



World Conference on Prevention of  
Family Violence  
Banff, Alberta

# Police Response to Domestic Violence: Incident Collection Analysis

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Prince Edward Island

October 26/05



# Prince Edward Island Fast Facts



- Population 142,000
- Primary industries are farming, fishing and tourism
- Smallest province in Canada measuring 4 - 40 miles in width and 140 miles in length
- Rural policing is provided by 3 districts of the RCMP and urban policing is provided by 4 Municipal Police departments
- Since 1995, the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention has been mandated to implement a provincial strategy on family violence prevention, chaired by the former Lieutenant Governor Hon Marion Reid, and reporting directly to the Premier.

# Prince Edward Island Police Jurisdictions



# Stratford man is charged with slaying former spouse

RCMP discover woman's body after responding to second 911 call on Sunday morning.

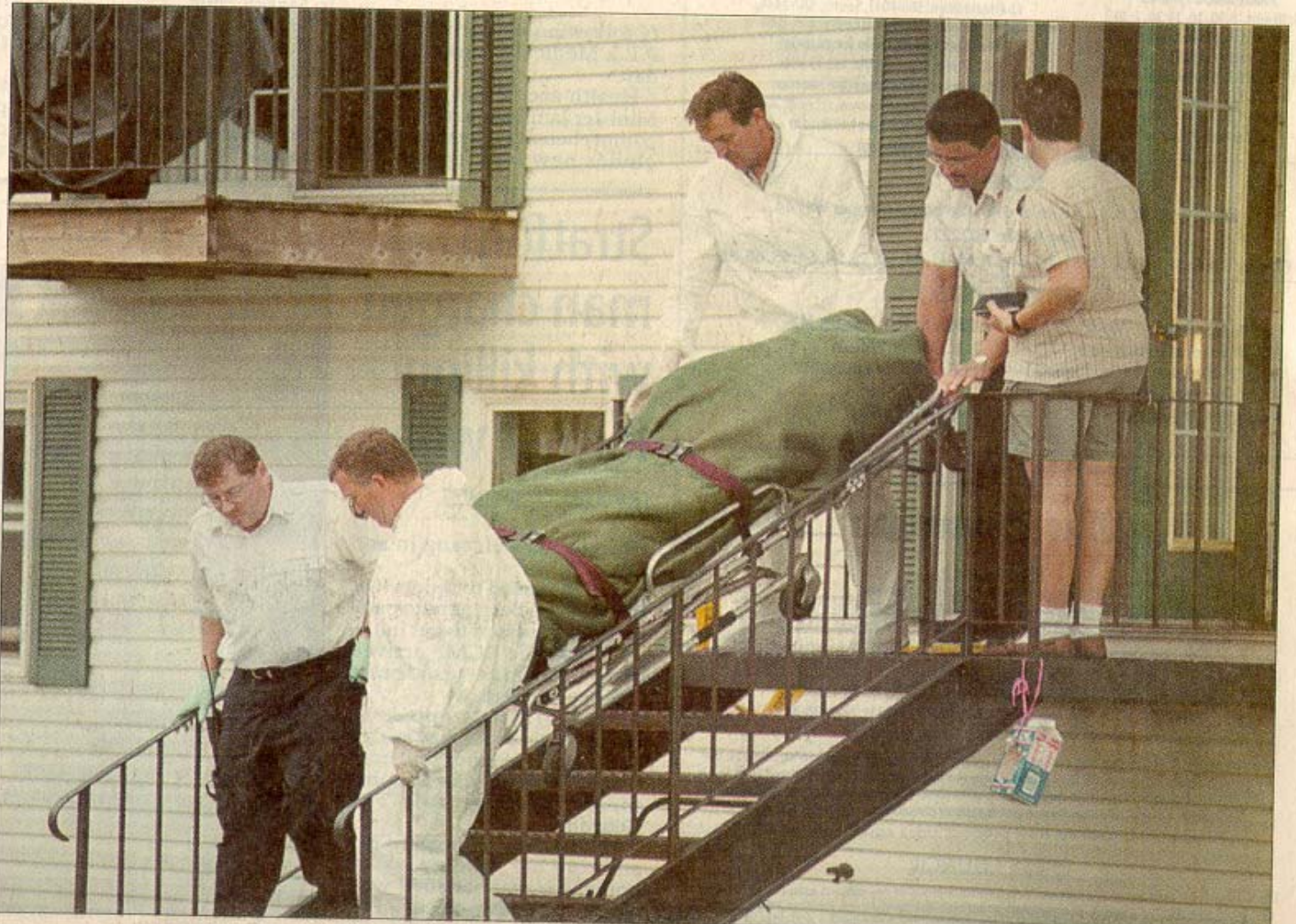
STRATFORD — A 53-year-old Stratford man, Barry James Bradley, has been charged with first-degree murder in connection with the brutal slaying of his former common-law wife.

Deborah (Debbie) Holmes, 46, was found dead in her Mutch Drive apartment Sunday morning at approximately 6:45 by officers of the RCMP responding to a 911 call.

An autopsy was performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Monday to determine the exact cause of death, but Cpl. Richard Thibault of the RCMP said it was not known when the results of that autopsy will be made known to police.

Bradley made a brief court appearance Monday before a justice of the peace and was remanded into custody until his next court appearance July 16.

RCMP confirmed Monday that Holmes had had a restraining order against Bradley in the past but there was no restraining order against Bradley at the time of the murder and no probation mandated stay away order.



The body of Deborah Bayne Holmes, 46, of Stratford is removed from the apartment where she was found dead Sunday. Bradley has been charged with first-degree murder.

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BRIAN MCINNIS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Debbie Holmes**, 46, of Stratford, was found dead in her apartment Sunday morning.

# Background

**Dec 1998**

**"Factors Associated with Police Response to Domestic Violence on PEI" report - Monitoring Study of Victims of Family Violence Act, Brown**

**Dec 2000**

**Kim Byrne, domestic homicide - Cardigan**

**July 2001**

**Deborah Holmes, domestic homicide - Stratford**

**Summer/Fall  
2001**

**Public Demonstrations / Community Consultations**

**Public pressure on RCMP for current statistics on domestic violence calls reported to police**

**PEI Association of Chiefs of Police ask the Family Violence Consultant to complete a review of domestic violence reported to police for a one year period**

# Membership

## PEI Association of Chiefs of Police

- **Commanding Officer RCMP "L" Division**
- **Chief, Charlottetown Police Dept**
- **Deputy Chief, Charlottetown Police Dept**
- **Chief, Summerside Police Services**
- **Chief, Kensington Police Dept**
- **Chief, Borden-Carleton Police Dept**
- **Chief Firearms Officer**
- **Director of Prosecutions**
- **Justice Policy Officials, Office of the Attorney General**
- **Executive Director, Atlantic Police Academy**
- **Correctional Services Canada**
- **Dept of Fisheries & Oceans**
- **Emergency Measures Organization**
- **Dept of Fisheries, Aquaculture, & Environment**
- **Highway Safety**



# Police File Review 2002 Process



- All RCMP and Municipal files Jan1/02 - Dec 31/02
- Criteria selection determined to include 4 primary codes only and one secondary code:
  - AA00-70 - All Assault Categories
  - AG01 - Child Protection Act
  - AC41 - Criminal Harassment
  - AC61 - Other Criminal
  - DQ32 - Family Violence
- Manual PIRS screen of every file in above categories
- Paperless files included
- 604 files identified for review inclusion
- Each file reviewed via PIRS, SPURS, or hard copy as required

# Police File Review 2002

## Considerations / Limitations

- Domestic violence refers to violence committed by legally married, common-law, dating, separated and divorced partners ages 15 - 70 years and older
- Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding and overlapping
- Quantitative and qualitative data collection
- Results based on documented information only
- Categories of "Unknown" / "Not Available" data gaps
- 2002 data which does not capture recent training

