

Overlooked Victims of Domestic Violence: Men

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Background

- Patriarchy is the cause of domestic violence
 - Guides our policies, laws, and programs
- But women commit ~40+% of domestic violence
 - All in self-defense or retaliation?
 - Low-level, low-frequency violence that is reciprocated by their partners and is a result of arguments getting out of hand?

Background

- Terroristic violence
 - Frequent and severe, accompanied by severe psychological abuse, and takes place within a context of power and control
 - Exclusive domain of men?



Background

- 2004 Canadian General Social Survey
 - 36.8% of the victims of terroristic violence were men
 - 40% of male IPV victims were terroristic violence victims
- What do we know about these men?



Goals of Our Study

1. What are the characteristics of men who seek help for IPV victimization?
2. How much and what kinds of IPV are experienced by male IPV victims?
3. What are the potential consequences of experiencing IPV for men?
4. What prevents male victims from leaving their relationships?
5. What happens when they try to seek help?

Study Description

- 302 heterosexual men, between ages of 18-59
 - In a relationship lasting at least one month in the previous year & physically assaulted
 - Sought outside assistance/support
 - Lived in U.S.
- Data collected through Internet survey
 - Conflict Tactics Scales
 - PTSD Checklist
 - Closed-ended and open-ended questions on:
 - Why man has not left
 - Help-seeking efforts

Q1: Who are these men?

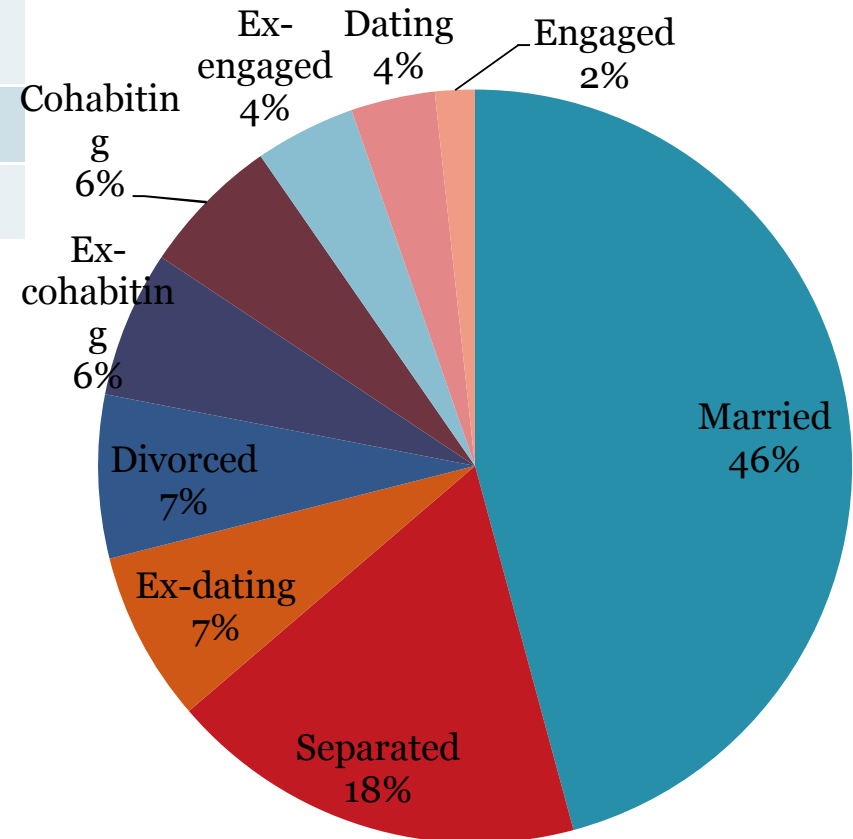
	Male Helpseeker M (SD) or %	Female Partner M (SD) or %
Age	40.49 years (8.97)	37.91 years (8.61)
White	86.8%	74.2%
African American	6.0%	7.3%
Hispanic	5.0%	7.6%
Asian American	4.3%	9.3%
Native American	2.0%	2.6%

Q1: Who are these men?

- Approx. Income: \$50.4K (25.7)
- Approx. Education: 2-4 year college degree
- Approx. Occupational Level: technician/ associate professional
 - Approx. 33% were employed in stereotypical masculine jobs or at high-prestige jobs

Q1: Who are these men?

