



Male Victims of Coercive Control

14 July 2021
#MalesVictimsCC

 @UCLanCJP

 CriminalJustice@uclan.ac.uk
www.uclan.ac.uk/criminaljustice



Male Victims of Coercive Control

Mark Brooks OBE
Chair of Trustees

The ManKind Initiative

ManKind Initiative

Helping men and their children escape from domestic abuse

- First British charity (since 2001) set up to support male victims and their families. Set up and run by women and men
- Based in Somerset providing:
 - Direct services (UK helpline)
 - National Service Standards
 - Practitioners Network
 - Support through CPD training, presentations and helping others
 - Giving Male Victims a Voice

Contextual Framework

- More victims are women
- Services are needed for men however no services should be taken away from female victims
- It is not a competition between genders so vital not to set up comparisons **between** genders but **within** genders
- 21st Century Approach: Gender-informed, Gender Inclusive and Non-Ideological

Overall “Official” Picture

British Crime Survey

- 1 in 6/7 men and 1 in 4 women will be a victim in their lifetime
- 760,000 men and 1.56 million women are victims of domestic abuse (500,000 and 1.2 million women – partner abuse)
- Over a three year period (April 2016 to Mar 2019), 88 men were killed in domestic homicides (38 by a partner or ex-partner) by a partner or ex-partner (274 and 222 women respectively).
- The percentage of gay men (6.0%) or bi-sexual men (7.3%) who suffered domestic abuse in 2019/20 is more than for heterosexual men (3.5%).
- 1 in 5 victims of forced marriage are men
- 1 in 4 victims of stalking are male
- 1 in 4 victims of revenge pxrn are men

Overall Picture

Who do men tell

- Male victims (49%) are nearly three times as likely than women (18%) not to tell anyone they are a victim.
- 13.6% of male victims will tell a work colleague (11% women)
- 59% of our male helpline callers have never spoken to anyone
- 70% of our male helpline callers would not have called if the helpline was not anonymous.

Police

- One in four victims who report to the police are male (19/20)

Service Engagement

- Less than one in 20 victims who engage with local support services are men (19/20)

Why Research is Vital

Key barriers for men that prevent men escaping include:

- Societal/gender stereotypes
- Lower levels of professional curiosity in criminal justice and “social care” sectors
- Lack of profile
- Public Policy narrative minimises the existence of male victims, their children and their voices (Male victims and their children are officially classed as victims of “Violence Against Women and Girls” crimes and “domestic abuse is a gendered crime”)

Research means:

- Better public understanding
- Increased professional recognition in public services
- Accountability
- Better policy, services and funding
- A more inclusive, equal, fair and human-rights based society

More men and children escape

ManKind Initiative



mankind.org.uk

Helpline
01823 334244

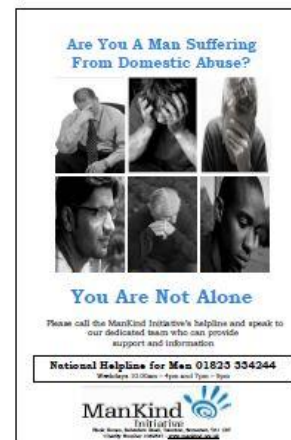
Training Enquiries
training@mankind.org.uk



Further Support:

- CPD Courses
- Presentations/ Talks
- HR / Safeguard Policy Reviews
- Communication Campaigns

Mark Brooks:
chairman@mankind.org.uk
07834 452357



MALE VICTIMS OF COERCIVE CONTROL

PROFESSOR NICOLA GRAHAM-KEVAN

DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE



A PATTERN OF BEHAVIOUR

Types of behaviour

The types of behaviour associated with coercion or control may or may not constitute a criminal offence in their own right. It is important to remember that the presence of controlling or coercive behaviour does not mean that no other offence has been committed or cannot be charged. However, the perpetrator may limit space for action and exhibit a story of ownership and entitlement over the victim. Such behaviours might include:

- isolating a person from their friends and family;
- depriving them of their basic needs;
- monitoring their time;
- monitoring a person via online communication tools or using spyware;
- taking control over aspects of their everyday life, such as where they can go, who they can see, what to wear and when they can sleep;
- depriving them of access to support services, such as specialist support or medical services;
- repeatedly putting them down such as telling them they are worthless;
- enforcing rules and activity which humiliate, degrade or dehumanise the victim;
- forcing the victim to take part in criminal activity such as shoplifting, neglect or abuse of children to encourage self-blame and prevent disclosure to authorities;
- financial abuse including control of finances, such as only allowing a person a punitive allowance; threats to hurt or kill; threats to a child;
- threats to reveal or publish private information (e.g. threatening to 'out' someone).
- assault;
- criminal damage (such as destruction of household goods); rape;
- preventing a person from having access to transport or from working.