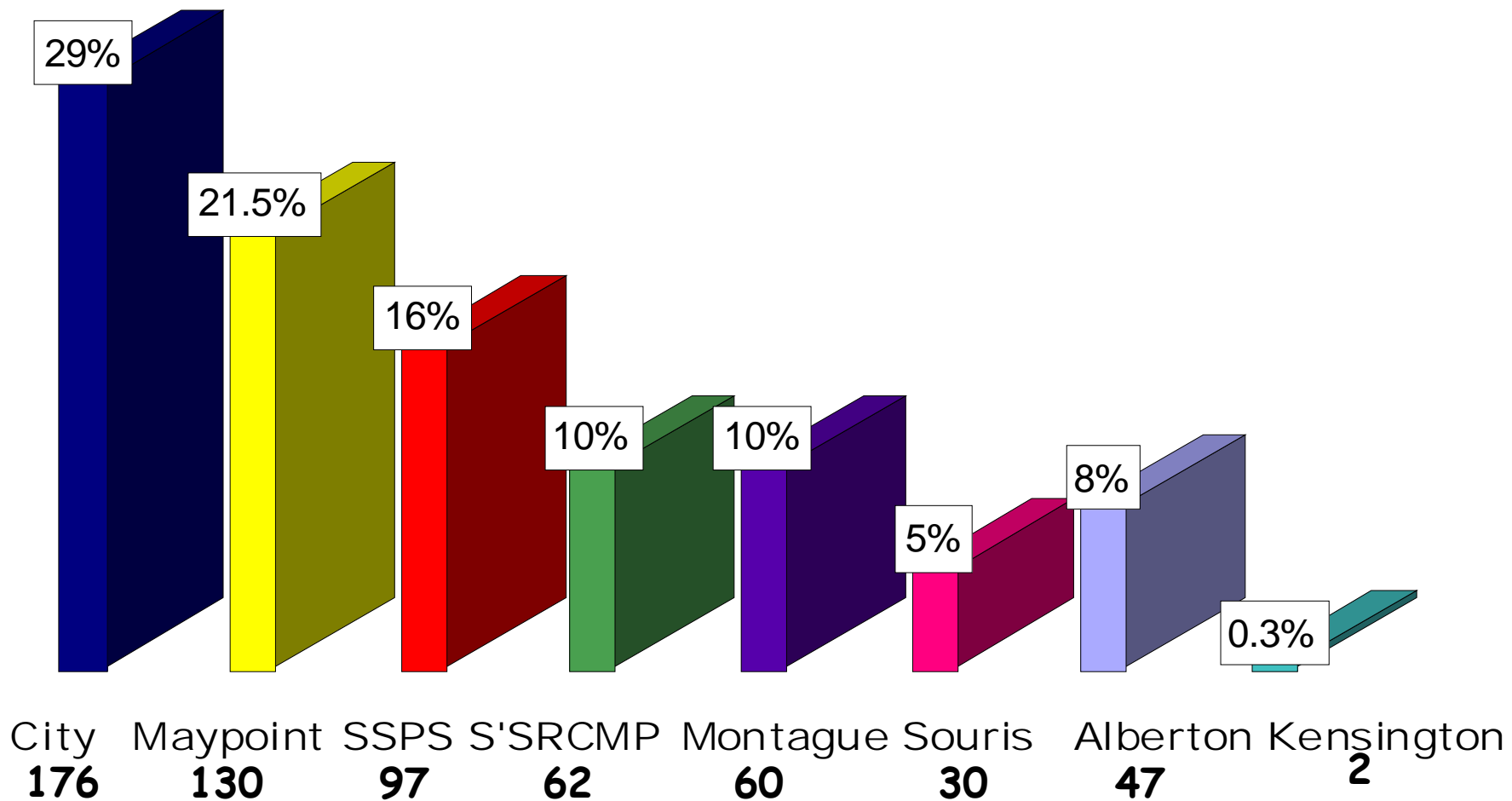
# Jurisdiction

2002 - 604 Police DV files

Prince 208

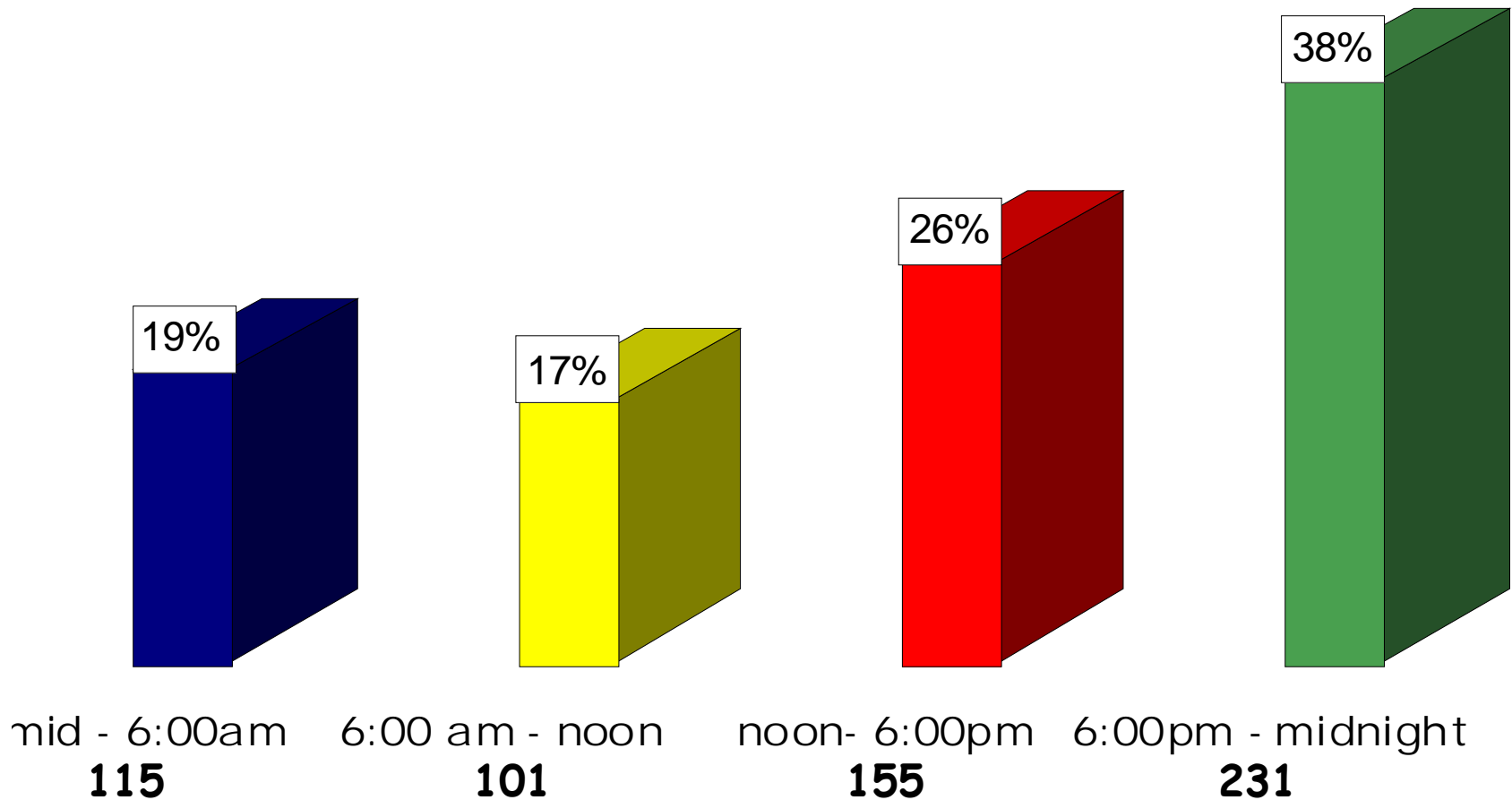
Queens 306

Kings 90



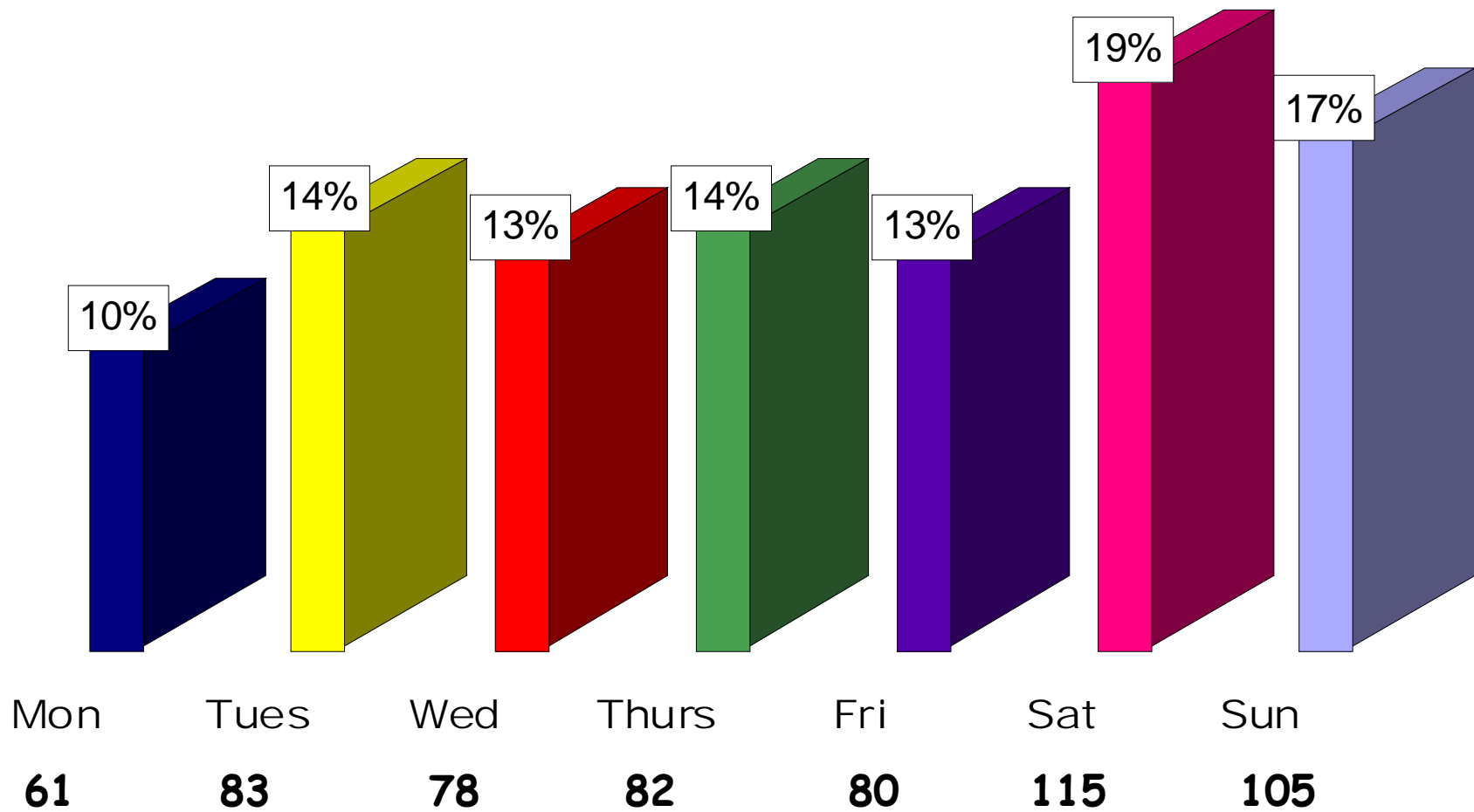
# Time of Report to Police

**2002 - 604 Police DV files**



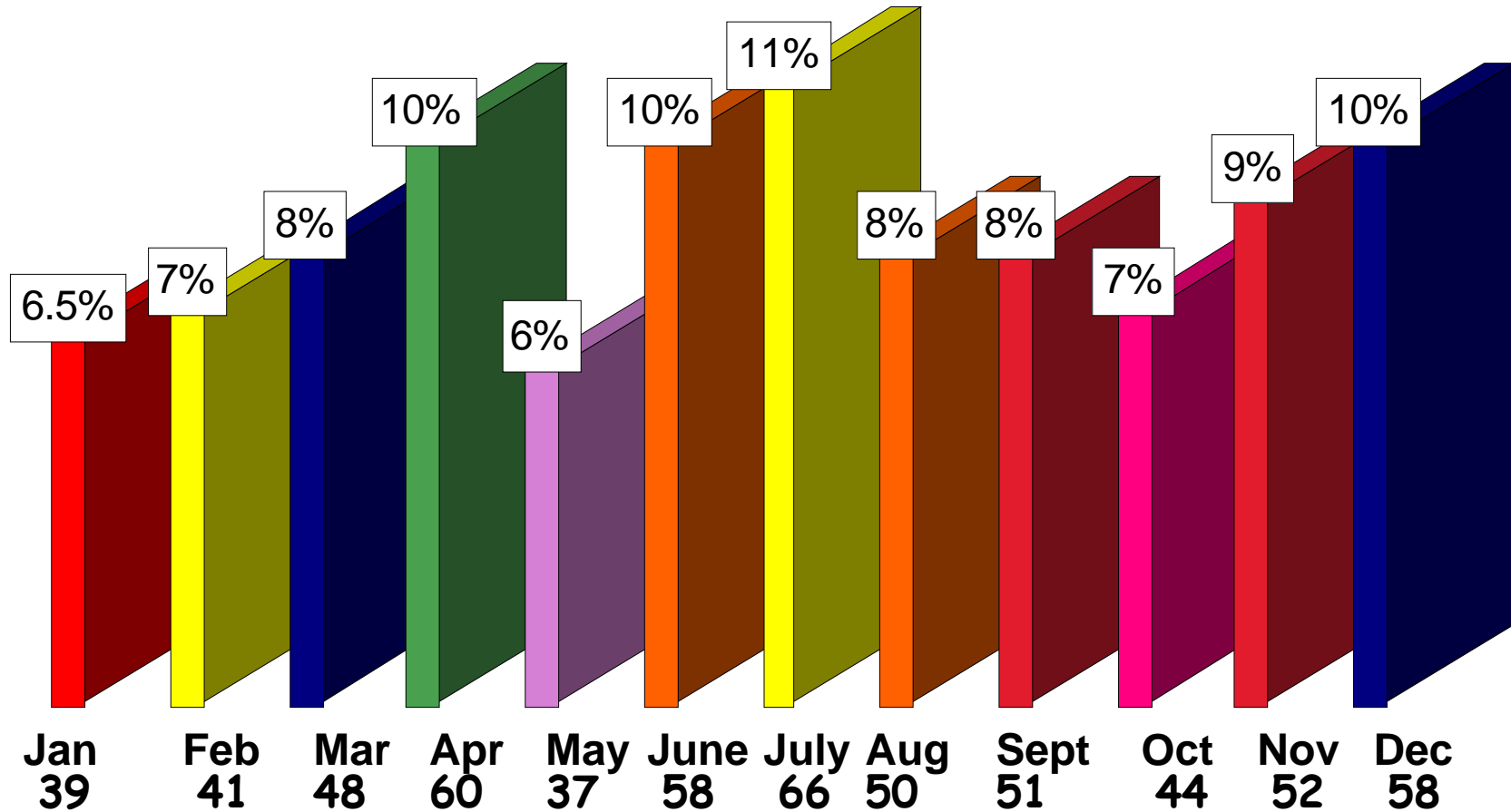
# Day of Report to Police

2002 - 604 Police DV files

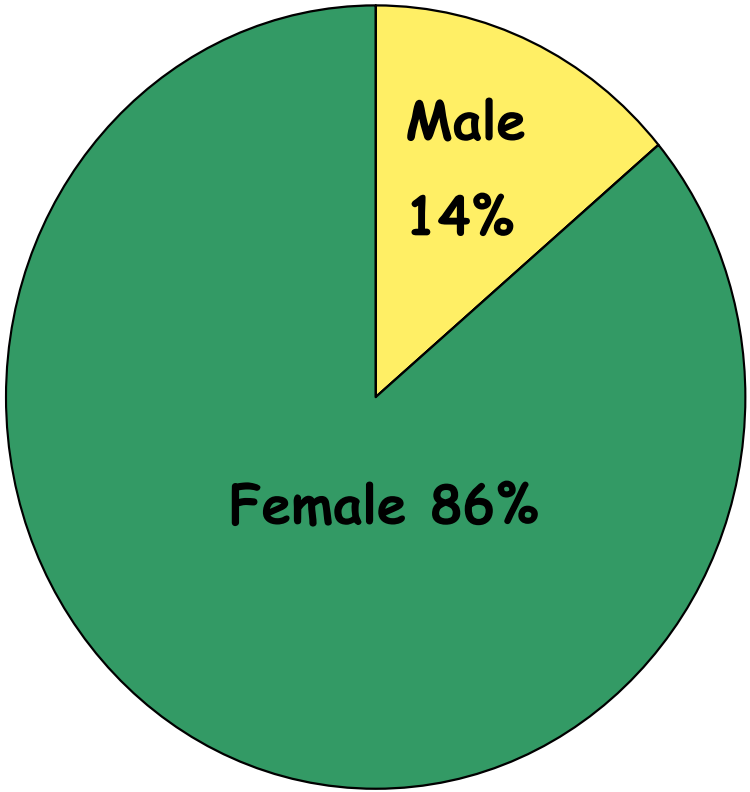


# Month of Report to Police

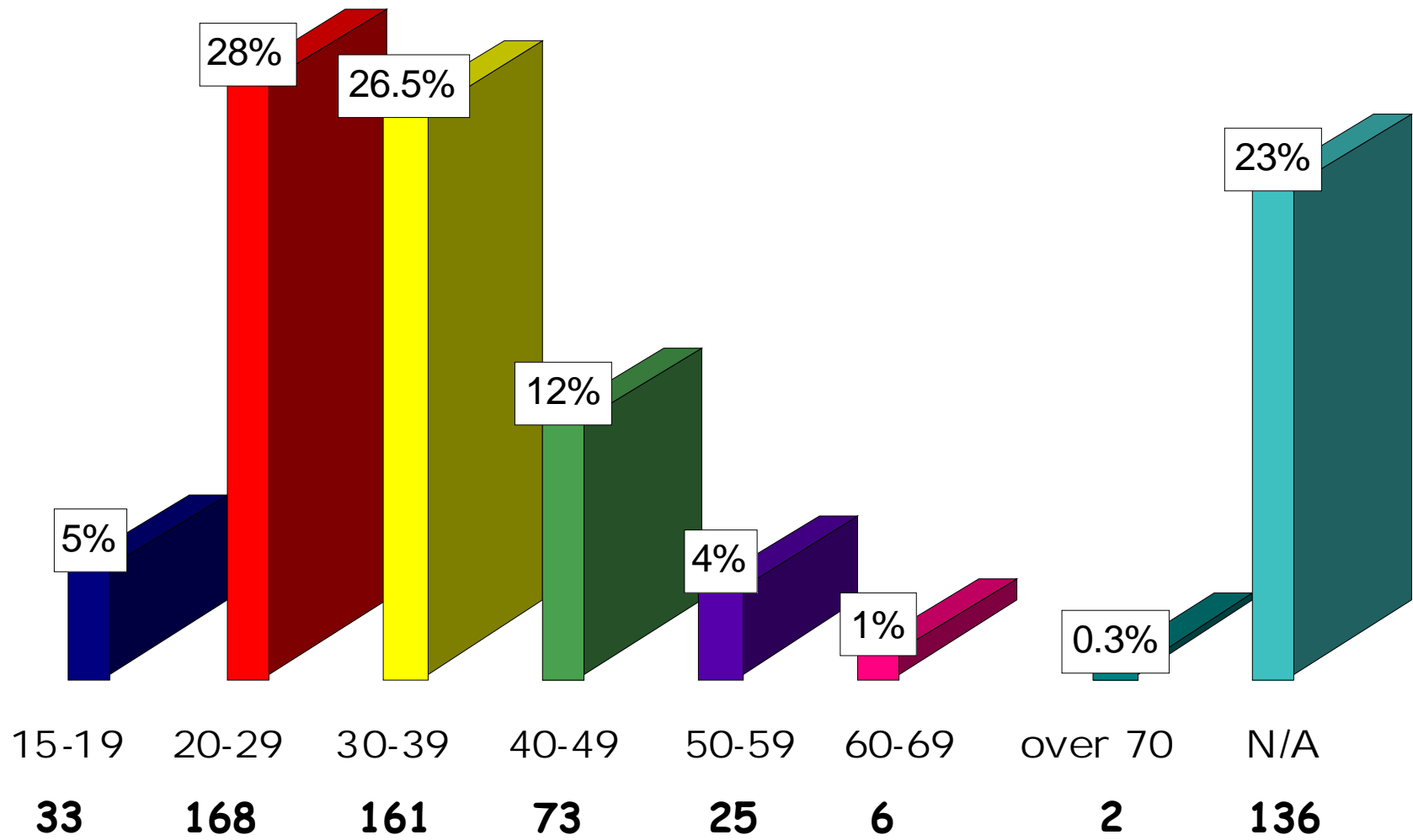
2002 - 604 Police DV files



# Victim Gender



# Victim Age

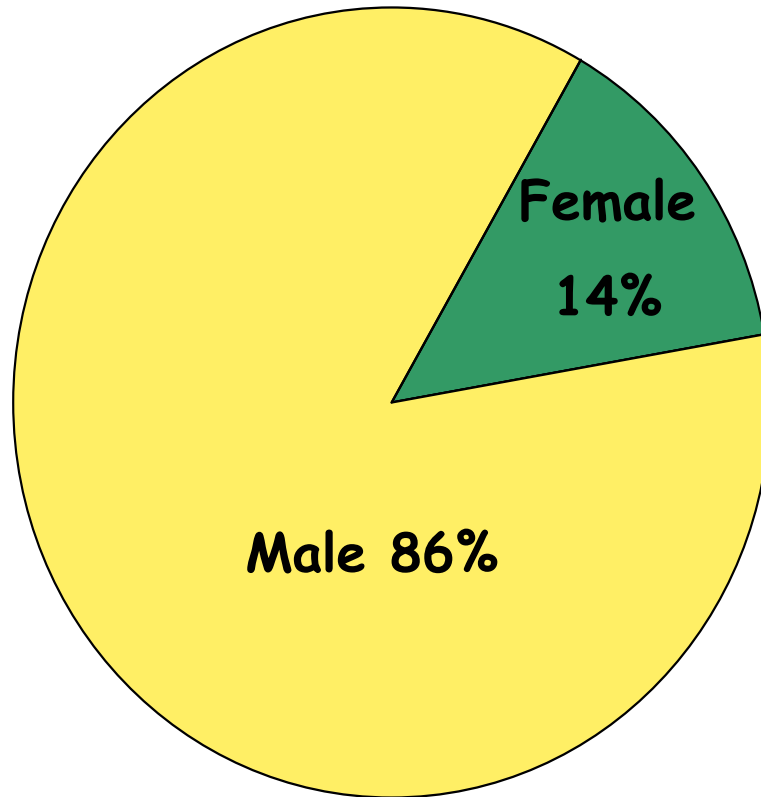


# Victim Comments

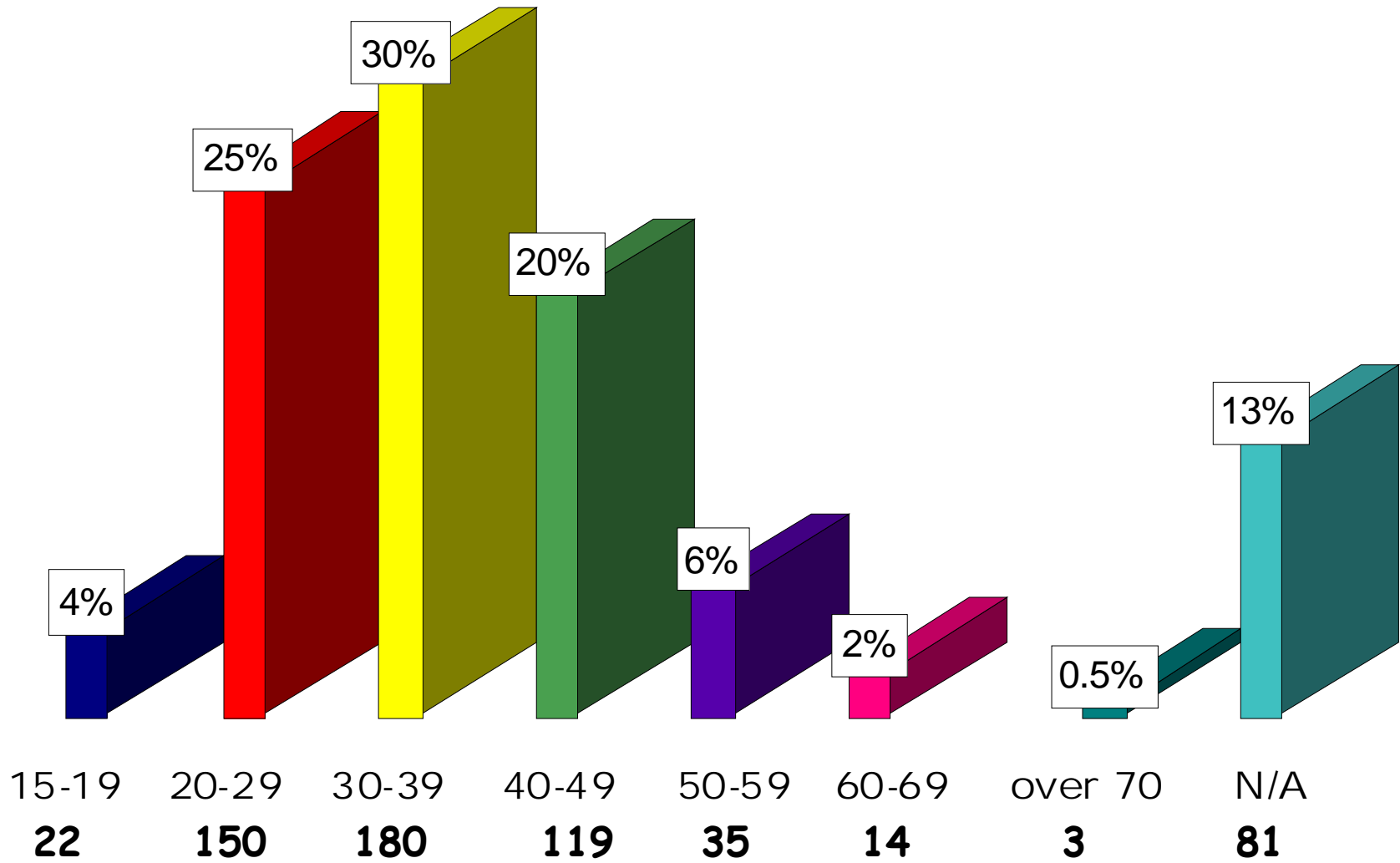


- Victim told police she is in a violent relationship but said she fears being alone more than she fears her spouse (physical and emotional abuse)
- Victim started to give statement and then stopped saying accused trucks for a living and she didn't want to take any action to jeopardize that. Victim refused to cooperate or give a statement.
- Victim said she never called a week ago (held a knife to her throat) because she didn't want the accused to loose his job or have a criminal record.
- Victim 4 mos pregnant (red welts on face/neck), fearful of husband and didn't want him charged for hitting her.

