Dementia & domestic abuse

12 April 2018

About SafeLives

We are a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for good. We combine insight from services, survivors and statistics to support people to become safe, well and rebuild their lives.

No one should live in fear. It is not acceptable, not inevitable, and together – we can make it stop.

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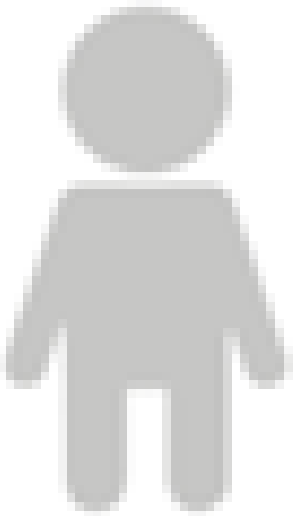
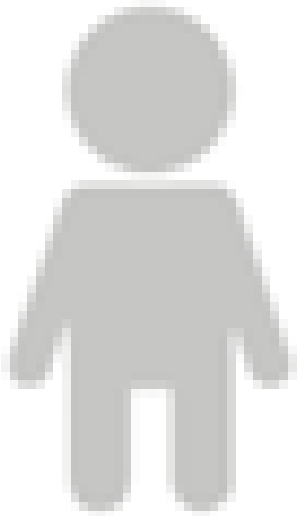
Domestic abuse in context

Oliver



Charlie



Ending domestic abuse

One Front Door

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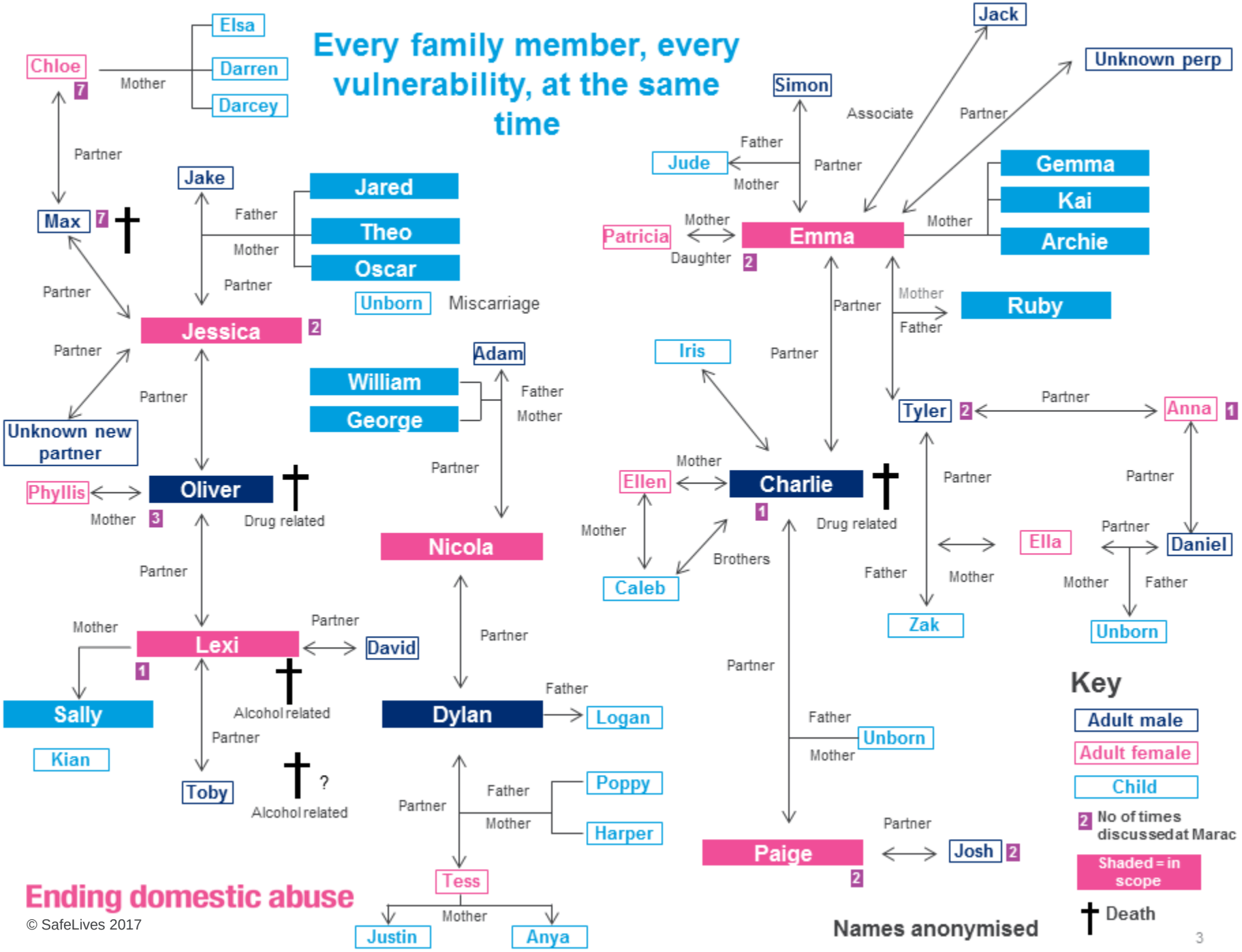
Every family member, every vulnerability, at the same time