This is not an exhaustive list

EVAN STARK

- At this point, I ask readers to take two things on faith: that the pattern of intimidation, isolation, and control ... is unique to men's abuse of women and that it is critical to explaining why women become entrapped in abusive relationships in ways that men do not (p. 102)

GENDER-NEUTRAL NATURE OF THE CCB OFFENCE (MARCH 2021)

- Some academics (such as Barlow et al., 2019; Stark & Hester, 2019) believe that the gender-neutral wording of the CCB offence requires revision.
- They argue that positioning CCB as predominantly a crime committed by men against women may mean that coercive control is identified more easily (Barlow et al., 2019).

- **Much of the domestic abuse literature indicates that coercive control is perpetrated almost exclusively by men** (Johnson, 2006; Monckton Smith, 2019; Stark, 2007; Wiener, 2017, citing Dobash and Dobash, 2004).
- Stark (2007; 2018) positioned coercive control as an extension of ‘gendered inequality’ among heterosexual partners
- Statutory guidance framework for the CCB offence **recognises** its gendered nature: “Controlling or coercive behaviour is primarily a form of violence against women and girls and is underpinned by wider societal gender inequality” (Home Office, 2015b).

Review of the Controlling or
Coercive Behaviour Offence

Research Report 122
March 2021

Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an
Intimate or Family Relationship
Statutory Guidance Framework

December 2015

UK SAMPLE COLLECTED BY TONIC FOR IBB LAW: 998 WOMEN & 1005 MEN

Coercive Control Type	Men	Women
Economic	29%	22%
Monitored	30%	23%
Destroyed possessions	27%	20%
Hid tech devices	24%	14%
Did nothing about it	48%	33%
Left partner	11%	37%

Table 2 Findings from logistic regression predicting poor or fair physical health at the time of the survey

	Full sample (<i>N</i> = 13,699)	Male respondents (<i>N</i> = 6266)	Female respondents (<i>N</i> = 7433)
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio
Total physical violence past year	0.97	0.91	1.04
Total reproductive control past year	1.01	1.13	0.80
Total coercive control past year	1.04	1.11	0.96
Total psychological aggression past year	0.97	1.07	0.93
Total sexual victimization past year	0.94	0.93	0.95
Poor mental health	8.72***	8.63***	8.78***
Did not have money for doctor	1.45**	1.35	1.52**
Worried about housing	1.03	0.92	1.15
Worried about nutritious meals	1.33*	1.28	1.41*
Income	0.85***	0.84***	0.85***
Ever had a child under 18 live with him/her	1.31**	1.32*	1.28*
College graduate	0.52***	0.57***	0.48***
Latinx	1.58**	1.44	1.73**
African American	1.16	0.94	1.40*
Asian	0.84	0.94	0.76
Multi race	1.20	1.14	1.28
Female	1.07		
<i>R</i> ²	0.17	0.14	0.19