# Offender Gender



# Offender Age

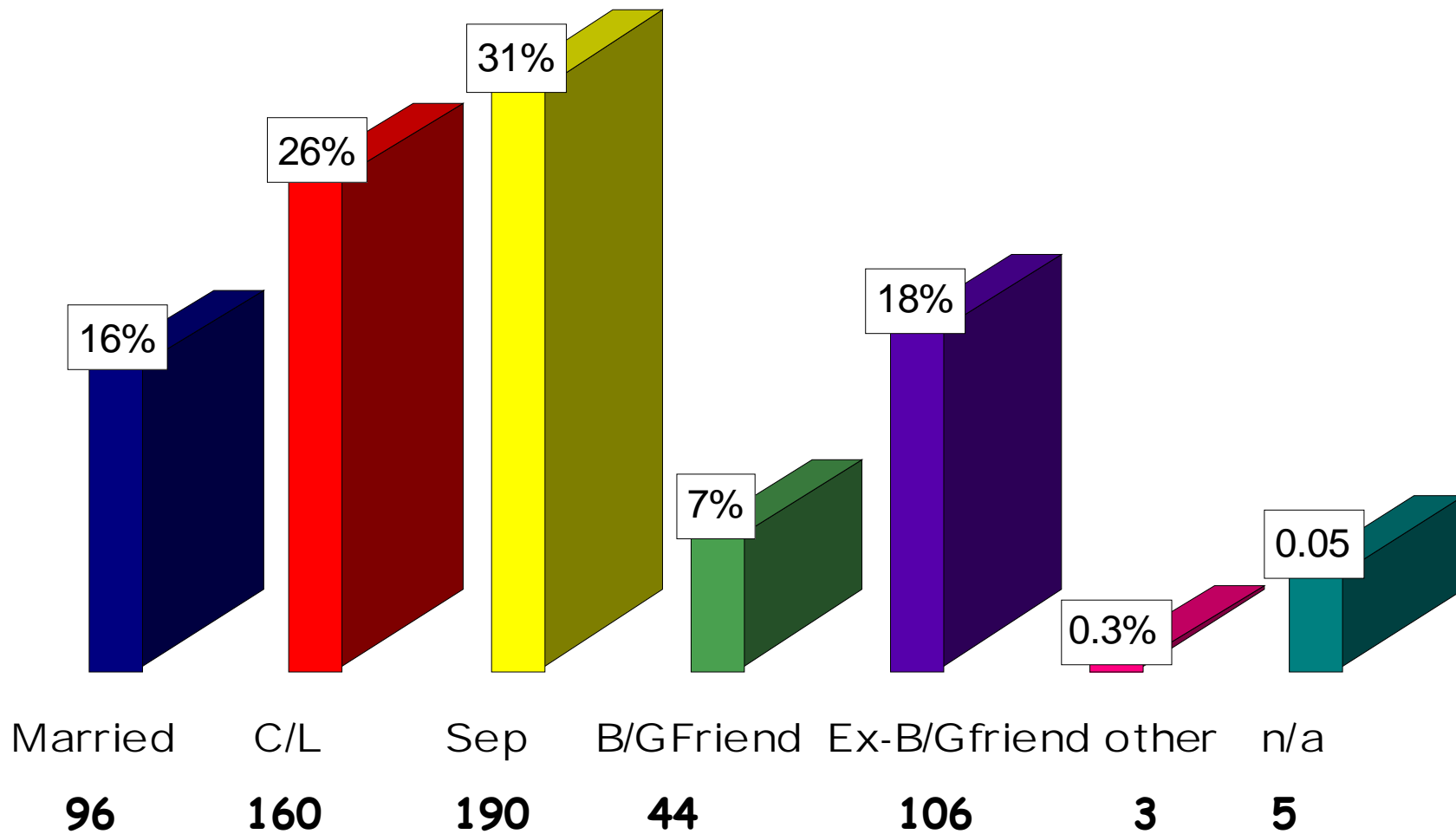


# Offender Comments



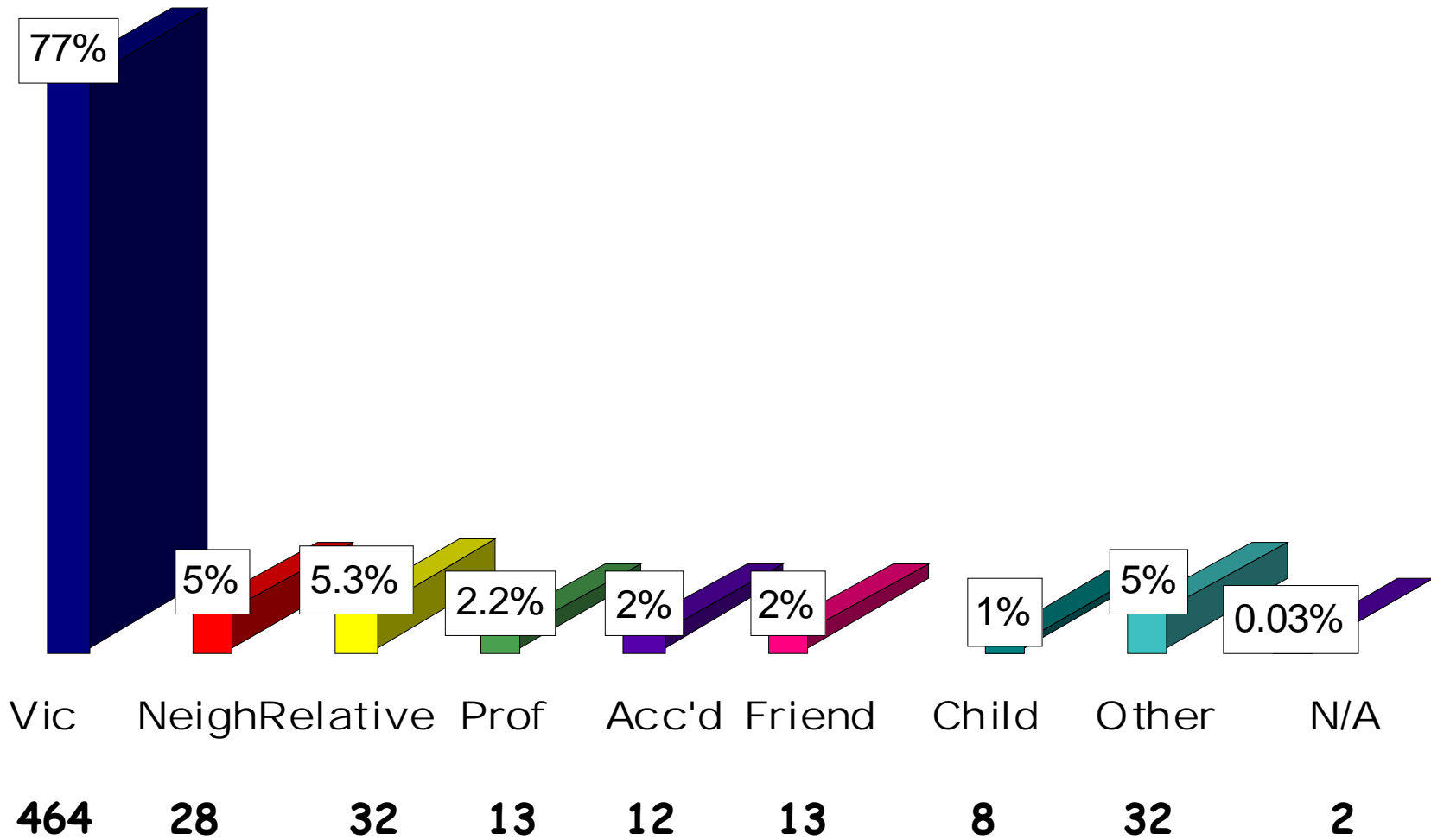
- "You are my woman. I own you"
- "If I can't have you, no one will"
- "Women make men do strange things (referring to Stratford murder). There are reasons why men blow away the women in their lives"
- "If you are going to charge me with assault again, I'll blacken both your eyes and punch your teeth out so they can't identify you"
- "You knew you deserved it don't you, now you know I'm the rooster in this hen house and you can stay and obey my rules or leave. I'll have you dead and myself gone. I should get a butcher knife and slit your throat"
- "I'll only get 10 yrs and it will be worth it. You're going to get a bullet in the head" (in front of terrified 3 & 4yr olds)
- "She's my woman. I've got a right to chase after her, to care for her, wouldn't you?"