	Mean (SD) or %
Relationship Length	8.16 years (6.84)
Time Since Relationship Ended	6.10 months (7.69)
% with children	73.2%
% still in relationship	56.5%



Q2: How Much and What Kinds of IPV are the Men Experiencing?

	% Female Partners Who Perpetrated	Mean # of acts in previous year among perpetrators
<i>Psychological Aggression</i>		
Severe Psychological Aggression	96.0	28.90 (26.20)
Controlling Behaviors	93.4	42.62 (36.25)
<i>Physical Aggression</i>		
Minor	98.7	32.01 (34.33)
Severe	90.4	16.74 (22.06)
Very Severe	54.0	7.46 (10.59)
Any	100.0	46.72 (53.48)

Q2: How Much and What Kinds of IPV are the Men Experiencing?

Partner falsely accused helpseeker of hitting or beating her	67.2%
Partner filed restraining order against helpseeker under false pretenses	38.7%
Partner falsely accused helpseeker of physically abusing children	35.8%
Partner falsely accused helpseeker of sexually abusing children	11.3%

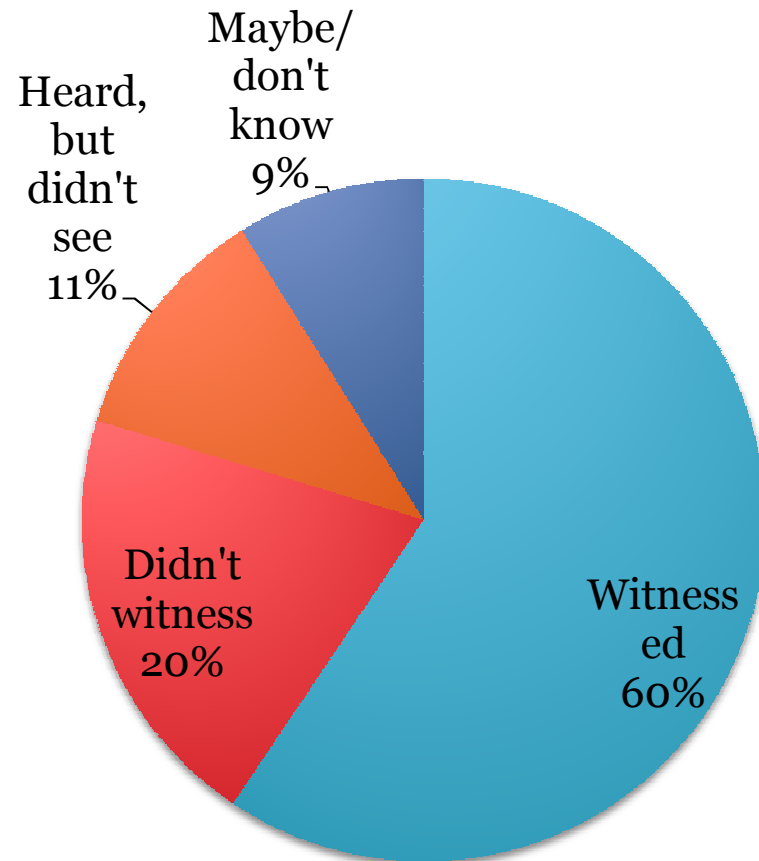
Q3: What are the Possible Consequences of This IPV? *Physical and Psychological Injuries*

- 2004 Canadian General Social Survey
 - 68.8% of the male victims of severe terroristic violence were injured
 - 33.8% feared for their lives
 - Physical and psychological consequences concentrated in terroristic violence victims
- 58% Scored Above Clinical Cut-Off for PTSD

