

Intimate Partner Homicide Murder in Britain

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Intimate Partner Homicide



OVERVIEW



Murder - International Comparisons
Trends & Patterns in IPHomicide
Explanations - IP Violence & Homicide
Murder in Britain Study
Comparisons of:

**Intimate Partner Murder (IPM) & Male-Male Murder (MM)
Murder & Non-lethal violence against women (IPV)**

Two Studies Compared - Murder in Britain Study * Violent Men Study

Findings - Some Risk Factors
Issues for Risk Assessment
Implications for Intervention

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HOMICIDE WORLDWIDE PATTERNS



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International Rates of Homicide - 2006



Rates per 100,000

Colombia	61.1
El Salvador	56.4
South Africa	39.5
Russia	26.6
USA	5.9 (10.1)
Switzerland	2.9
Finland	2.8
Scotland	2.6
N. Ireland	2.4 (6.0)
France	1.6
England/Wales	1.6
Canada	1.5
Italy	1.2
Sweden	1.2
Spain	1.2
Ireland	0.6
Japan	0.5

TRENDS & PATTERNS

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Trends in Intimate Partner Homicide

Rates per one million



CANADA (1974 - 2000)

Overall Numbers = 2,600 (three quarters of victims were women)

Rates of Homicide (per million married couples – all Canada)

Women	1974	16.9	Men	1974	4.4
	2000	11.1		2000	3.4

Highest Rates (yr 2000)

Provinces – Women	- Manitoba	16.1
Men	- Saskatchewan	7.1

Territories – Women only

Northwest Territories	77.8
Yukon	47.3

Trends:

Canada—decreasing rates in spousal homicides & other types of intimate relationships

USA—decreasing rates over last 30 years of intimate partner homicides:

(9% White Females, 49% African American Females, 56% White Males, 81% Black Males)

Why the decrease???

Patterns in Intimate Partner Homicide



When women are killed & When men are killed

(very different contexts but both usually preceded by men's violence)

- women usually kill in response to men's violence
- men usually kill in context of attack on woman

Of all Homicides of Women (percent killed by an intimate partner)

UK	40% - 50%
US	30% - 50%

Of all Homicides of men (percent killed by an intimate partner)

UK & US	5% - 6%
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Others at risk of collateral homicide related to intimate partner conflict

- Children, Protectors, New Partners & Others
- Mass murders (2+ victims) most are family murders
- Mass murders – workplace, public location, officials

SOME EXPLANATIONS

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Some Explanations of Violence Against Women

1970/80s:

Psychiatrists –

- 'the victims [women] in spouse assaults can always be assumed to have played a crucial role in the offense' '[violence] brought about or precipitated their victimization'
- Murder is the result of: 'frigid, masochistic' 'controlling and castrating behavior' 'querulous & demanding wife' – her 'precipitating act'

Social Scientists-

- Murder can hardly be considered a serious problem but a domestic crime in which men kill their wives, mistresses and children' Prominent (UK Criminologists)
- Murder – in vast majority of research and commentary considered to be a shared moral, social, interactional agenda where victim & offender 'agreed violence' was necessary – 'victim precipitation' 'provocation' fundamental

1990s:

Prison Psychiatrists

- (man murdered his wife) 'I found him to display the consequences of the rage of a continuously castrated man.' 'she was going to torment, aggress and finally destroy him'
- 'essentially ...he finally killed a woman who was the 'archetypal witch'.

2003: Ministere de la Justice Canada

- 'Since most IP homicides are ... **crimes of passion**... crime control strategies (e.g. prison) have little or no deterrent effect . . . Perpetrators rarely consider the consequences'.