# Relationship Status



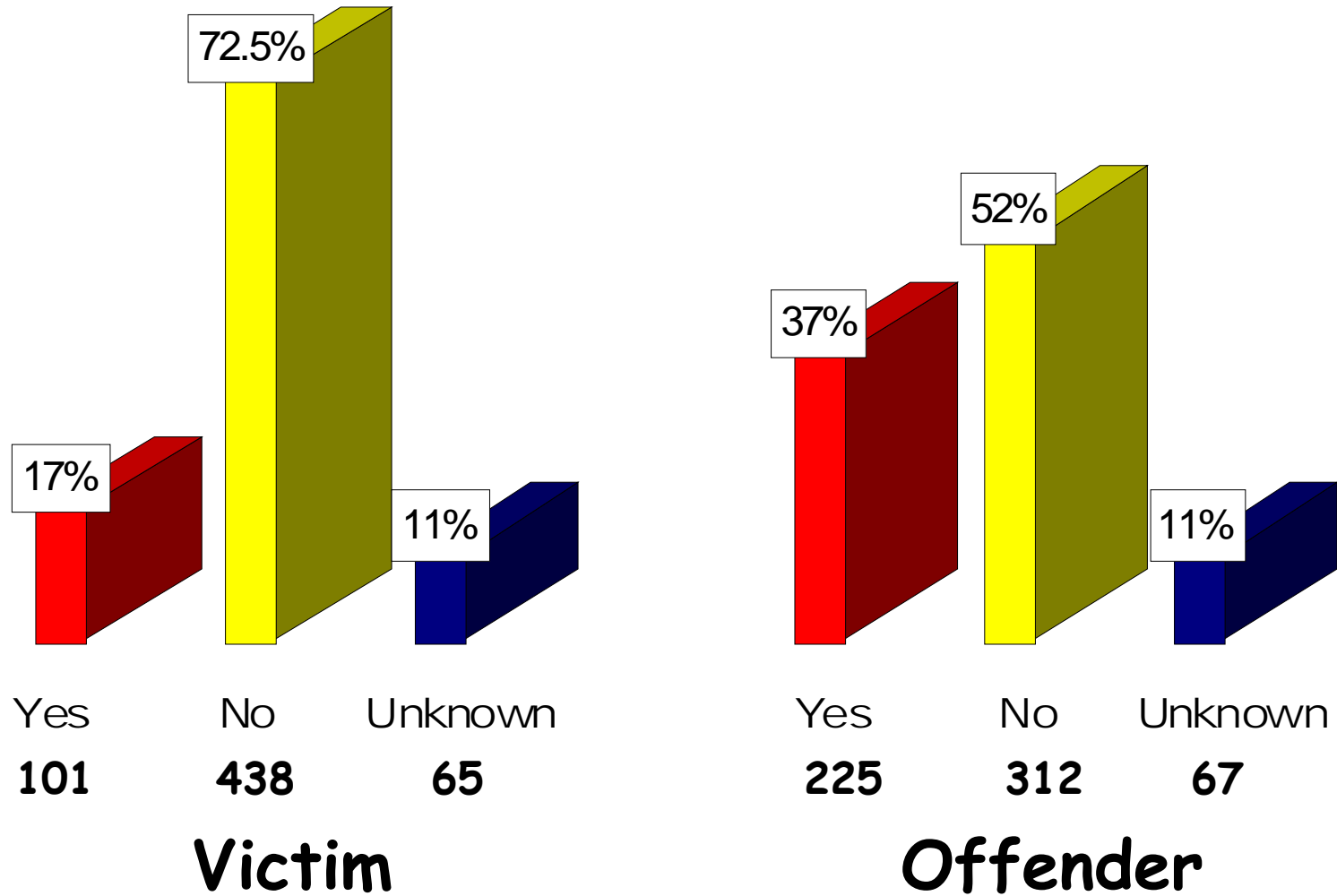
# Complainant Source

## 2002 - 604 Police DV files



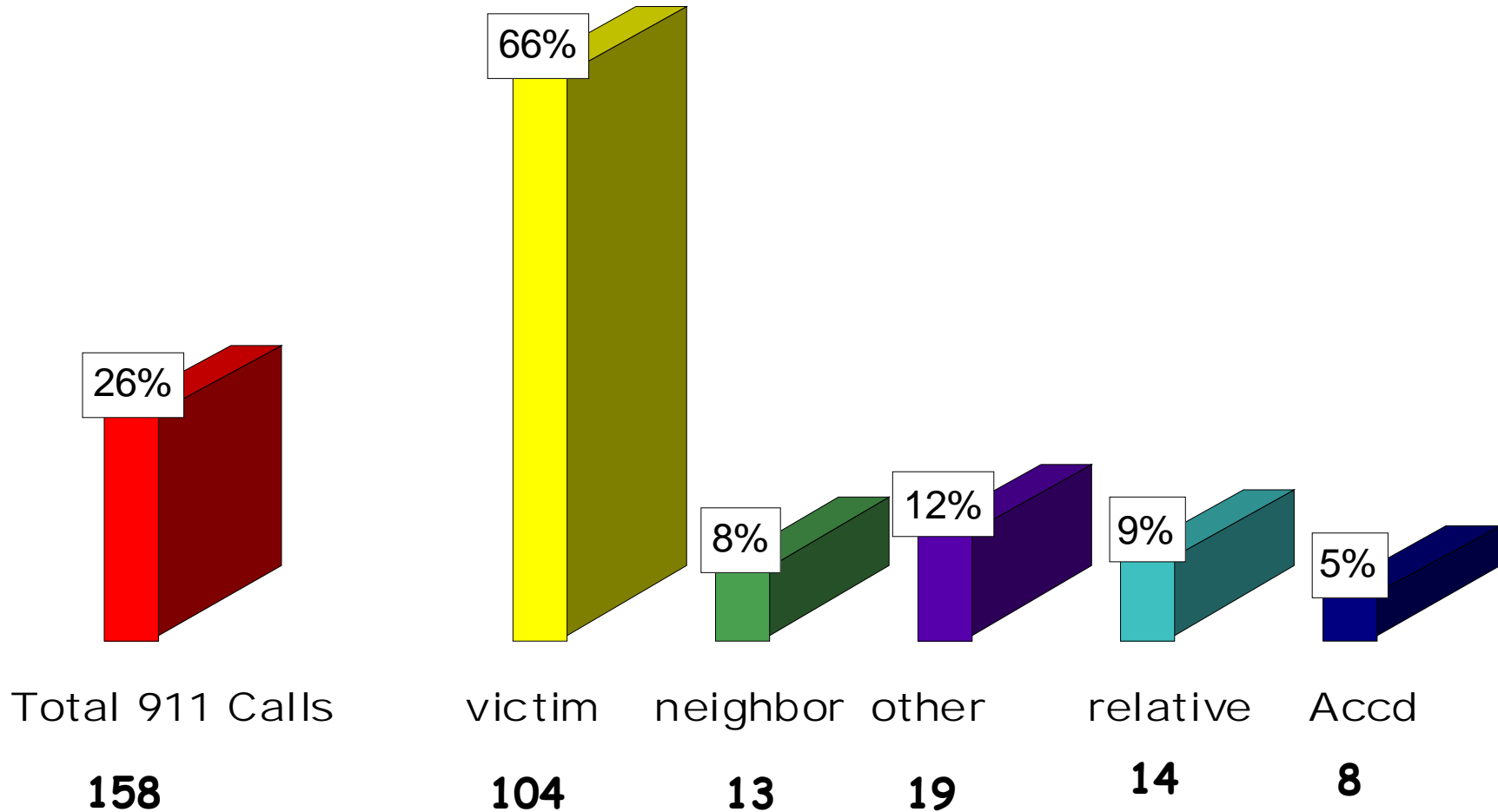
# Alcohol / Drug Present

2002 - 604 Police DV files



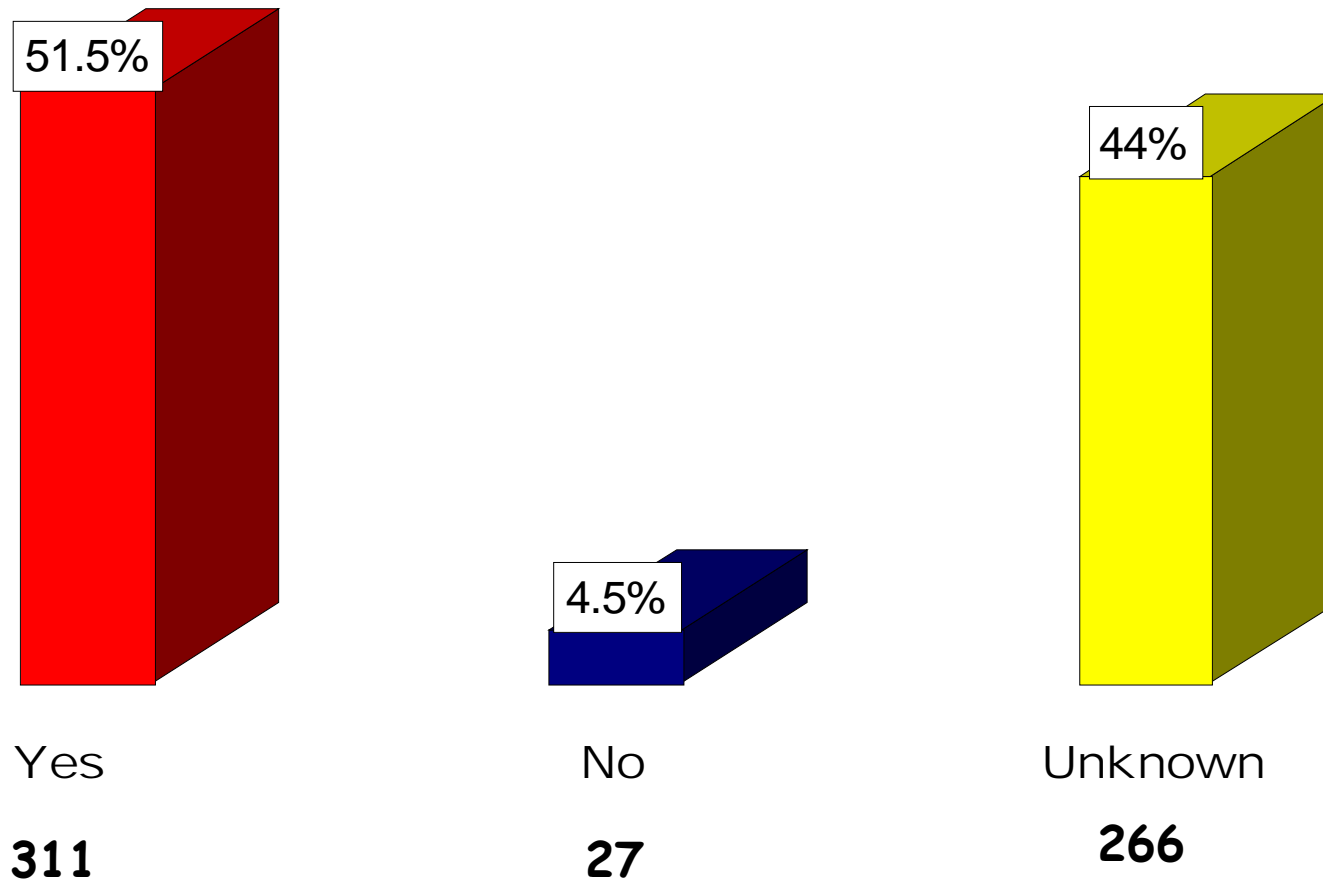
# Domestic Violence Calls to 911

2002 - Total 158



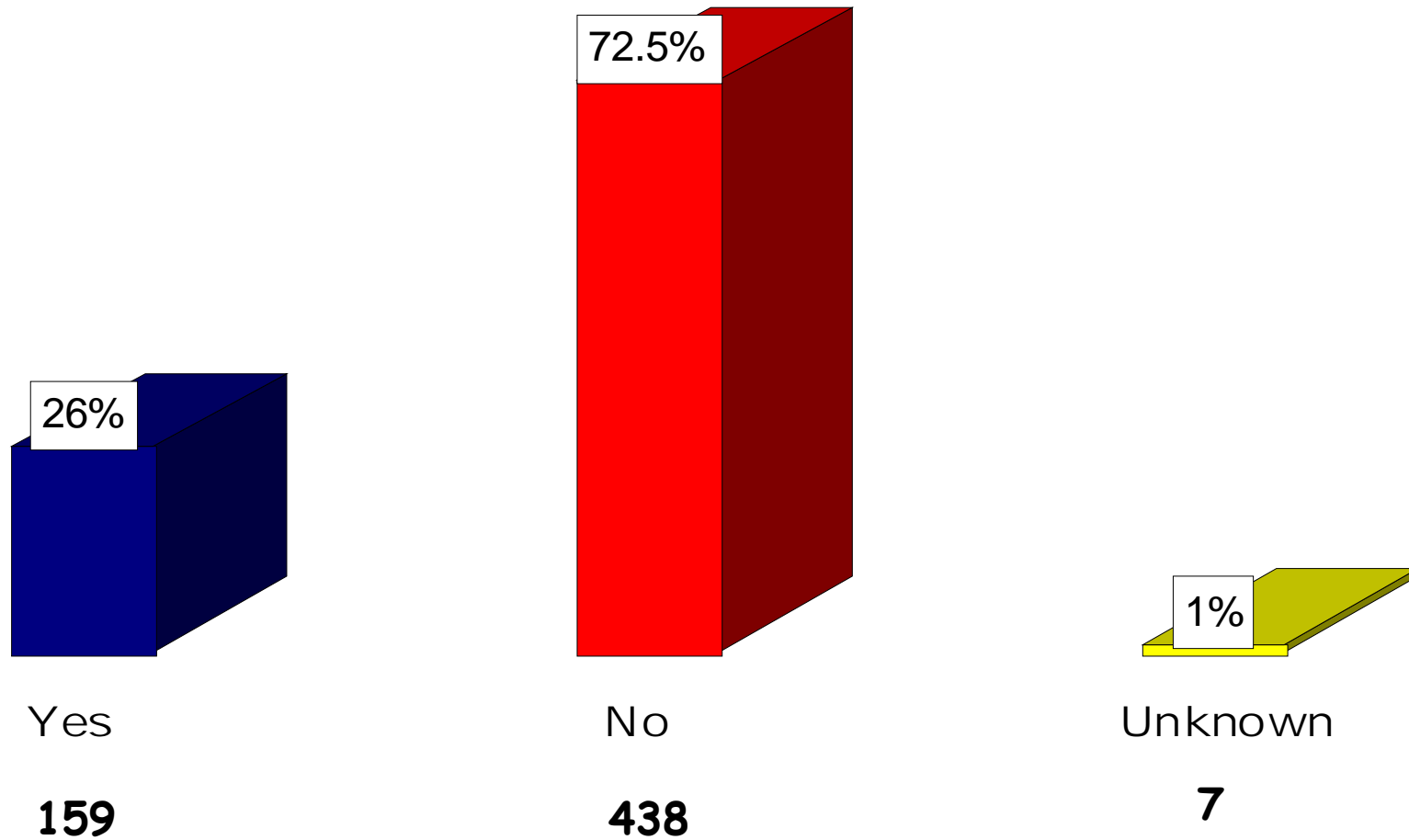
# History of Family Violence

2002 - 604 Police DV files

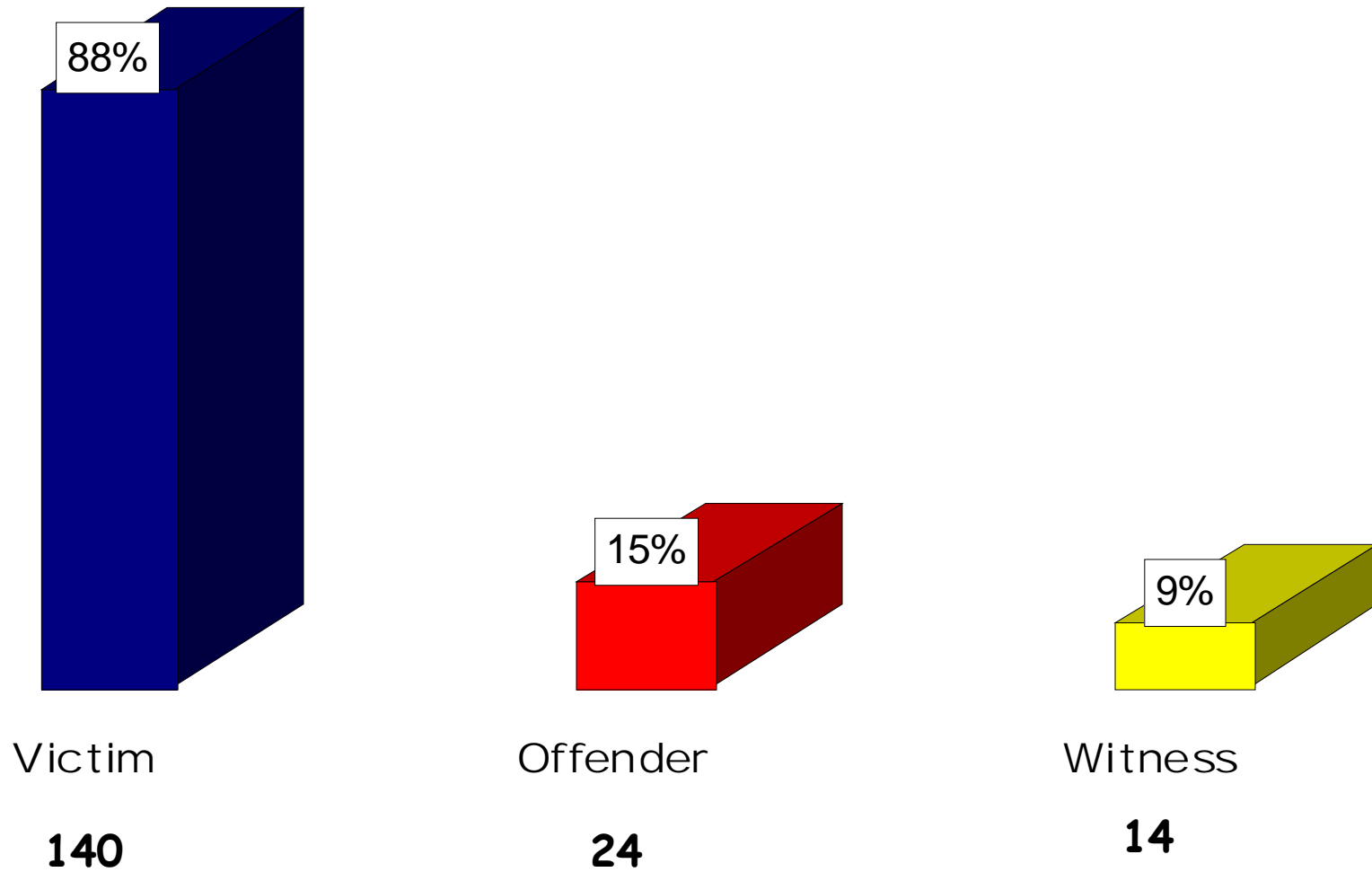


# Injuries Involved

2002 - 604 Police DV files



# Injuries - Total 159 files





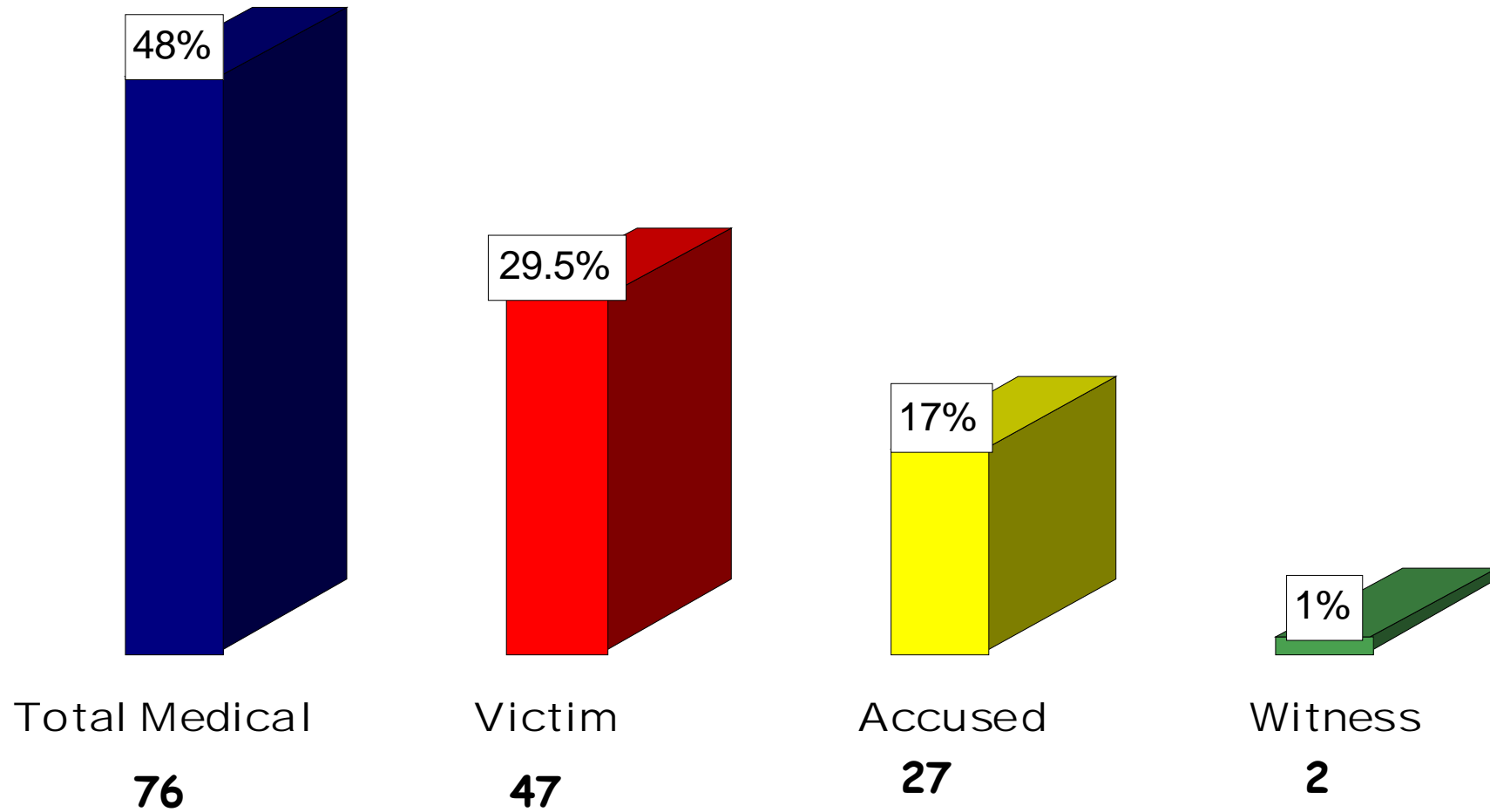
## Sample injuries



- Grabbed, punched, pushed face into open dishwasher door
- Punched, held knife to breast/chest/arm and threatened to kill victim
- Chipped tooth, bruises on arm/face, marks on neck, large amount of hair pulled from head, choked, hit head off patio door, etc.
- Fractured nose, swollen lips, multiple bruises and abrasions, punched repeatedly in head and facial area, grabbed head and banged into wall, shirt ripped from body and victim thrown to floor - children present throughout
- Neighbor heard yelling and child crying. Redness on face and scratches, pulled clumps of hair from victim, bruised ear, slapped on head twice, name calling
- Pushed, grabbed, fell on floor, ripped two phones out of wall so victim couldn't call for help

