

Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs): A Case-Level Analysis From A Northern Force

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“To stop the violence, I play dead”

Non-cohabiting on/off 12-year relationship.

V did not consent to DVPN

“Victim wished to end the relationship but was afraid”

Cohabiting, 8-month relationship. V consented to DVPN but not to court

What is a DVPN/O? Why are they important?

- Many victims call the police for **protection** from, rather than **prosecution** of, a partner.
- Often Results in:
 - high attrition rates for DV offences within the CJS.
 - a gap in protection.

DVPN	DVPO
Police (Superintendent)	Magistrate
48 hours	14-28 days

- The consent of the victim is not required.
- P is removed rather than V having to flee.

Force Figures Between: 01.01.18 - 30.06.18

Number of DV flagged crimes:

- **10,044**

Number of DV flagged crimes resulting in a NFA outcome:

- **7,129 (70.98%)**

Number of DVPOs obtained:

- **27 (0.38%)**

Demographics

Gender

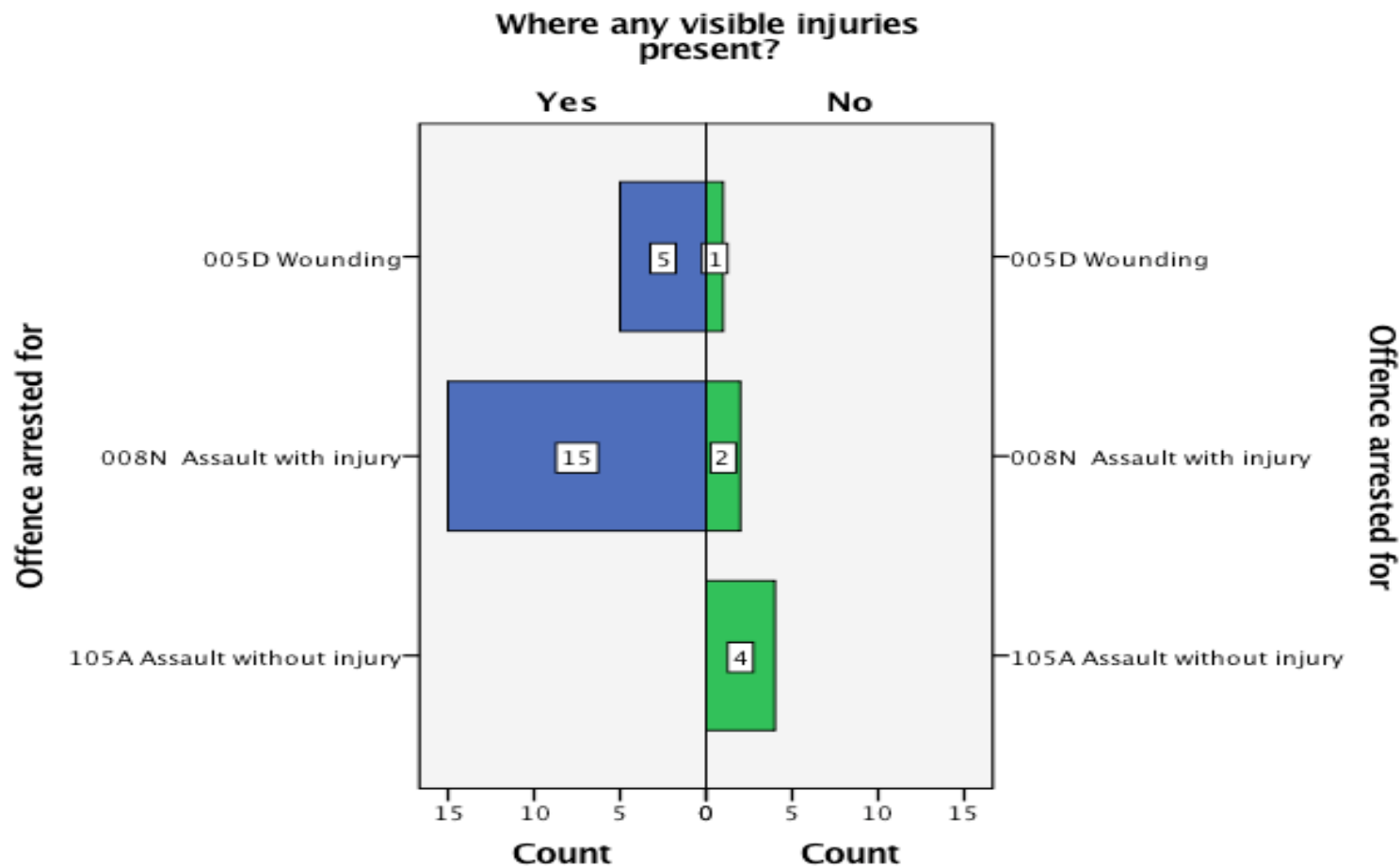
	Male	Female
Perpetrator	81.5% (22)	18.5% (5)
Victim	18.5% (5)	81.5% (22)
Initiating Officer	33.3% (9)	66.7% (18)
Authorising Officer	40.7% (11)	59.3% (16)

Relationship

	Yes	No
Cohabiting?	70.4% (19)	29.6% (8)
Children present?	33.3% (9)	66.7% (18)

- Average duration = 4 years
- Range = 4 months – 20 Years
- 37% (10) of all relationships were for 12-months or less

Visible Injury?



Consent?

	Yes	No
Did the Victim consent?	44.4% (12)	55.6% (15)

58.3% (n=7) were supportive of the DVPN but not to attending court

33.3% (4) supportive of court

SPACE FOR ACTION

Wanted help with MH

Process of obtaining a NMO

Wanted a RO

- Nowhere else to live
- Financially dependent
- Afraid
- Wanted to remain in the relationship
- Previous bad experience with CJS

Summary

- What types of cases? Who was afforded protection?
- 7 out of 10 domestic violence cases result in no further action (ONS, 2018).
- DVPOs are not a substitute for pursuing criminal charges; however, embracing a ‘hybridized’ mindset may improve victim outcomes.
- More research is required in relation to DVPOs to build a robust evidence base, including evidencing what ‘success’ and ‘justice’ means from a victim’s perspective.

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