Men Who Sustain Partner Violence from their Female Partners: Who Seeks Help, Where They Find Help, and How They Rate These Resources

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Background: Male Victims of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

▸ Best population-based studies show that 25%-50% of all IPV victims in a given year are men.

▸ Existence of male victims has been source of much controversy.

Purpose of Today's Presentation

▸ Provide empirical data on men who sustain IPV and seek help

1. Description of the men and their IPV experiences

2. Helpseeking Experiences

   ▸ Where do they seek help?

   ▸ How helpful are experiences?

▸ Predictors of Helpseeking & Helpfulness

   ▸ What predicts where they seek help?

   ▸ What predicts helpfulness of experiences?

Criteria to Participate in Study

- Heterosexual men
- Ages 18-59
- In a relationship lasting at least one month in the previous year
- Physically assaulted by female partner within previous year
- Sought outside assistance or support
- Lived in the U.S.
- N = 302

Survey

▸ **If eligible, men referred to Internet survey**

- ▸ Demographics
- ▸ Conflict Tactics Scales (measure IPV)
- ▸ PTSD Checklist
- ▸ Closed-ended and open-ended questions on help-seeking efforts

Q1. Sample Demographics

	Mean	SD
Male Helpseekers's Age	40.49 years	8.97
Female Partner's Age	37.91 years	8.61
Male Helpseeker's Approximate Income	$50.4K	$25.7K
Female Partner's Approximate Income	$30.1K	$24.3K
Relationship Length (*n* = 302)	97.90 months (8.16 years)	82.06
Time Since Relationship Ended (*n* = 112)	6.10 months	7.69

▶ % of relationships with minor children: 73.2% (*n* = 221)

Q1. Sample Demographics

Race/Ethnicity	Male Helpseeker	Female Partner
White	86.8%	74.2%
African American	6.0%	7.3%
Hispanic	5.0%	7.6%
Asian American	4.3%	9.3%
Native American	2.0%	2.6%

Q1. Relationship Characteristics

Relationship Status	Percent
Married	45.7%
Separated	17.9%
Ex-dating	7.3%
Divorced	7.0%
Ex-cohabiting	6.3%
Cohabiting	6.0%
Ex-engaged	4.3%
Dating	3.6%
Engaged	1.7%

Q1. Sample - Type of Employment (n = 64)

Occupation	Male Helpseeker
Computers/ IT	31.3%
Construction/ Manual Labor	23.4%
Doctor/ Scientist/ Attorney	15.6%
Law Enforcement/ Firefighter	14.1%
Business owner or executive/ CEO	14.1%
Engineer	12.5%
Military	7.8%

Q1: Types & Frequency of Aggressive Behaviors
Psychological Aggression

	% Female Partners Who Perpetrated	% Male Helpseekers Who Perpetrated
Minor Psychological Aggression	100.0	95.4
Name-Calling	76.8	27.2
Isolation/Monitoring Behaviors	89.1	32.8
Severe Psychological Aggression	94.0	40.4
Insisting on Sexual Intercourse	41.1	13.6

Q1: Types & Frequency of Aggressive Behaviors: *Psychological Aggression*

	Female Partners: Mean # of Acts Used in Previous Year		Male Helpseekers: Mean # of Acts Used in Previous Year	
	M (n)	*SD*	*M (n)*	*SD*
Minor Psychological	65.12 (302)	24.15	27.88 (288)	23.40
Name-Calling	18.16 (232)	15.82	5.65 (82)	8.29
Isolation/ Monitoring	27.43 (269)	20.11	5.93 (99)	6.82
Severe Psychological	31.00 (284)	29.67	5.24 (122)	7.81
Insisting on Sexual Intercourse	9.60 (124)	8.48	5.59 (41)	7.31

Q1: Types & Frequency of Aggressive Behaviors: *Psychological Abuse*

Partner falsely accused helpseeker of hitting or beating her	67.2%
Partner filed restraining order against helpseeker under false pretenses	38.7%
Partner falsely accused helpseeker of physically abusing children	35.8%
Partner falsely accused helpseeker of sexually abusing children	11.3%