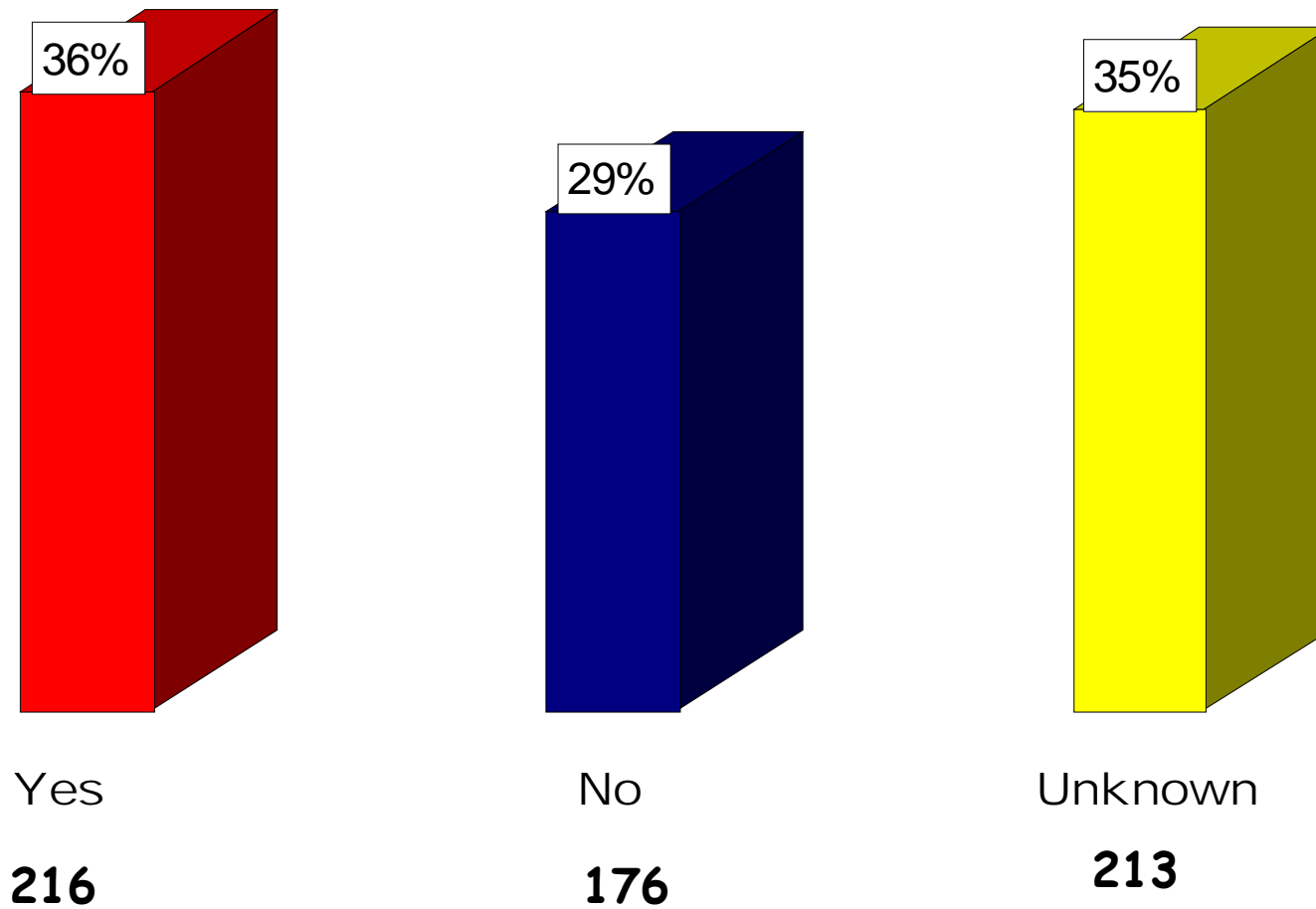
# Medical Treatment

2002 - 159 DV Files with Injuries Reported



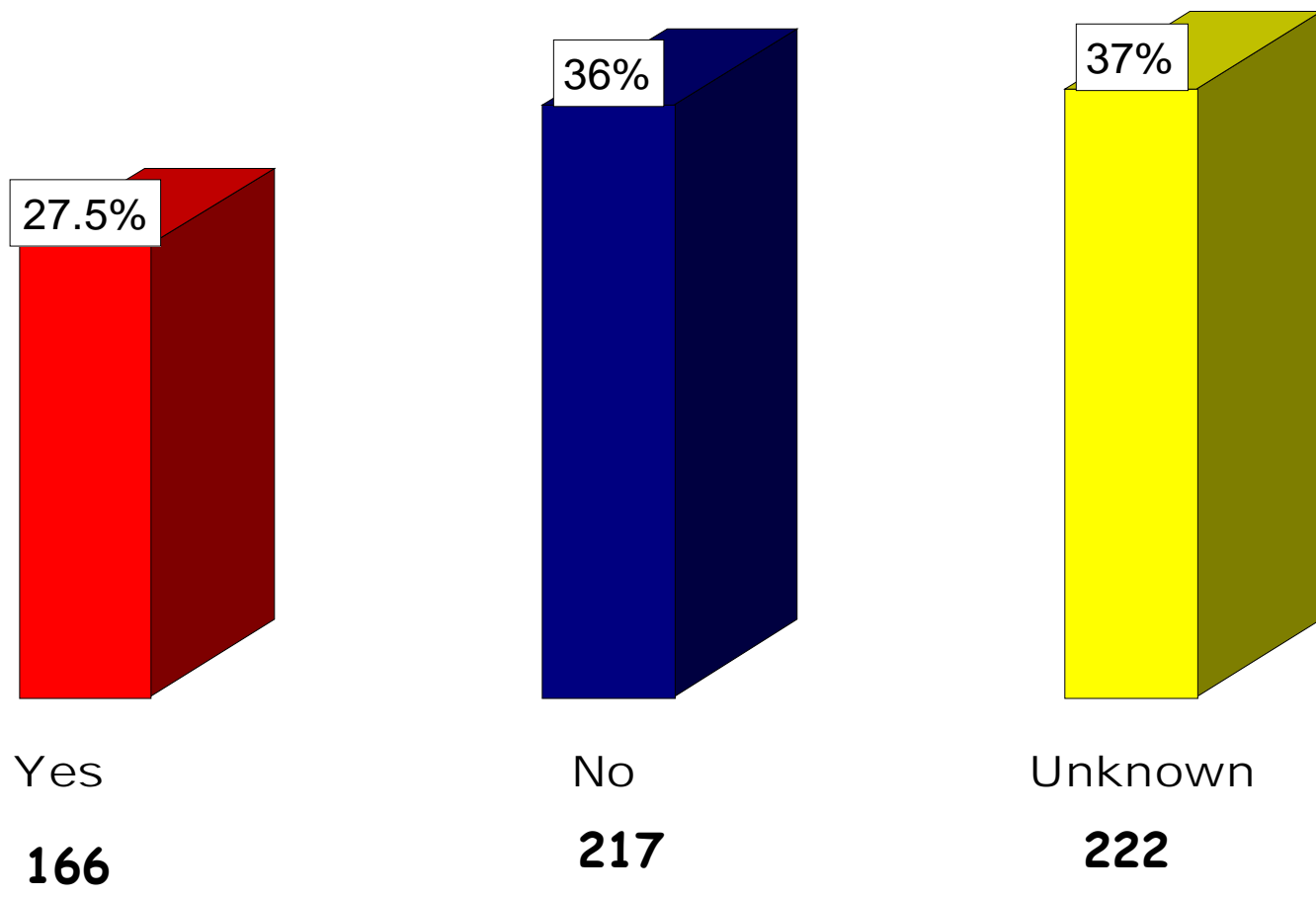
# Previous Record

2002 - 604 Police DV files



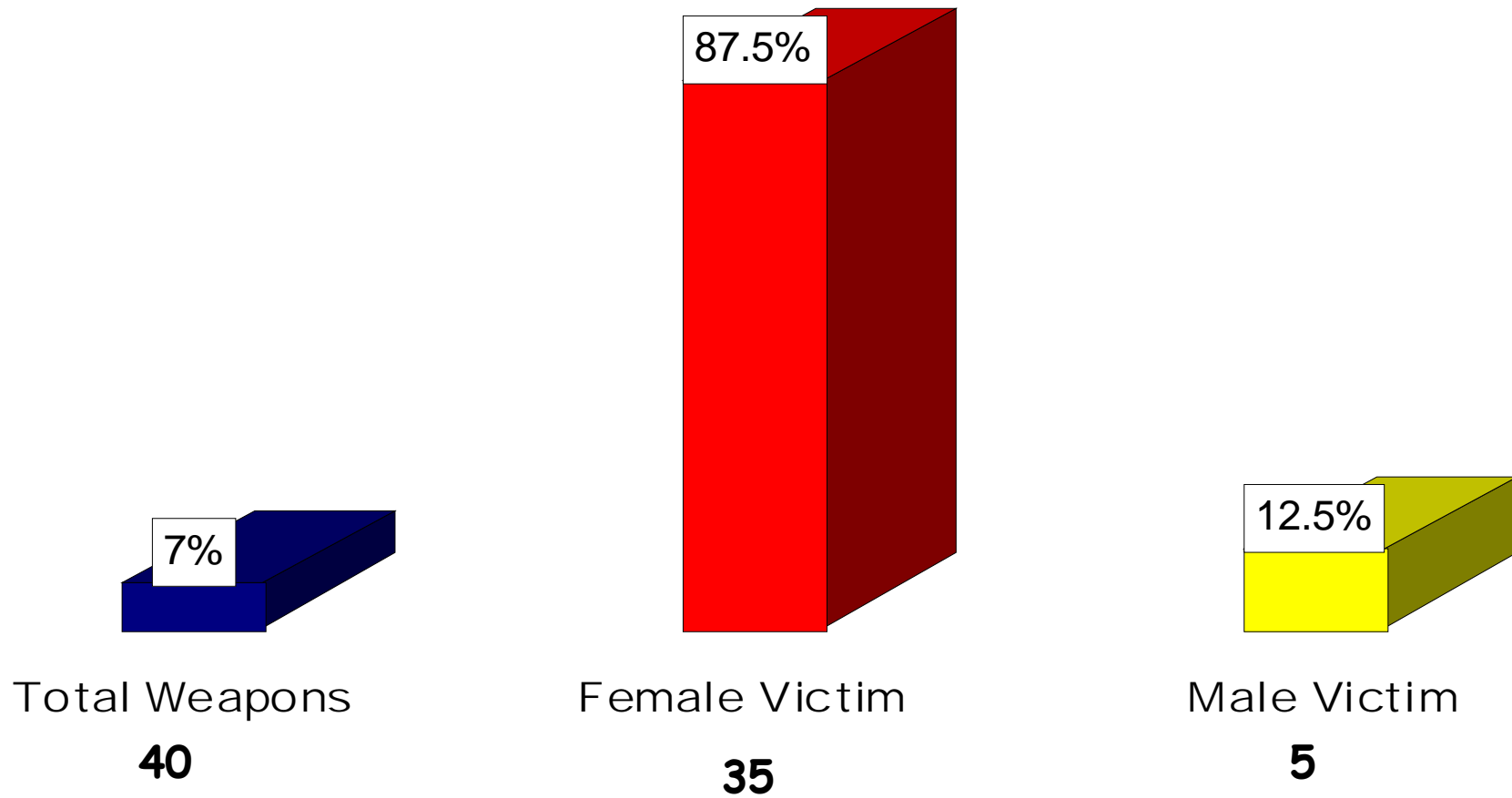
# Related Record for Violence

## 2002 - 604 Police DV files



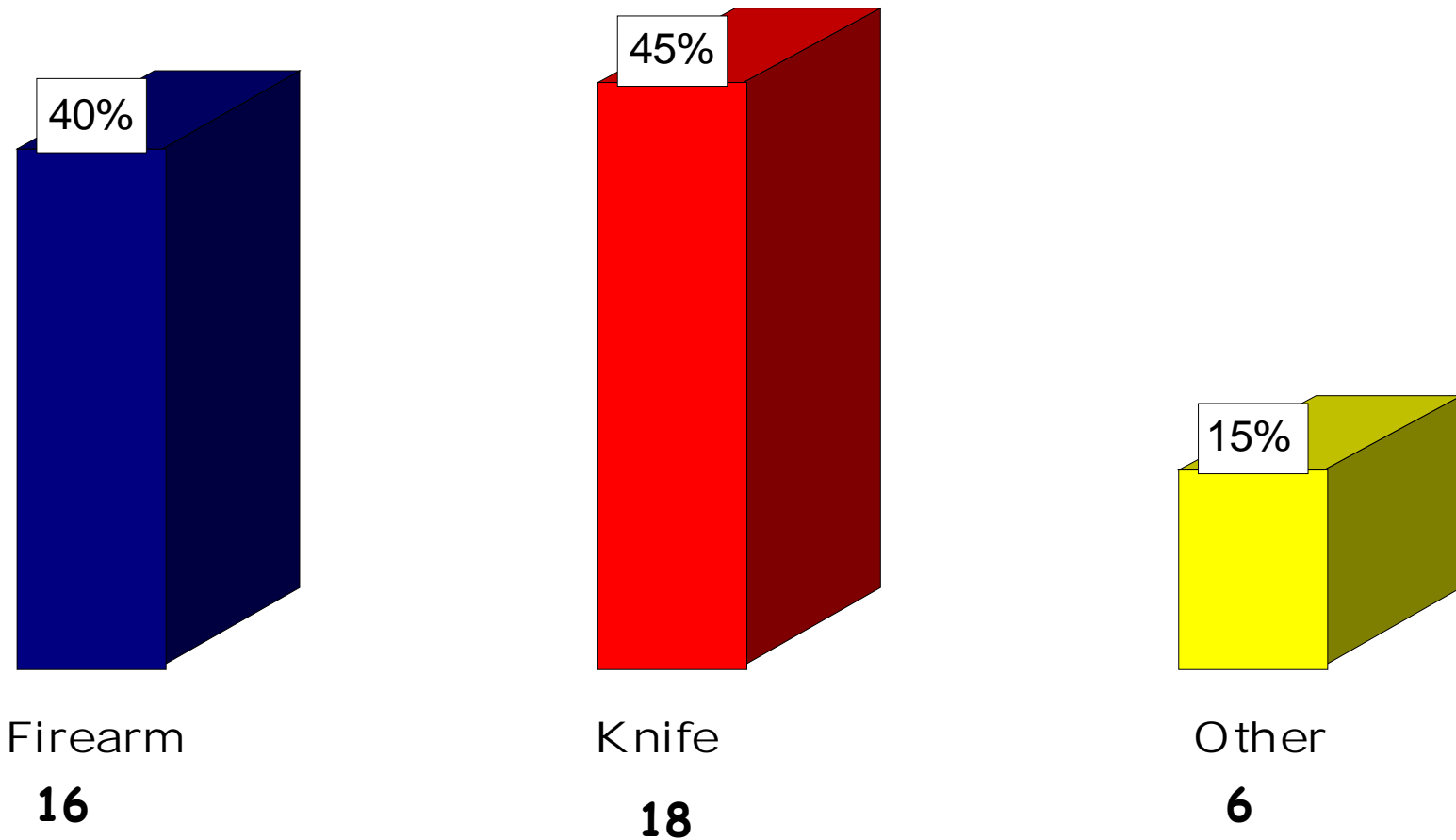
# Weapons

2002 - Total 604 DV Files - 40 Involving Weapons



# Weapon Type

## 40 Files Involving Weapons



# Weapons

- Weapons were involved in 40 cases of domestic violence reported to police in 2002 - 7%

- The primary weapon of choice is a knife



- Other weapons of choice include:



firearm  
baseball bat  
beer bottle  
hatchet  
cigarette



syringe



pipe

broom handle

rope

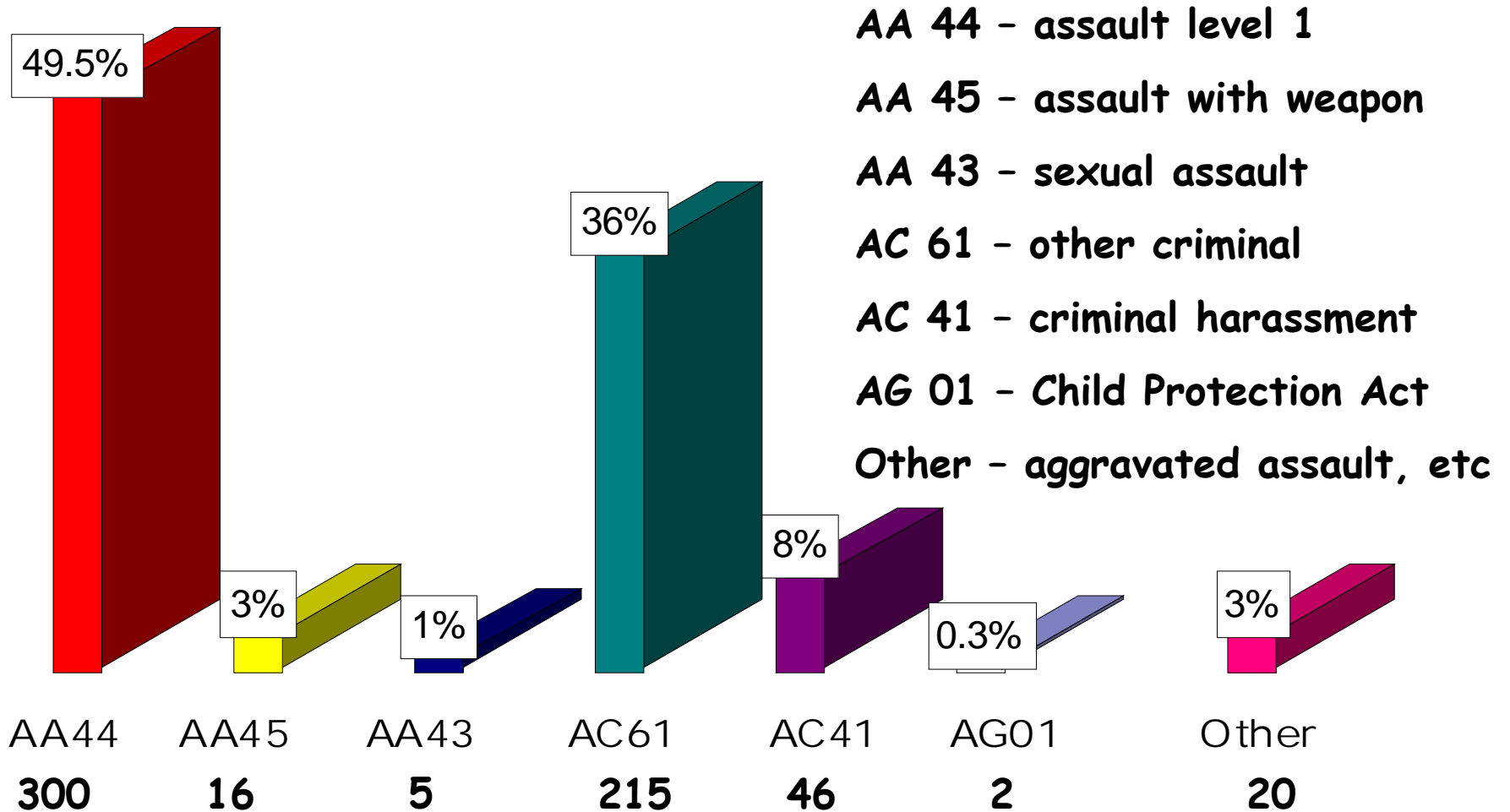


# Weapon Samples

- Grabbed around throat and choking, threatened to kill her, three young children present. Red mark on neck, blood behind ear. Police seized a firearm, Ak47, 3 magazines complete with ammunition, and a switch blade
- Accused arrested with knife, piece of rope, and meat cleaver
- Accused tried to stab victim with syringe
- 8 yr old showed police a large butcher knife she picked up during the incident because she was afraid of the accused
- Accused going to kill himself and take victim with him. 11yr old and 8 yr old present - 3 firearms seized

