



# Teenage partner violence and what schools and other agencies can do

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## Background to Study



- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) with the University of Bristol
- Funded by the Big Lottery Fund (UK).
- Team members: Christine Barter, Melanie McCarry, Kathy Evans, David Berridge and Annabel Lander.
- Parallel NSPCC study with Disadvantaged YP, Marsha Wood

## Research Aims

1. Incidence / prevalence
2. Context
3. Understandings and attitudes
4. Victims / assailants
5. Impact
6. 'Reasons'
7. Prevention
8. Wider cultural or social processes
9. Responses
10. Role of peers

# Methodology

- **National Survey – Questionnaires**

1,361 young people, aged 13-17\* (\*15-17)

8 schools: 4 England; 2 Scotland; and 2 Wales

## **Semi structured Interviews**

91 young people

- **Disadvantaged Study-** range of projects, 82 interviews

- **Young People's Advisory Group**

**YOUNG  
PEOPLE'S  
RELATIONSHIPS  
QUESTIONNAIRE**



**SECTION 2**  
**THINGS YOUR PARTNER/S HAVE DONE TO YOU**

**Box 1**

Have ANY of your partner/s ever used	Never	Once	Few times	Often	All the time
<sup>1</sup> physical force such as pushing, slapping, hitting or holding you down					
<sup>2</sup> more severe physical force such as punching, strangling, beating you up, hitting you with an object					

**IF YOU HAVE TICKED NEVER TO BOTH THESE QUESTIONS GO TO BOX 2**

**3** How did it make you feel when force was used against you?

**tick all that apply**

- scared/frightened     angry/annoyed     humiliated  
 upset/unhappy     loved/protected     no effect  
 thought it was funny

**4** In how many relationships was physical force used against you?

- one     a few     many     all

**5** In general, did the physical force stop, stay the same or get worse?

- stopped     stayed the same     got worse

**6** Did you tell anyone about what had happened? **tick all that apply**

- friends     parents/carer     brothers/sisters  
 other adult     no







Box 2					
Have ANY of your partner/s ever	Never	Once	Few times	Often	All the time
7 made fun of you					
8 shouted at you/screamed in your face / called you hurtful names					
9 said negative things about your appearance/body / friends / family					
10 threatened to hurt you physically unless you did what they wanted					
11 told you who you could see and where you could go					
12 constantly checked up on what you were doing e.g. by phone or texts					
13 used private information to make you do something					
14 used mobile phones or the internet to humiliate or threaten you					
<b>IF YOU HAVE TICKED NEVER TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS GO TO BOX 3</b>					

**15** How did this make you feel? **tick all that apply**

- scared/frightened     angry/annoyed     upset/unhappy  
 loved/protected     humiliated     no effect  
 thought it was funny

**16** In how many relationships did this behaviour happen?

- one     a few     many     all

**17** In general, did these behaviours stop, stay the same or get worse?

- stopped     stayed the same     got worse

**18** Did you tell anyone about what had happened? **tick all that apply**

- friends     parents/carer     brothers/sisters  
 other adult     no



Box 3					
Have ANY of your partner/s ever	Never	Once	Few times	Often	All the time
19 pressured you into kissing, touching or something else					
20 physically forced you into kissing, touching or something else					
21 pressured you into having sexual intercourse					
22 physically forced you into having sexual intercourse					

IF YOU HAVE TICKED NEVER TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS  
GO TO BOX 4 IN THE GREEN SECTION

- 23 How did this make you feel? **tick all that apply**
- upset/unhappy       scared/frightened       bad about yourself  
 angry                       loved/wanted/fancied       humiliated  
 no effect

- 24 In how many relationships did these things happen?
- one               a few               many               all

- 25 In general, did these behaviours stop, stay the same or get worse?
- stopped               stayed the same               got worse

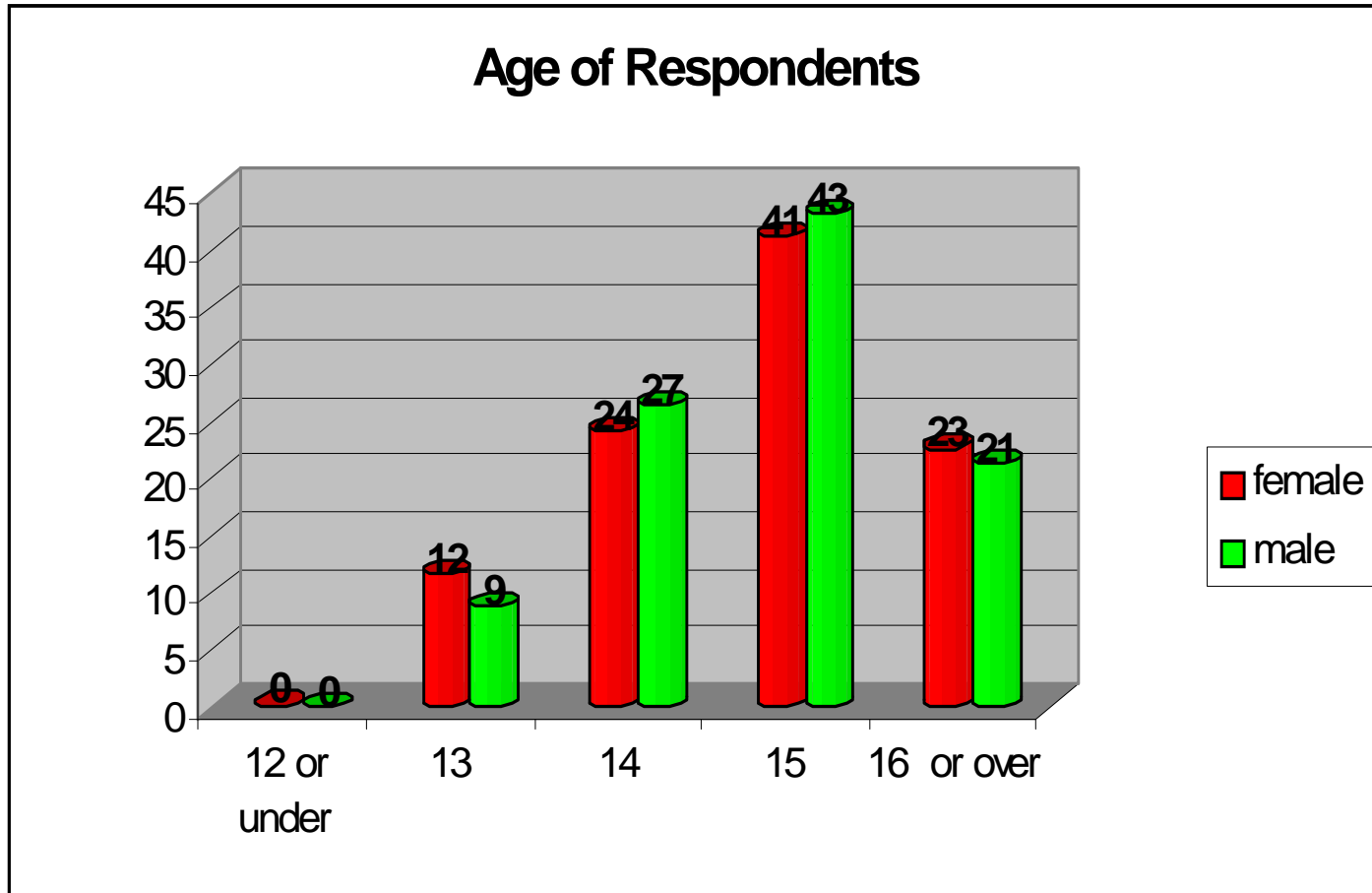
- 26 Did you tell anyone about what had happened? **tick all that apply**
- friends               parents/carer               brothers/sisters  
 other adult       no



