

# Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences MARAC

A multi-agency response to Domestic  
Abuse  
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# Prior to 2000

- ◉ No agency risk assessed domestic abuse victims or perpetrators
- ◉ Resources followed demand not risk
- ◉ Victims dealt with by the NGO's secretly
- ◉ No information shared routinely
- ◉ Police reacted to incidents no understanding of patterns
- ◉ So repeat incidences high

# Public Protection – the links

- ◉ Injury to animals
- ◉ Child Protection
- ◉ Domestic Abuse
- ◉ Sexual Violence
- ◉ Kidnap/siege taking
- ◉ Homicide

# The Cardiff Model from 2000

- ◉ Advocacy for high risk victims
- ◉ Shared understanding of Risk assessment
- ◉ Information Sharing –M.A.R.A.C.
- ◉ Specialist Nurse in the Emergency Unit
- ◉ Routine enquiry by Health staff
- ◉ Fast tracking cases in the criminal justice system
- ◉ Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts

# A simple risk checklist 2003

- ◉ Reviewed 47 domestic Homicides
- ◉ 33 female victims
- ◉ 14 male victims
- ◉ From this identified risk factors developed a one sheet checklist for Police Officers of 18 questions Information shared with the Independent Domestic Abuse advisers at the Women's Safety Unit

# Cardiff Women's Safety Unit

- ◉ Lead by myself with IDVA's , Police Officer and a Specialist Nurse based in the Emergency Unit
- ◉ Direct referral from all agencies
- ◉ Liaised with the Prosecutors
- ◉ IDVA's priority was safety not prosecution
- ◉ Helped collect evidence and support the victim through the complex process
- ◉ Developed a specialist service for male victims DYN – Help line and online

# Significant risk indicators

- Assailants criminal record.
- Use of Weapons.
- Injuries inflicted.
- Financial problems.
- Assailants problems with alcohol, drugs or mental health.
- Victim is pregnant
- Assailant expressing/behaving in a jealous or controlling way.
- Has been/going to be a separation between victim and assailant.



# Risk Indicators con't

- ◉ Conflict over child contact
- ◉ Threats to kill
- ◉ Attempts made to strangle/choke
- ◉ Abuse becoming more severe or frequent
- ◉ Assailant threatens/attempts suicide
- ◉ Sexual abuse i.e. rape, indecent assault
- ◉ Victim's own assessment of level of fear
- ◉ Fearful for children
- ◉ Stalking
- ◉ Is victim isolated



# Risk checklist

- ◉ If you scored more than 10 case went to MARAC
- ◉ MARAC held every 2 weeks
- ◉ Later from 2009 we combined our work with the Metropolitan Police and devised the Dash- Domestic Abuse Stalking and Honour checklist

# MARAC who is attending...

- Cardiff Women's Safety Unit
- Police
- Probation
- Midwife
- Health Visitor
- Child Protection Nurse
- Women's Aid
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team
- Housing
- Black Association of Women Step Out.
- Social Services-Child Protection
- Social Services-Intake and Assessment
- Social Services-Adult Services
- Education
- Mental Health Services
- Substance abuse workers
- Any other relevant agency

# Intention of MARAC

- ◉ Share information
- ◉ Draw up a multi-agency action plan
- ◉ Reduce risks to victim/children
- ◉ Manage perpetrator
- ◉ Monitor and review

# Outcomes by 2004

- ◉ Repeat Victimisation down 38% to 8%
- ◉ Withdrawals from C.J. system down 54% to 14%
- ◉ 42% victims interviewed had not experienced further violence or abuse at 12 month point. The other 58% call police earlier , they have confidence the C.J. system can deliver.

# The MARAC Process

- ◉ Emergency Callout/referral from victim
- ◉ Risk assessment checklist completed
- ◉ Risk assessment reviewed and risk level assessed
- ◉ Established as High Risk
- ◉ Case referred to MARAC

# Before the MARAC

- Risk checklist faxed to Social Services, NHS Trust, IDVA service
- Immediate actions taken: target hardening, occurrence markers, police watch, actions re Child/Adult Protection procedures implemented, IDVA contact

# Preparation for the MARAC

- ◉ Lead agency collects referrals with name, date of birth and address of victim, children and perpetrator and name of referring agency
- ◉ Circulates list 8 working days before MARAC to all attending agencies
- ◉ Relevant professionals research cases
- ◉ MARAC meeting held, information shared
- ◉ Actions agreed
- ◉ Outstanding actions from last meeting highlighted

# MARAC Actions

Action	Agency
Clarify risks	All
Prioritize/Flag/Open the case	Housing, Police, Social Services, A&E, Midwives, Education
Joint Visits or Separate Visits	e.g. Health Visitor and IDVA, or Police
Criminal/civil options	Police, Probation, IDVA, SSD, Housing, CAFCASS
Perpetrator management	Police, Probation, Mental Health, Housing



# Early Outputs

- Year 1 (2007) 8,000 Very High Risk cases MARAC'd (on 70 MARACs running)
- As MARAC matured (2008) 19,000 cases heard
- Year 1 90% of cases referred by Police
- As MARAC matures other agencies refer in about 30% of cases
- These are the ones we 'didn't know about'

# Early Outcomes

- ◉ The first 20 MARACs running in the UK over 6 months have halved their repeats
- ◉ Cardiff data showed at the 6 month point post MARAC 63% of victims felt safe and did not need services
- ◉ By the year point 42% of victims felt safe
- ◉ Projected savings at least £70 million

