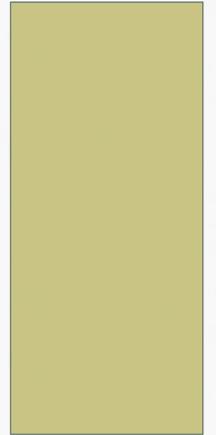




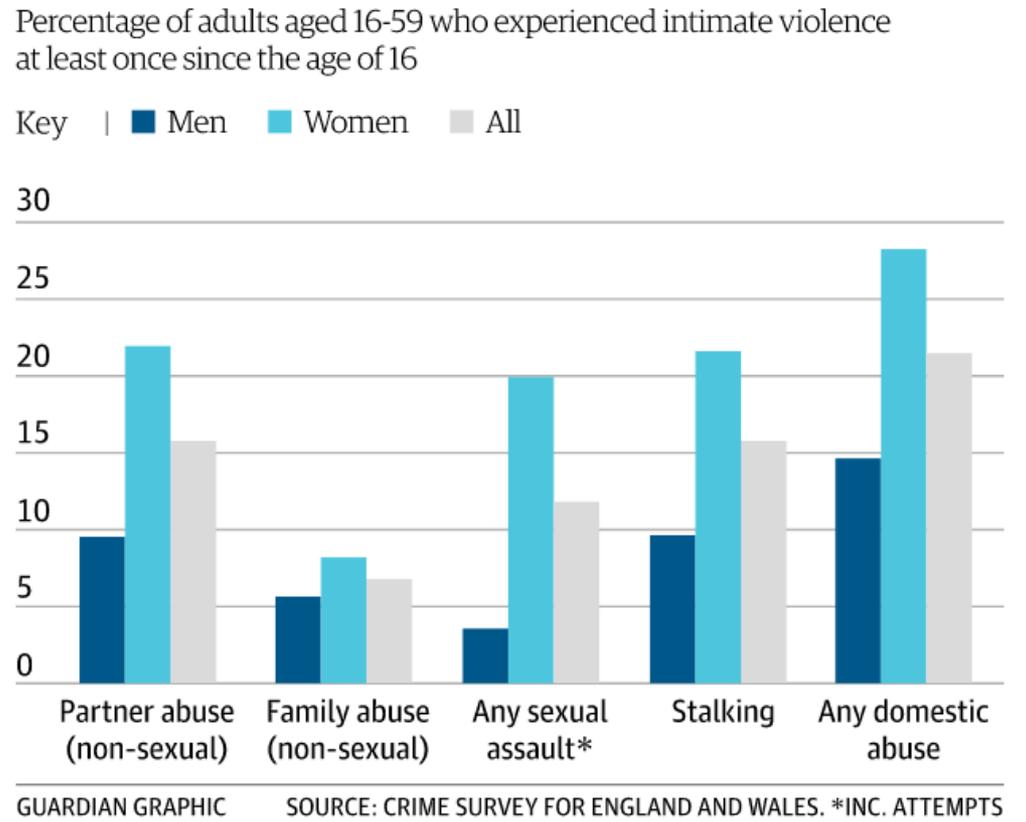
The Invisible Male

DR BEN HINE



STATS - DV

- Domestic violence can take a number of forms including physical, emotional, verbal, economic and sexual abuse, which can range from subtle, coercive forms to marital rape and to violent physical abuse that results in disfigurement or death.
- Over the past year, 1.4 million women and 700,000 men have suffered from domestic abuse in the UK
- This is a persistent and pervasive problem – and has not dropped as significantly as other violent crime



DV WITH POLICE

- Jessica McCarrick – Teeside University
- Qualitative Study – 6 Participants
- Trauma
 - Guilty until proven innocent – victim cast as perpetrator
 - Masculine Identity
 - The Pressure Cooker – Psychological Impact
 - Light at the end of the tunnel
- Generally negative experience with the CJS
- Very pervasive stereotypes

