

Domestic Homicide & Older Women

Peter Jaffe PhD, Western University



Lessons Learned From Tragedies:
Domestic Violence Death Review Committee

- Assist & offer expert opinion in investigating and reviewing deaths in context of DV
- Make recommendations based on trends, risk factors and patterns
- Identify systemic gaps in many areas including services collaboration and professional training



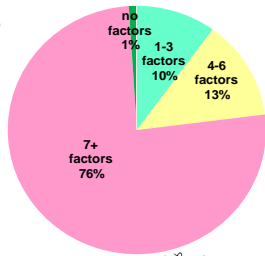
Are DV Homicides Predictable & Preventable?

- 76% of the cases had at least 7 risk markers
- Critical information held by family & friends, work colleagues, front-line professionals
- Children are the victims in a number of ways
- Collaboration amongst professionals & agencies is critical - including the justice system (criminal and family court)



Multiple Risk Factors

1. History of Domestic Violence
2. Actual or pending separation
3. Obsessive behaviour displayed by perpetrator
4. Perpetrator depressed
5. Prior threats/attempts to commit suicide
6. Escalation of violence
7. Victim had intuitive sense of fear
8. Prior threats to kill victim
9. Perpetrator unemployed
10. Prior attempts to isolate victim



How do Domestic Homicides Differ with Older Adults?



Domestic Violence with Older Adults

- Older population has the lowest rates of domestic violence (DV)
 - But still important – close to 3,000 individuals over the age of 55 reported spousal violence in Canada, 2011
- Older women have different experiences with domestic violence
 - Physical, emotional, and financial barriers
 - Dependency
 - Beliefs



Domestic Homicide in the Older Population

- Of the limited research that has been done:
 - Couples are most often in intact marriages
 - Husbands are the large majority of perpetrators
 - Physical health problems common
 - Depression within the perpetrator; dementia within the victim
 - Care taker
- Homicide is different within the older age group

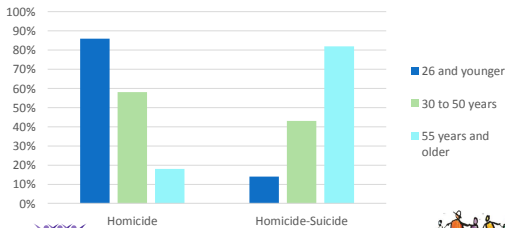


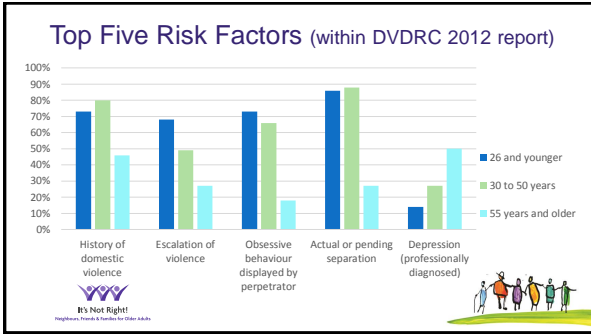
Definitions of Groups

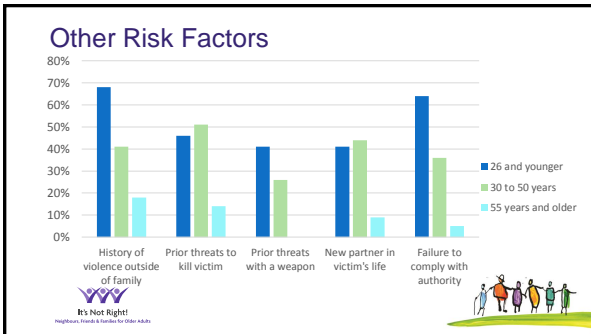
- 26 years and younger:** Both the victim and perpetrator in the case (22 cases) were 26 years of age or younger (one case the victim was 15 years old who is the youngest person in a case)
- 30 to 50 years:** Both the victim and perpetrator in the case (73 cases) were between 30 and 50 years of age
- 55 years and older:** Both the victim and perpetrator in the case (22 cases) were 55 years of age or older

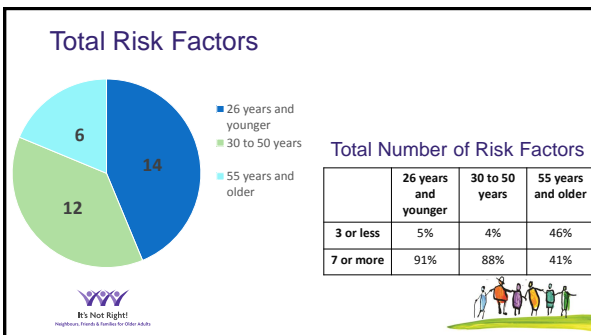


Type of Case



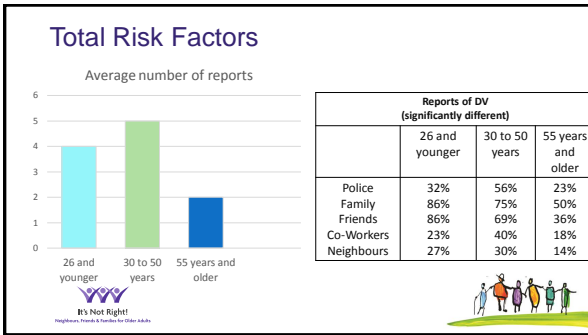






Total Number of Risk Factors

	26 years and younger	30 to 50 years	55 years and older
3 or less	5%	4%	46%
7 or more	91%	88%	41%



- ### Implications
- Unique risk assessment and risk management needed for older adults
 - Key issues without DV history are physical & mental illness in victim & perpetrator
 - Need for public education and professionals – especially those working with older adults
- It's Not Right!
Neighbours, Friends & Families for Older Adults
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Western Education | Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children

- Peter Jaffe - pjaffe@uwo.ca
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- Learning Network: Education, Research & Resources on Violence Against Women - www.vawlearningnetwork.ca
- Domestic Violence Risk Assessment and Management Online Curriculum - www.onlinetraining.learningtoendabuse.ca

It's Not Right!
Neighbours, Friends & Families for Older Adults