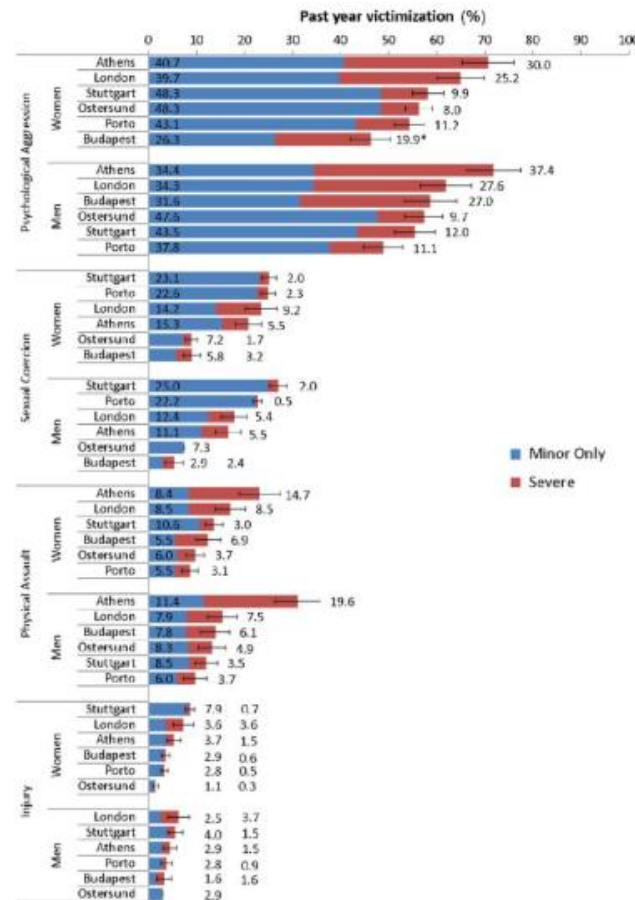
p* ≤ 0.05; *p* ≤ 0.01; ****p* ≤ 0.001

FINDINGS FROM THE 2010 NATIONAL INTIMATE PARTNER AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY HAYES & KOPP, 2020)

	Full sample (<i>N</i> = 13,699)	Male respondents (<i>N</i> = 6266)	Female respondents (<i>N</i> = 7433)
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio
Total physical violence past year	0.97	0.91	1.04
Total reproductive control past year	1.01	1.13	0.80
Total coercive control past year	1.04	1.11	0.96
Total psychological aggression past year	0.97	1.07	0.93
Total sexual victimization past year	0.94	0.93	0.95
Poor mental health	8.72***	8.63***	8.78***
Did not have money for doctor	1.45**	1.35	1.52**
Worried about housing	1.03	0.92	1.15
Worried about nutritious meals	1.33*	1.28	1.41*
Income	0.85***	0.84***	0.85***
Ever had a child under 18 live with him/her	1.31**	1.32*	1.28*
College graduate	0.52***	0.57***	0.48***
Latinx	1.58**	1.44	1.73**
African American	1.16	0.94	1.40*
Asian	0.84	0.94	0.76
Multi race	1.20	1.14	1.28
Female	1.07		
<i>R</i> ²	0.17	0.14	0.19

DOVE

We aimed to assess intimate partner violence (IPV) among men and women from six cities in six European countries. Men and women predominantly experienced IPV & Control as both victims and perpetrators with few significant sex-differences within cities. Results support the need to consider men and women as both potential victims and perpetrators when approaching IPV.



Figure

Caption

Fig. 2 Past year age-standardized prevalence of acts of victimization (minor and severe acts), (conducted in six European cities 2010–2011). Asterisk difference between men and women is statistically significant ($p < 0.05$); severe counts participants who suffered at least one act of severe violence in the past year; minor only counts participants who declared ... [Read more](#)

This figure was uploaded by [Diego Costa](#)
Content may be subject to copyright.

SUBTYPES OF VIOLENT SEPARATING OR DIVORCING COUPLES SEEKING FAMILY MEDIATION

1. Mutual violent control group 20%)
2. Male-perpetrated coercive controlling violence group 22%)
3. Female-perpetrated coercive controlling violence group 23%
4. Mutually low violence and abuse group 35%

- Coercive control is not merely the behaviour of men with many studies finding that male and female IPV victims appear equally likely to experience highly controlling partners (e.g., Avant et al. 2011; Ballard, Holtzworth-Munroe, Applegate, 2011; Bates, Graham-Kevan & Archer, 2014; Bates & Graham-Kevan, 2016; Brownridge, 2010; Carroll et al., 2010; Foran et al. 2011; Graham-Kevan & Archer, 2009; Hamel, Jones, Dutton, & Graham-Kevan, 2015; Kasian & Painter, 1992; Rogers & Follingstad, 2011; Straus & Gozjolko, 2014), with this body of research including a population survey (Laroche, 2005) and a systematic review (Carney & Barner, 2012). Similarly, there is research that

Schnurr, Mahatmya & Basche, 2013) including a systematic review (i.e., Langhinrichsen-Rohling, McCullars & Misra, 2012)

OLDER ADULTS (POLICASTRO & FINN 2015)

- Using data from the National Elder Mistreatment Study, this research examined if coercive control is more evident in physical violent victimisations of older adults (age 60 or older) when the perpetrator was an intimate partner.