STATS - SV

- 12,000 men raped (85,000 women) raped in England & Wales every year
- ...
- Not much else that we can tell about these victims!
- Many reports omit male sections
- Many reports collapse male victims into female samples
- 'Violence Against Women and Girls'

SV WITH POLICE

- 14% Reporting rate in London for 2011/12 (ONS, 2013)
- In reality this number may be much lower (~3%) and there may also be regional variations
- Attrition is high
 - Of 1274 cases reported
 - Only 240 (18%) appear in court
 - Only 100 of those cases securing conviction (8%)
 - 2% and 1% of overall sample (ONS, 2013)

REPORTING AND HELP-SEEKING

- The rates of help-seeking for partner abuse are consistently lower for men than for women among both adolescents and adults (Black et al., 2008; E. Buzawa & Hotaling, 2006; Jackson et al., 2000; Silber Ashley & Foshee, 2005; Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000)
- Little research on men's experiences of abuse, and the research that does exist suggests that research on women does not necessarily apply to men.
- The relationship between gender and partner abuse remains both controversial and divisive

WHY?

POWER AND STEREOTYPES



What happens
when men do
become
victims?



DV & STEREOTYPES

- Men are much less likely than women to report domestic violence
- Threat to masculinity and machismo, threat of ridicule
- Whilst there is a global issue with male-on-female domestic violence – a silent problem exists in the form of F-M DV
- Lack of support from social network (Tsui et al, 2010; Tsui, 2014)
- Police (Buzawa & Thomas, 1993) – Satisfaction with care
- Criminal Justice System (Lynette & Kris, 2005) – Sentencing

THE VIGNETTE

- “Scarlett and John have been arguing for the past three days. Scarlett has been getting frustrated that John has been spending a lot of money from their joint bank account. The bills are supposed to be paid in two days and John has asked Scarlett to pay more than his half once again. Scarlett and John start arguing and John pushed Scarlett out of the way to leave the room. Scarlett pulls John back and punches him in the face”

THE RESULTS

- Men and Women judged the vignettes similarly for all questions (i.e., gender was non-significant in all models)
- Broadly, judgements were **higher** in the F-M scenario than in the M-F scenario (aside from Perpetrator Blame)