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Violence Against Women in Intimate Relationships (Explanations)



Socio-demographic

- (age, gender, sex, disadvantage, education, employment)

Socio-cultural

- (subcultures, cultural, male honour, masculinity)

Feminist

- (gender, power, domination, jealousy, possessiveness)

Contextual/Situational Factors & Processes

- (sites of conflict, victim/offender interaction, high risk locations)

Cognition – thinking, emotions and action

Psychological Traits/attributes

- (psychopathy, personality, Life course, early onset)

Evolved Psychology

- (male proprietariness)

Biology

- (genes, hormones, testosterone, serotonin)

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MURDER IN BRITAIN STUDY

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MURDER IN BRITAIN STUDY



Murder in Britain Study (funded by ESRC)

Objectives

- study all types of murder,
- create typology,
- improve understanding of pathways to murder,
- focus on contexts, situations and motivations

Three sources of Data

- **Homicide Indexes** (England/Wales and Scotland)
- **866 Case Files** (786 men and 80 women convicted of murder)
- **200 Interviews** (180 men and 20 women in prison for murder)

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Murder in Britain Study



3 Sources of Data

Homicide Index:

- All homicides 1980-2000
- England/Wales n=12,000 (27 variables)
- Scotland n=2,000 (19 variables)

Case Files: sample n=866 (786 men, 80 women)
(425 variables)

- Sample of all murderers currently serving life in prison:
- England/Wales (n=3,000) Scotland (n=500)

Depth Interviews: n=200

	Men	Women	
England	143	20	
Scotland	37	0	
Total	180	20 Overall Total=200

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CASEFILES (documents from...

Police Investigation

Trial Judge Summary

Forensic Report

Govs & Prison Officers (Assessment, Life Plan, Conduct)

Probation (Pre & post sentence, prison)

Psychiatric/ Medical (Pre & post sentence, prison)

Psychologist

Parole Review

Offending Behaviour Programmes

Offender Accounts

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CASEFILES & INTERVIEWS (information about...

Childhood Background

Family - School - Social & Legal Services

Adult Life and Circumstances

Relationships, Problems, Social & Legal Services

Murder Event

Violence, Injuries, Circumstances, Situations, Perpetrator-Victim Relationship

Legal Process/Criminal Career

Current Charges & Previous Convictions

Prison Life and Rehabilitation Programmes

Adjustment, Education, Problems, Violence, Programmes

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COMPARISON OF INTIMATE PARTNER MURDER & MALE-MALE MURDER

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COMPARISONS OF INTIMATE PARTNER MURDER & MALE-MALE MURDER

Murder in Britain Study

IP Murder	106 men
MM Murder	424 men

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IPMurder & M-M Murder Comparisons

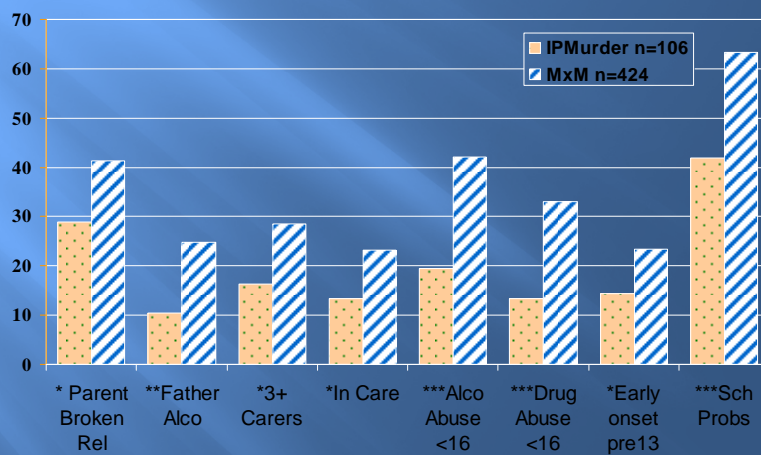


Similarities and Differences:

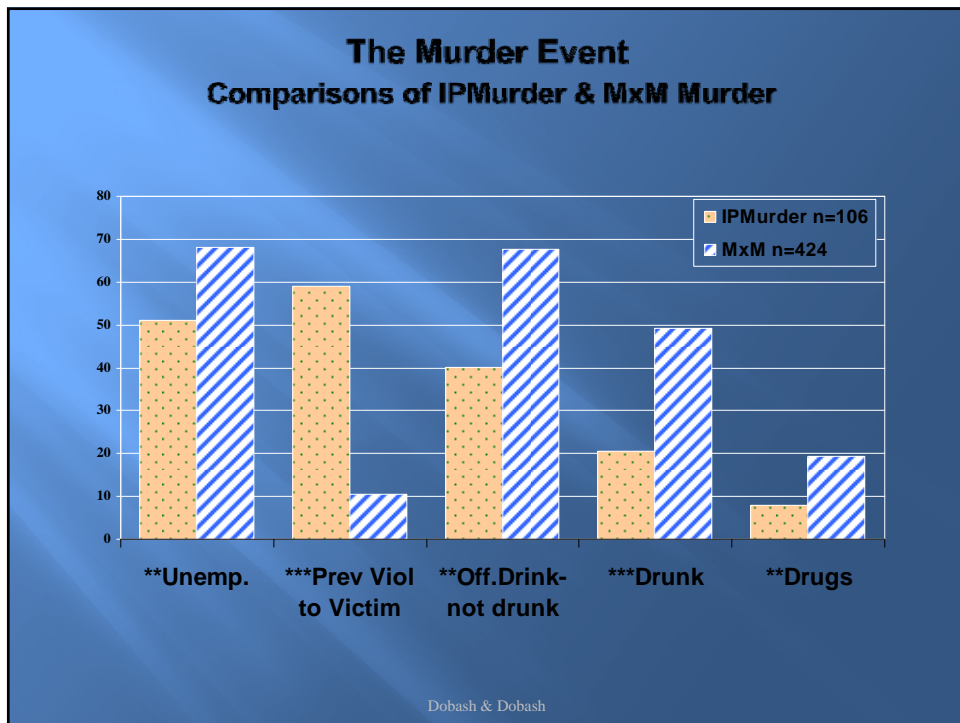
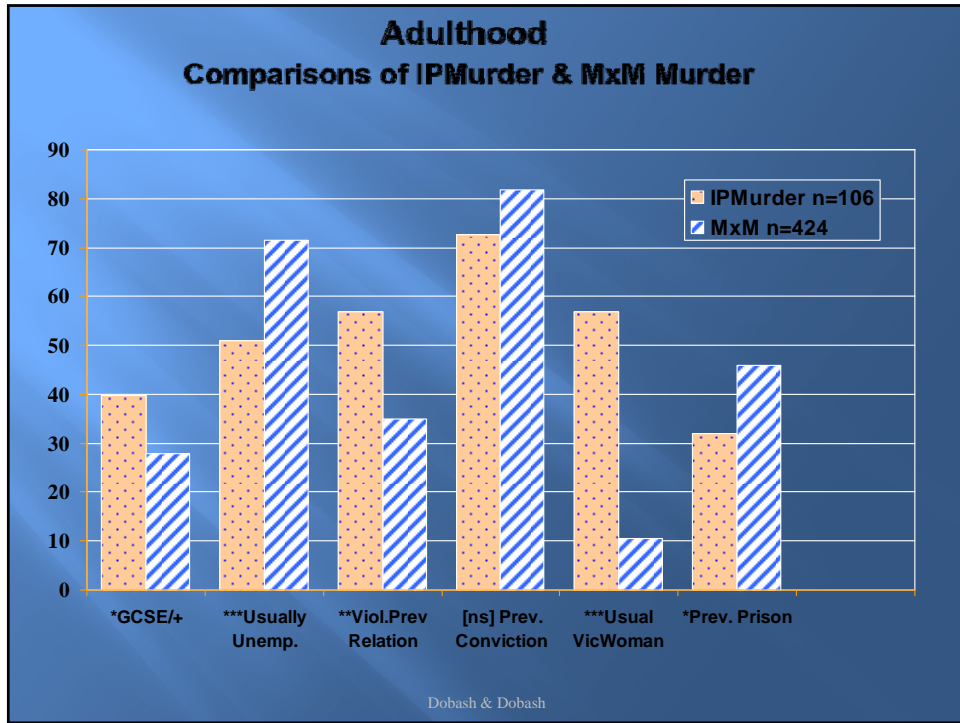
- **Childhood** (Caretaking, Abuse, Behaviour problems, Offending)
- **Adulthood** (Education, Employment, Relationships)
- **Previous Offending** (violence and prison)
- **Murder Event** (age, substance abuse, previous violence to victim, use of weapon)
- **Problems Identified by Professionals** (Substance abuse, Mental health, Problems with Women, Empathy, Denial, Risk to Public)
- **Prison and Dealing with Offending Behaviour** (adjustment, report for violence, self harm, discuss murder, prison courses)