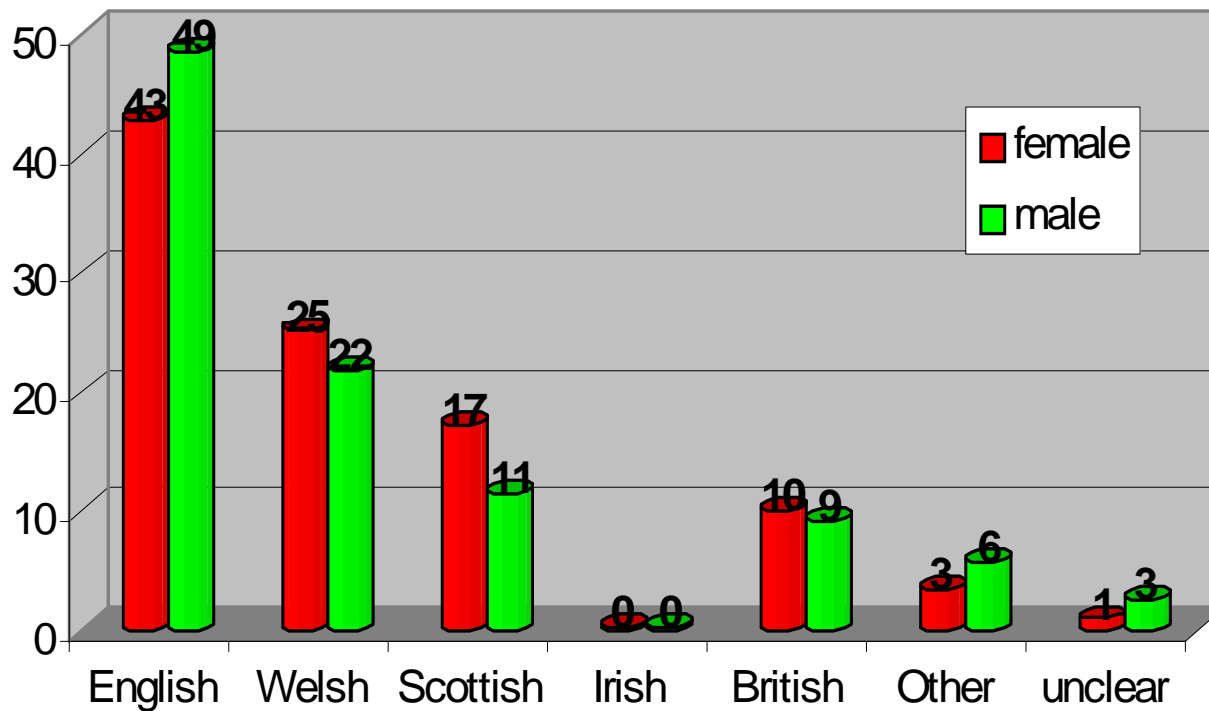


# SAMPLE

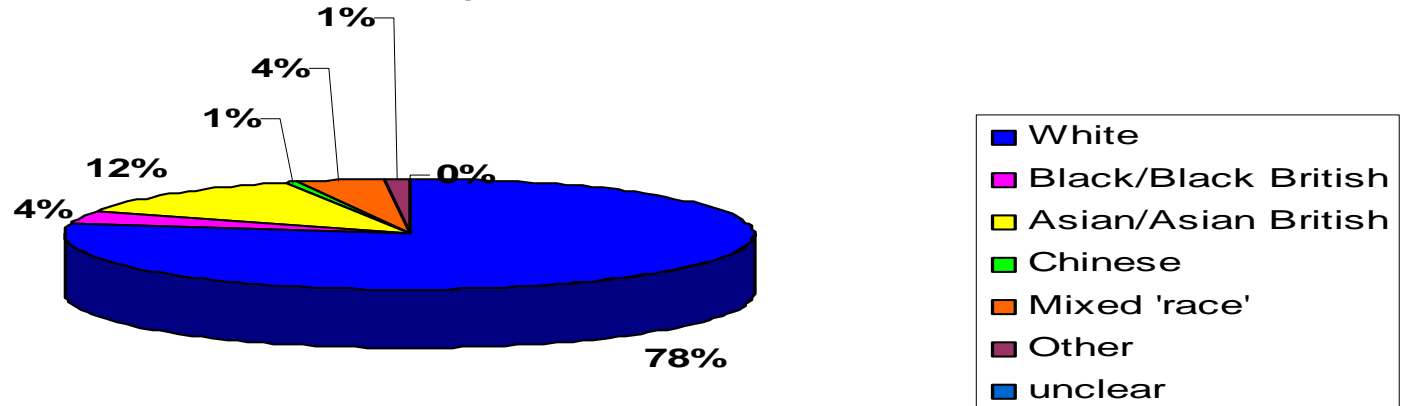




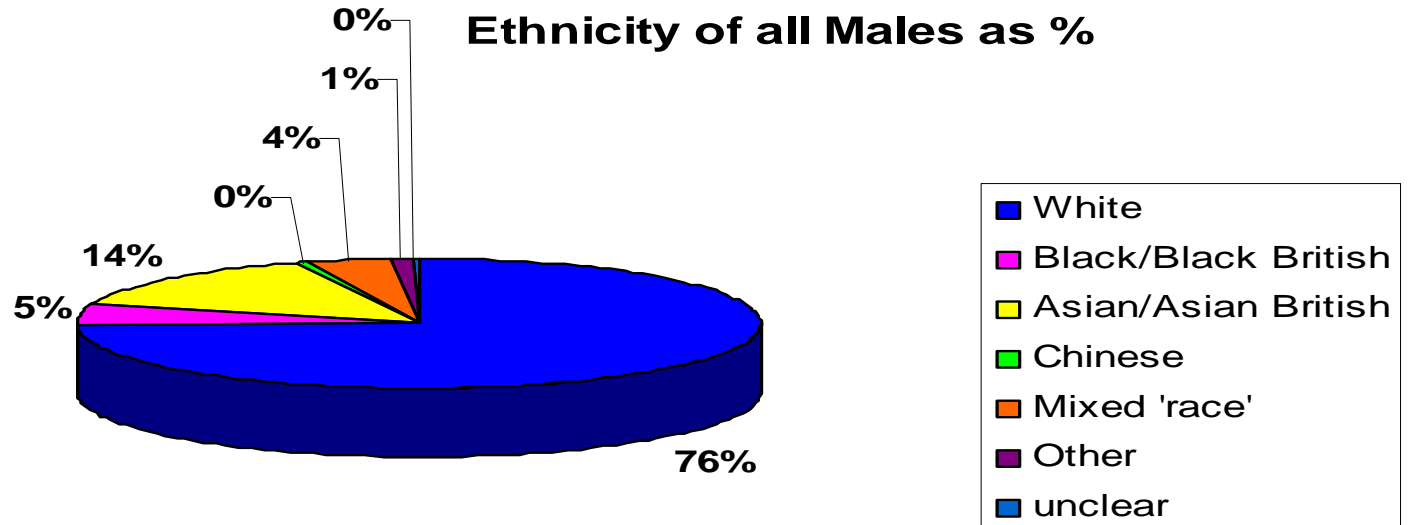
## Nationality of Respondents



### Ethnicity of all Females as %



### Ethnicity of all Males as %



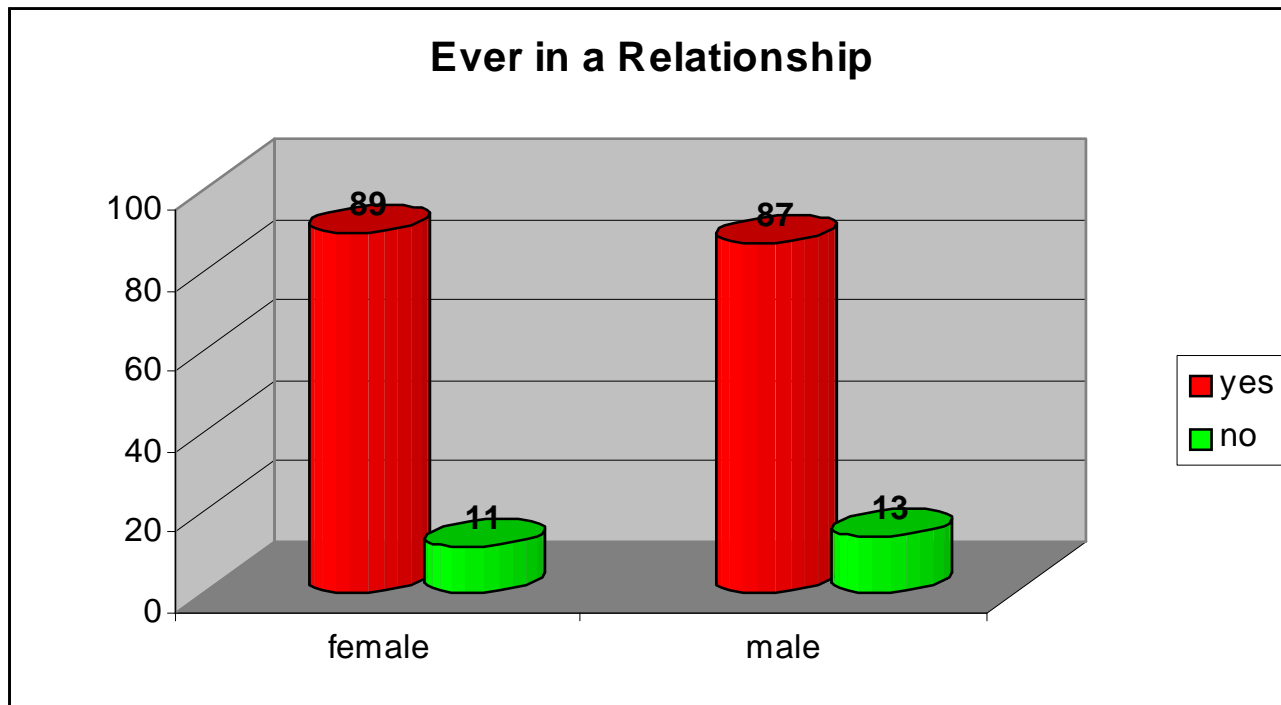
# FINDINGS



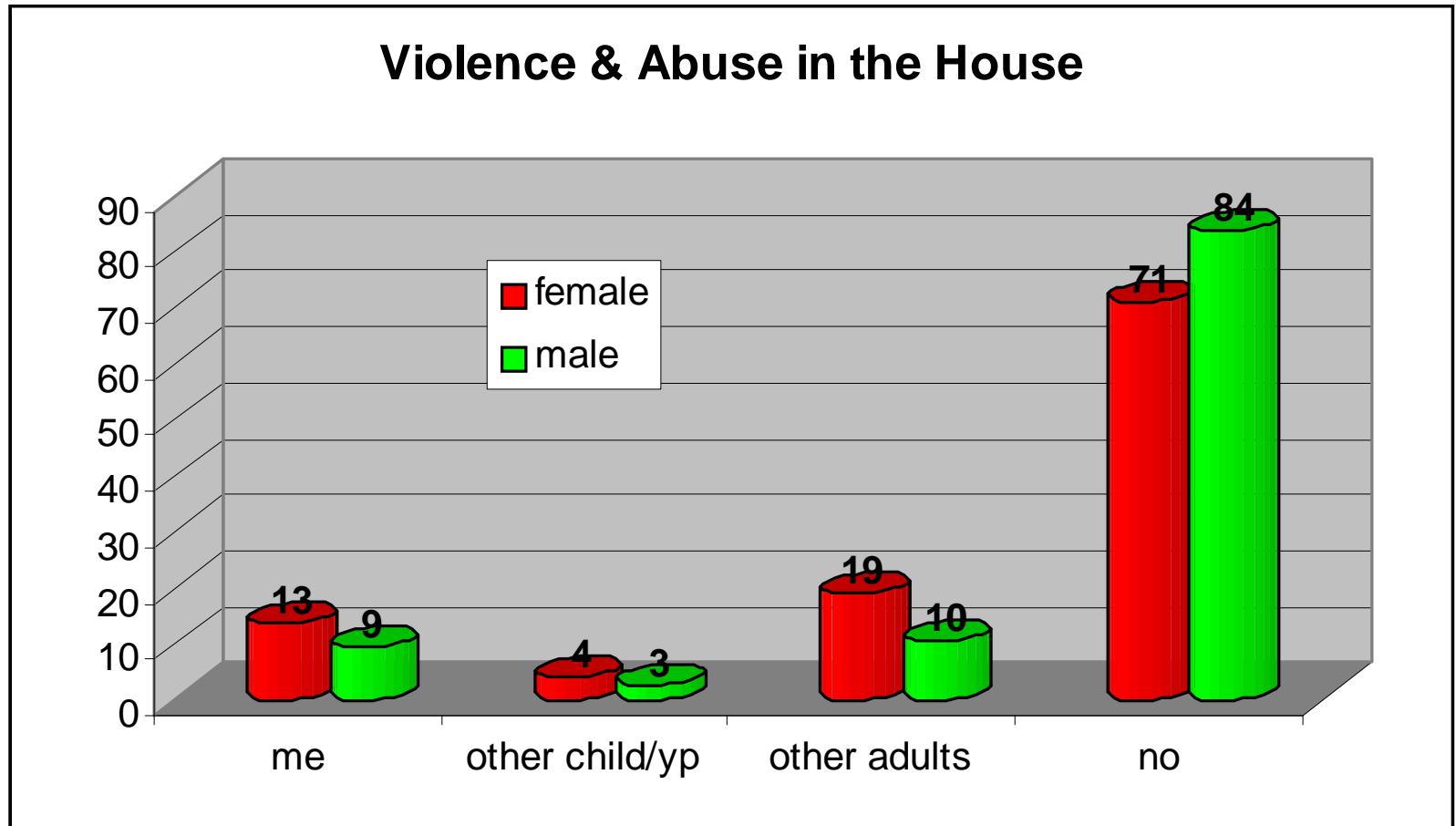


## • Ever Been in a Relationship

- 1360 completed surveys
- 1193 in relationships