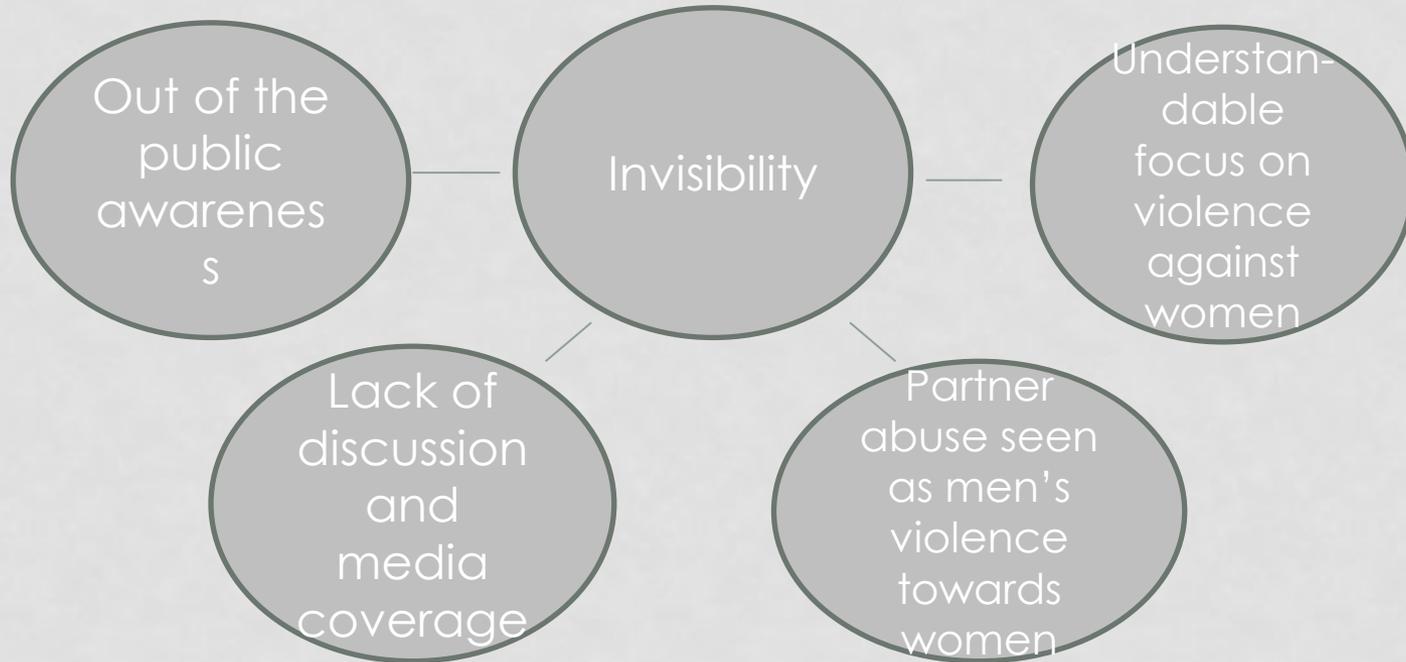
Vignette	Acceptability*	Humour*	Perpetrator Blame	Victim Blame*
F-M (n = 20)	3.20 (1.19)	3.25 (1.37)	4.45 (0.76)	3.95 (1.05)
M-F (n = 20)	1.40 (1.36)	1.45 (1.47)	4.95 (2.44)	1.95 (1.57)

* = $p < 0.001$

QUALITATIVE SUPPORT

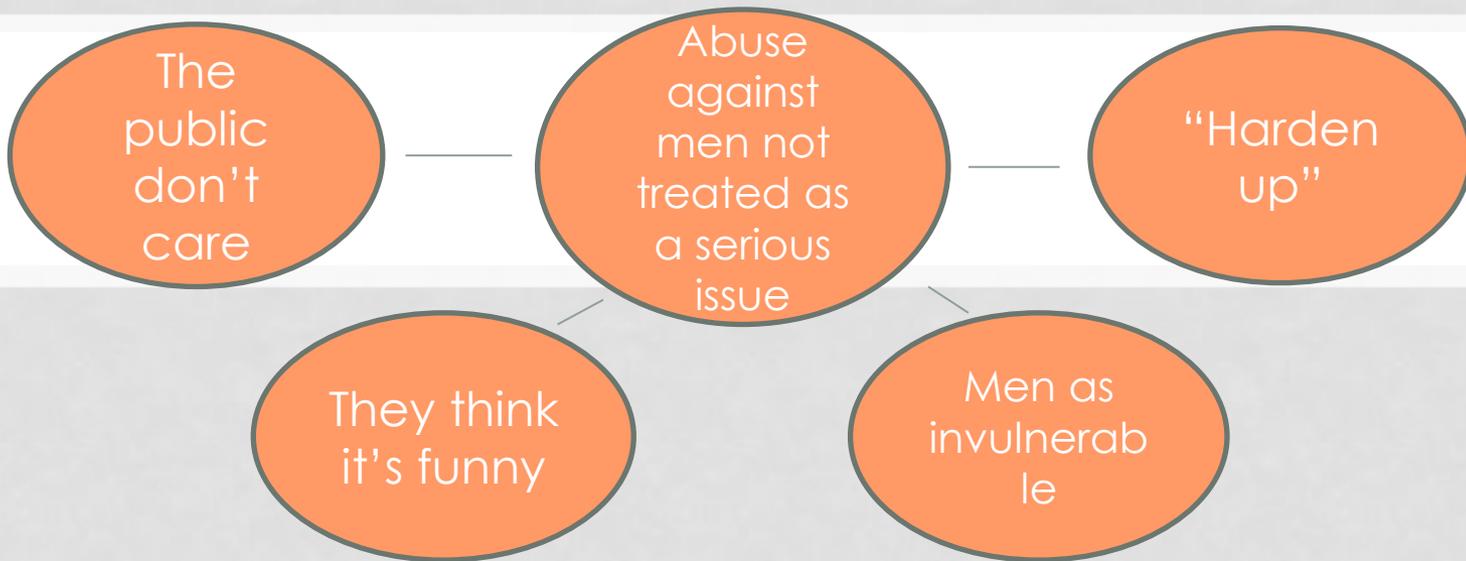
- Ana Shum-Pearce – PhD Student – University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Interviewed 9 victims of domestic abuse
- Also conducted focus groups with 19 peers who had not

