

Factors Associated with Domestic Violence & Intimate Partner Homicide

Rebecca Emerson Dobash
Russell Dobash

Criminology, School of Law
University of Manchester, UK

Canada
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OVERVIEW

Murder in Britain Study

Comparisons of:

- Male-Male Murder (MM) & Intimate Partner Murder (IPM)
- Non-lethal violence against women (IPViolence) & IPMurder

Risk Factors for IPMurder

Comparison of two types of IPMurderers
(those with & without previous offences)

Issues for Risk Assessment
(for those with no known history of offending/violence)

Implications for Intervention
(need to 'capture' those outside usual risk assessment

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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

MURDER IN BRITAIN STUDY

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MURDER IN BRITAIN STUDY (funded by ESRC)



Objectives:

- study all types of murder,
- compare different types of murder
- improve understanding of pathways to murder & lifecourse of offenders
- examine contexts, situations and motivations

Focus on:

- Background (childhood & adulthood)
- Contexts & situations of murder
- Murder event
- Beliefs, orientations & cognitions
- Legal process, prison programmes, reflections on the event

Three sources of data:

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

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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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COMPARISON OF MALE-MALE MURDER & INTIMATE PARTNER MURDER

(MxM, n=424 men) & (IPM, n=106 men)

Brief summary of findings:

-Both M-M and IPM groups had numerous problems in childhood & adulthood (beyond general population) but these were less likely in the IPM group.

-The IPM group were more likely to have:

- a history of violence against women partners
- ongoing conflict/disputes with the victim
- previously used violence against the victim

- IPM group appear to 'specialize' in violence against women partners

COMPARISON OF INTIMATE PARTNER MURDER & NON-LETHAL ASSAULT

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Comparison of Intimate Partner Murder (IPMurder) & Non-lethal assault (IPViolence)



Data from:

- Murder in Britain Study n=106 men

compared to

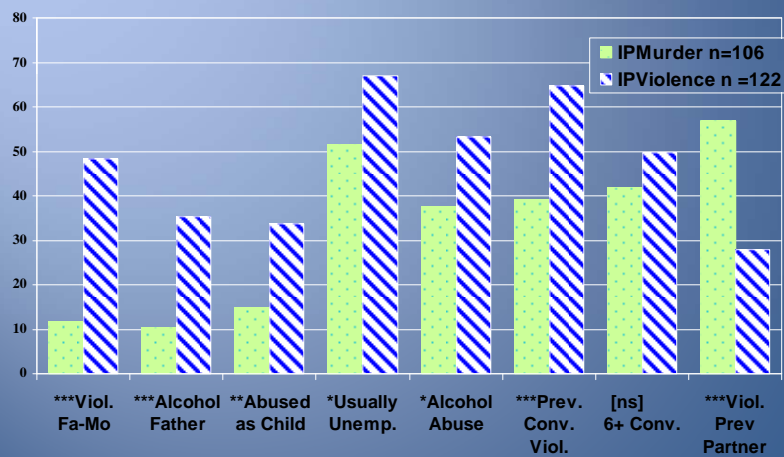
- Violent Men Study - Evaluation of Criminal Justice Interventions

(funded by Home Office & Scottish Office) n=122 men

In-depth interviews with 122 men & 136 women partners of violent men

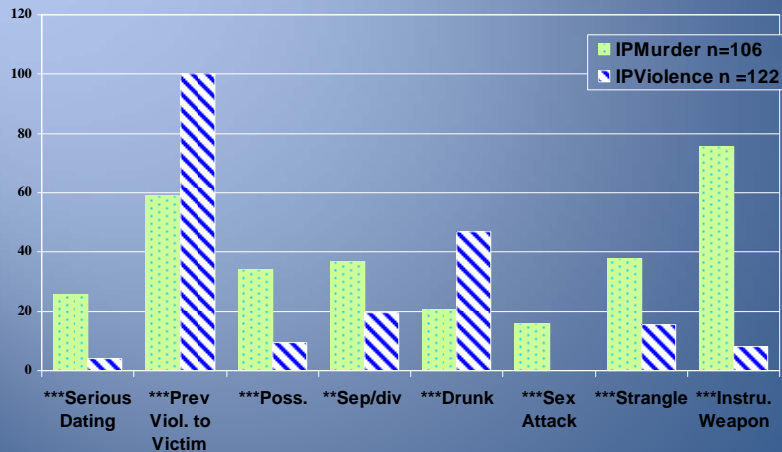
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Lethal and Non-lethal Violence Childhood and Adulthood