# Family Violence



# Peer Violence



- 7% of total sample, equal number of boys and girls, stated their friends used aggression with their partners
- 16% of the total sample, equal number of boys and girls, stated their friends used aggression with other peers.
- As age increased so did reports of peer aggression

# Family and Peer Violence



A strong association was found between family violence and peer violence.

- *Friends who use violence against partners:*  
6% no family violence > 13% family violence
- *Friends who used violence against peers:*  
13% no family violence > 30% family violence

## Relationship factors associated with family violence



- More likely to report a relationship experience
- More likely to have experienced a relationship at an earlier age
- Increased likelihood of having an older partner (girls only)
- Young people with a same-sex partners more likely to have experienced family violence



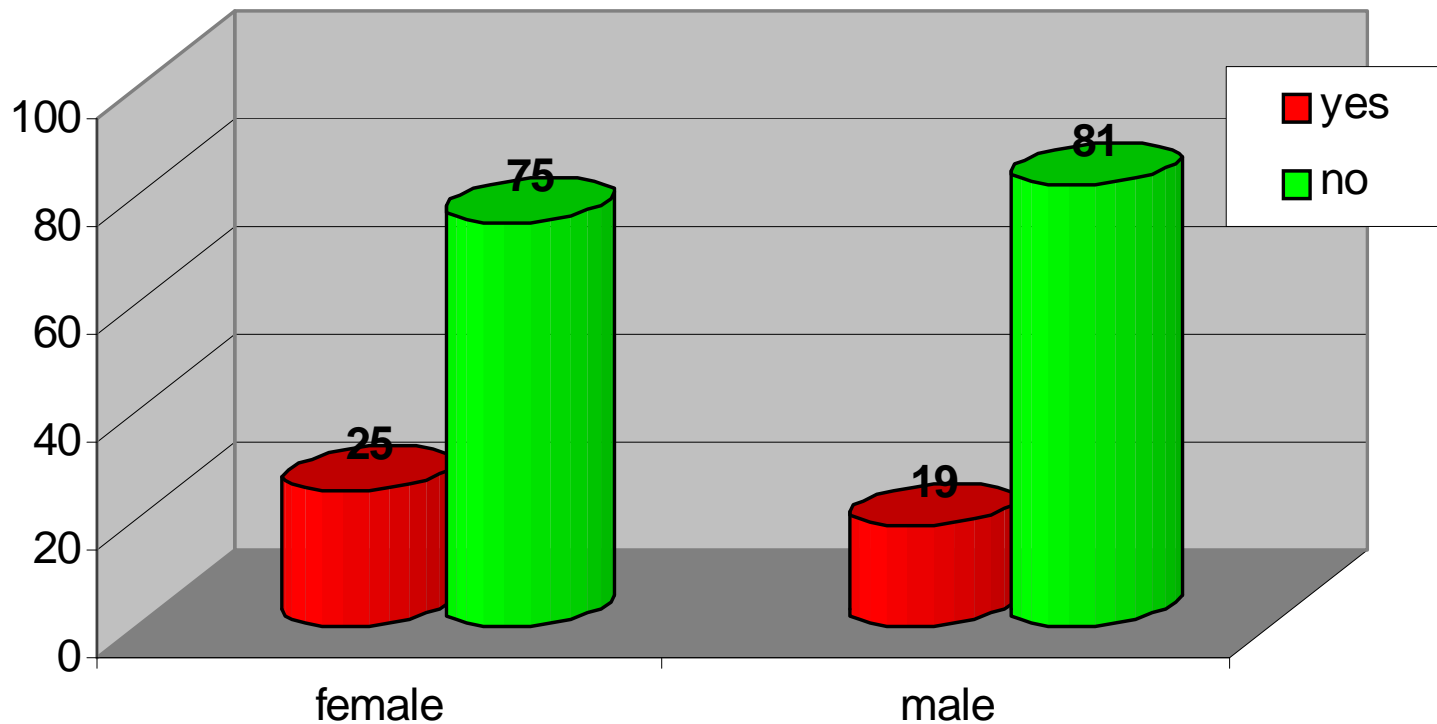
# Incidence Rates for Experiencing Teenage Partner Violence



