

Family Violence Death Review Committee's Fifth Report Data

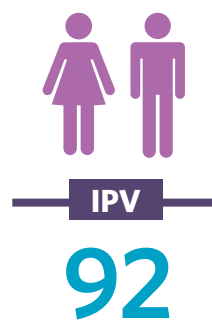
Family Violence Death Review Committee



He tao huata e taea te karo

January 2009 to December 2015

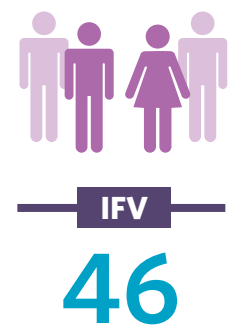
The Family Violence Death Review Committee (the Committee) is mandated to contribute to the **prevention of family violence and family violence deaths**.¹



91 intimate partner violence death events
- 92 deceased women and men



52 child abuse and neglect death events
- 56 deceased children



45 intrafamilial violence death events
- 46 deceased men and women

Fifth Report Data is a companion piece to the Committee's *Fifth Report*² and contains five key messages for change. These reinforce the need to:

THINK differently - change our collective story about family violence

ENGAGE differently - strengthen organisational responsiveness

ACT DIFFERENTLY - move towards an integrated family violence system

1. The Committee's terms of reference are available at: www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/FVDRC/FVDRC-terms-of-reference-Oct-2015.pdf.

2. Family Violence Death Review Committee, *Fifth Report: January 2014 to December 2015*, Wellington, Health Quality & Safety Commission, 2016.

Intimate partner violence is a gendered pattern of harm

In the 83 IPV death events with a recorded history of abuse³

81

women (98%) were primary victims abused by their male partner



1

man (1%) was a primary victim abused by his female partner

The weapons used, level of premeditation and planning, escalating threat and use of overkill (excessive violence) differed for male and female offenders depending on their role (predominant aggressor or primary victim) in the abuse history of the relationship



Male predominant aggressors frequently demonstrated pre-meditation and planning and harmed multiple people as part of the death event

52% were overkill

of IPV deaths (48) were overkill. 92% of these (44) were committed by male predominant aggressors

In 19% of IPV death events (16) the offender was also the primary victim. All of these were females



These killings have strong defensive features. These women were often responding to threats from men who were capable of seriously hurting them and had already started to assault them. They used a weapon readily at hand (most often a kitchen knife) and inflicted one wound (sometimes two)

Female primary victims were proactive help seekers



52%

of the 82 female primary victims had contact with the police at least once

These women lived in communities, accessed health care services, and their children went to schools

Every day, many people are working with people experiencing and perpetrating violence - there are multiple opportunities to intervene

The size of the social problem is large, but so is our collective workforce

FIFTH REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN INTEGRATED SAFETY SYSTEM

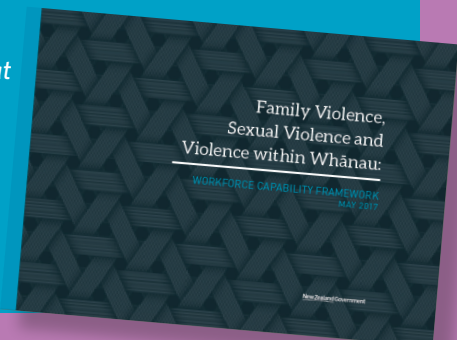
DEVELOP and IMPLEMENT a tiered safety response framework for the family violence workforce

DEVELOP workforce strategies (for children and adults) to ensure each organisational cluster of services and their practitioners are able to provide safe and culturally responsive practice as appropriate to their tier

On 7 June 2017, at the Family Violence Summit the *Family Violence, Sexual Violence and Violence within Whānau: Workforce Capability Framework June 2017* was launched.

It sets out a vision and expectation of excellence - a workforce capable of responding safely and respectfully. <https://justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/family-violence-workforce-capability-framework.pdf>

The Committee was part of the Expert Design Group that developed the Framework.



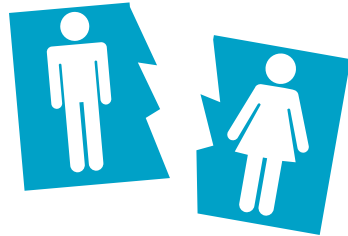
3. Known and suspected predominant aggressors are combined. Known and suspected primary victims are combined.

To ensure victims' safety we must improve our responses to abusive men

It is commonly (mis)understood that victims are at liberty to separate from abusive partners. In reality separation is difficult because abusive partners' behaviours undermine victims' abilities to escape.



Abusive partners continue their coercive and controlling behaviours post-separation



67%

of the **female primary victims** (44) were **killed**, or their new/ex-male partners, by male predominant aggressors in the time leading up to or following separation.

