



Because What You Don't Know

**Can Hurt Me** 

Which children are the most vulnerable: A descriptive  
analysis of children exposed to DA

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M.St Applied Criminology and Police Management 2016

# Vulnerability

- Culture dominated by 'Child Vulnerability'
- 14% of all children at risk of abuse in the UK (NSPCC, 2015)
  - Reliance on reporting
  - Repeated public scandals
  - Identification without error
- Lack of clarity on what vulnerability means
  - Exposure to DA emerging

# Research Questions:

Can targeting the triggers of child referrals associated with domestic abuse enable early intervention?

Q1. How often do bad outcomes occur within three years of a DA child referral?

Q2. Are there descriptive differences between DA notifications and DA referrals which results in bad outcomes and those referrals which result in no bad outcomes to the child?

Q3. What relationship if any is there between the initial DASH score and he subsequent bad outcomes for a child?

# Methodology

Q1. Understand the prevalence, and frequency of bad outcomes suffered by children over a 3-year period after referral?

Five bad outcomes considered

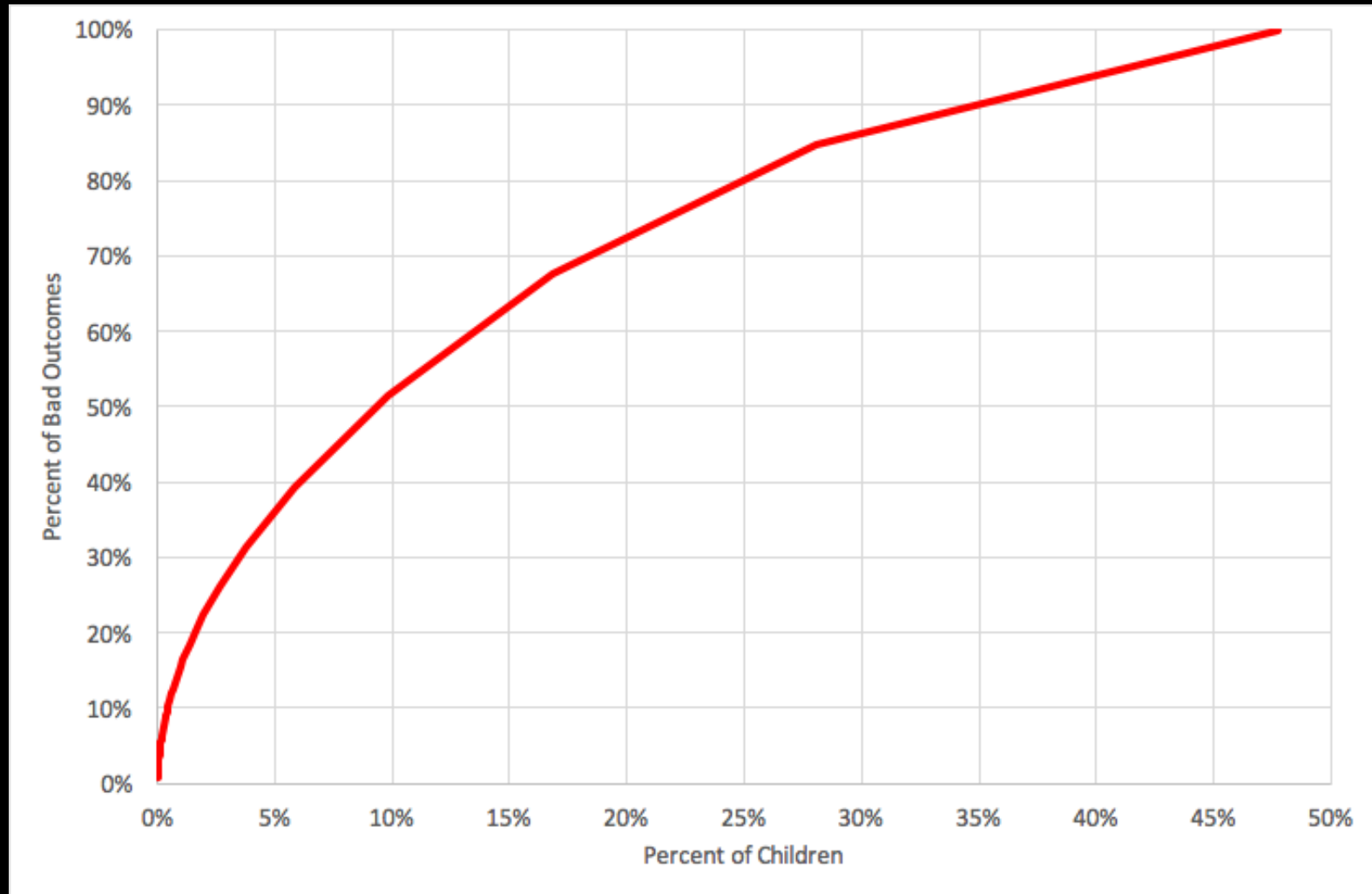
- Further incidents
- Children becoming a suspect
- Children suffering victimisation
- Children going missing
- Any of the above combined