Q1: Types & Frequency of Aggressive Behaviors: *Physical Aggression*

	% Female Partners Who Perpetrated	% Male Helpseekers Who Perpetrated
Minor	98.7	53.3
Severe	90.4	19.5
Very Severe	54.0	8.3
Any	**100.0**	**55.0**

Q1: Types & Frequency of Aggressive Behaviors: *Physical Aggression*

	Female Partners: Mean # of Acts Used in Previous Year		Male Helpseekers: Mean # of Acts Used in Previous Year	
	M (n)	*SD*	*M (n)*	*SD*
Minor	32.01 (298)	34.33	6.17 (161)	11.83
Severe	16.74 (273)	22.06	4.86 (59)	6.52
Very Severe	7.46 (163)	10.59	3.74 (25)	5.65
Any	**46.72 (302)**	**53.48**	**7.71 (166)**	**14.25**

Q1: Aggressive Behaviors & Psychological Aggression - Description of Last Physical Argument

▸ *"I am in the middle of it right now and have contacted a national abuse hotline via email. I have never hit my wife, but today I came close to doing this. It should be noted she has hit me more times than I can remember and kicked me. I grabbed her arms in self defense and held her to the floor. I am a very big and strong man, my wife is tall but thin, not strong at all. I know I will be the one who goes to jail even though she is the one hitting and kicking."*

▸ *"I went to sleep. She said she was calling police. I said fine. She did. They arrested me with no proof or evidence of me doing anything....They dropped charges but not before a 6 month restraining order on me which destroyed my family and business, all based on her false allegations."*

▸

Q1: Aggressive Behaviors & Psychological Aggression - Description of Last Physical Argument

▶ *"Grabbed her to stop her from assaulting me again. Asked her to stop. She called the police. (I think she was sleep deprived also - and very angry and aggressive and was not thinking clearly.). I spent 7 days in jail for stopping her throwing things in my face. Lost all faith in the legal system for men."*

▶ *"I had been holding the baby during the argument, when she threw the TV remote control towards my head just missing the baby. The control is still missing the battery cover due to impact. I treated my facial, chest, arm scratches with ointment.. got stressed, cried at night as I've often done."*

▶

Q2: Consequences of Aggressive Behaviors
Physical Injuries

	% of Females Who Were Injured	% of Males Who Were Injured
Minor	25.2	77.5
Severe	7.3	35.1
Any	**26.2**	**78.5**

Q2: Consequences of Aggressive Behaviors
Physical Injuries

	Mean # of Female Injuries		Mean # of Male Injuries	
	M (n)	*SD*	*M (n)*	*SD*
Minor	4.51 (76)	6.22	9.73 (234)	12.75
Severe	3.05 (22)	3.58	4.64 (106)	7.50
Any	**5.19 (79)**	**6.40**	**11.68 (237)**	**15.61**