We need to stop asking what victims are doing to keep themselves and their children safe, and urgently start working in multiple ways with abusive men in order to:



respectfully challenge them to take genuine responsibility for their behaviour and to be the parent their family and whānau needs



provide ongoing culturally responsive support to sustain behaviour changes, including trauma responses (for their own histories of abuse)



contain abusive behaviours



escalate consequences for continued abuse

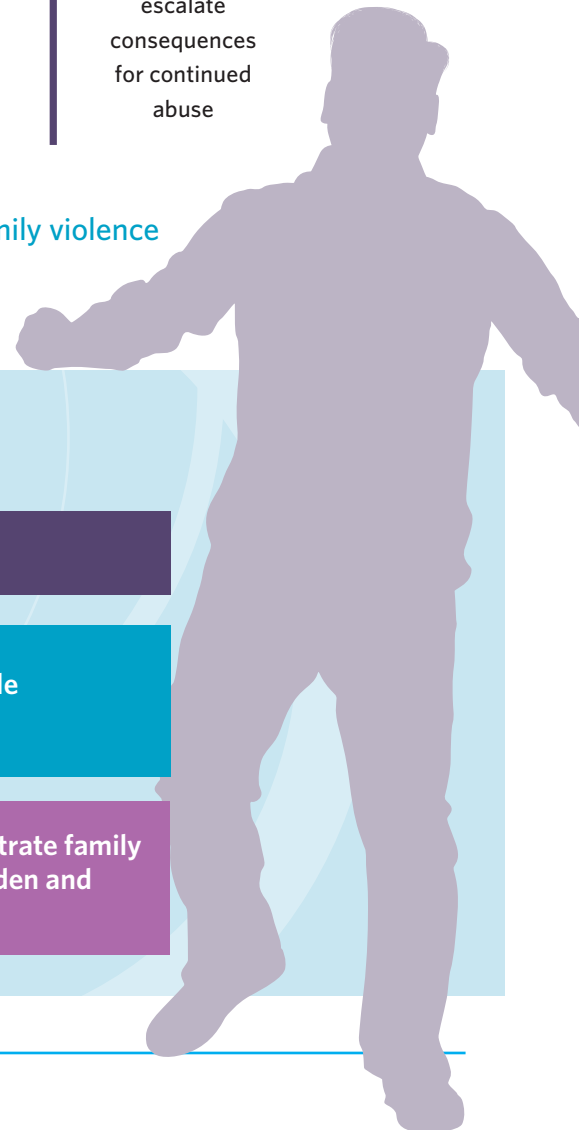
A commitment to victim safety requires investment in specialist family violence advocacy services and specialist services for people using violence (Kaupapa Māori and tauwiwi).

FIFTH REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN INTEGRATED SAFETY SYSTEM

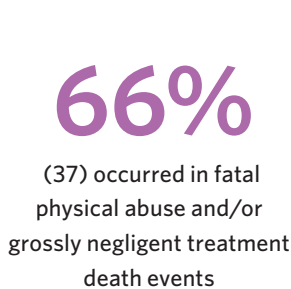
INVEST in specialist family violence advocacy services

EXPLORE, PILOT and **EVALUATE** a range of flexible responses for working with people perpetrating family violence

DEVELOP an integrated justice strategy for those who perpetrate family violence that is directed at supporting victim safety (including hidden and future victims)



To be preventative we have to respond to CAN and IPV together



Most of these
children were
beaten to death
by men - **74%** of
the 35 known
offenders (26)
were males



77% of the 26 male
offenders (20) were
known to police for
abusing the mother of
the deceased child/
female partner and/or a
prior female partner(s)

To be preventative we have to recognise there are multiple victims whose safety and wellbeing need to be addressed. The Committee believes we cannot be effective in responding to IPV or CAN unless we address both together.⁴

1. Intergenerational violence requires an intergenerational response.
2. The decision to abuse a child's parent is a harmful, unsafe parenting decision.
3. 'Failure-to-protect' approaches fail to respond to both child and adult victims' safety needs.
4. Protecting children means acting protectively towards adult victims.
5. To prevent family violence, we must work with the people using violence.
6. Victims' safety is a collective responsibility; it cannot be achieved by individuals or individual agencies alone.

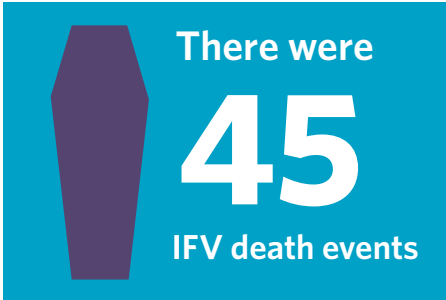
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The Ministry of Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki considers integrating an IPV analysis within Oranga Tamariki practice frameworks and responses. This would support social workers to protect child and adult victims by assessing and engaging with the abusive partner/parent



4. https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/FVDR/NEMR-images-files/FVDR_conference_resource_2017-02-17.pdf

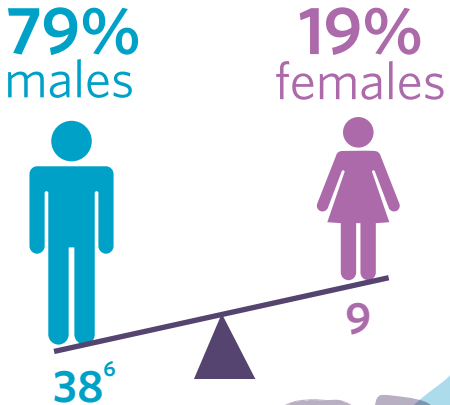
Intergenerational violence requires an intergenerational response



The IFV deaths show histories of intergenerational harm (victimisation and/or perpetration) for offenders and deceased, many of whom were also experiencing high levels of structural inequities.