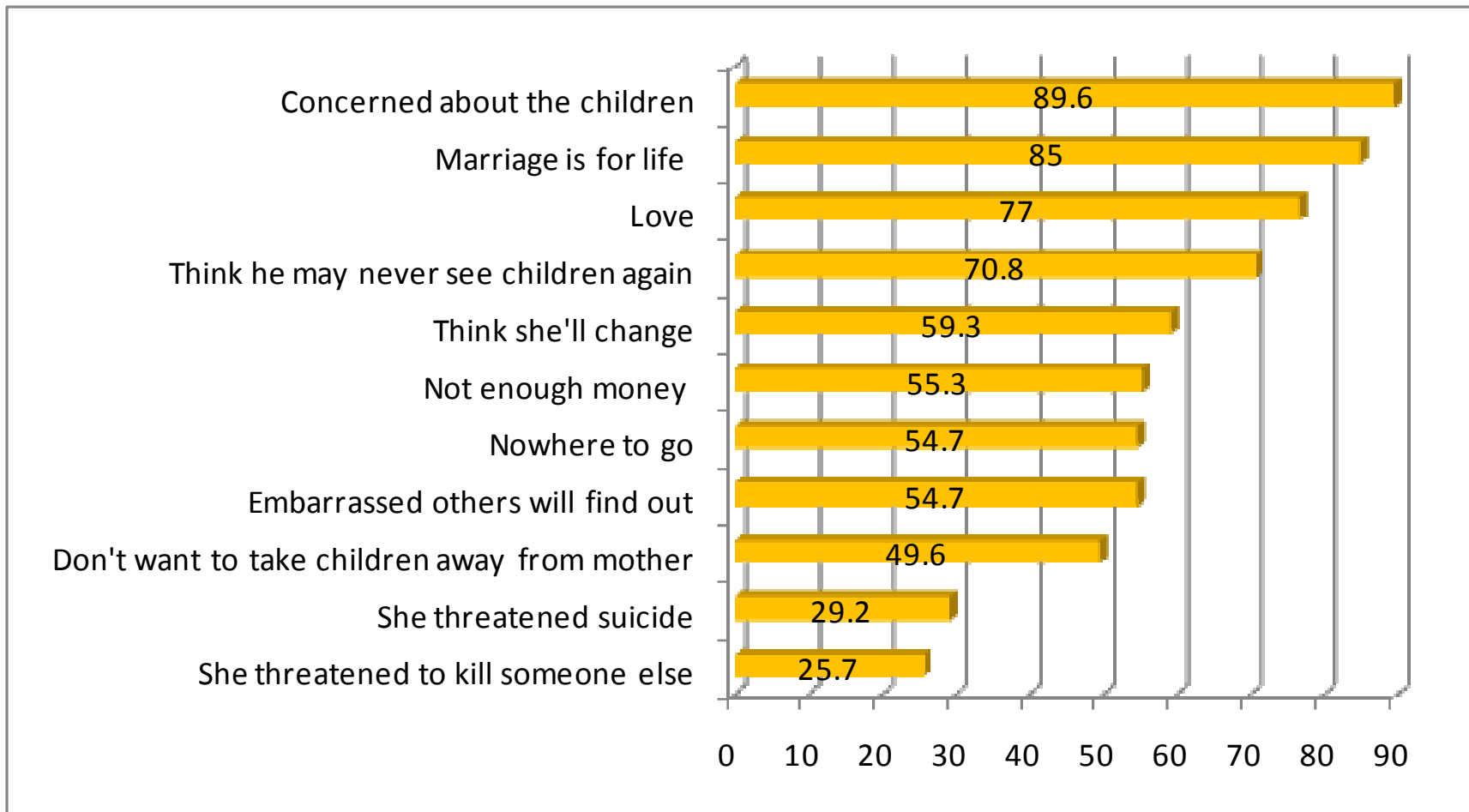
	% of Males Who Were Injured	Mean # of Injuries Among Men who were Injured
Minor	77.5	9.73 (12.75)
Severe	35.1	4.64 (7.50)
Any	78.5	11.68 (15.61)

Q3: What are the Possible Consequences of This IPV? *Child Witnesses*

- Children who witness father abusing mother
 - behavioral, emotional, social, cognitive, and physical health problems
- Main reason that male victims do not leave their relationships is for the children
 - Possible longer exposure

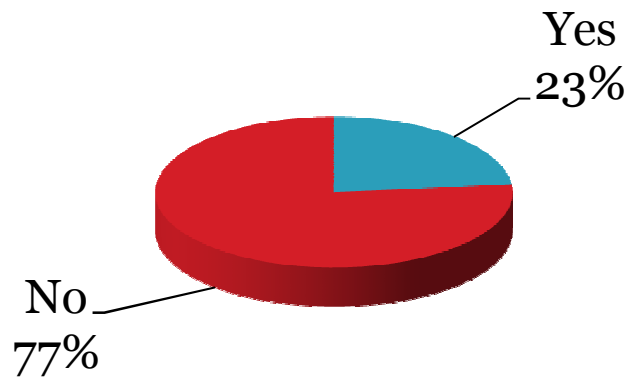


Q4: What Prevents the Men from Leaving?