Q2: Potential Consequences of Aggressive Behaviors: *PTSD*

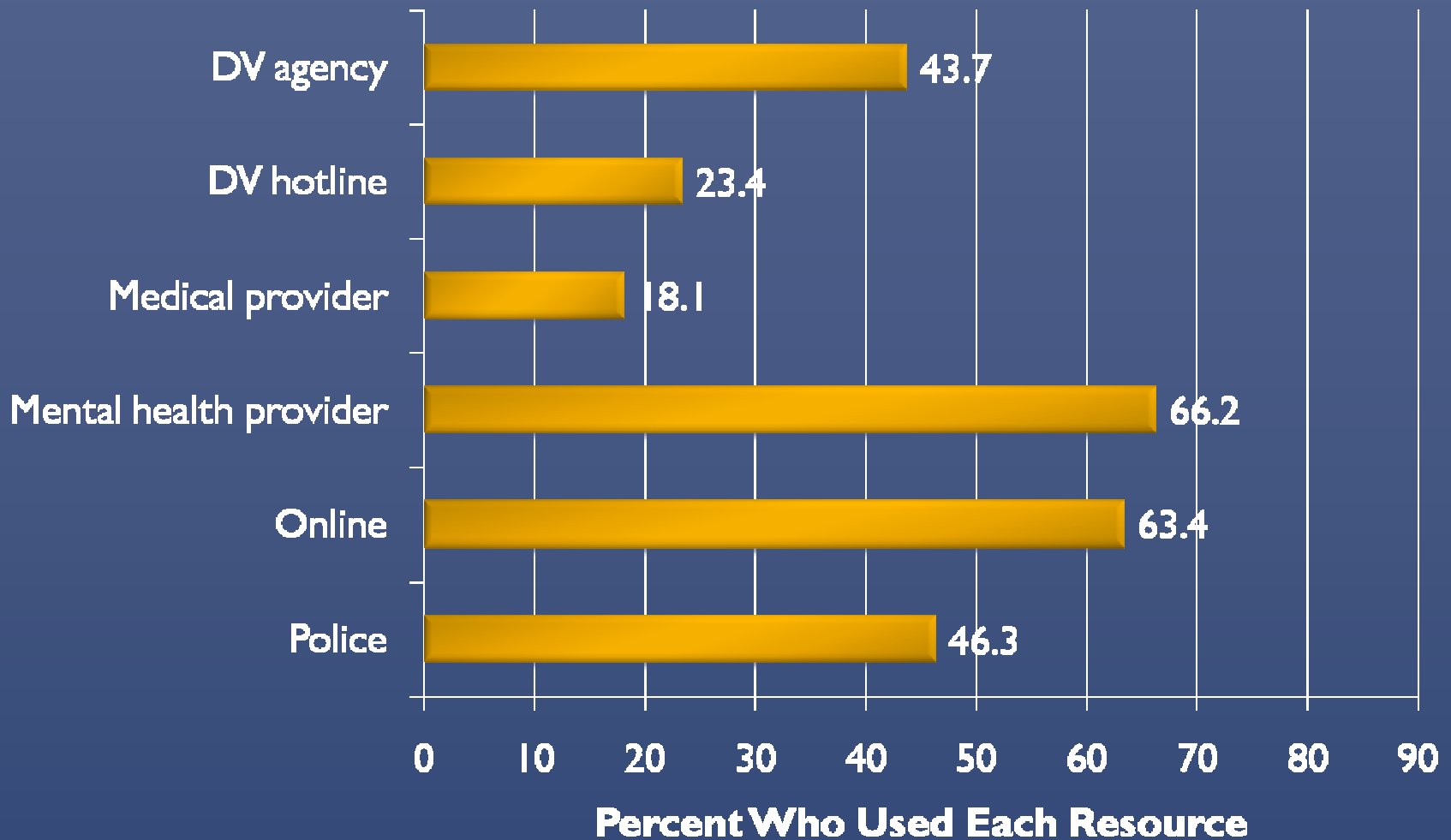|	Mean (*SD*)
Total PCL Score	46.56 (14.22)
Re-Experiencing	14.98 (5.15)
Avoidance/Numbness	17.25 (6.01)
Hyperarousal	14.32 (5.04)

▸ % Scoring Above Clinical Cut-Off for PTSD: 58%

Q2: Helpseeking Behaviors

▸ We asked the men about different resources they have used to seek help, including:

   ▸ DV hotlines

   ▸ DV agencies

   ▸ Medical providers

   ▸ MH providers

   ▸ Online resources

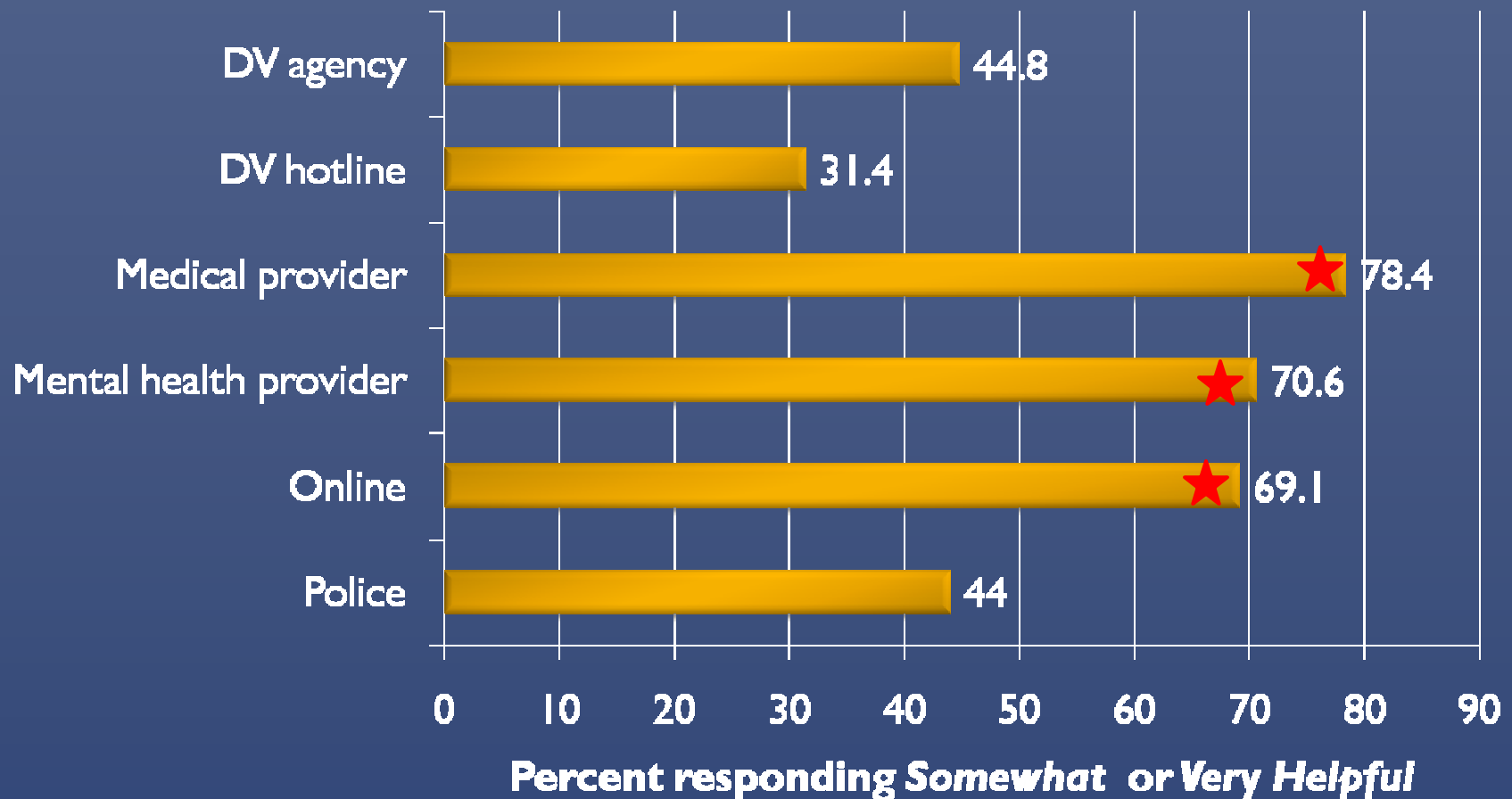   ▸ Police

Q2: Where Do They Seek Help?

Resource	Percent Who Used Each Resource
DV agency	43.7
DV hotline	23.4
Medical provider	18.1
Mental health provider	66.2
Online	63.4
Police	46.3

Q1: Ratings of HS Experiences

How Helpful Was This Resource?