92%

of the 37 death events⁵ involved offenders and deceased with known statutory histories of family violence, sexual offending and/or violence against non-family members



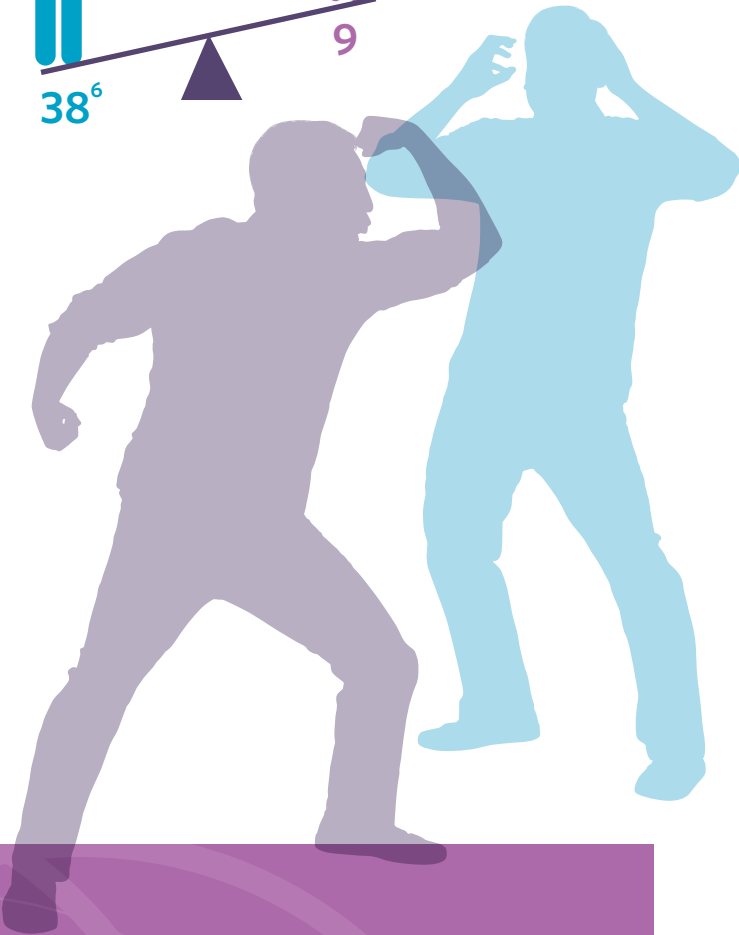
Themes include:

family violence histories

family violence histories *and* mental health histories

social gatherings where large amounts of alcohol were consumed

family inheritance/property disputes or financial exploitation



In the future, the Committee intends to focus on IFV deaths to better understand the relationships between intergenerational histories of harm, structural inequities and the circumstances preceding IFV death events

5. Excluding seven aberrational and one uncertain death events.
6. There were 48 IFV offenders, 38 were male, nine were women and one was unknown.

Kaupapa Māori responses to preventing violence are essential

Family violence deaths show those living with the most harmful levels of family violence are also often experiencing multiple forms of disadvantage and discrimination.



77%

of Māori deceased and 68% of Māori offenders lived in areas with the highest levels of deprivation (poverty), compared with 29% of non-Māori deceased and 36% of non-Māori offenders⁷

Māori are over-represented as deceased and offenders

x3

Māori were three times more likely to be deceased and offenders in IPV deaths than non-Māori

x4

Māori children aged 0-4 years were four times more likely to be killed by CAN than non-Māori children aged 0-4 years

x4

Māori were four times more likely to be deceased in IFV deaths than non-Māori

x5

Māori were five times more likely to be offenders in IFV deaths than non-Māori

All violence has a whakapapa (a genealogy)

To understand the over-representation of Māori in family violence deaths, the historical and contemporary consequences of colonisation must be acknowledged. For Māori, the impacts were and are destructive and pervasive. Violence against Māori wāhine (women) and mokopuna (children and grandchildren) is not part of traditional Māori culture.

Preventing violence within whānau is complex

It involves reclaiming mātauranga Māori bodies of knowledge, strengthening cultural identity and restoring connections to renew protective cultural traditions. It also requires a long-term commitment from government and mainstream services to address structural inequities and institutional racism – forms of violence that have contributed to the current levels of violence within whānau.

FIFTH REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN INTEGRATED SAFETY SYSTEM

INVEST in Kaupapa Māori specialist violence within whānau services

INVEST in Kaupapa Māori tāne perpetrator rehabilitation and sustained behaviour change



HEALTH QUALITY & SAFETY
COMMISSION NEW ZEALAND
Kupu Taurangi Hauora o Aotearoa

New Zealand Government

7. Denominators only include those whose residential addresses were known.