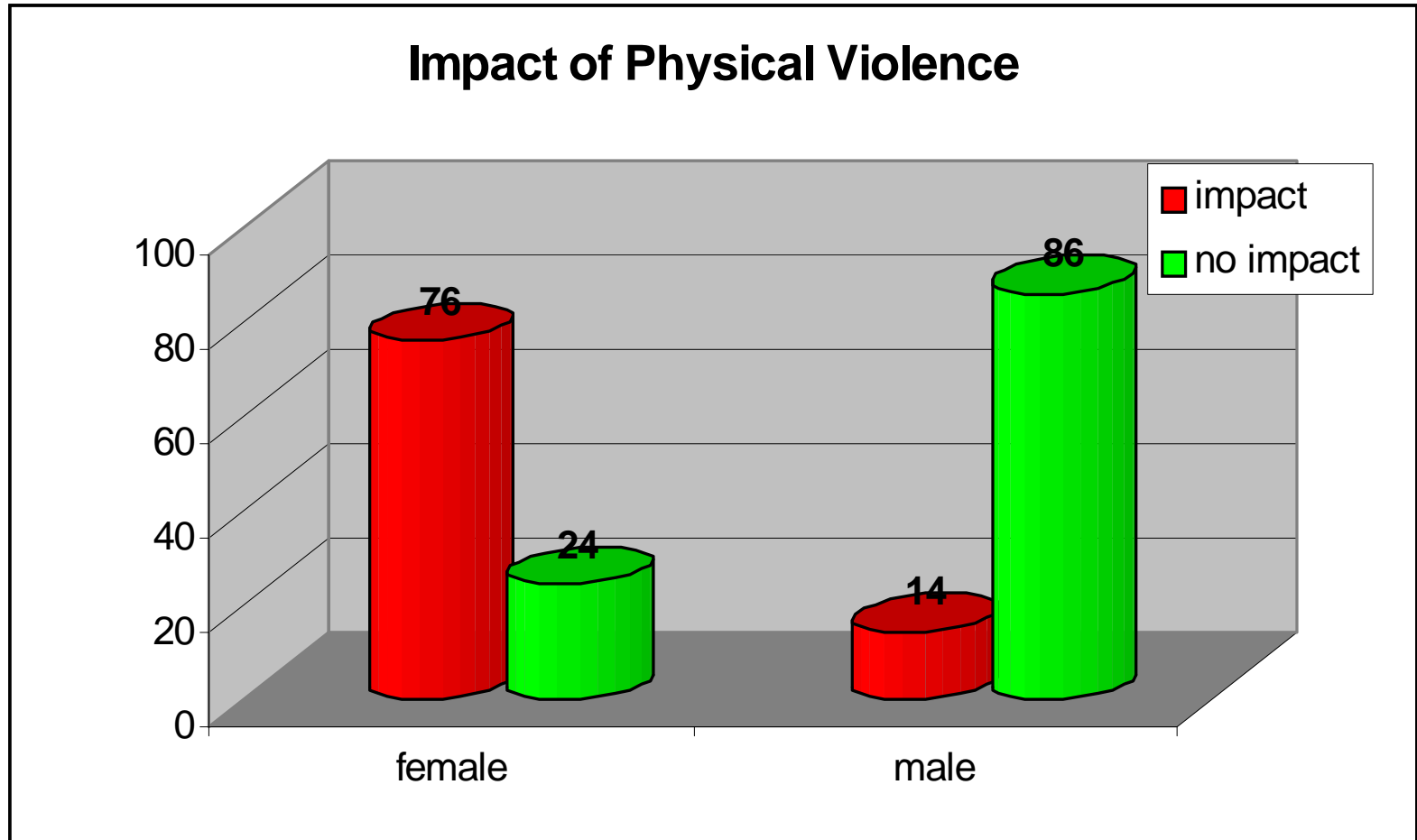
Sian: I only went out with him for a week.  
And then ... 'cos I didn't want to do what  
he wanted to (have sexual intercourse)  
he just started... picking on me and  
hitting me.



### Experienced Any Physical Violence



Kelly: And he raised his fist to hit me...and I was thinking ...I know it sounds stupid but...I felt as if I deserved it, but I was scared.

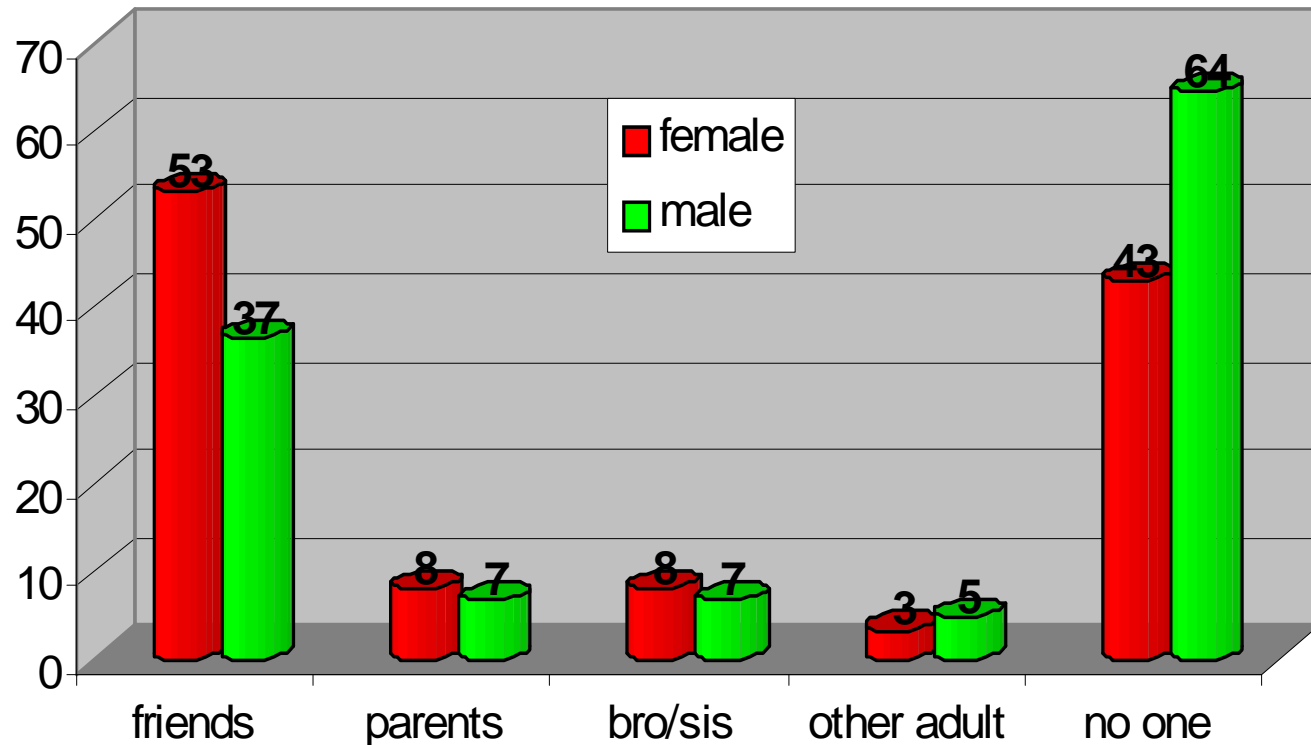


Callum: She tried to batter me but I'm too strong...it's nothing..

Emma: Felt like I couldn't really talk to anyone about it. I thought it was normal, so I was like 'Okay I'll just get on with it'.



