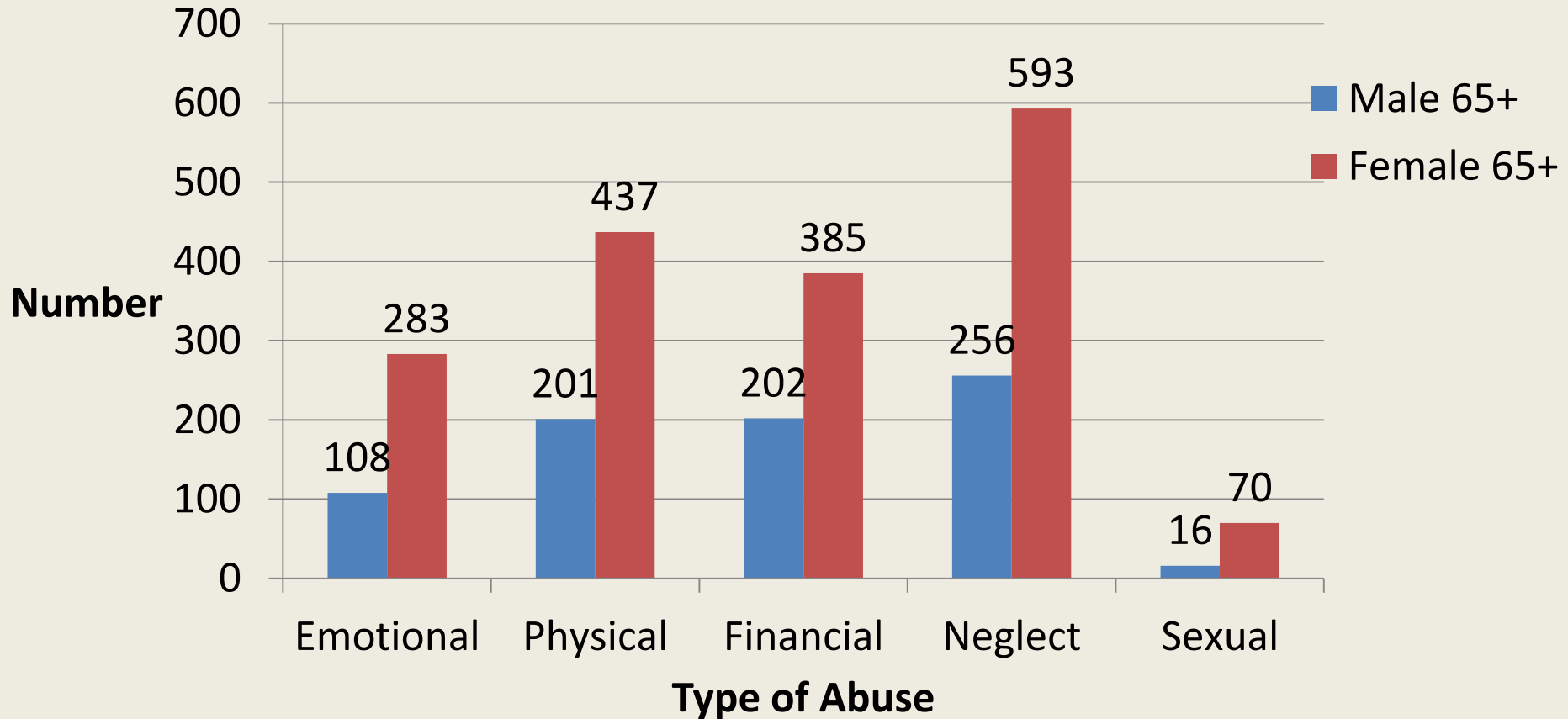
Relational

‘When I train if I say the alleged perpetrator could be the son or the grandson or daughter people don’t see that as domestic abuse. I think it’s because it’s not an intimate relationship. I think it’s perception and getting people retrained.’