## Results Q1 - Frequency table

6,670 unique cases  
 3,186 experienced one or more  
 48% of the sample

BadOutcomeCount	Frequency	CumChildren	PctChildren	ProductOutcomes	CumOutcomes	PctOutcomes
78	1	1	0.0%	78	78	0.9%
62	1	2	0.0%	62	140	1.6%
55	1	3	0.0%	55	195	2.2%
47	1	4	0.1%	47	242	2.8%
44	1	5	0.1%	44	286	3.3%
38	1	6	0.1%	38	324	3.7%
37	1	7	0.1%	37	361	4.2%
33	1	8	0.1%	33	394	4.5%
32	1	9	0.1%	32	426	4.9%
26	2	11	0.2%	52	478	5.5%
24	1	12	0.2%	24	502	5.8%
23	2	14	0.2%	46	548	6.3%
21	5	19	0.3%	105	653	7.5%
20	5	24	0.4%	100	753	8.7%
19	1	25	0.4%	19	772	8.9%
18	3	28	0.4%	54	826	9.5%
17	4	32	0.5%	68	894	10.3%
16	4	36	0.5%	64	958	11.0%
15	6	42	0.6%	90	1048	12.1%
14	3	45	0.7%	42	1090	12.6%
13	9	54	0.8%	117	1207	13.9%
12	11	65	1.0%	132	1339	15.4%
11	8	73	1.1%	88	1427	16.4%
10	18	91	1.4%	180	1607	18.5%
9	16	107	1.6%	144	1751	20.2%
8	25	132	2.0%	200	1951	22.5%
7	45	177	2.7%	315	2266	26.1%
6	76	253	3.8%	456	2722	31.3%
5	137	390	5.8%	685	3407	39.2%
4	267	657	9.9%	1068	4475	51.5%
3	468	1125	16.9%	1404	5879	67.7%
2	745	1870	28.0%	1490	7369	84.8%
1	1316	3186	47.8%	1316	8685	100.0%
0	3484	6670	100.0%	0	8685	100.0%

# Power relationship



So what???

(Sir Denis, 1995, 1996,1997,1998,1999,2000...2017...2018?)

DA is its own unique form of harm  
More prevalent than academics and practitioners realise  
A Power relationship  
Children should not be treated equal  
Requires a targeted approach

Q2.

Which risk factors were related to those children who went on to experience bad outcomes?

# The Factors

## **Trigger Factors**

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Child is Male  
Child is 12 or over  
Trigger Incident was a Crime  
Trigger Incident was a Referral  
Trigger Incident was a Notification  
Trigger Incident was High risk DASH  
Trigger Incident was Medium risk DASH  
Trigger Incident was Standard risk DASH

## **Prior Factors**

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Child had a Prior Incident  
Child had a Prior Referral  
Child had Prior Notification  
Child had Prior High risk DASH Incident  
Child had Prior Medium risk DASH Incident  
Child had Prior Standard risk DASH Incident  
Child had Prior Child Abuse Incident