Resource	Percent
DV agency	44.8
DV hotline	31.4
Medical provider	★ 78.4
Mental health provider	★ 70.6
Online	★ 69.1
Police	44

Percent responding *Somewhat* or *Very Helpful*

Q2: Individual Helpseeking Experiences with DV Agencies

▸ *"They said there is no funding to help men, only women and children. And no shelter program for men. Suggested that I seek help from family or friends or clergy."*

▸ *"They focused only on women victims and men perpetrators. This is a county run program. Their response to me was 'Which court ordered you to call us?' I was very distraught and discouraged."*

▸ *"My mother is a victim assistant in the DA office, she has found that the XXX system is for women and therefore I have to get any help possible from my mom and dad. I am a police officer and found no support really locally."*

▸ *"They didn't really listen to what I said. They assumed that all abusers are men and said that I must accept that I was the abuser. They ridiculed me for not leaving my wife, ignoring the issues about what I would need to do to protect my 6 children and care for them."*

Q2: Individual Experiences with Hotlines

▸ *" When I called to explain that I had been hit, they kept misunderstanding me and asking me who I hit. It was frustrating."*

▸ *"[T]hey offered to listen if I wanted to recount what had happehed [sic], but indicated that no support services were available."*

▸ *"Laughed at me and told me I must have done something to deserve it if it happened at all."*

▸ *"Told me that women don't commit domestic violence -- it must have been my fault."*

▸

Q2: Individual Experiences with Online Resources

▸ *"I was mostly just doing research after the occurrence [sic] to find out what I should do. I found mostly female help sites and was turned down by several so I gave up."*

▸ *"Aimed almost exclusively at battering and little reference to what I need which is how to approach my wife about getting help"*
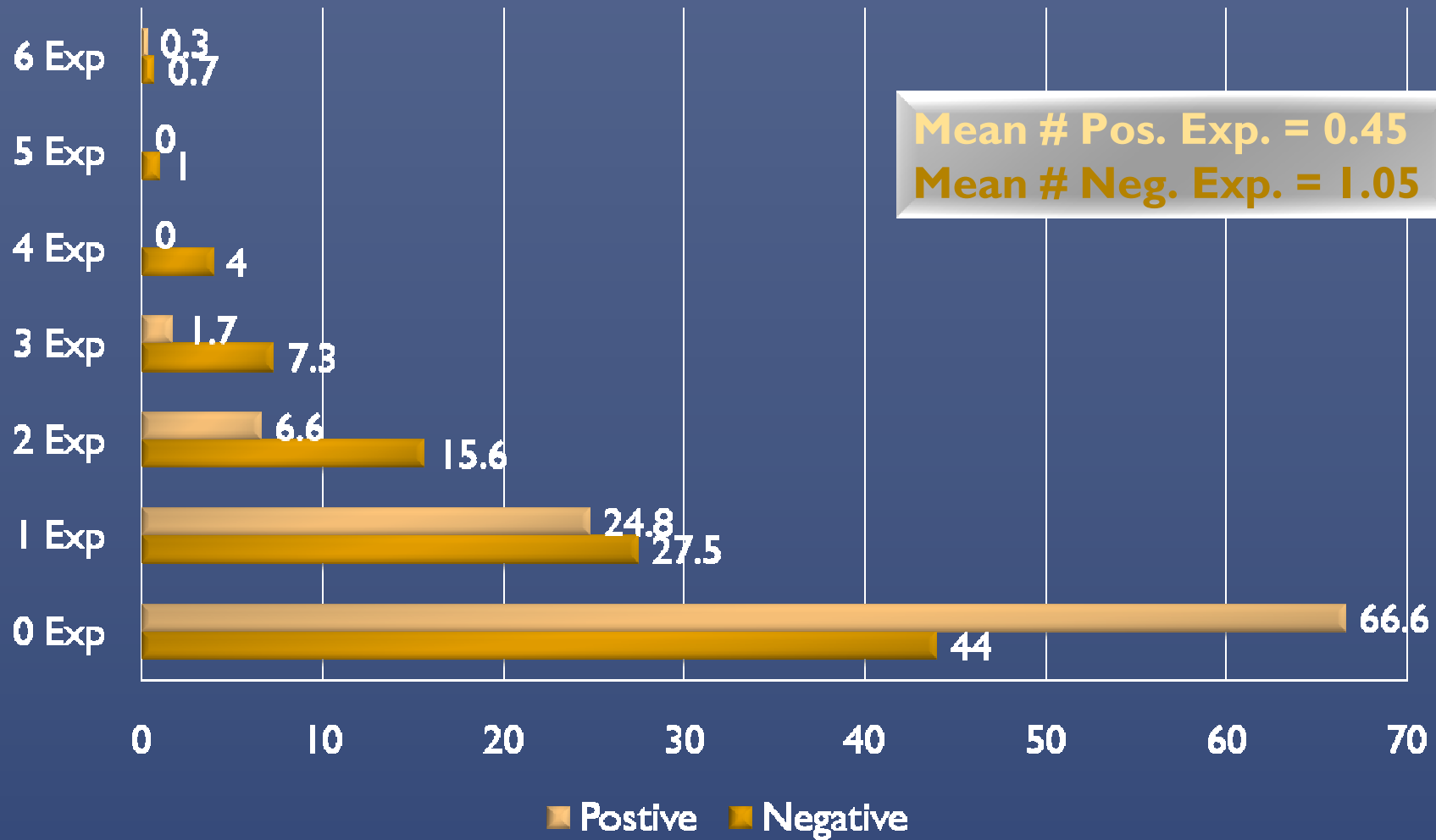
▸ *"Gave me hope and courage to continue to seek help."*