Ending domestic abuse

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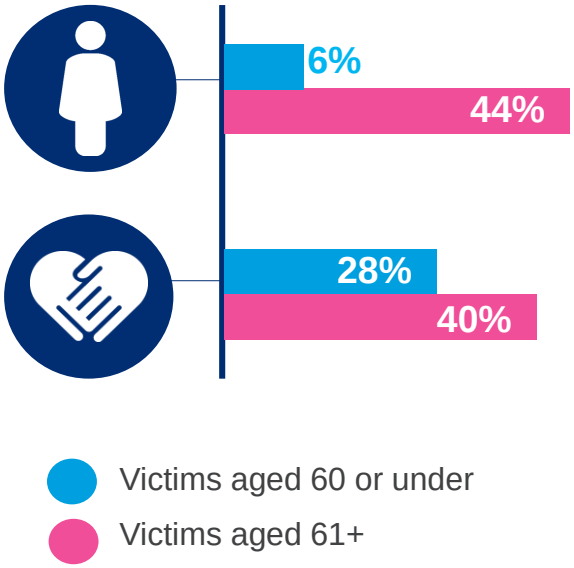
Is Phyllis' experience common?

What our data told us

Victims aged 61+ are more likely to experience abuse from a **current partner or adult family member** than those under 61 years.



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Is Phyllis' experience common?

What our data told us

Victims 61+ endure violence for much longer **before accessing support** (**6.5 years** vs **3 years**)

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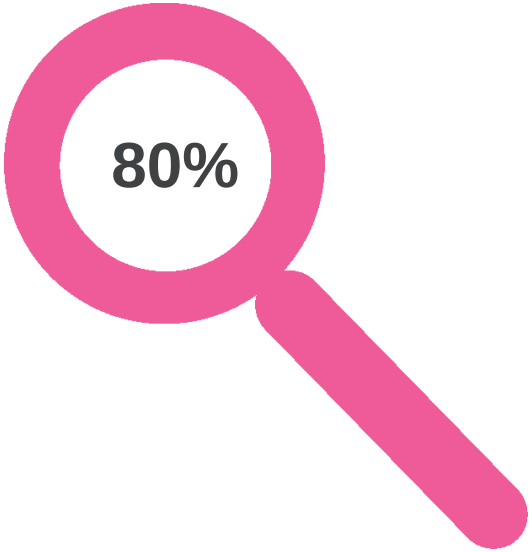
Is Phyllis' experience common?

What our data told us



Percentage of older adults that are **not visible to services**

Out of those who are visible, ¼ live with abuse for **more than 20 years**.