Table 2. Logistic Regression Results Predicting Physical Abuse at Age 60 or Older.

	Physical Abuse After 60	
	b (SE)	Odds Ratio
Emotional coercive control by an intimate partner	2.139 (.275)***	8.488
Financial coercive control by an intimate partner	0.249 (.752)	1.283
Experienced trauma in lifetime	0.996 (.293)***	2.707
Good health	-0.825 (.230)***	0.438
Social support	-0.075 (.026)*	0.927
Live alone	0.514 (.242)*	1.672
Retired	0.001 (.265)	1.001
Education beyond high school	0.245 (.229)	1.278
White	0.174 (.316)	1.190
Female	-0.254 (.233)	0.775
Age	0.007 (.015)	1.007
n = 5,103	0.129	
Nagelkerke's pseudo-R ²		
-2 log likelihood	783.121	

*p < .05. **p < .01. ***p < .001.

Article

Coercive Control and Physical Violence in Older Adults: Analysis Using Data From the National Elder Mistreatment Study

Christina PolICASTRO¹ and Mary A. Finn²

Abstract

The most common perpetrators of physical violence against women of

Journal of Interpersonal Violence
2017, Vol. 32(3) 311–330
© The Author(s) 2015
Reprints and permissions:
sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav
DOI: 10.1177/0886260515585545
jiv.sagepub.com
SAGE

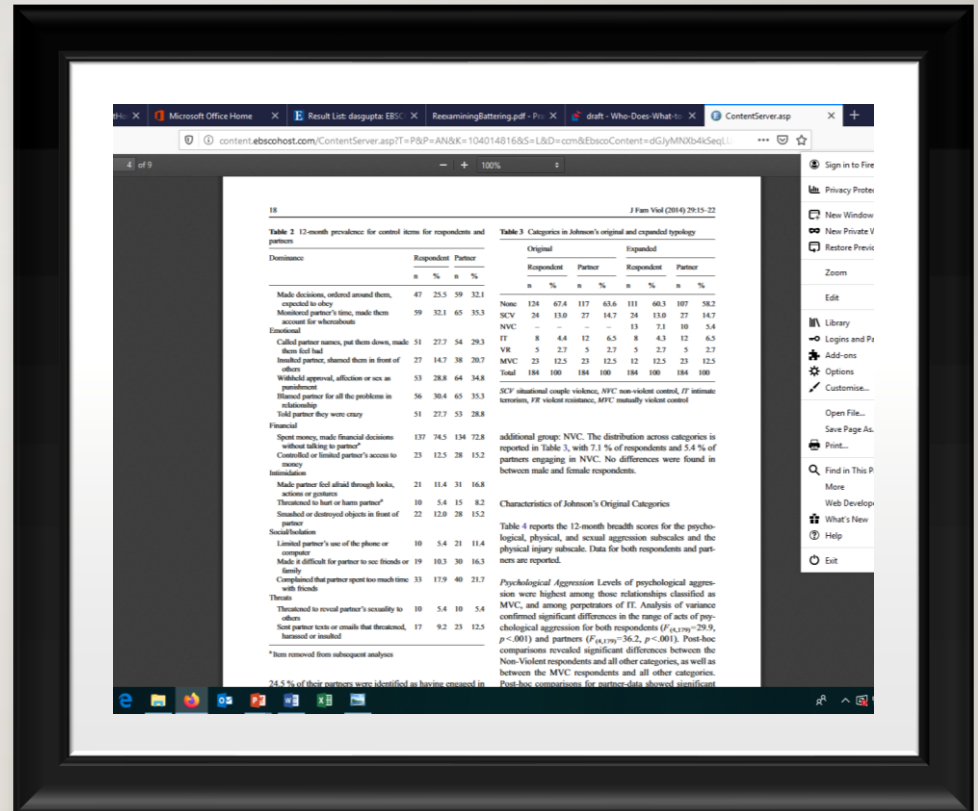
Table 2. Logistic Regression Results Predicting Physical Abuse at Age 60 or Older.