# By 2008

- ◉ 200 MARACs running
- ◉ 143 MARACs sending in data
- ◉ 19,000 Adults through MARAC
- ◉ 26,000 Children in those families
- ◉ 25% repeat victimisation
- ◉ 7.5% Black Minority Victims and rising
- ◉ Small % of male , same sex and disabled victims but rising

# Cost outcome

£23 billion (Walby UK Government research)

Direct costs £6 billion

Each case £14k and up

Make 40% of 8,000 in 2007 cases safe

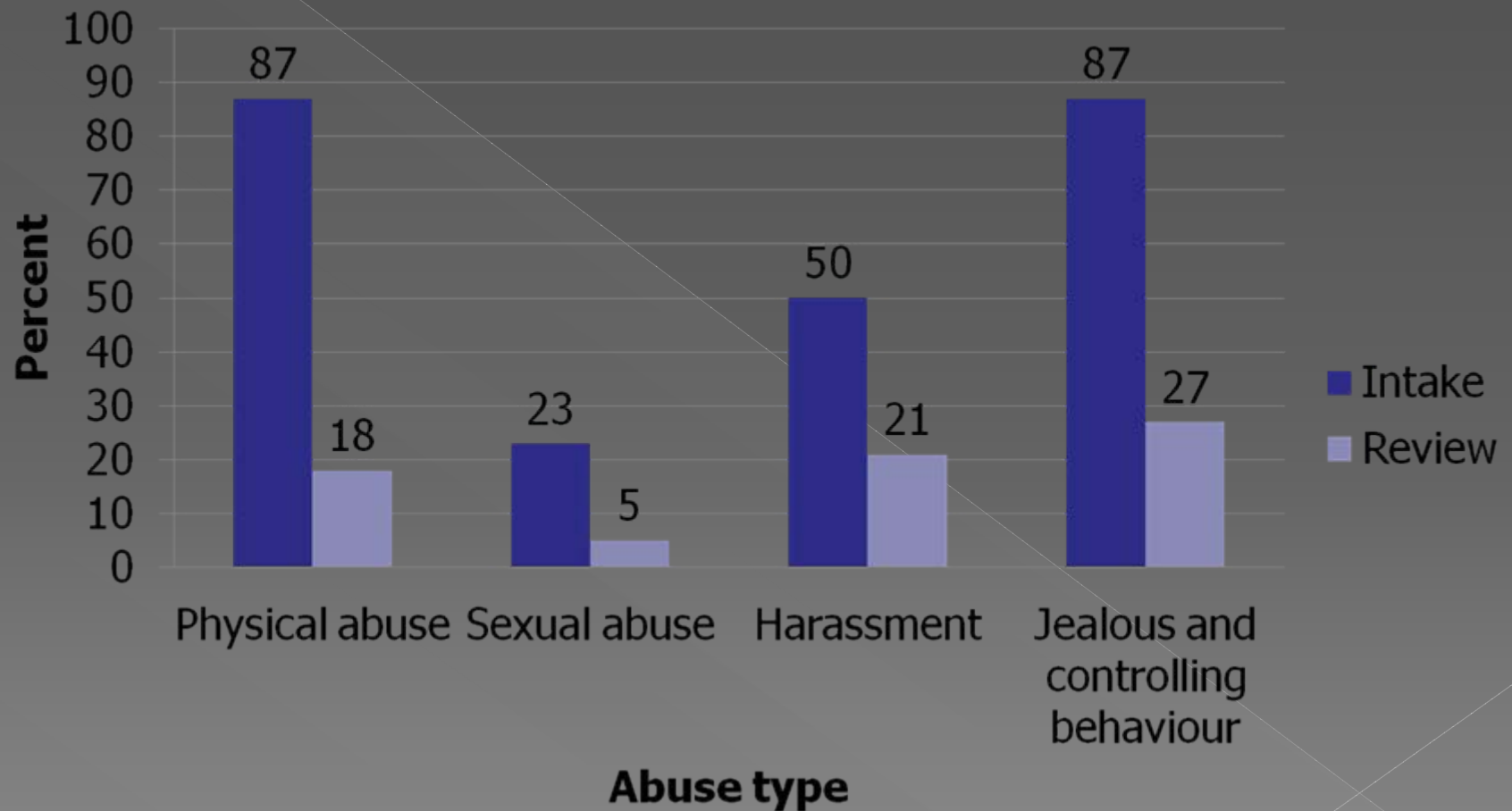
Make 40% of 70,000 in 2013 cases safe

Huge savings made

# The Human Cost- Safety in Numbers

- Largest study ever done in UK – 2500 women, 3600 children, 7 sites
- Showed that on average women had suffered 5.5 years of abuse before accessing help
- Most women suffered all forms of abuse- physical (84%), sexual (23%), controlling behaviour (86%) and stalking/harassment (48%)
- Two thirds reported abuse ceased after support from IDVA

# Change in Abuse Suffered



# Impact on Direct Risks to Children

Risk factor	Intake (T1) Percentage of victims with children (n=699)	Review (T2) Percentage of victims with children (n=699)	Percentage Change
Threats to kill children	11% (80)	6% (45)	44%
Conflict around child contact	42% (292)	23% (160)	45%
Victim is afraid of harm to children	30% (207)	7% (49)	76%

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