# The Results – any bad outcomes

Percentage of children with any bad outcomes					
Predictors	TRUE	FALSE	Sig. Chi-Sqr.		OR
Child is Male	49.2	46.4	0.02	*	1.12
Child is 12 or over	48.5	47.7	0.62		1.03
Trigger Incident was a Crime	45.0	49.8	0.00	*	0.83
Trigger Incident was Referral	53.9	44.9	0.00	*	1.43
Trigger Incident was Notification	45.0	53.9	0.00	*	0.70
Trigger Incident was High risk DASH	57.8	46.6	0.00	*	1.57
Trigger Incident was Medium risk DASH	51.7	44.8	0.00	*	1.32
Trigger Incident was Standard risk DASH	44.3	53.4	0.00	*	0.69
Child had Prior Incident	58.9	40.8	0.00	*	2.08
Child had Prior Referral	60.8	42.2	0.00	*	2.13
Child had Prior Notification	62.5	44.5	0.00	*	2.07
Child had Prior High risk DASH Incident	69.5	47.2	0.00	*	2.56
Child had Prior Medium risk DASH Incident	66.4	45.0	0.00	*	2.41
Child had Prior Standard risk DASH Incident	60.9	43.6	0.00	*	2.02
Child had Prior Child Abuse Incident	61.0	45.2	0.00	*	1.90

# The Results – further incidents

Percentage of children with further incident referrals					
Predictors	TRUE	FALSE	Sig.Chi-Sqr.		OR
Child is Male	44.8	43.5	0.29		1.05
Child is 12 or over	33.4	46.4	0.00	*	0.58
Trigger Incident was a Crime	41.0	46.4	0.00	*	0.82
Trigger Incident was Referral	50.1	41.3	0.00	*	1.43
Trigger Incident was Notification	41.4	50.1	0.00	*	0.70
Trigger Incident was High risk DASH	54.5	42.9	0.00	*	1.56
Trigger Incident was Medium risk DASH	48.1	41.1	0.00	*	1.33
Trigger Incident was Standard risk DASH	40.1	50.6	0.00	*	0.65
Child had Prior Incident	54.9	37.3	0.00	*	2.05
Child had Prior Referral	56.2	38.9	0.00	*	2.02
Child had Prior Notification	60.1	40.6	0.00	*	2.21
Child had Prior High risk DASH Incident	66.1	43.5	0.00	*	2.53
Child had Prior Medium risk DASH Incident	63.3	41.3	0.00	*	2.45
Child had Prior Standard risk DASH Incident	58.3	39.6	0.00	*	2.13
Child had Prior Child Abuse Incident	55.5	41.9	0.00	*	1.73

# The Results – offending children

Predictors	Percentage of offending children		Sig. Chi-Sqr.		OR
	TRUE	FALSE			
Child is Male	7.0	5.0	0.00	*	1.44
Child is 12 or over	24.2	2.3	0.00	*	13.40
Trigger Incident was a Crime	6.7	5.4	0.03	*	1.25
Trigger Incident was Referral	5.7	6.5	1.78		0.86
Trigger Incident was Notification	6.6	5.6	0.10		1.19
Trigger Incident was High risk DASH	7.9	5.7	0.02	*	1.41
Trigger Incident was Medium risk DASH	6.0	5.9	0.83		1.02
Trigger Incident was Standard risk DASH	5.8	6.2	0.48		0.93
Child had Prior Incident	8.2	4.6	0.00	*	1.87
Child had Prior Referral	9.1	4.6	0.00	*	2.09
Child had Prior Notification	6.7	5.8	0.21		1.17
Child had Prior High risk DASH Incident	8.6	5.9	0.13		1.51
Child had Prior Medium risk DASH Incident	7.2	5.8	0.12		1.25
Child had Prior Standard risk DASH Incident	6.5	5.8	0.32		1.01
Child had Prior Child Abuse Incident	11.8	4.8	0.00	*	2.63

# The Results – victimisation

Predictors	Percentage of child victims		Sig.Chi-Sqr.		OR
	TRUE	FALSE			
Child is Male	2.7	2.9	0.65		0.93
Child is 12 or over	10.8	1.2	0.00	*	10.10
Trigger Incident was a Crime	3.0	2.6	0.33		1.16
Trigger Incident was Referral	3.3	2.6	0.11		1.28
Trigger Incident was Notification	2.6	3.3	0.85		0.77
Trigger Incident was High risk DASH	3.5	2.7	0.23		1.30
Trigger Incident was Medium risk DASH	3.1	2.5	0.15		1.24
Trigger Incident was Standard risk DASH	2.5	3.4	0.34		0.73
Child had Prior Incident	4.0	2.0	0.00	*	2.00
Child had Prior Referral	4.7	2.0	0.00	*	2.40
Child had Prior Notification	3.4	2.7	0.16		1.29
Child had Prior High risk DASH Incident	6.9	2.7	0.00	*	2.68
Child had Prior Medium risk DASH Incident	3.8	2.7	0.07		1.42
Child had Prior Standard risk DASH Incident	3.1	2.7	0.43		1.14
Child had Prior Child Abuse Incident	5.9	2.2	0.00	*	2.81