	Physical Abuse After 60	
	b (SE)	Odds Ratio
Emotional coercive control by an intimate	2.139 (.275)***	8.488
Financial coercive control by an intimate partner	0.249 (.752)	1.283
Experienced trauma in lifetime	0.996 (.293)***	2.707
Good health	-0.825 (.230)***	0.438
Social support	-0.075 (.026)*	0.927
Live alone	0.514 (.242)*	1.672
Retired	0.001 (.265)	1.001
Education beyond high school	0.245 (.229)	1.278
White	0.174 (.316)	1.190
Female	-0.254 (.233)	0.775
Age	0.007 (.015)	1.007
n = 5,103	0.129	
Nagelkerke's pseudo-R ²		
-2 log likelihood	783.121	

*p < .05. **p < .01. ***p < .001.

SAME SEX COERCIVE CONTROL (FRANKLAND & BROWN, 2014)

- These data demonstrated the presence of patterns of control and violence consistent with categories originally identified in heterosexual couples.



WOMEN'S REPORTS & IMPACTS ON CHILDREN (JOURILES & MCDONALD, 2015)



Of the 61 couples who engaged in coercive-controlling physical IPV, there were 33 in which only the mother's IPV was reported to be coercive, 18 in which only the partner's IPV was reported to be coercive, and 10 in which both partners' IPV was reported to be coercive.



Results indicated that coercive control was related to each of the measures of child adjustment problems



“That is, women may use coercion to gain their child's compliance, and manipulate, be disrespectful of, or undermine their child's autonomy”.

COERCIVE CONTROL DURING THE TRANSITION TO PARENTHOOD: AN
OVERLOOKED FACTOR IN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND FAMILY
WELLBEING? (GUO ET AL., 2019)

- Longitudinal community sample of 98 heterosexual couples: third trimester of pregnancy/1 and 2 years postpartum.
- Women's coercive control predicted their own as well as men's perpetration of IPV across the transition to parenthood.
- Women's coercive control was longitudinally predictive of **men's depression, harmful alcohol use, relationship dissatisfaction, poor co-parenting, low perceived parenting competence & perceptions of toddler problem behaviour.**



We expected that this difference between the sexes would vary between the two questions based on expert guidance from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Domestic Abuse Statistics Steering Group (DASSG).

However, some of the group suggested that the sex difference would be larger for controlling or coercive behaviour than for non-physical abuse. Our findings are not consistent with this expectation.



Home Office

Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship

Statutory Guidance Framework

December 2015

HIDING MEN'S IMPACT

- Not asking men
- Not reporting men's experiences (e.g., Hester et al., (2019) summarise the findings as “this supported their hypotheses that coercive control would have a direct effect on victimisation for women and predict specific facets of ‘post-relationship distress’ (such as escalating violence and fear of mediation) far better than relationship violence”.
- What Hester et al., fail to include is this research also included men and found that “CC by men against women causes women's victimization. Likewise the CC by women against men causes men's victimization. This means that both women and men have similar patterns of abuse tactics as instrumentalities of CC”.

DUTCH SAMPLE OF MALE & FEMALE OUTPATIENTS

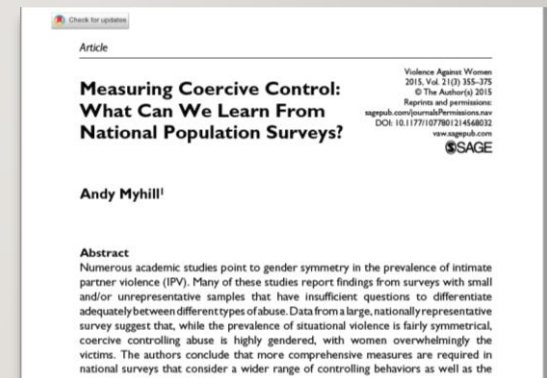
- “Note that women scored higher on coercive control than men & there were relatively more women in the high controlling cluster (29% female) than in the low controlling cluster (17% female)”
- **“Nonetheless, we think the most appropriate way to evaluate Johnson’s prediction that controlling violence is mostly & near exclusively, perpetrated by men is to assess the proportion of men in the high controlling cluster. With 71% male, the high controlling cluster was predominantly, but not exclusively, male”.**
- “The majority of our patients engaging into controlling violence were men, substantiating the idea that controlling violence is more often committed by men than by women”
- Note that this finding is qualified by the fact that our entire sample was predominantly male.
- BUT of all males 20% were high control and 29% of women so 1:3 women & 1:5 men highly controlling

