

# Helpseeking Experiences of Men who Sustained Intimate Partner Violence: Findings and Implications for Mental Health Professionals

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# Research Questions

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1. What are the helpseeking experiences (HSEs) of men who sustain IPV?
  - ▶ Where do they seek help?
  - ▶ How do they rate their HSEs?
2. Who seeks help from mental health (MH) providers and what are these experiences like?
3. What is the relationship between HSEs and MH status?
  - ▶ Cumulative positive and/or negative HSEs



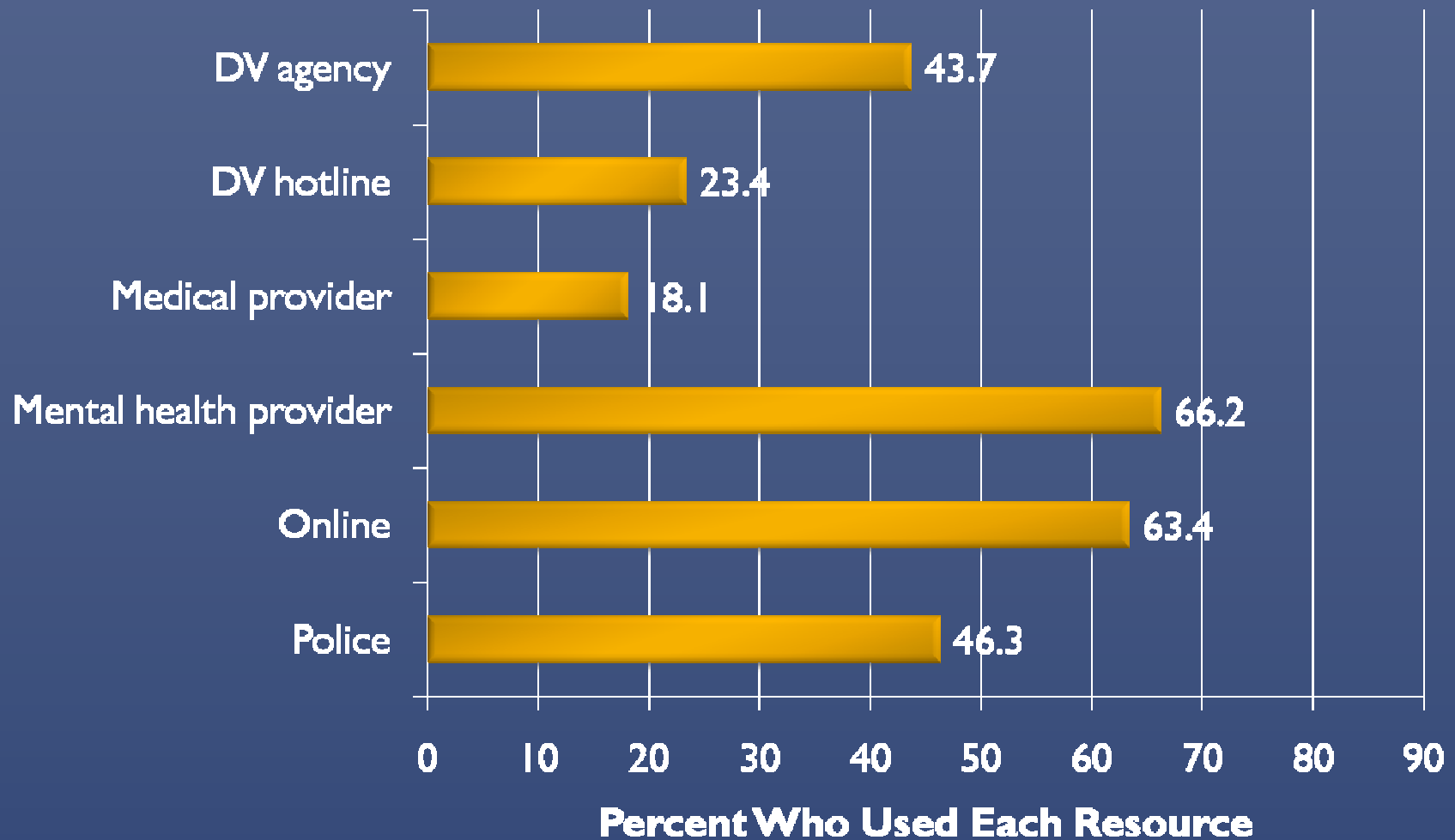
# Q1: Helpseeking Behaviors

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- ▶ We asked the men about different resources they have used to seek help:
  - ▶ DV agencies
  - ▶ DV hotlines
  - ▶ Medical providers
  - ▶ MH providers
  - ▶ Online resources
  - ▶ Police