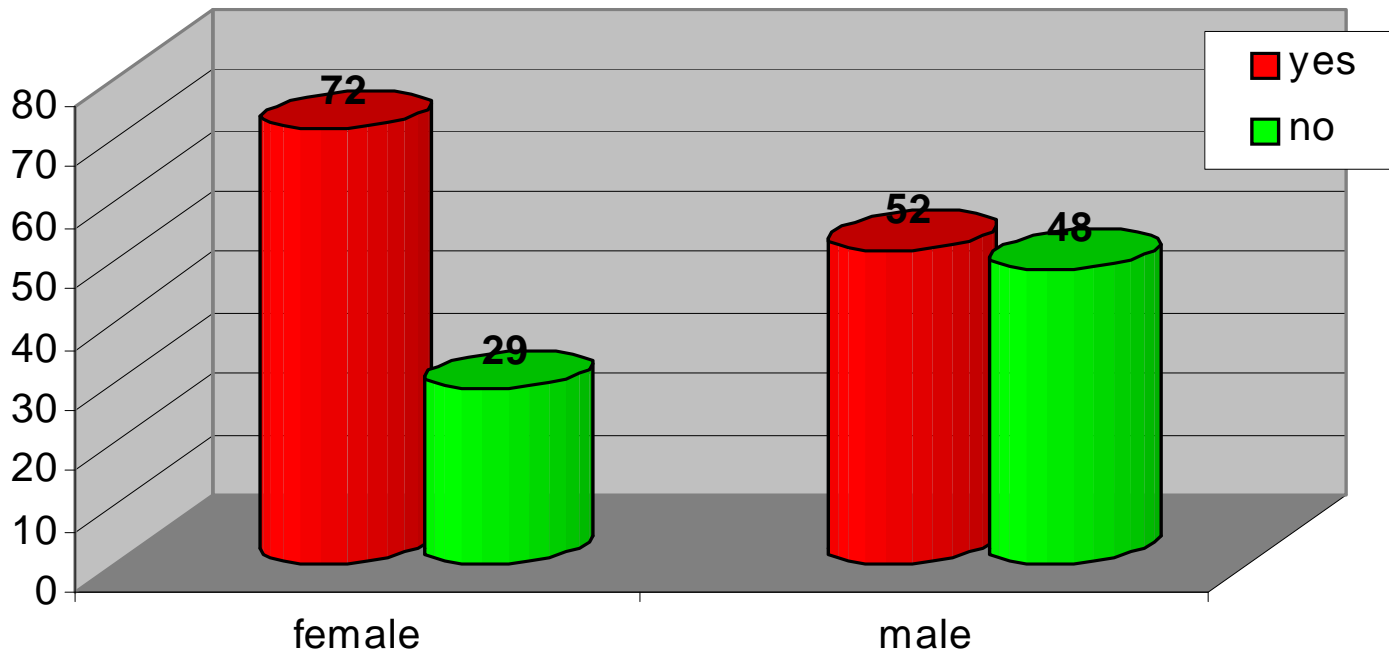
### Who They Told About Physical Violence



Amy: Like when I'd be out with my friends and he'd drag me off and say he didn't want me out any longer and I'd got to go in and it could be like half past six.



### Experienced Any Emotional Abuse

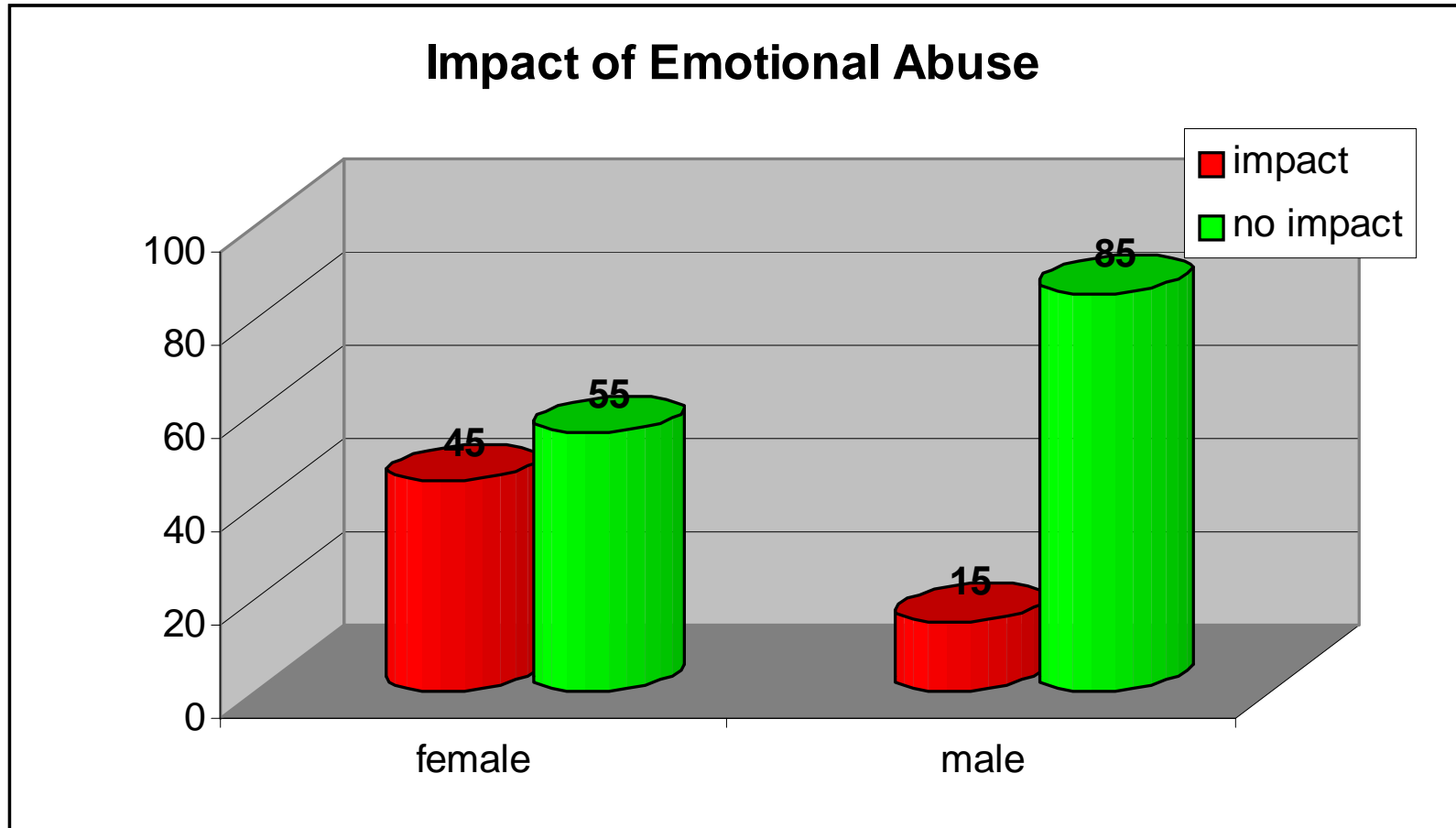


Int: How did you deal with it [constant phoning]?