Q2: Individual Helpseeking Experiences with Police

▸ *"They determined she was the aggressor but said since I was a man it was silly to arrest her. I was appalled."*

▸ *"Told me to get her help. Told me to spend the night in a hotel."*

▸ *"They saw mw [sic] as a large male and… they immediately took her side. I was at the hospital with bruising and burned eyes from hot coffee thrown in them. They didn't believe that she did this to me and refused to arrest her… The next incident…the police…saw me bleeding they charged her with felony DV but later dropped it to misdemeanor assault because we are not married and do not live together."*

▸

Q2: Accumulation of Positive & Negative Experiences

Mean # Pos. Exp. = 0.45
Mean # Neg. Exp. = 1.05

Exp	Positive	Negative
6 Exp	0.3	0.7
5 Exp	0	1
4 Exp	0	4
3 Exp	1.7	7.3
2 Exp	6.6	15.6
1 Exp	24.8	27.5
0 Exp	66.6	44

Postive   Negative

▶ Range = 0=6

Q3: Predictors of Helpseeking and Ratings of Helpfulness

Examined influence of

- Area: rural, urban, suburban
- Diagnosed with mental illness
- Education level
- False report made against respondent
  - Restraining order, Physical abuse of children, Sexual abuse of children, or Physical abuse of partner
- Helpseekers' age
- Length of relationship
- Physical violence: severity
- Presence of children
- PTSD Score
- Racial/ethnic minority
- Region of country: north, south, midwest, west
- Weight

Q3: Predictors of Helpseeking Behaviors

Independent Variable	B	S.E.	Exp(B)	Wald
Predictors of HS on Internet				
Phys. viol-severe	-1.577	.788	0.21*	4.003
PTSD Scale	.022	.011	1.02*	4.342
Region-West	-.926	.310	0.40**	8.940
Predictors of HS DV agency				
Age of male	.053	.014	1.05***	14.192
False allegation	.802	.290	2.23**	7.624

Q3: Predictors of Helpseeking Behaviors

Independent Variable	B	S.E.	Exp(B)	Wald
Predictors of Seeking Help From Police				
Age of male	.036	.014	1.04*	6.136
Area: rural	.846	.317	2.33**	7.128
Children involved	.508	.303	1.66^	2.813
False allegation	.672	.304	1.96*	4.894
Phys. viol-very severe	.672	.257	1.96**	6.839
Race/ethnic minority	.689	.351	1.99*	3.858