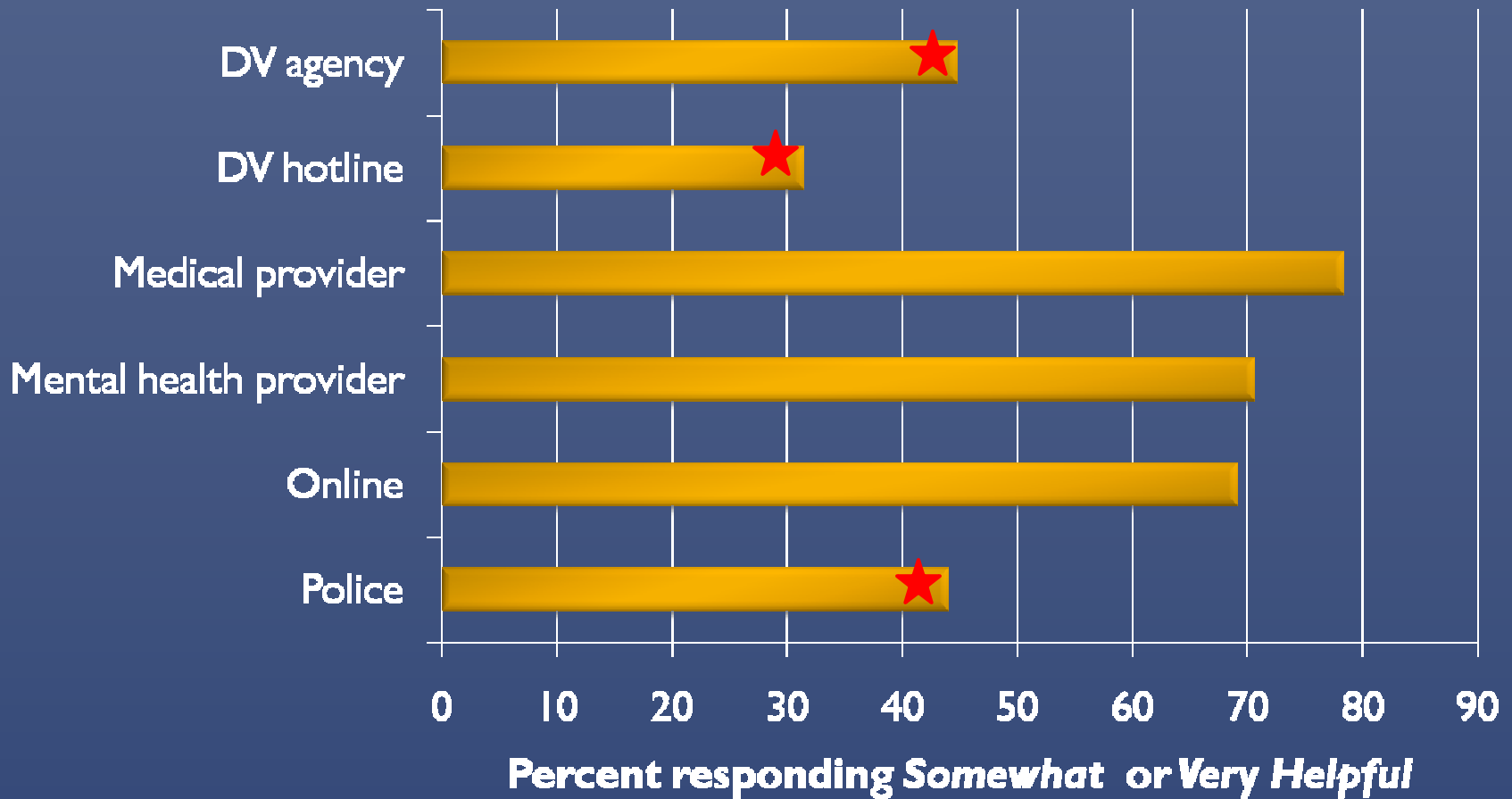


# Q1: Where Do They Seek Help?



# Q1: Ratings of HSEs

## How Helpful Was This Resource?



# Q1: Follow-up Questions About HSEs

	% Responding “Yes” for Each Resource		
	DV Agency (n=83)	DV Hotline (n=67)	Online Resource (n=132)
Experience with Resource			
Referred to local program that has been helpful	a	27.0	25.8
Told: “We only help women.”	78.3	63.9	42.9
Referred to batterer’s program/Suggested helpseeker was batterer	63.9	32.2	18.9
Given number which turned out to be for a batterer’s program	a	25.4	27.1

▶ a Question was not asked about this resource.