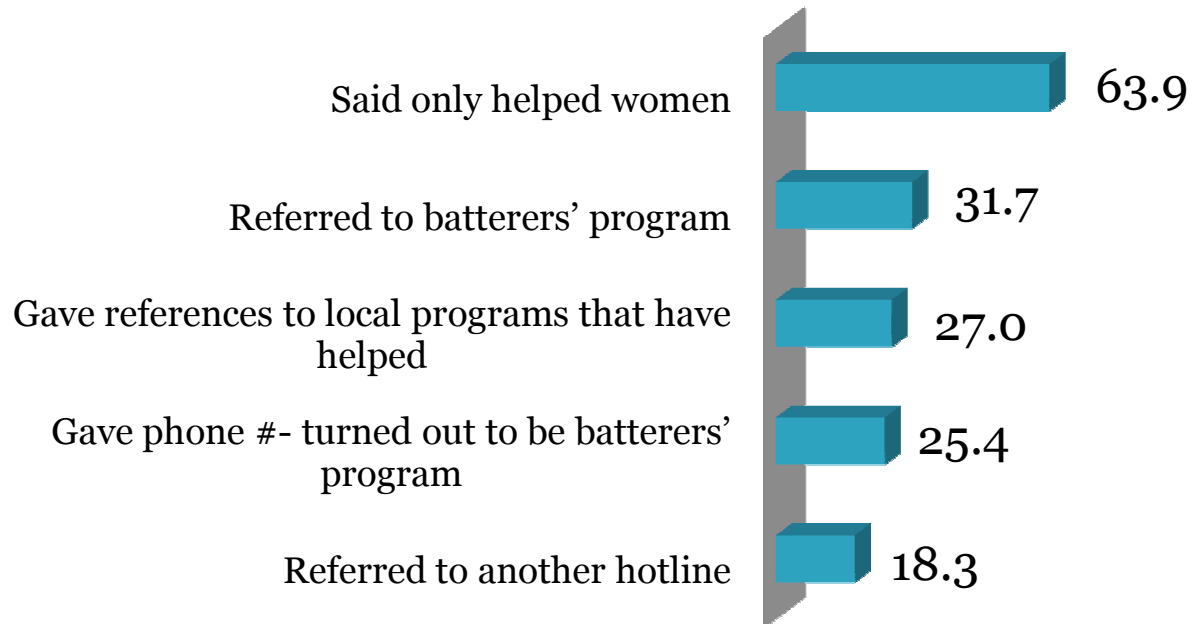
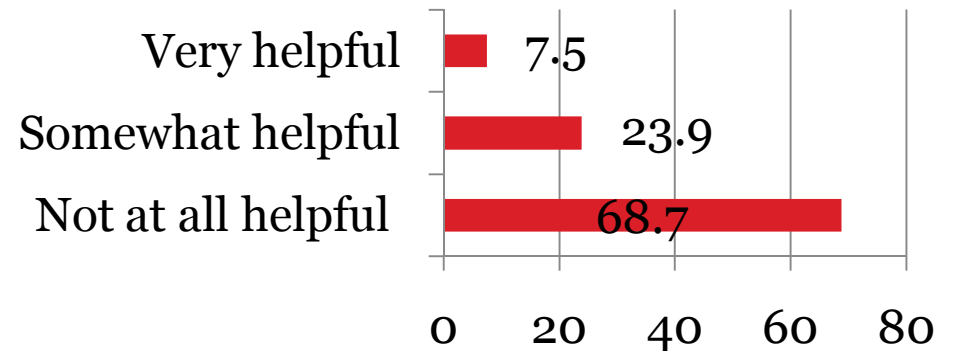


Q5: What Happens When they Seek Help?

% Who Called Hotline

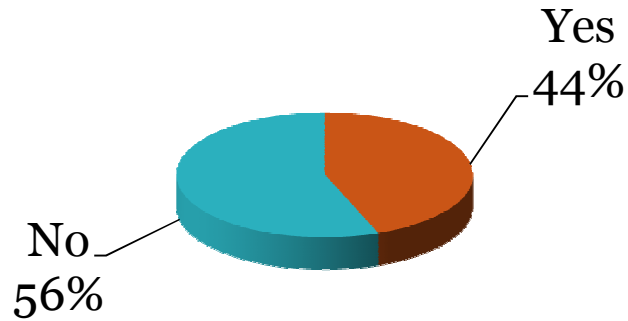


How helpful was this hotline?