# The Results – missing

Predictors	Percentage of children who went missing		Sig.Chi-Sqr.		OR
	TRUE	FALSE			
Child is Male	1.6	1.6	0.97		1.01
Child is 12 or over	5.9	0.8	0.00	*	8.10
Trigger Incident was a Crime	1.8	1.5	0.36		0.82
Trigger Incident was Referral	1.8	1.5	0.48		1.16
Trigger Incident was Notification	1.6	1.7	0.62		0.90
Trigger Incident was High risk DASH	1.6	1.6	0.99		0.99
Trigger Incident was Medium risk DASH	1.8	1.5	0.24		1.26
Trigger Incident was Standard risk DASH	1.6	1.7	0.70		0.93
Child had Prior Incident	2.2	1.2	0.02	*	1.80
Child had Prior Referral	2.5	1.2	0.00	*	2.10
Child had Prior Notification	2.2	1.5	0.09		1.45
Child had Prior High risk DASH Incident	2.3	1.6	0.47		1.45
Child had Prior Medium risk DASH Incident	2.1	1.5	0.22		1.37
Child had Prior Standard risk DASH Incident	2.0	1.5	0.19		1.31
Child had Prior Child Abuse Incident	3.6	1.2	0.00	*	3.01

# Means tests – mean number of bad outcomes

Predictors	Mean number of bad outcomes		Sig.		Cohen'sd
	TRUE	FALSE			
Child is Male	1.40	1.20	0.00	*	0.07
Child is 12 or over	2.12	1.14	0.00	*	0.24
Trigger Incident was a Crime	1.24	1.35	0.13		0.04
Trigger Incident was Referral	1.65	1.14	0.00	*	0.17
Trigger Incident was Notification	1.15	1.63	0.00	*	0.16
Trigger Incident was High risk DASH	1.85	1.24	0.00	*	0.18
Trigger Incident was Medium risk DASH	1.46	1.18	0.00	*	0.10
Trigger Incident was Standard risk DASH	1.15	1.55	0.00	*	0.14
Child had Prior Incident	1.80	0.99	0.00	*	0.28
Child had Prior Referral	1.90	1.04	0.00	*	0.29
Child had Prior Notification	1.93	1.16	0.00	*	0.25
Child had Prior High risk DASH Incident	2.10	1.28	0.00	*	0.30
Child had Prior Medium risk DASH Incident	2.12	1.18	0.00	*	0.30
Child had Prior Standard risk DASH Incident	1.80	1.14	0.00	*	0.23
Child had Prior Child Abuse Incident	2.04	1.16	0.00	*	0.26

Any 'Prior Incident' resulting in **2.5** times more average offending than no 'Prior Incidents'.

Any history of 'Prior Child Abuse' was associated with a child on average committing **3.5** times more offences than a child with no such history.