THE MEN



- Described by almost all of the men. The focus on women linked with a lack of awareness among the public and the men's perception of their situation as a rarity

"I don't think they understand, I don't think they think that women abuse guys at all really"- Tai



- The men worried that where the public do recognise abuse against men, they do not take it seriously, and particularly the emotional effects of partner abuse on men

“It’s not seen as a big thing. Just like if they hear about it they will just laugh or shrug it off”- Finn

“The debate against the concept of it [male rape], it always seems to be a [...] harden the f**k up attitude”- Josh



Talked about societal concepts of 'real men' as not needing help from others, particularly regarding emotions. All of the men spoke about anticipating some form of negative reaction from others should they seek help.



Risk of being
labelled as
the abuser

- Risk of being seen as abusive by outsiders if they accidentally injure their partner through self-defense, risk of being seen as the 'true abuser' by police or professionals, risk of their partner actively reporting them as an abuser as a way of harming them.

“There was actually a threat thrown around now and then, [...] that she would tell the police I had beat her up. [...] All she'd have to do was say, and I would have been in a hell of a lot of trouble. Yeah, so [going to the police] would have put myself at significant risk, [...] greater danger than I was really in by just sitting there and taking it.”- Josh

Receiving help and support

- While very few of the men told others about the abuse, those who did generally described this as a positive experience, in which they received help, advice and support.

“[My friend] made me realise how ‘hey you know this could be my way out, this might be a bit of support that I need to actually break free of this s**t’. [...] [Him] asking me what was up and then actually acting on what I had told him, [...] it was the life line I really needed”- Josh