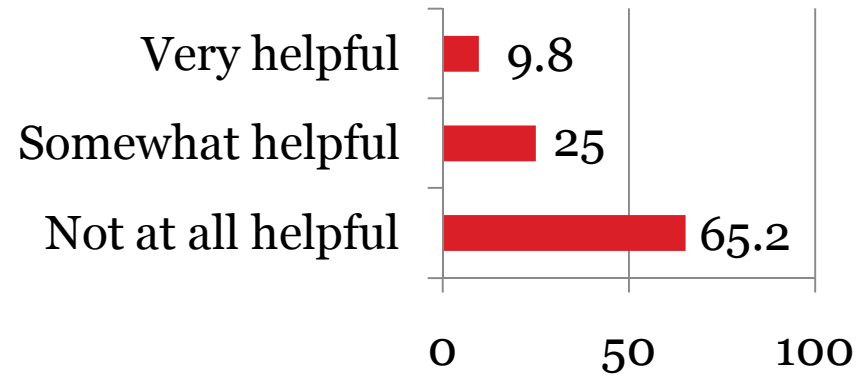


Q5: What Happens When they Seek Help?

% Who Contacted a Local DV Program



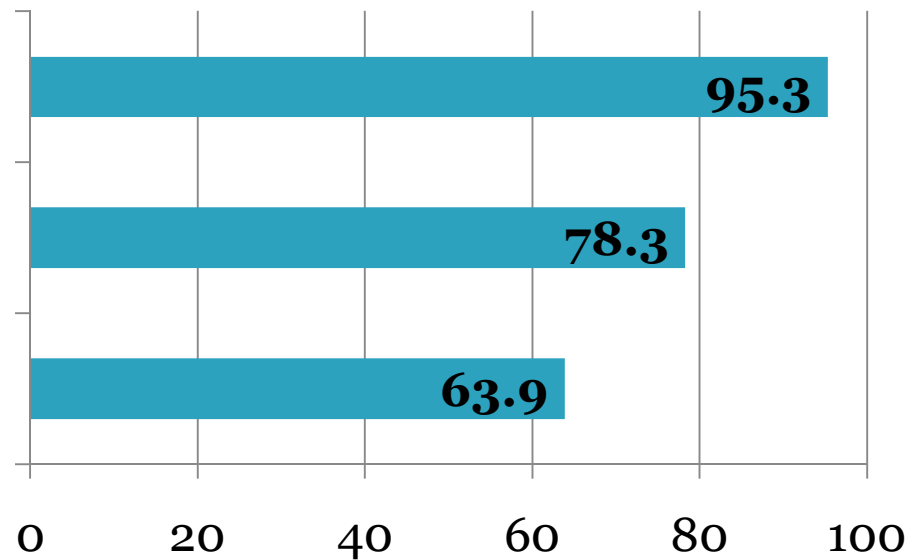
How Helpful was the DV Program?