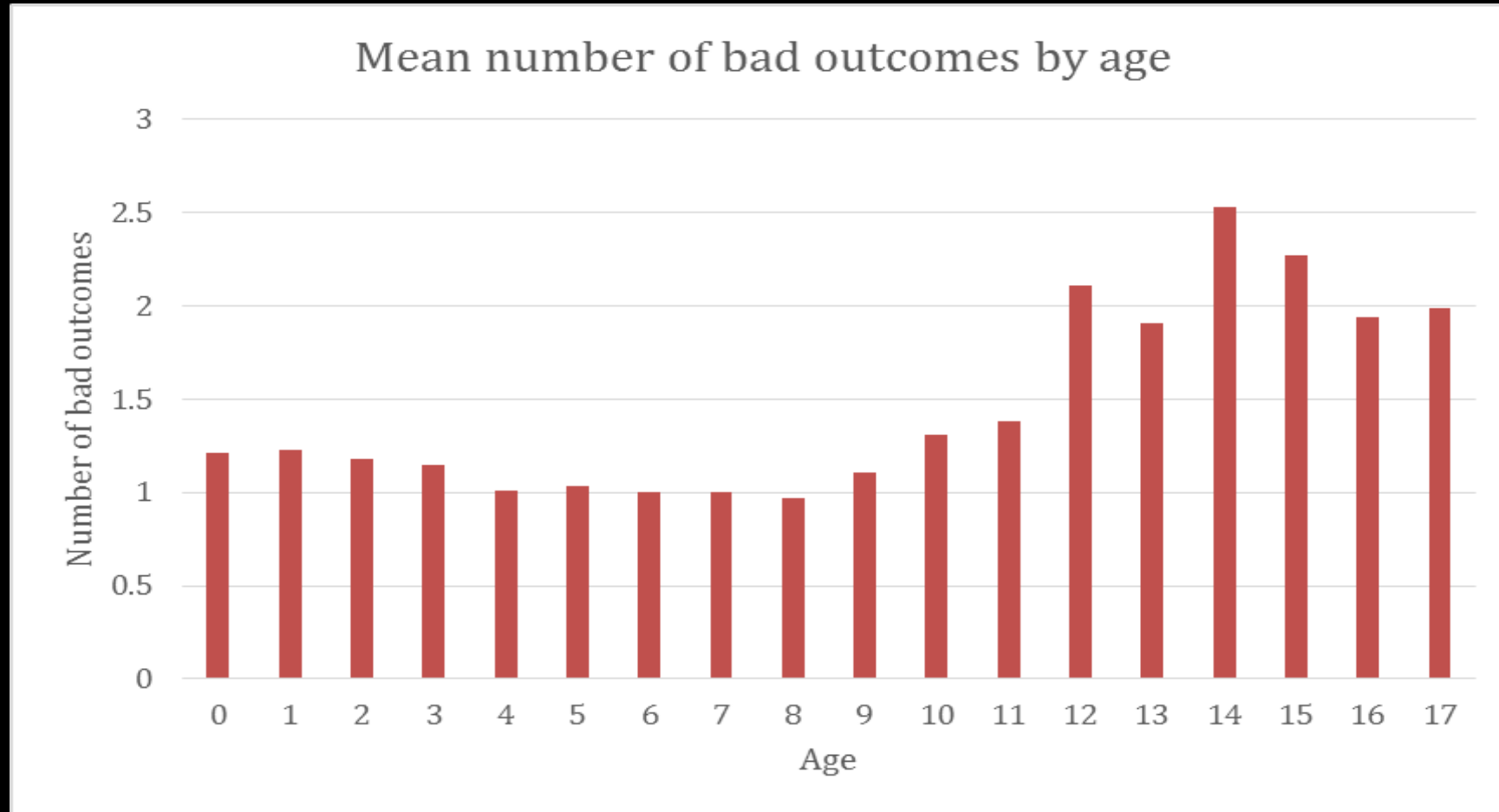
'Prior Child Abuse' went missing on average **3.5** times more than a child without 'Prior Child Abuse'.

A 'Child 12 or over' perpetrating on average **23** times more offences than those children under 12.

A 'Child 12 or over' experiencing on average **9** times as much victimisation as a child under 12.

A 'Child 12 or over' went missing on average **17** times more than a child under 12.

# Lets have a closer look at age



So what??? Key findings of what makes a child more vulnerable than another

1. Trigger factors Vs Prior factors
2. Age at the time of referral
3. Crime Incident Vs No Crime Incident

Finally -

What about  
**DASH...**

# Trigger DASH

- There was a relationship with further DA
- No relationship with victimisation or missing
- Proved to be an unreliable predictor of harm with weak effect sizes

# Prior DASH

- Results were stronger, but not in keeping with objective
- Standard, medium and High all associated with bad outcomes
- Prior medium was the strongest predictor of more DA
- Standard children experienced more incidents than high
- Again found no relationship with offending or missing
- And so....

So what???.DASH proved to be consistently ...

...unreliable!!



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