Josh: I turned my phone off.



Ryan: So I had enough [of the checking-up on] so I just walked away.



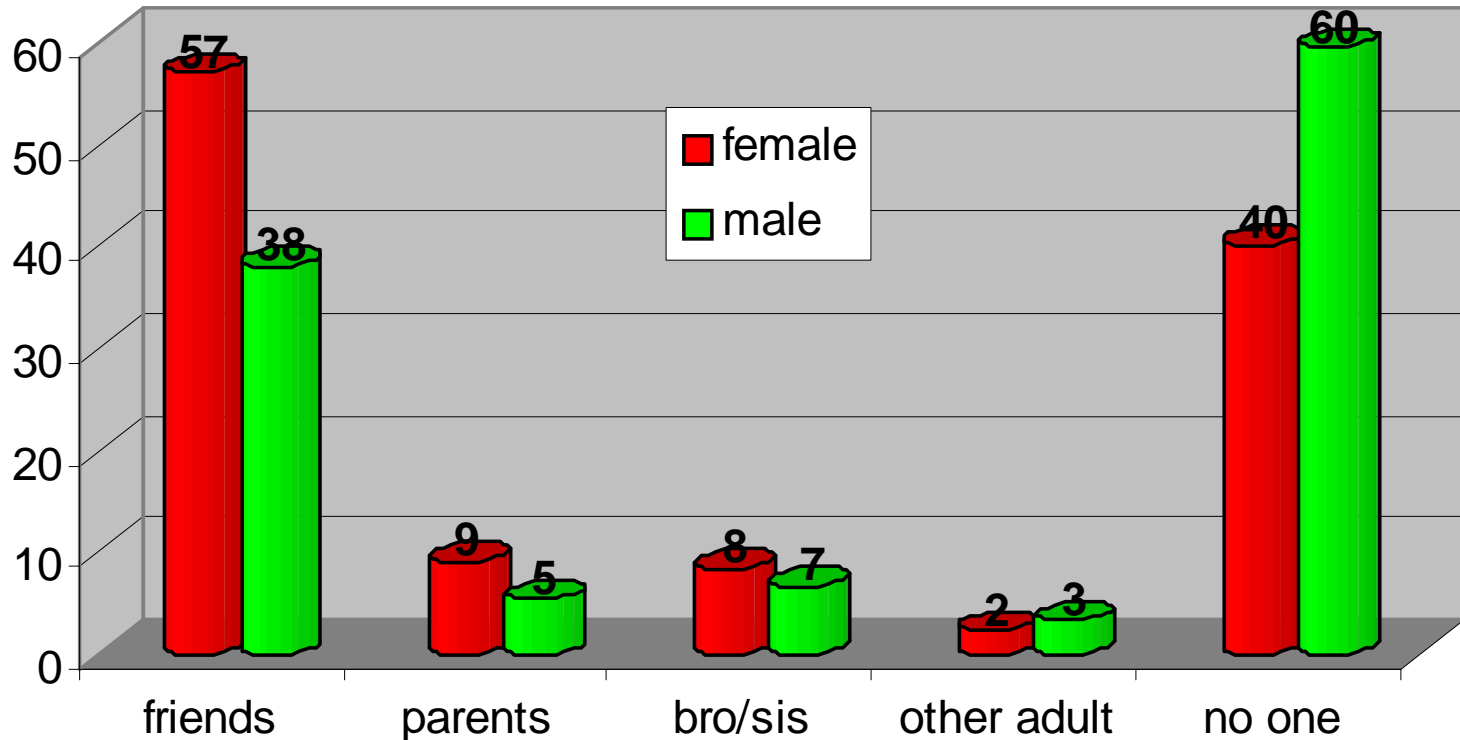
Lucy: It was just like he's get really angry over the littlest thing that I did and that just upset me.

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Moira: Everybody does it [control], I thought he was weird and then I talked to my friends and all their boyfriends are the same so...