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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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COMPARISON OF INTIMATE PARTNER MURDERERS

WITH PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS
&
WITHOUT PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS
'OUT OF THE BLUE'

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Comparison of Two Types of IP Murderers

IPM with no previous convictions (**NoConvict**)
&
IPM with one or more conviction for any crime (**PrevConvict**)

NoConvict	n= 25	24%
PrevConvict	n=79	76%
Total	104 men (2 excluded from analysis)	

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Comparisons of (**NoConvict**) & (**PrevConvict**)

Similarities and Differences:

Childhood (Caretaking, Abuse, Behaviour problems, Offending)

Adulthood (Education, Employment, Relationships)

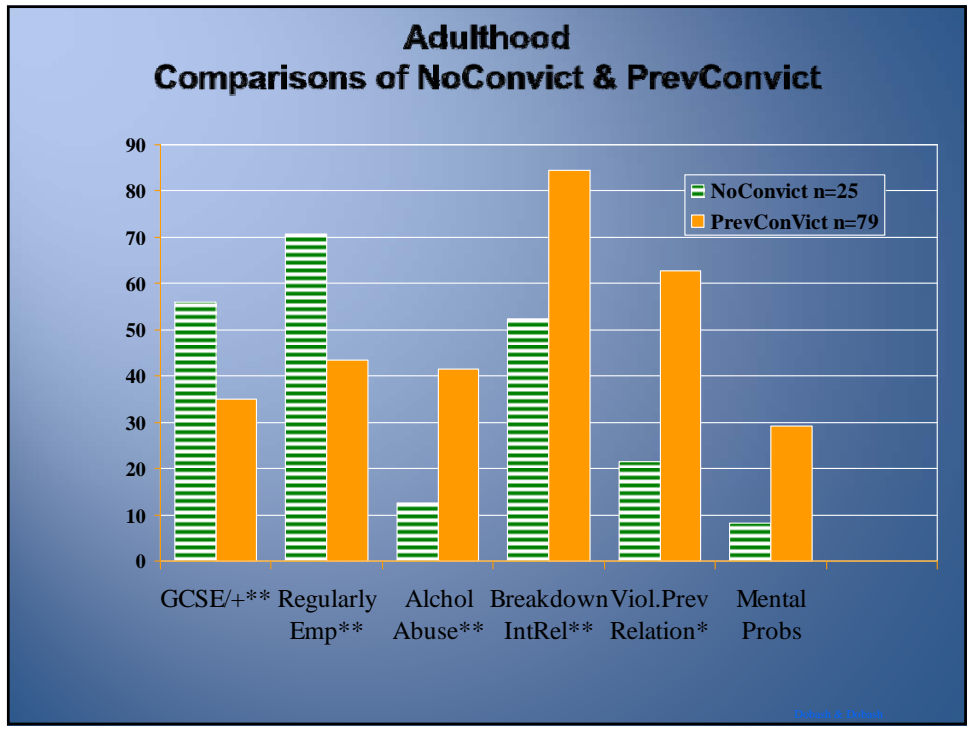
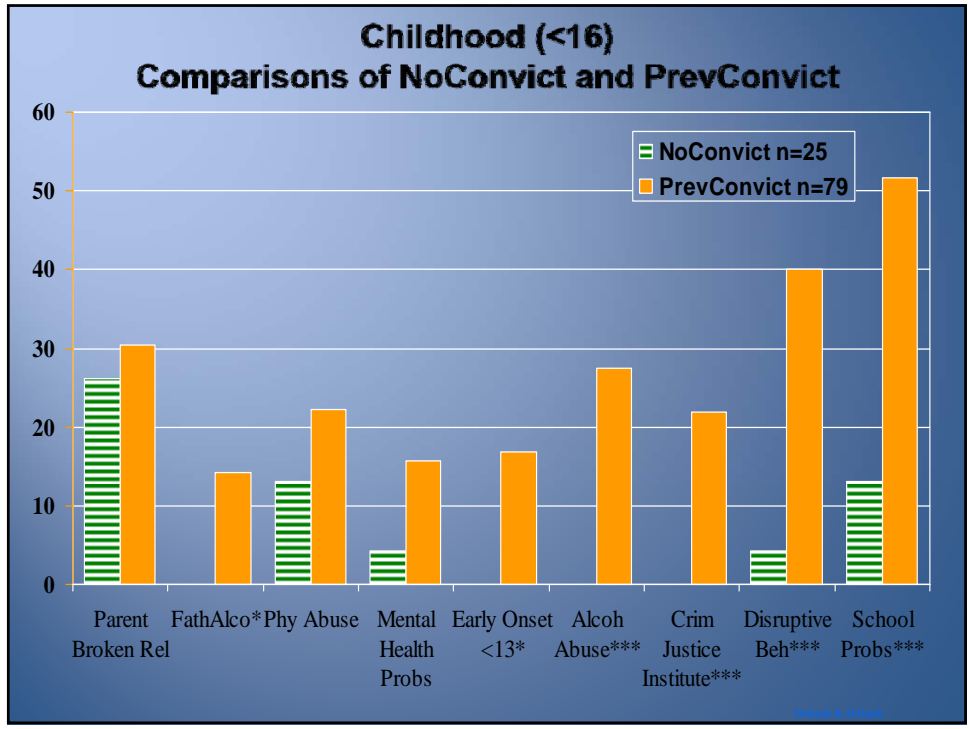
Previous Offending (Violence and prison)