REPLACING PRONOUNS

- Research on coercive control has primarily focused on female victims, thus comparatively less is known about how men experience it (Follingstad, 2007). Similarly, many of the instruments used to assess coercive control are based on women's experiences as victims (e.g., O'Leary 2001; Pence & Paymar, 1996).
- As a result, there lacks a thorough and well grounded conceptual and operational understanding of this phenomenon in male victims. McHugh, Rakowski and Swiderski (2013) argue that an approach that merely changes the pronouns is inadequate, and instead the starting point should include an analysis of men's experience or coercive control as reported in open-ended questions.

WHERE DIFFERENCES ARE FOUND

- Langhinrichsen-Rohling (2010) suggests that a typology with fear as a determining factor may underestimate the prevalence of IPV experienced by men due to men being socialized not to express vulnerability.



-
- Fear of losing children—A victim may be fearful of their children being taken away if they make a report and the perpetrator may have tried to convince them that this is the case.



Home Office

**Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an
Intimate or Family Relationship**
Statutory Guidance Framework

December 2015

Male Victims Experience of Coercive Control

In common with Women's Experiences

- Threats
- Intimidation
- Emotional
- Isolation
- Economic
- Sexual
- Post Separation

Specific to Men's Experiences

- Children
 - Safety of children if they leave
 - Losing the relationship with their children
- Legal & Administrative
 - False Allegations
 - Using the legal system against them
 - Not being believed by support services



Coercive control Specific to men

- 64% of men had been threatened with false allegations to the police or social services
- Over 1 in 4 men had been threatened with false allegations of sexual abuse or rape
- Just under half the men said the police had been used to continue the abuse post separation
- Over 1 in 2 men said the courts had been used to continue the abuse
- 63% of men said the children had been used to continue the abuse
- 84% of men had been threatened with taking their children away

Many men didn't think they would be believed...

"Because she would threaten to tell the police I beat her up and who would they believe ...I'm 6 ft 2"

"For what purpose? Nobody cares if you are a bloke"

"I don't think I'd be believed & I don't think there's any help for me"

"Pointless, police don't believe men."

"Services are near non-existent for men and again, I reiterate, men are not believed."



Impact on Space for Action

"She insisted I drop many friends & relatives, not go to friends/colleagues weddings/birthday parties etc. If I wanted to do my own thing, I would sometimes pretend I was at work." (P10)

"If I wanted to do something on my own my life would be made so difficult that I just wouldn't bother." (P131)

"My wife refused to contribute to any household expenses including mortgage whilst she worked with salary level same as my own. This required my taking on additional consultancy work to have sufficient income to cover all household bills and mortgage."
(P55)

"I had to do as I was told or she wouldn't speak to me and then cause an argument. blame me and throw me out, then refuse to let me see my daughter." (P79).