# Q1: Follow-up Questions about HSEs

Item	Partner	Helpseeker	$\chi^2$
<i>Of those who contacted the police (n=129):</i>			
Police arrested	26.5	33.3	0.83
<i>Of those arrested:</i>	<i>n = 35</i>	<i>n = 43</i>	
Placed in jail	81.8	88.4	a
Charges dropped	50.0	41.5	.05

► <sup>a</sup>Expected count for some of the cells was <5; chi-square analysis could not be performed

# Q1: Follow-up Questions About HSEs

Question Asked	Percent Responding “Yes”
<i>Asked About Medical Providers (n=54)</i>	
Did doctor/nurse ask how you got injuries?	91.8
Did you tell doctor/nurse that partner hurt you?	60.4
Did doctor/nurse give you info – getting help for IPV?	14.3
<i>Asked About MH Providers (n=198)</i>	
Did MH provider take your IPV concerns seriously?	68.3
Did MH provider give you info – getting help for IPV?	30.1





## Q2: Who Seeks Help from MH Providers?

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### Examined influence of

- ▶ Helpseekers' age
- ▶ Racial/Ethnic minority
- ▶ Presence of children
- ▶ Childhood violent socialization
  - ▶ Child sexual abuse
  - ▶ Physical punishment
  - ▶ Witnessing IPV in home
- ▶ Diagnosed with MH problem
- ▶ False report made against helpseeker
  - ▶ Restraining order
  - ▶ Physical abuse of children
  - ▶ Sexual abuse of children
  - ▶ Physical abuse of partner



## Q2: Who Seeks Help from MH Providers?

Characteristic	<i>r</i>
Children involved in relationship	.21**
Diagnosed with MH problem	.18**
Experienced child sexual abuse	.10 <sup>^</sup>
Partner filed restraining order on false premises	.13*
Partner falsely accuse respondent of physically abusing children	.18**
Partner falsely accuse respondent of sexually abusing children	.16*

► Note: <sup>^</sup>p ≤ .10; \*p ≤ .05, \*\*p ≤ .01

## Q2. What Influences Ratings of HSEs with MH Providers?

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- ▶ Helpseekers who feel they were taken seriously by MH provider rated HSEs with MH providers more positively ( $\chi^2= 76.60, p=.000$ )
- ▶ Helpseekers who were given info on getting help for IPV rated HSEs with MH provider more positively ( $\chi^2= 24.25, p=.000$ )



## Q3: HSEs Related to MH Status?

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- ▶ Cumulative HSEs
- ▶ Summed all of the:
  - ▶ Positive HSEs (“very helpful”)
  - ▶ Negative HSEs (“not at all helpful”)

Cumulative HSEs (count variables)	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Positive	0	6	.45	.76
Negative	0	6	1.05	1.25



# Q3: Bi-Variate Correlations Between HSEs and MH Status

HSEs	Abused Alcohol in Past year	Abused Drugs in Past Year	Meets PTSD Cutoff
Total Positive HSEs ✓	-.10 <sup>^</sup>	-.10 <sup>^</sup>	-.04
Total Negative HSEs ✓	-.05	-.07	.14*

▶ Note: <sup>^</sup>p ≤ .10; \*p ≤ .05

# Q3: Multivariate Analyses

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## ▶ Dependent Variables

- ▶ Mental Health Status (Dichotomous Variables)
  - ▶ Abused alcohol in past year
  - ▶ Abused drugs in past year
  - ▶ PTSD Cut-off

## ▶ Independent Variables

- ▶ Demographics: Age, Education, Income, Race/Ethnic minority
- ▶ Traumatic Life Experiences
  - ▶ Violent socialization in childhood
  - ▶ Injured by partner in past year
- ▶ HSEs (Positive or Negative)



### Q3. Relationship between HSEs and MH: Abused Alcohol in Past Year

Ind. Variable	B	S.E.	Odds Ratio	Wald
Racial/ethnic minority (Yes/No)	-1.166	.538	.312	4.702*
Education level	-.351	.110	.704	10.120***
Injured by partner in past year (Yes/No)	-.788	.376	.455	4.400*
Violent socialization in childhood	.356	.103	1.428	12.002***
Sexual abuse in childhood	-.239	.123	.788	3.758*
<b>Total positive HSEs</b>	<b>-.550</b>	<b>.278</b>	<b>.577</b>	<b>3.919*</b>

► Note: \* $p \leq .05$ ; \*\* $p \leq .01$ ; \*\*\* $p \leq .001$

# Q3. Relationship between HSEs and MH: Abused Drugs and PTSD

Ind. Variable	B	S.E.	Odds Ratio	Wald
<i>Abused Drugs in Past Year</i>				
Age	-.041	.017	.960	5.949*
Education level	-.188	.097	.828	3.795*
Total positive HSEs	-.352	.232	.704	2.303
<i>Meets PTSD Cutoff</i>				
Age	-.032	.014	.968	5.090*
Violent socialization in childhood	.347	.082	1.415	17.992***
Total negative HSEs	.317	.109	1.373	8.534**

▶ Note: ^p ≤ .10, \*p ≤ .05; \*\*p ≤ .01; \*\*\*p ≤ .001



# Conclusions

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- ▶ Men seek help for IPV victimization from a variety of resources
  - ▶ Most frequently cited resource: MH providers
- ▶ Men have a variety of experiences with these resources
  - ▶ Overall, MH providers well rated
  - ▶ Still room for improvement
- ▶ MH providers have an important role to play
  - ▶ Men who seek help more likely to have children
  - ▶ More likely to have been falsely accused of criminal actions against their family
  - ▶ More likely to have MH problems
- ▶ Important connections between HSEs and MH status