Murder Event & Circumstances at the time (age, substances, weapon, previous violence to victim, conflict, type relationship)

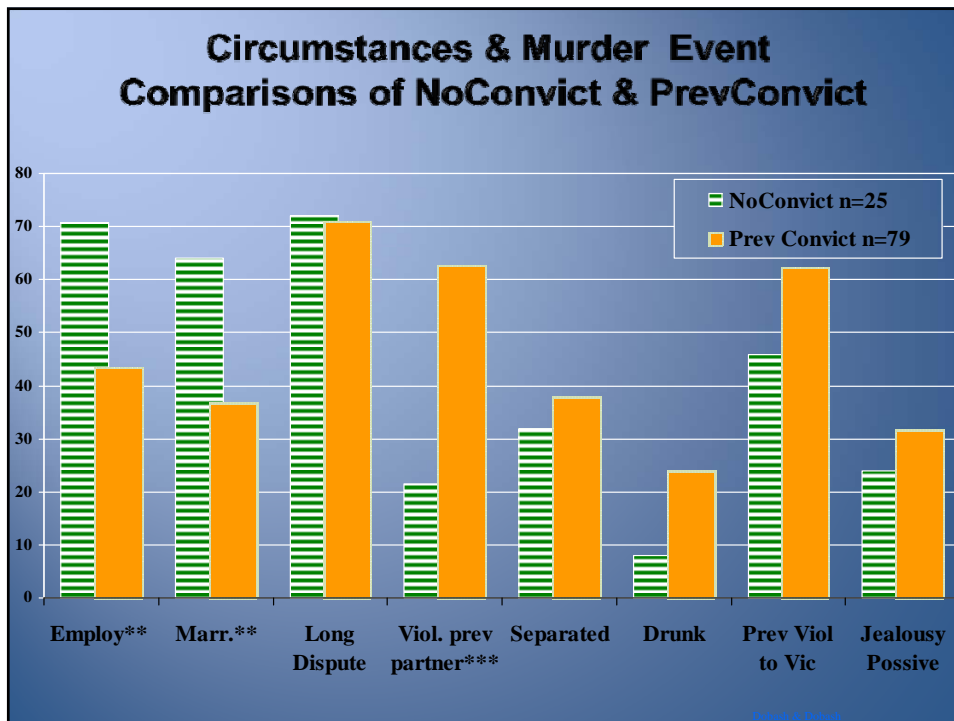
In Prison (Adjustment, Violence, Self harm, Discuss murder, Courses)