Q3: Predictors of Helpseeking Behaviors

Independent Variable	B	S.E.	Exp(B)	Wald
Predictors of Seeking Help from Mental Health Provider				
Children involved	.940	.298	2.56**	9.934
Education level	.254	.088	1.29**	8.374
False allegation	.513	.299	1.67^	2.944
Mental illness diagnosis	1.223	.354	3.40***	11.918
Predictors of Seeking Help from Medical Provider				
False allegation	1.246	.498	3.48**	6.269
Phys. viol-very severe	.938	.343	2.56**	7.487
PTSD scale	.022	.011	1.02^	3.580

Q3: Predictors of Ratings of Helpfulness

Independent Variable	Parameter Estimate	Std. Error	Wald
Predictors of satisfaction with DV help			
Area: Suburban	-.835	.390	-4.580*
Children involved	-.955	.434	-4.848*
Predictors of satisfaction with Police			
Children involved	-.814	.421	-3.749*
Phys viol-severe	-1.329	.627	-4.485*
PTSD score	-.722	.350	-4.250*
Predictors of satisfaction with mental health			
Weight of male	-.007	.003	-4.631*
Predictors of satisfaction with MD help			
Mental illness diagnosis	-1.611	.630	-6.535**

Q3: Predictors of Cumulative Negative Helpseeking Experiences

Variable	B	SE B	β
Age of male	.018	.008	.128*
Children involved	.480	.166	.165*
False allegation	.375	.164	.131*
PTSD score	.386	.146	.151**

Q3: Predictors of Helpseeking Behaviors— Summary

Predictors	Seeking Help From:					
	Internet	DV Hotline	DV Program	Police	MH Provider	MD Provider
Age			✓	✓	✓	
Area-Rural				✓		
Children				✓		
Education					✓	
False Alleg			✓	✓	✓	✓
Mental Illness					✓	
Minority				✓		
Phys Viol-Severe	✓			✓		
Phys Viol- Very Severe						✓
PTSD	✓					✓
Region-West	✓					

Q3: Predictors of Ratings of Helpfulness— Summary

Predictors	Ratings of Helpfulness With:					
	Internet	DV Hotline	DV Program	Police	MH Provider	MD Provider
Area-Suburban			✓			
Children			✓	✓		
Mental Illness						✓
Phys Viol-Severe				✓		
PTSD				✓		
Weight					✓	

Conclusions

▸ Most common type of help-seeking: online, mental health services

  ▸ Also among the most helpful

▸ Seeking help through the domestic violence service system (i.e., community programs, hotlines, police) was done by 1/3 to 1/2 of men.

  ▸ Not helpful

Conclusions

▸ Overall, not consistent predictors of who seeks help where

  ▸ 1 exception – those who have been falsely accused

▸ Not consistent predictors of who has satisfactory helpseeking experiences

▸ Findings may create a "profile" for providers who may work with male victims of IPV

Implications for Prevention: Policy & Practice

▸ We recognize IPV as a global problem that deserves recognition from all nations and communities

▸ Implications of this study relevant for all men and providers in the social service sector

▸ Levels of prevention

  ▸ Primary:

    ▸ Prevent something before it occurs, such as through public education or a vaccination

  ▸ Secondary:

    ▸ Early detection, intervention for those at-risk

  ▸ Tertiary:

    ▸ Rehabilitation for those already experiencing the problem (such as substance abuse treatment)

▸

Implications for Prevention: Policy & Practice

- Findings here emphasize need for prevention on all levels
- Primary prevention:
  - Educate public and providers that both sexes can be IPV victims
- Secondary prevention:
  - First responders should take concerns seriously from all individuals seeking help from IPV
    - Police, Hotlines, MH and Medical professionals
- Tertiary prevention:
  - Rehabilitative services available to all individuals
    - DV agencies, MH professionals