POVA Coordinator

Type of Abuse – By Gender

Abuse Type by Gender Age 65+



N = 2551 types

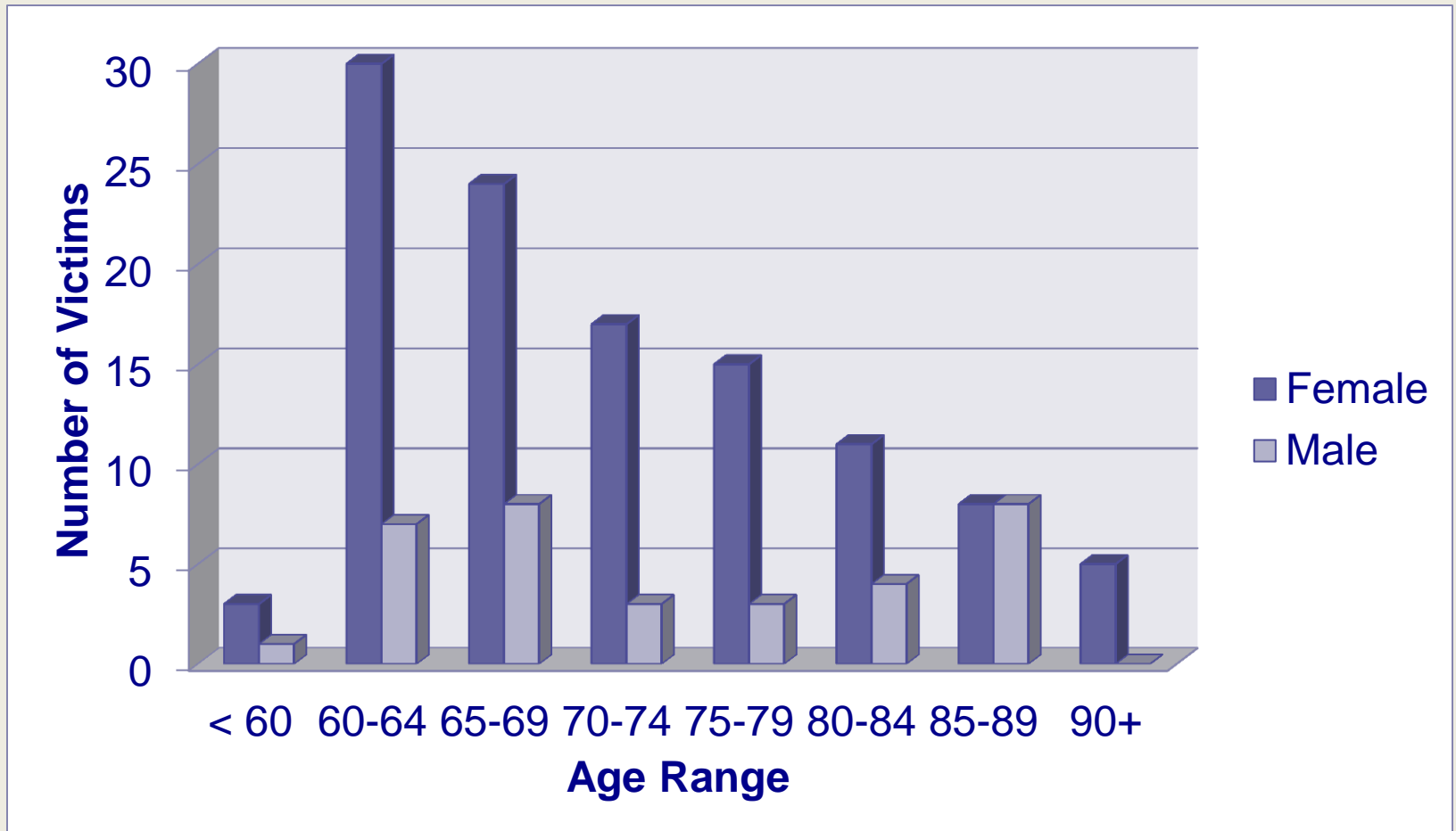
Qualitative - Case studies

Initial Study – Access to Justice



- 127 victims (4 partners)
- 95 female (73%) 36 male (27%)
- Age range 55-91 years
- 32% had a disability 31 female, 10 male
- 10 lacked capacity on the CMR
- 1 LGBT
- 5 BME

Age and Gender of Victims



Welsh Women's Aid

The long-term impact on my health has been depression [. . .] I had it then when all that was going on and now for [. . .] nearly twelve years (75 years).

*In enduring this period [of abuse] I've had lots and lots of mental health problems. I've been in and out of the hospital having violent attacks of acute anxiety they said... **because I didn't have the tools to manage what he was doing to me (63 years).***

I'm waiting for a hearing aid and now [. . .] I got severely bashed on my ear, and I'm told that I can't hear in this ear...

it is a perforated eardrum (76 years).

(Women's Aid 2015)

Meta-analysis

- Why do we see an increase in male victims
- Family member as primary perpetrator
- Less separation – difference priorities in the life course (current partner)
- ‘Onset’ or ‘grown old’

Ideal domestic abuse victim? Performing 'acceptable' selves?

The domestic violence victim

- Solidifies as an identity that is hard to dissolve
- Older people and service provision?
- Adult child –parent , the shame impact on disclosure and help-seeking is aimed at 'child's needs
- Legal domains – (Criminal, Civil and Family) conflicting and restrictive if not 'ideal'
- Restorative - individualised - responsabilising
- Welfare and well-being rhetoric victim – centred, in reality the individual is the driver for change

Thank you

Any questions?

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