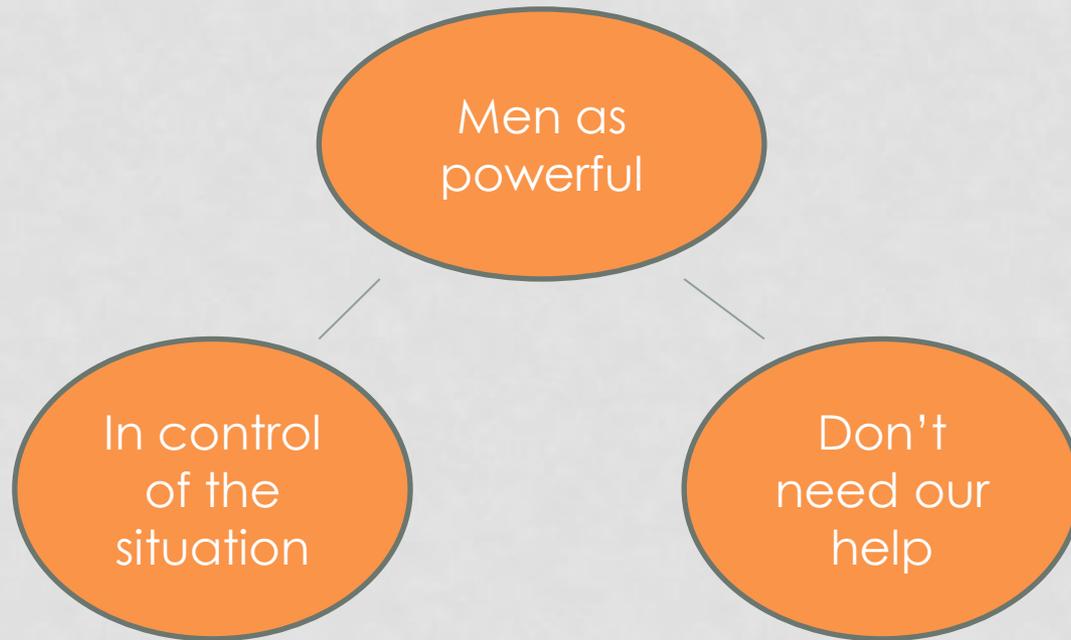


Pretending
I'm okay

- Hiding the abuse and their distress- shame, confusion, defending partner, desire to protect 'manly' image

“I feel obligated to seem as if it was nothing. [...] To keep my status within my circle of friends I have to, you know, act as if it was like, she hit me, f**k it, whatever, I'm cool you know”- Rob

PEERS





“[He] kind of let her do all that, [...] if that happens with a guy, he’s [...] the type of guy who is willing to be pushed over by women”- m

“Deep down I feel like she can’t do anything to him because he’s able to like stop her if he wanted to at any point, and I feel like he has autonomy to be like ‘hey that’s not okay, I’m going to leave you if you do it again’.”- f

“We assume that a girl being emotionally manipulative the guy is actually in control anyway. [...] You just assume that she’s still [...] not going to get him to do what he doesn’t want to do.”- m



Don't need
our help

“People just think like men are really privileged. There's no way that they should deserve help [...], they're the one that's seen with more money, they're the one that's seen with more power so it's kind of like well if they really wanted help they could just get it, I mean if they ever needed it”- f

“Men tend to have more power and that's why you just think that they [don't] need any help. Like they have the authority, why would they need it?”- f

Women as
incapable
of serious
violence

- Men described as not at risk from women physically or sexually

“I think men are seen or perceived to not be able to be hurt, you know by a woman, because a woman is weak and a man is strong and what damage could a woman do anyway, even if they did hit you.”- f

AND IN POPULAR MEDIA?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7m5v8pLtog>



SV & MALE RAPE MYTHS

- Existence well documented (Coxell & King, 2010)
- But not a lot of research into this area!
- May operate in similar ways to traditional rape myths
 - Blame the victim
 - Exonerate the perpetrator
 - Downplay the seriousness of rape
 - Imply that only certain groups get raped
- Common themes
 - Men cannot be raped, male rape is a homosexual crime, ejaculation implies some level of pleasure (Davies & Rogers, 2006)

THE IMPLICATIONS

- Pervasive and prevalent attitudes about men and masculinity
- Also current VAWAG narrative
- Discourage discussion and reporting
- Keep these crimes from the public psychi
- 'Cycle of Silence'



Lift the Mask off DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Brutal Truth

40%
of domestic abuse victims are male;
that's 2 of every 5 victims

1 in 6
Men will be a victim of
domestic abuse in their lifetime

1
Man is killed every fortnight
by a current or ex partner

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE
BREAK THE SILENCE
REPORT IT**

If you don't know what to do, get in touch and we will help you. In an Emergency dial 999.

Keeping Swindon **Safe** Swindon Community Safety Partnership

Men's Sexual Health
Telephone Swindon 01793 250951 • menssexualhealth.org.uk
mobile 07867 872552

Visit our website at menssexualhealth.org.uk
for **info and advice** about sex and other
health matters, our **Q&A** section, **free**
condoms and lube by post and much more.

MOVING FORWARD



THANK YOU!



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