Gave impression that they were biased against men

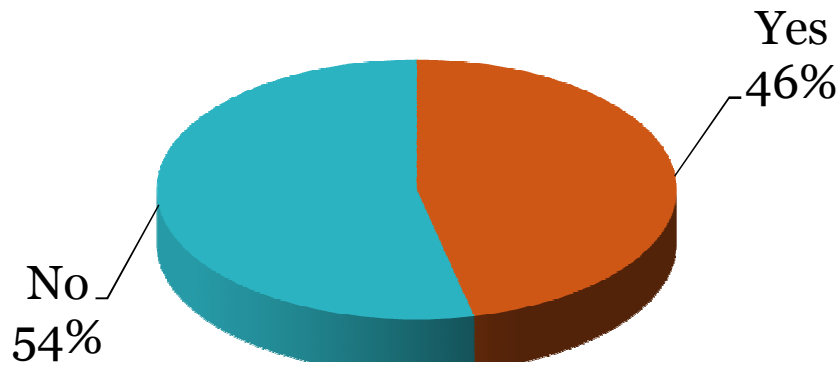
Said they don't help male victims

Suggested that he's the batterer

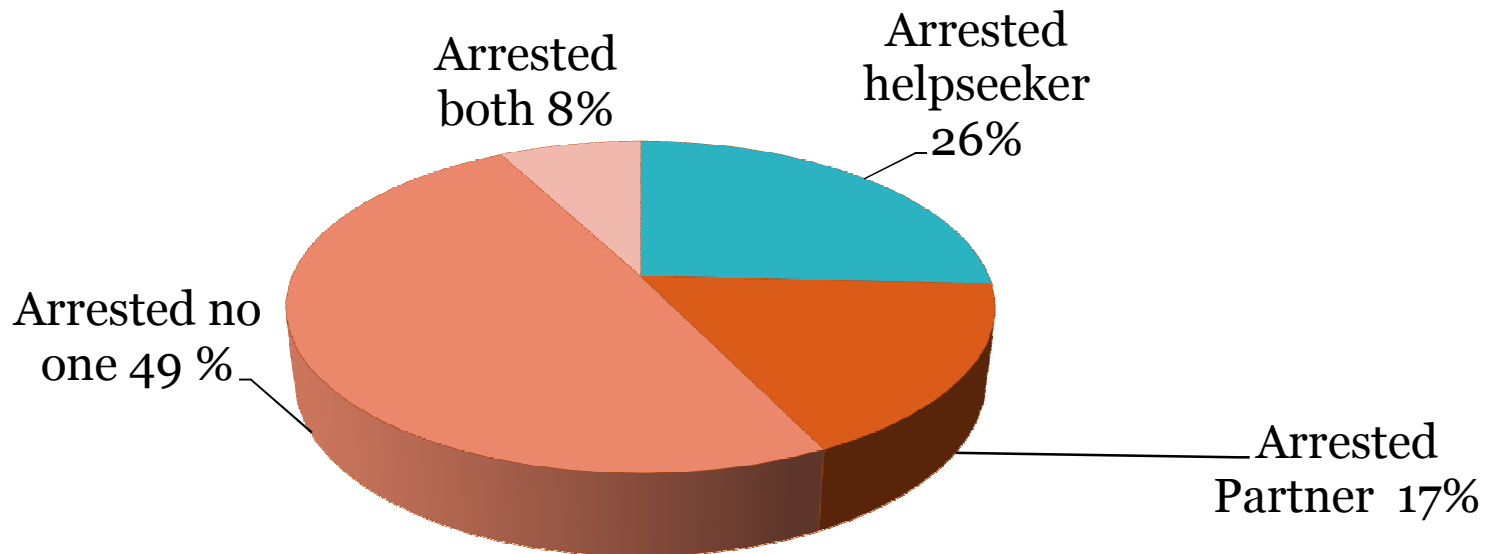
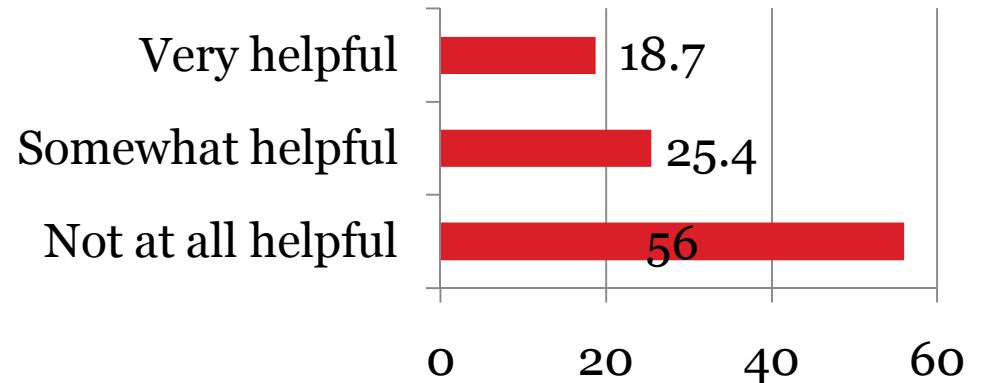


Q5: What Happens When they Seek Help?

% Who Contacted the Police



How Helpful were the Police?



Implications

- Must educate about men sustaining severe IPV, their experiences, their barriers to leaving, and resources available.
- Policies and procedures need to be developed that require an increase in training about the diversity of IPV victims for members of the DV service system.
- Police departments should re-examine how officers respond when victims do not meet our gendered notions of the dynamics of IPV.
- Governments should fund research and programs on male IPV victims and the impact the IPV has on the child witnesses.



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Publications from Dataset

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