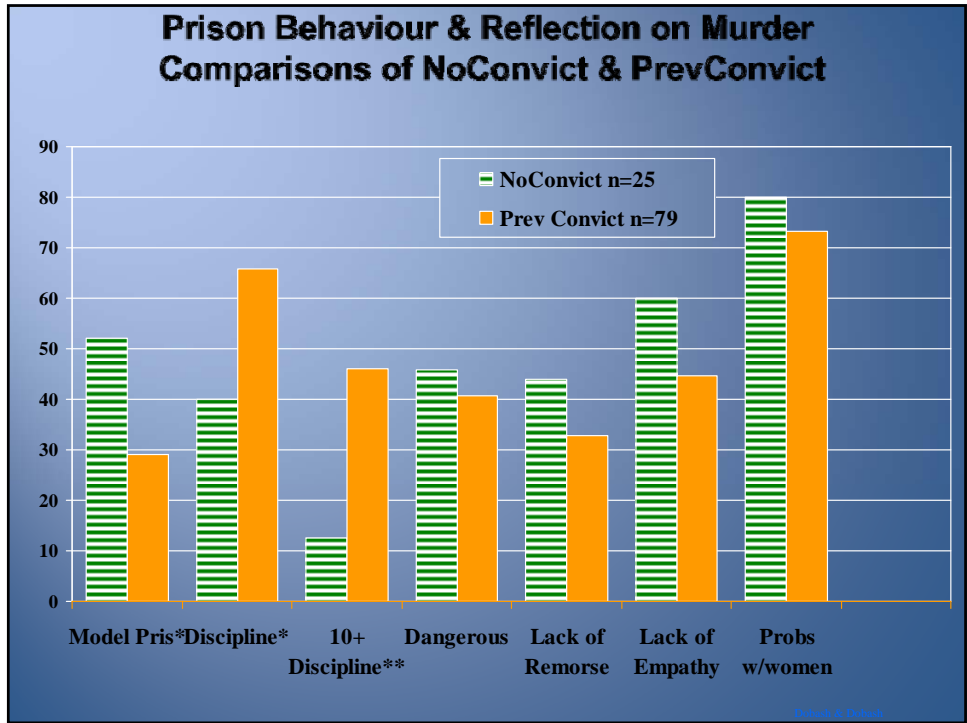
Issues identified by Professionals after imprisonment (Mental health, Problems with women, Risk to public, Denial, Empathy, Remorse)

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Criminality - PrevConvict Group		
Nature of Previous Conviction (at least 1)	n	%
Public Order (drunk & disorderly)	18	22.8%
Minor larceny (shoplifting)	36	45.6%
Major larceny (burglary, robbery)	44	55.7%
Drugs (possession)	5	6.3%
Serious sexual offense (rape, attempted rape, sexual assault)	8	10.1%
Firearms offence (illegal possession)	10	12.6%
Fraud (usually claim unemployment benefits while working)	16	20.3%
Assault (including grievous bodily harm)	46	61.0%
Homicide (manslaughter, murder)	4	5.1%
Other (breach of bail, failing to appear in court)	18	22.8%
CRIMINAL CAREER:	---	---
6+ convictions	--	66.1%
Those with conviction for violence, usually against a woman	--	63.0%
Served at least one prison sentence	--	49.4%





Differences – the two types of IP Murderers

NoConvict group	PrevConvict group
Childhood: mainly conventional few problems	Childhood: problematic considerable adversity behavioural problems 20% Early onset offenders
Adulthood: more conventional Educational qualifications less substance abuse no offending regularly employed, married <i>general support 'out of the blue'</i> <i>...but</i> 1/2 -breakdown in prev. relationship 1/5 -viol. in previous relationship	Adulthood: persistent offender limited education alcohol abuse chronic offending unemployed, cohabiting violence in previous relationship

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Similarities – two types of IP Murderers No Convict & Pre Convict



Circumstances & Situations

- Ongoing dispute (often long duration)
- Previous Violence to Victim
- Jealousy/Possessiveness
- Separation
- Sexual Attack

Orientations

- Problems with women
- Assessed as Dangerous
- Lack of Remorse
- Lack of Empathy

Implications



Sudden Homicide ('snap' theory) - little evidence
Instead, long standing disputes/conflict

Importance of Contextual and Situational Factors:
Specific to intimate relationships (separation, jealousy & possessiveness)

'More conventional' men are a problem for risk assessment
many are not likely to come to the attention of agencies because have no previous offending/convictions

Similarities in cognitions across both groups suggest

- a feminist explanation of men who appear to 'come out of the blue' (similar attitudes & orientations toward women partners among both groups)
- relevance of feminist based cognitive-behavioural programmes for offenders



Re-assessing Risk Assessment

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Assessing Risk

Risk Assessment Instruments

SARA –Spousal Assault Risk Assessment - 20 areas

Danger Assessment [*for women*] - 15 items

MOASIC 20 - 48 questions

DVI -Domestic Violence Inventory – 170 items

What is assessed/predicted?

offending, assault, serious violence, homicide

Approach to assessment

professional judgement - actuarial

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Who assessed as a risk? Who should receive intervention?



Interventions for men should be aimed at:

... a broad band of offenders within CJS

and attempt to:

... 'capture' those who do not come to attention of CJS

More 'conventional' men present a problem for risk assessment because they are unlikely to come to attention of anyone dealing with this violence

... and risk assessment tools unlikely to identify

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