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Childhood (before 16) Comparisons of IPMurder & MxM Murder



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Comparison of IP Murder & Non-Lethal Assault



COMPARISON OF TWO STUDIES

Murder in Britain Study

n=106 men

compared to

Violent Men Study - Evaluation of Criminal Justice Interventions

(funded by Home Office & Scottish Office)

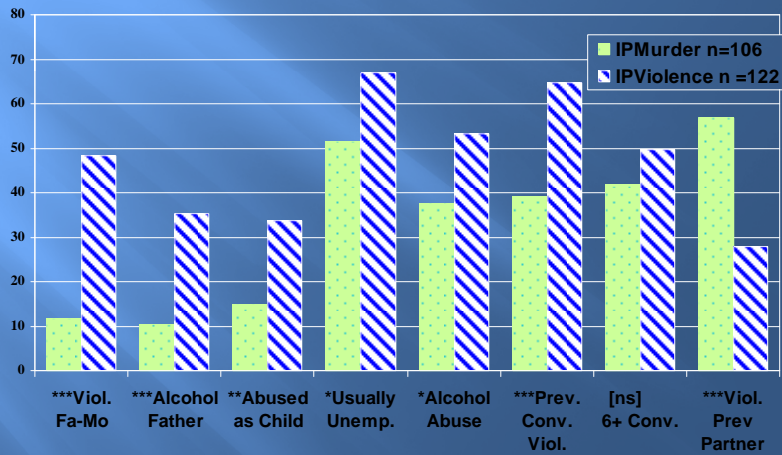
n=122 men

In-depth Interviews with:

- 122 men convicted of offence involving non-lethal violence against an intimate partner
- 136 women partners of violent men

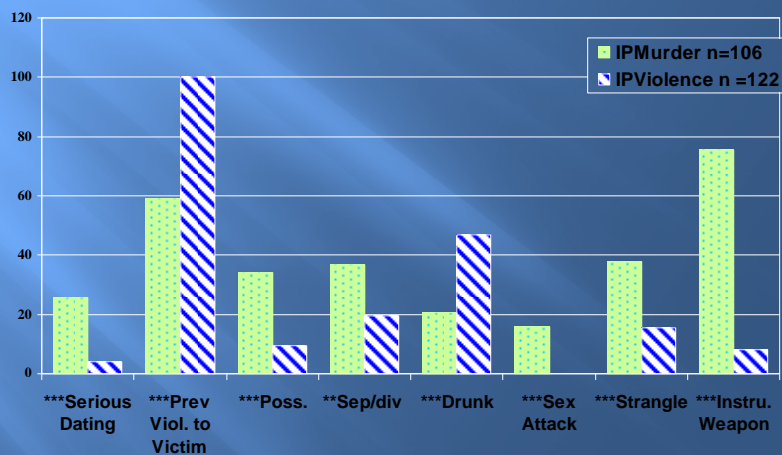
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Lethal and Non-lethal Violence Childhood and Adulthood



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Lethal and Non-lethal Violence Context, Circumstances & Violent Event



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Findings - Some Risk Factors

Offender:

- Unemployment
- Substance abuse
- Arrest/conviction
- Violent offending
- Problems with women
- Viol. to previous partner - -
.....Specialises in VAW
- Previous viol. to murder victim
- Depression
- Suicide threats
- Continued harassment

Relationship Situational & contextual factors:

- Tenuous relationships
(cohabiting, dating)
- Contested relationships
- Prolonged conflict
- Separation/ attempt to leave
- Possessiveness & jealousy
- Step-children
- Age disparity man/woman
- Forced sex
- Use instruments/weapons

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BUT.....



.. some IP murders appear to have more conventional backgrounds with few problems in childhood or adulthood and no convictions for crime.

?? Does IP Murder group contain two types of men??

Some with more conventional backgrounds and little or no CJS contact (perhaps undetected abusers - perhaps without previous abuse)

Some with more 'criminogenic' backgrounds, problems in childhood & adulthood, substance abuse, previous offending and violence against women and men

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**Overall,
Effective Interventions
must include**

**both
sanctuaries for women
and
clearly focused sanctions for men**

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