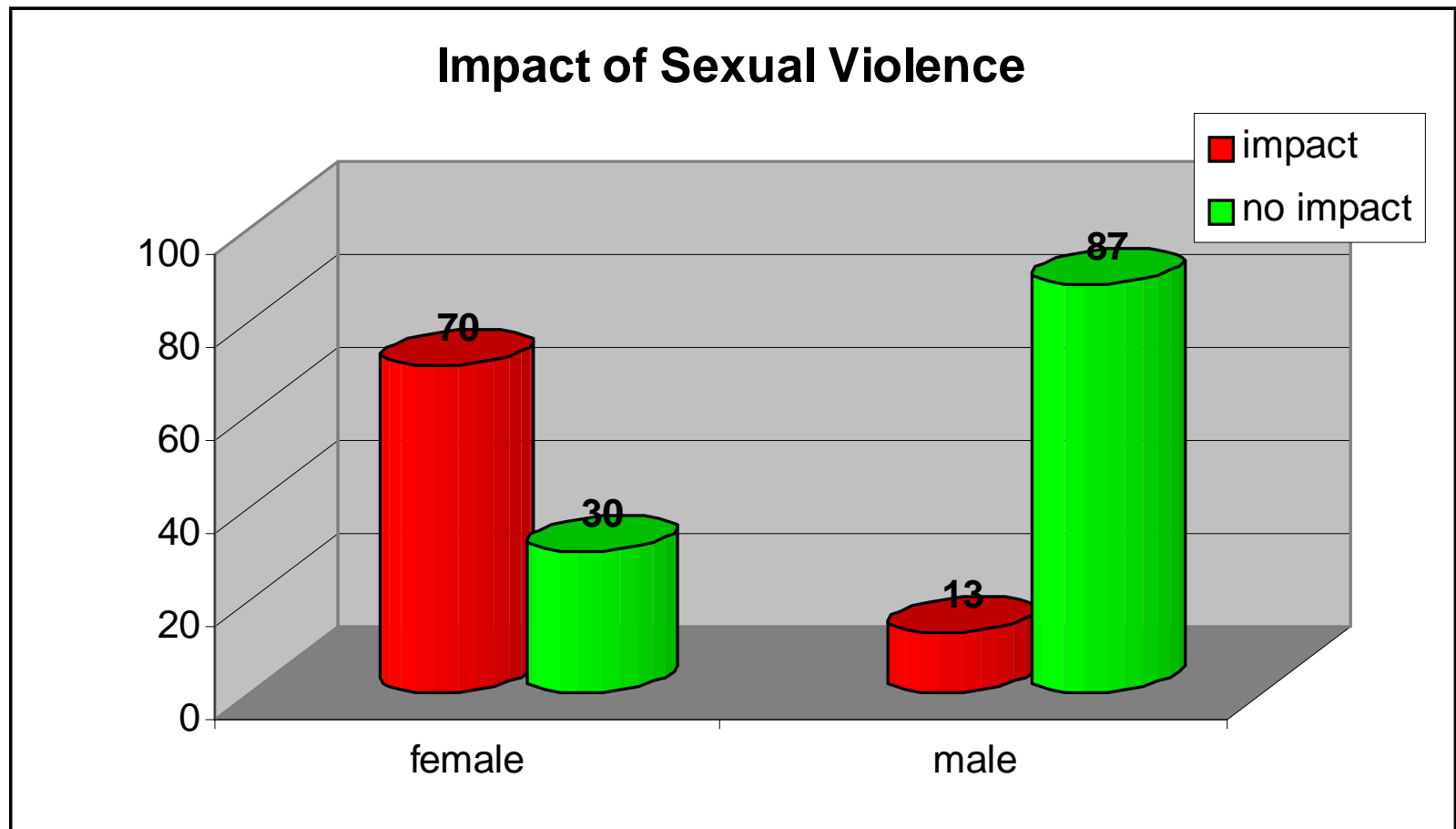
### Who They Told About Emotional Abuse



Tasminder: See with my relationship it wasn't up to me (when to have sex). But when it happens it just kind of happens and then afterwards you think oh my god.



Rebecca: I can't believe I've done it (pressured into oral sex)... It was the most horrible thing...it makes me sick, its the fact that I don't know why I done it.

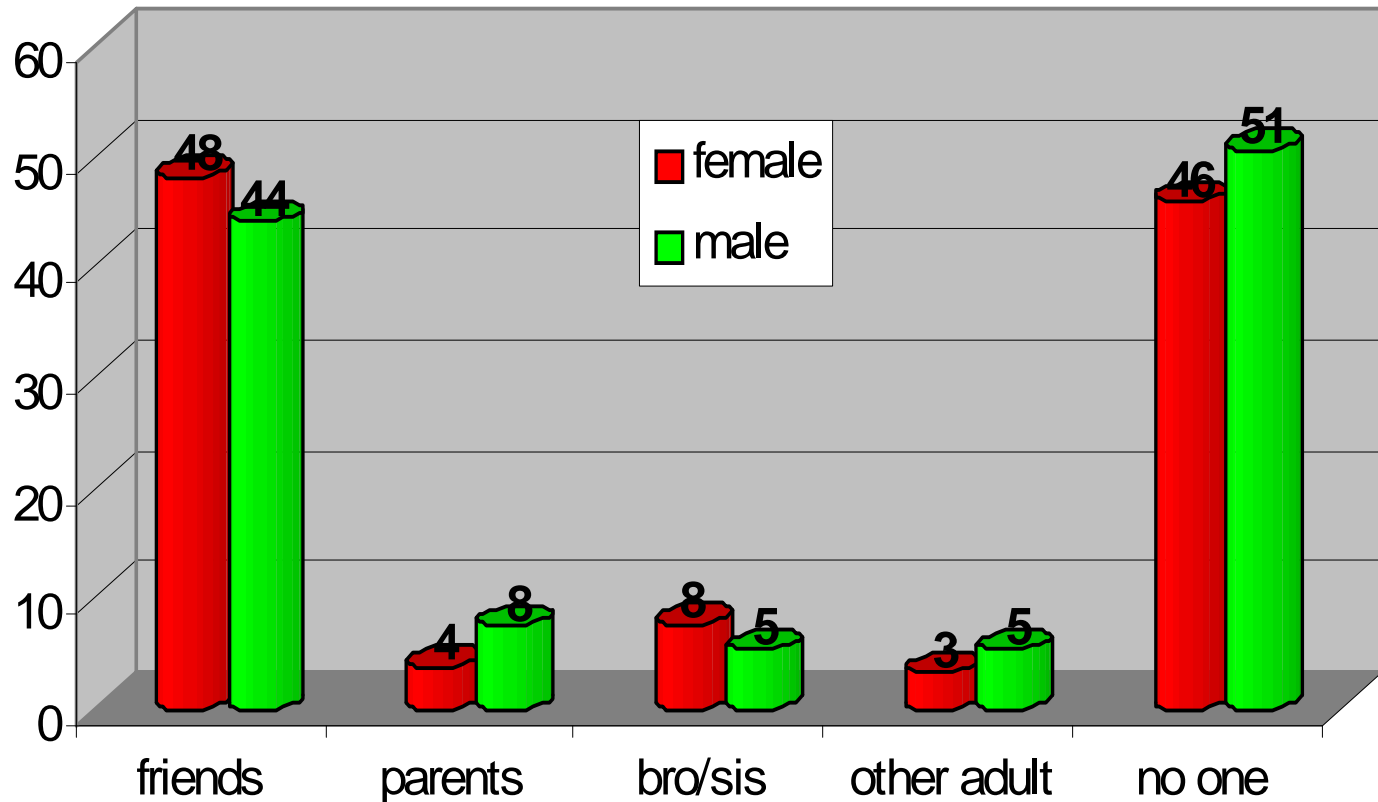


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Tanisha: She's [school mentor] really supportive, she understands and knows what our lives are like at home.



### Who They Told About Sexual Violence



# Dynamics for intervention



- Number of relationships
- Violence escalation - note post-relationship violence
- Ethnicity and religion
- Disadvantage
- Location

# Risk factors for intervention



- **Gender**
- **Age:** Boys - physical & emotional violence,  
Girls - emotional violence only
- **Older partners:** Girls: all forms of violence, highest risk associated with 'much' older partners
- **Family/Peer violence:** Girls and Boys, all forms of violence
- **Same-Sex Partners:** all forms of violence



# Emerging messages

- Lack of disclosure to adults
- Teenage pregnancy/motherhood
- Boys - lack of impact/rec of own behaviour
- Role of the peer group – normalisation of violence
- New Technologies
- Protective factors
  - Learning mentors
  - Education/career aspirations
  - Support after family violence
  - Positive peer groups

## Conflict Resolution

Hardeep: I think I hit one of (my girlfriends)

Interviewer: Did she hit you first?

Hardeep: Yes ... cos she didn't stop did she and you can't not hit a girl if she's attacking you ... I think I let it happen again a few more times and then I hit her forehead and she got knocked out and we broke up.

## Conflict Resolution



Interviewer: What do you think you would do this time?

Hardeep: I'd probably lock her in a cupboard or something. Cos then uh she'd be able to calm down that way. Yeah.



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