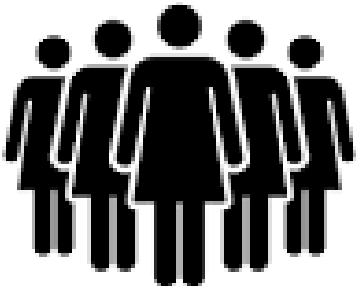


Suicides/Unexplained deaths – what we know

Walby, S. 'The Cost of Domestic Violence', London: Women and Equality Unit, 2004



- One third of all female suicides in England and Wales are preceded by domestic abuse.
- More women take their lives because of domestic abuse than are killed in domestic abuse



Aitken, R & Munro, V. 'From Hoping to Help', 2020.

Aitken, R & Munro, V. 'Domestic Abuse and Suicide', 2018



- 24% reported positively to measures of suicidality
- Interview respondents (practitioners) estimated suicidal ideation in anything from 20% - 80% of their cases
- 'Those trapped by domestic abuse can feel so hopeless that they believe the only way out is suicide'
- 'More than likely that our findings underestimate the full scale of the problem'

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Southall Black Sisters, Safe and Sane, 2010.



- The rate of suicide, attempted suicide, suicidal ideation and self harm is disproportionately high amongst South Asian women.
- 62% of the sample group had contemplated or attempted suicide and self harm and this same group showed a high correlation with domestic abuse.
- ‘Suicide is the tip of the iceberg – for every woman that succeeds in killing herself, there are many more in need of help’



“Suicide and suicide attempts...occur below the radar of most professionals working to end violence against women. Incidence data are sketchy. Risk markers are weak. Screening tools are nascent. Intervention strategies are vague. Evidence based practice is non-existent. Even anecdotal wisdom is sparse.”

- Barbara Hart, 2010

Criminal Justice outcomes



- Justene Rees - Nicholas Allen convicted of manslaughter
- Kellie Sutton - Steven Gane convicted of coercive control
- Mark van Dongen - Berlinah Wallace guilty of throwing a corrosive substance with intent
- Alex Reid - Peter Yeung convicted of assault and 1 criminal damage
- Abigail Paterson - Robert Holiday guilty of assault causing actual bodily harm and damage to property



Emerging Best Practice Community Safety Partnerships

- Why commission a DHR for a suicide following domestic abuse?
- Key considerations and challenges



Best Practice – DHRs Chairs and Panels

- Key considerations and Challenges:
 - Risk
 - Involvement of family – who is the family?
 - Language
 - Report writing
 - Recommendations



Best Practice - Advocacy

- Advocates
 - Police investigations
 - Inquests and Coroners
- Families bereaved by domestic abuse related suicide and unexplained deaths.

Churchill Fellowship 2020

To examine statutory reviews of non-homicide domestic abuse
related deaths

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Other work

- Developing and sharing emerging best practice
- Domestic Abuse related suicide working group
- Analysis of published 'suicide' DHRs