Murder in Britain
A Comparison of Lethal and Non-lethal Violence
Against Women Partners

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OVERVIEW

Murder – International Comparisons
Explanations
Assessing Risk of violence against women
Two Studies
  - National Study of Murder in Britain
  - The Violent Men Study
Comparisons – Identifying Risk Factors
  - Intimate Partner Murder and Male-Male Murder
  - Lethal and Non-lethal violence against women
Implications
  Risk factors = issues for intervention
## Different Rates of Homicide

**Rates per 100,000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>75.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>64.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>6.80 (10.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Ireland</td>
<td>6.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>2.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England/Wales</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Assessing Risk

Assessing the Risk of Intimate Partner Violence
Began with women’s groups USA (B. Hart) (for women to assess risk to themselves)
‘What works’ agenda/treatment programmes
Developmental research on offenders, epidemiology

What is assessed/predicted? assault, serious violence, homicide

Approaches: structured professional judgement or actuarial

Risk Assessment Instruments for IPV:
....SARA – Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (R. Kropp) 20 areas
....MOASIC 20-48 questions
....Danger Assessment [for women] (J. Campbell) - 15 items – risk of homicide
....Women’s Own Personal Assessment of Risk (not systematic)

Predictability: Assessing the risk of general criminality is a better predictor of IPV than the specialist IPV Assessment tools above

Future Needs:- more on dynamic risk management, safety planning for women, systematize women’s own assessments of risk

Best Indicators of Risk: based on empirical evidence but must be located within an explanatory framework
Violence Against Women in Intimate Relationships
Explanations

Socio-demographic... age, gender, disadvantage, educ., employment

Socio-cultural... culture, subcultures, masculinity

Feminist... gender, power, domination, jealousy, possessiveness

Contextual/Situational Factors & Processes...
  conflict, type of relationship, substance abuse

Cognition ...thinking, emotions and action

Psychological Traits/attributes...(psychopathy, personality, lifecourse, early onset)

Evolved Psychology... (male proprietariness)

Biology...(genes, hormones, testosterone, serotonin)
COMPARISON OF TWO STUDIES

National Study of Murder in Britain (funded by ESRC)
Objective – all types of murder, create typology, improve understanding of pathways, focus on contexts & situations

Three sources of Data:
- Homicide Indexes (England/Wales and Scotland)
- 866 Case Files (786 men and 80 women convicted of murder)
- 200 Interviews (180 men and 20 women in prison for murder)

Violent Men Study-Evaluation of CJ Interventions for Abusers (funded by Home Office & Scottish Office)
Depth Interviews with:
- 122 men convicted of offence involving non-lethal violence against an intimate partner
- 136 women partners of violent men
MURDER IN BRITAIN STUDY

3 Sources of Data

Homicide Index:
- All homicides (1980-2000)
  - England/Wales: n=12,000 (27 vars)
  - Scotland: n=2,000 (19 vars)

Case Files: sample n=866  425 vars
- Sample from all murderers currently serving life in prison:
  - England/Wales (n=3,000)
  - Scotland (n=500)

Depth Interviews: sample n=200
- Men  Women
  - England: 143  20
  - Scotland: 37  0
- Total: 180  20  .... Overall Total=200
CASEFILES (documents from…)

Police Investigation
Trial Judge Summary
Forensic Report
Govs & Prison Officers  (Assessment, Life Plan, Conduct)
Probation  (Pre & post sentence, prison)
Psychiatric/ Medical  (Pre & post sentence, prison)
Psychologist
Parole Review
Offending Behaviour Programmes
Offender Accounts
CASEFILES & INTERVIEWS (information about…)

Childhood Background
Family - School - Social & Legal Services

Adult Life and Circumstances
Relationships, Problems, Social & Legal Services

Murder Event
Violence, Injuries, Circumstances, Situations, Perpetrator-Victim Relationship

Legal Process/Criminal Career
Current Charges & Previous Convictions

Prison Life and Rehabilitation Programmes
Adjustment, Education, Problems, Violence, Programmes
COMPARISONS OF
INTIMATE PARTNER MURDER
&
MALE-MALE MURDER

Murder in Britain
   IP Murder  106 men
   MM Murder  424 men
IPMurder & M-M Murder Comparisons

Similarities and Differences:

- **Childhood** (Caretaking, Abuse, Behaviour problems, Offending)
- **Adulthood** (Education, Employment, Relationships)
- **Previous Offending** (violence and prison)
- **Murder Event** (age, substance abuse, previous violence to victim, use of weapon)
- **Problems** Identified by Professionals (Substance abuse, Mental health, Problems with Women, Empathy, Denial, Risk to Public)
- **Prison** and Dealing with Offending Behaviour (adjustment, report for violence, self harm, discuss murder, prison courses)
Childhood (before 16)
Comparisons of IPMurder & MxM Murder

* Parent Broken Rel
** Father Alco
*3+ Carers
* In Care
*** Alco Abuse <16
*** Drug Abuse <16
* Early onset pre13
*** Sch Probs

IPMurder n=106
MxM n=424
Adulthood
Comparisons of IPMurder & MxM Murder

Unemp.  Relation  ConvictionVicWoman  Prison

IPMurder n=106  MxM n=424
The Murder Event
Comparisons of IPMurder & MxM Murder

**Unemp.**
***Prev Viol to Victim***
**Off.Drink-not drunk***
***Drunk***
**Drugs**

IPMurder n=106
MxM n=424
COMPARISONS OF INTIMATE PARTNER MURDER & NON-LETHAL ASSAULT

National Study of Murder in Britain
IPMurder 106 men

Violent Men Study- Eval. of Abuser Programmes
122 non-lethal abusers
Lethal and Non-lethal Violence
Context, Circumstances & Violent Event

***Serious Dating***
***Prev Viol. to Victim***
***Poss.***
***Sep/div***
***Drunk***
***Sex Attack***
***Strangle***
***Instru. Weapon***

**IPMurder n=106**
**IPViolence n=122**
Risk Factors – Offending & Escalating/Lethal IPV

General Crime:
- Adversity in Childhood
- Unemployment
- Educational Deficits
- Criminal Career
- Substance Abuse
- Problematic Social Networks
- Poor Thinking Skills
- Poor Emotional Management

Specific to IPV/IPM:
- Tenuous rels-(cohab,dating)
- Contested relationships
- Prolonged conflict
- Separation/attempt leave
- Possessiveness & jealousy
- Probs.w/women, specialize violence against women
- Prev.Violence to victim &/or other partners
- Murder..Strangle/choke, forced sex, Use instruments
BUT…..

.. IP murders appear to have more conventional backgrounds with fewer problems in childhood or adulthood and some have no previous convictions for crime.

?? Does IPMurder group contain two types of men??

Some with more conventional backgrounds and little or no CJS contact (perhaps undetected abusers - perhaps without previous abuse)

Some with more ‘criminogenic’ backgrounds, problems in childhood & adulthood, substance abuse, previous offending and violence against women and men
Who assessed as a risk?
Who should receive intervention?

Interventions for men should be aimed at:
… a broad band of offenders within CJS
and attempt to:
… ‘capture’ those who do not come to attention of CJS

More ‘conventional’ men present a problem for risk assessment because they are unlikely to come to attention of anyone dealing with this violence
… and risk assessment tools unlikely to identify