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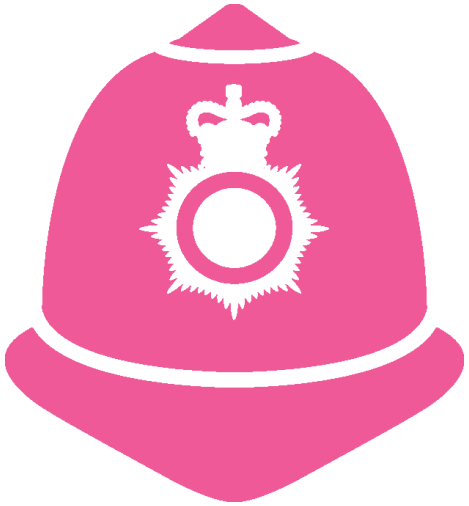
Is Phyllis' experience common?

What our data told us

67%



Identified by the **Police**

2%

Identified by **Adult Social Care**

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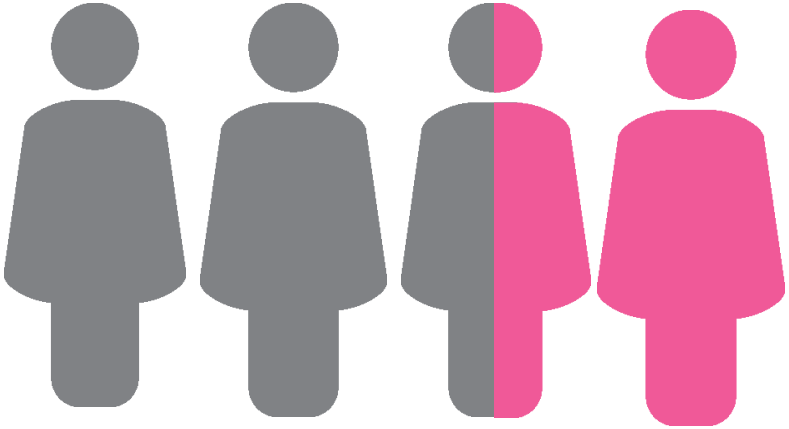
Is Phyllis' experience common?

What other's data told us



Over one quarter of those killed by a current partner were **aged 58 +.***

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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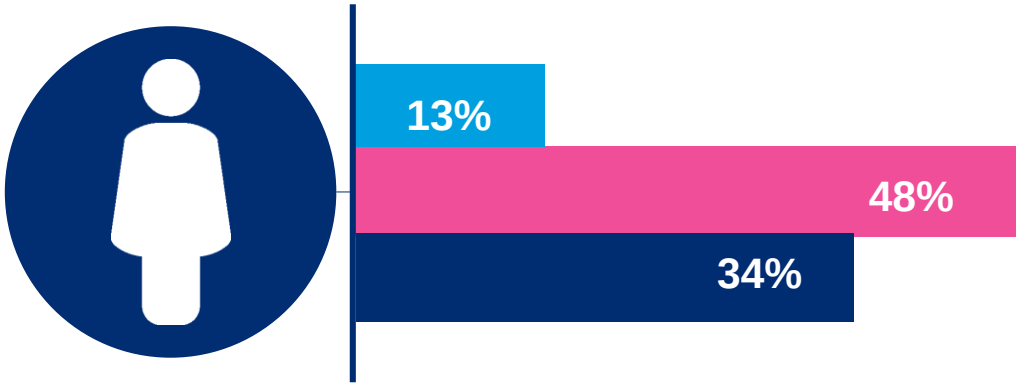
Is Phyllis' experience common?

What our data tells us

Victims 61+ are **more likely to have a disability**, and for a third this is physical.



- Victims aged 60 or under
- Victims aged 61 or over
- Victims aged 61+ with a physical disability

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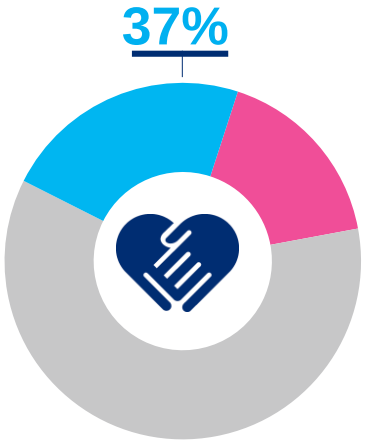
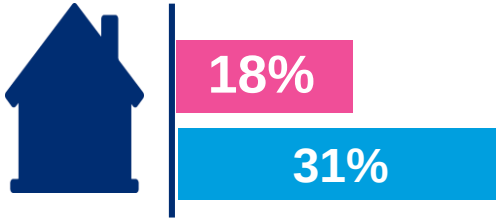
When considering disability too

What our data tells us



Disabled victims are more likely to be suffering abuse from a **current partner** (**37%**) than non-disabled victims (**28%**).