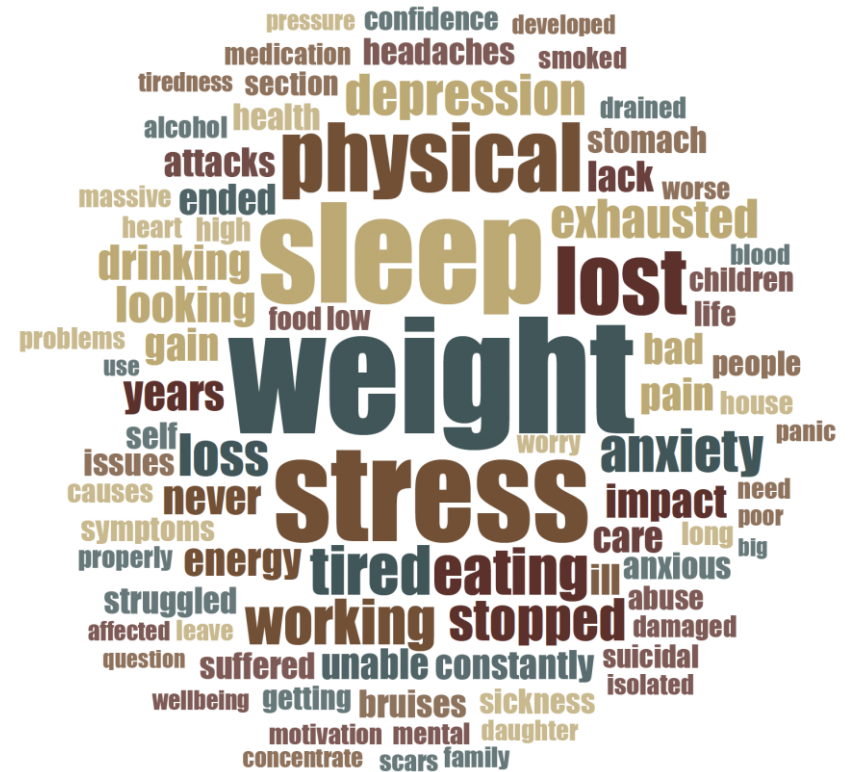
Impact on Physical Well-Being

"I became very skinny, doctors were worried, as she controlled how much food I was able to get and when I was able to eat." (P141).

"She'd generally get angry just before I was going to go to bed so I ended up on very little sleep and she'd want to have entirely circular arguments for hours. My work suffered and I eventually had to take redundancy." (P172)

"She stopped me taking my medication for depression so I sunk further." (P184)

"I was drinking a lot of alcohol to try and block out the pain. I ended up in hospital due to really high blood pressure and anxiety. I was suicidal" (P168).



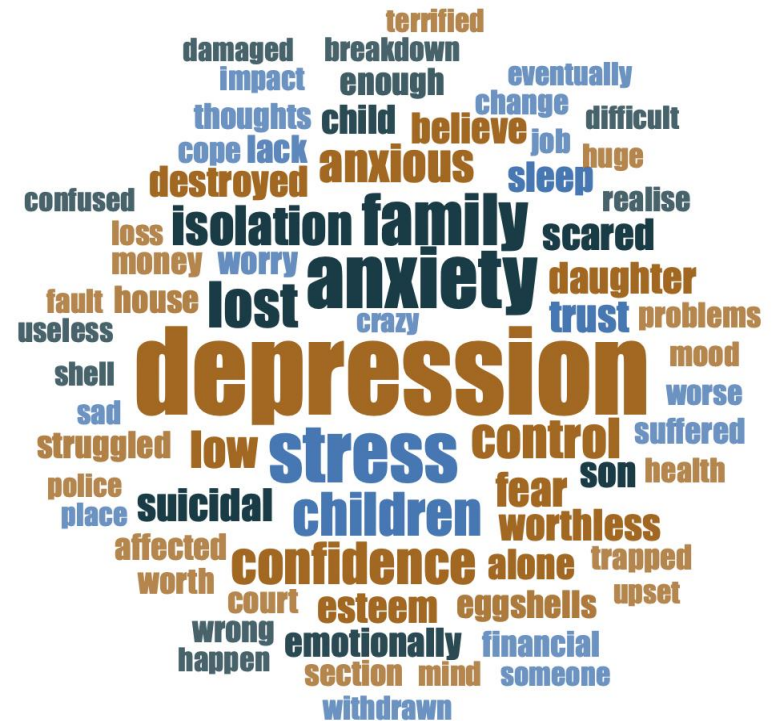
Impact on Psychological Well-Being

"I have PTSD, and I would describe myself as a shell of what I was. I suffer depression and anxiety and completely shut down for a while" (P123)

"A huge level of anxiety as I was being painted out to be someone I'm not. Second guessing everything I do. Walking on eggshells to avoid future conflict, feeling not in control of my own life and that of my children" (P157)

"I have PTSD, and I would describe myself as a shell of what I was. I suffer depression and anxiety and completely shut down for a while" (P123)

"It isolated me from my friends, I felt alone and developed depression to the point of suicidal thoughts" (P182)



Linguistic Analysis



Category	χ^2	t	p
i	7.04	6.29	<.001
Negative Emotion	7.12	11.16	<.001
Anxiety	1.68	5.99	<.001
Sad	0.6	2.05	0.04
Family	1.11	3.79	<.001

Post
Traumatic
Distress

Almost 8 out of 10 male victims had scores that indicate PTSD is a clinical concern



43% of male victims
had distress scores high enough
to suppress the immune system