Almost a third of disabled victims **(31%)** were living with the perpetrator of the abuse compared to **18%** for non-disabled victims.

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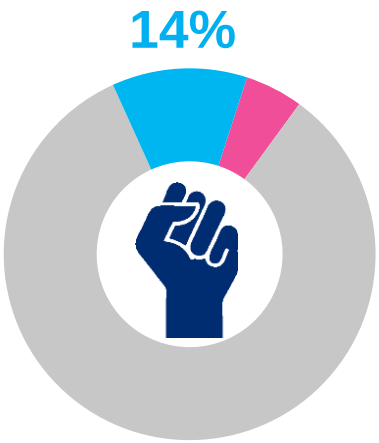
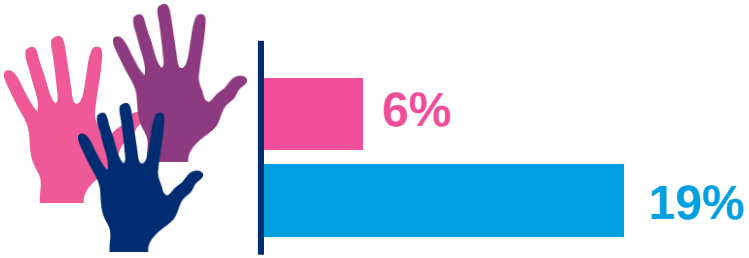
When considering disability too

What our data tells us

Disabled victims are more than **twice as likely** to be experiencing abuse from an **adult family member** (**14%**) than a non disabled client (**6%**)



Disabled victims are more likely to report abuse from multiple perpetrators; **one in five (19%)** compared with **one in twenty (6%).**



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When considering disability too

What our data tells us

Of the **16,0000** disabled people experiencing high risk domestic abuse

An estimated **13,600** either are not supported by Marac, or their disability is not identified by the Marac process.

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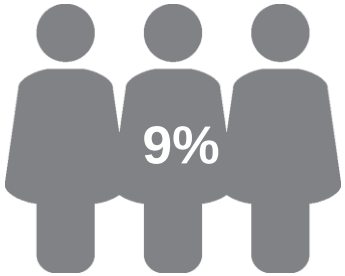
When considering disability too

What our data tells us

In 2015-2016 **none** of the **925** referrals into domestic abuse services were from adult safeguarding



Despite continuing to experience a higher level of abuse at case closure only **9%** of disabled victims accessed adult safeguarding services

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Why do we fail to see older and disabled people as victims of domestic abuse?

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Too many assumptions and too little curiosity

“Society tends to avoid discussion of disabled people’s relationships, particularly their sexual relationships, and it may well be that domestic violence falls under this curtain of paternalistic discretion. But we are doing disabled people a major disservice by not acknowledging their sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing, and talking about issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse is a key part of this.”

Dr Justin Varney
National Lead for Adult Health and Wellbeing
Public Health England

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Too many assumptions and not enough curiosity

"People pity him because he is taking care of you… people are reluctant to criticise this saint or to think he could be doing these terrible things."

Dr Ravi K Thiara, 2016

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Professionals working in silos cannot see the whole picture for the whole family

"Our friends stopped coming to the house. Our children moved away as they became adults.

The only person I could talk to was my doctor."

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What can we do better?

Use professional judgement and curiosity

Look at the wider picture for the whole person and the whole family

Work TOGETHER to see the whole picture and provide a coordinated and holistic response

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To find out more…..

Spotlight: Older people and domestic abuse:
http://www.safelives.org.uk/spotlight-1-older-people-and-domestic-abuse

Spotlight: Disabled people and domestic abuse:
http://www.safelives.org.uk/knowledge-hub/spotlights/spotlight-2-disabled-people-and-domestic-abuse

All Spotlights: http://www.safelives.org.uk/knowledge-hub/spotlights

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