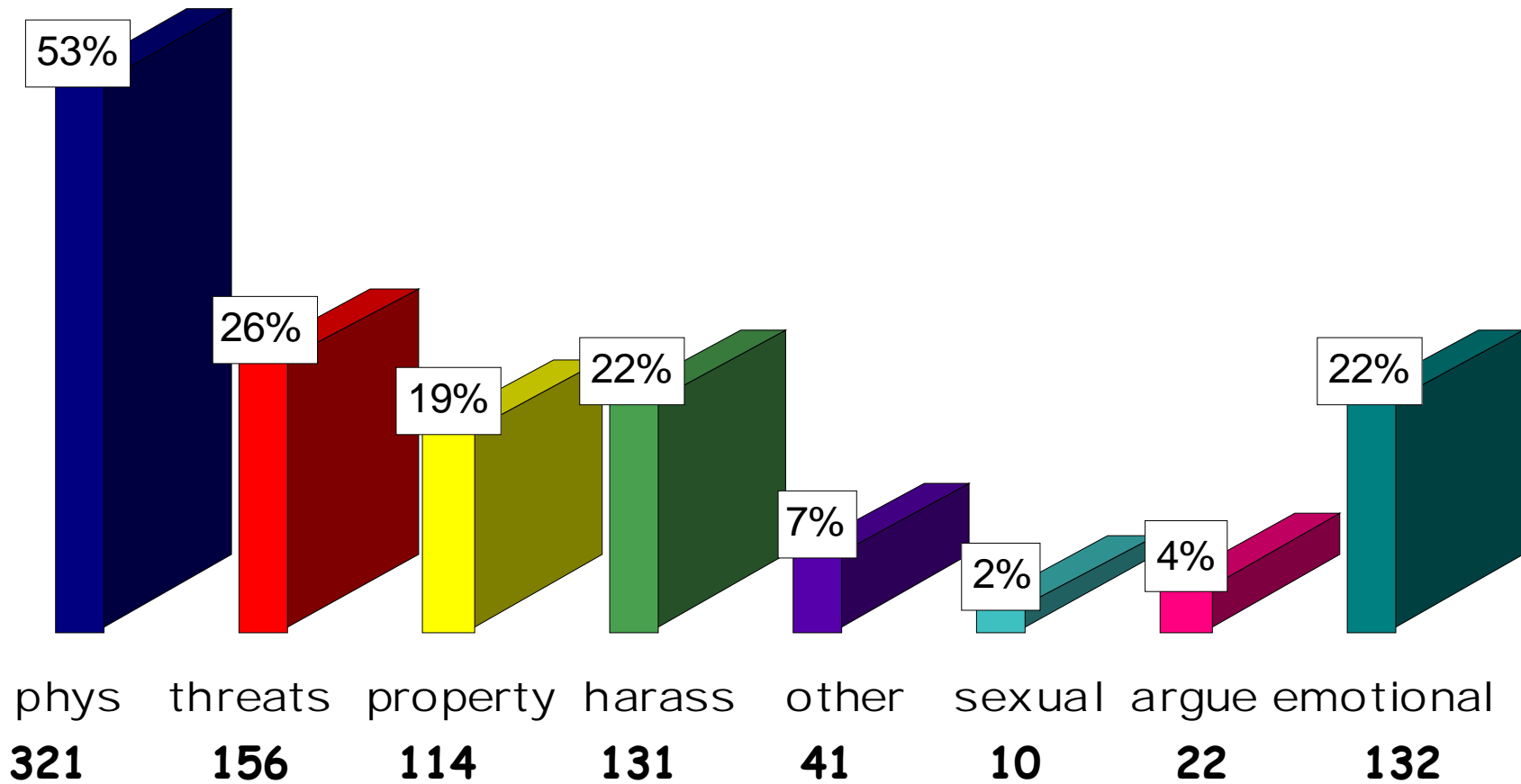
# Primary Code

2002 - 604 Police DV files



# Type of Violence Reported

2002 - 604 Police DV files

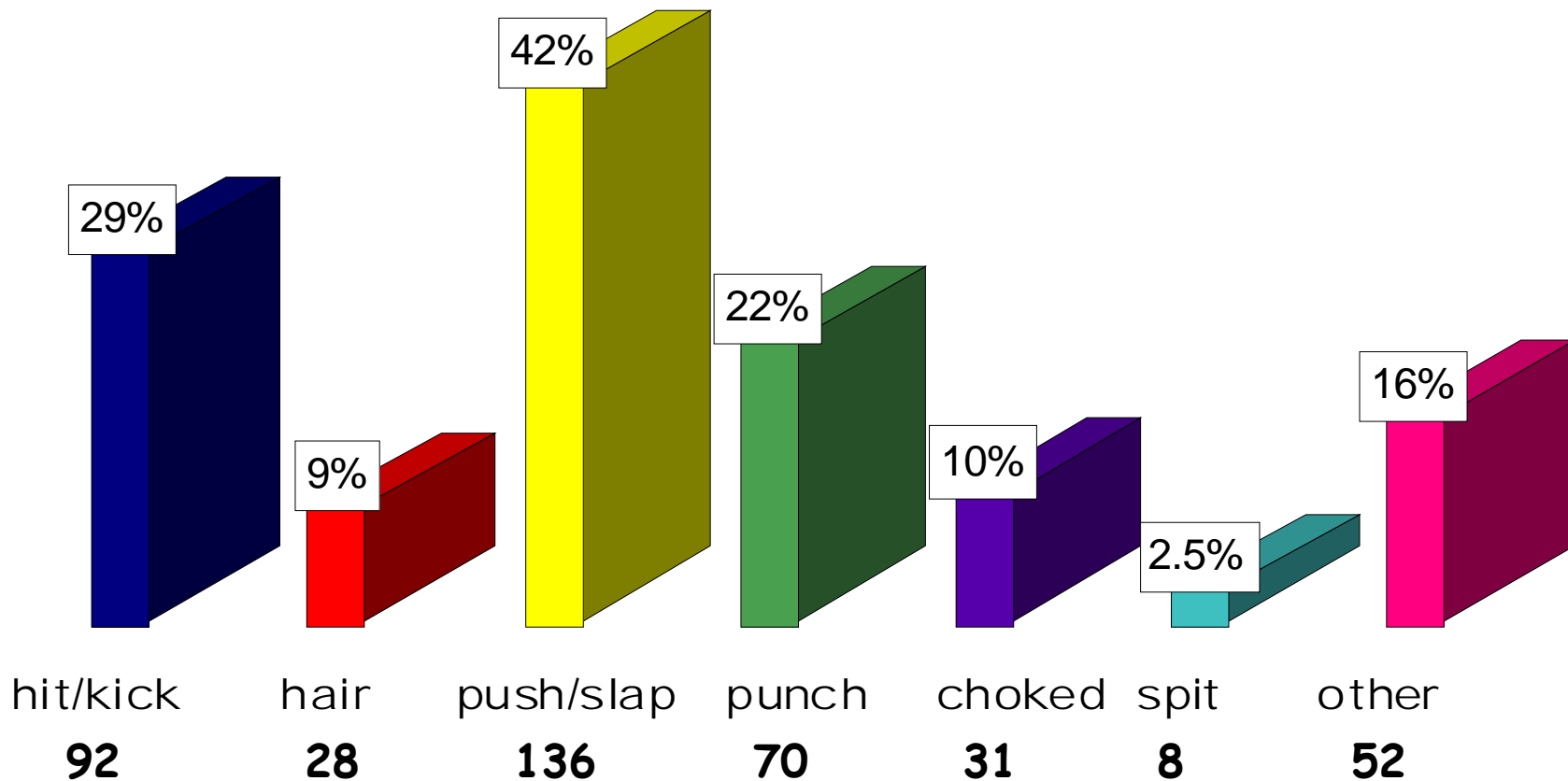


# Descriptive Sampling of Impacts of Abusive Behaviors

- Victim refused to give statement as fearful accused would get her and police would not be able to protect her all the time
- Harassment - comes around house at night and refuses to leave and calls repeatedly
- Pulled phone from wall and smashed receiver when victim tried to call police
- Accused threatened to stab victim, threw groceries out of the car and then drove over them
- Accused physically assaulted victim stating victim dressing inappropriate and committing sexual acts with men at work
- Accused entered victim's house and slapped her around, questioned her on faithfulness in the relationship, took a kitchen knife and held it against her throat and told her if she tells anyone, he will kill her. When he fell asleep, the victim took her three children and went to safety.

# Assault Description

321 Physical Assault DV Files



# Criminal Code Applications

**Total Reports:** 604 files

**Paperless files:** 174 files

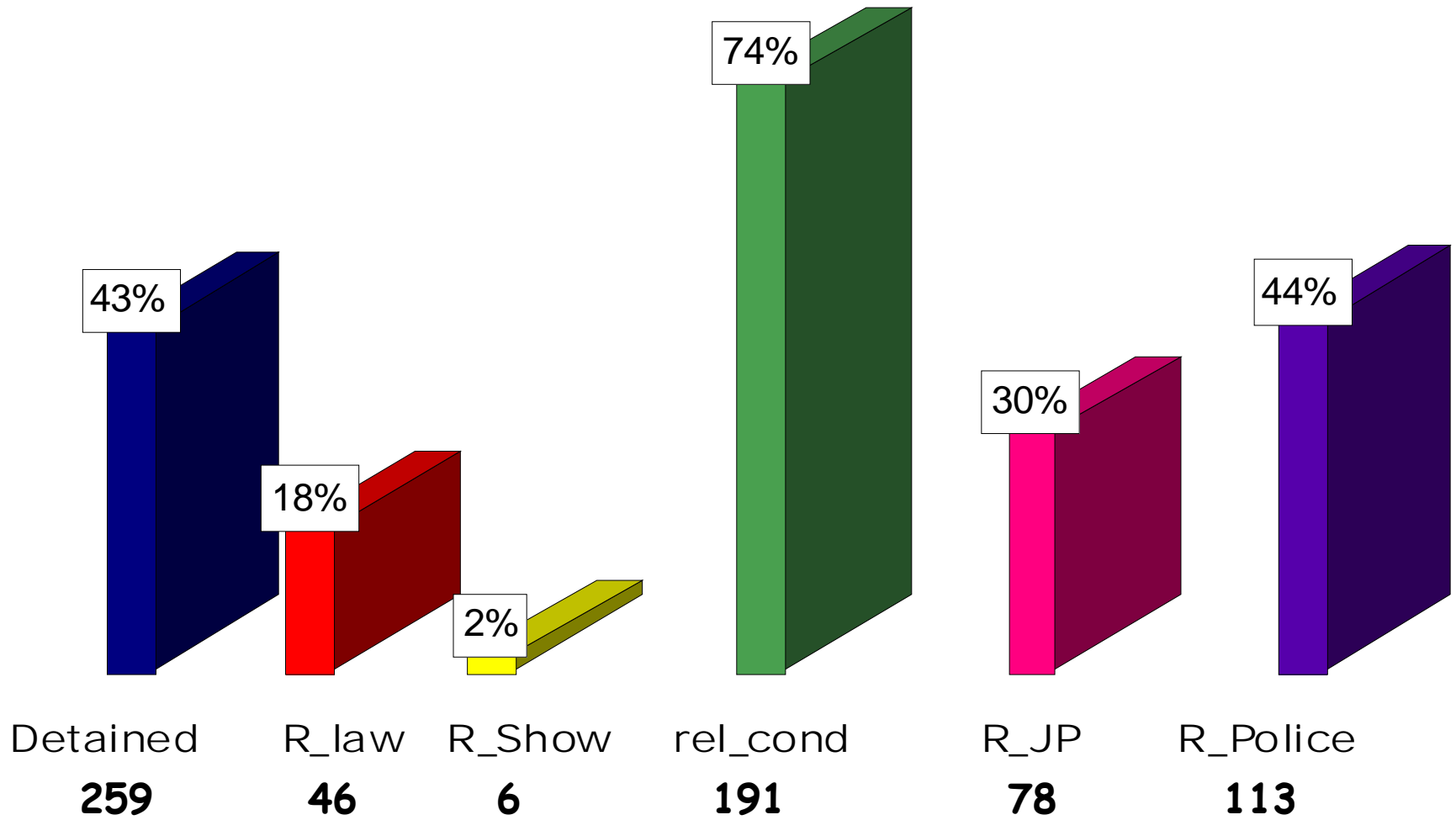
**Criminal Charges:** 260 files

**810 Applications:** 23 files

**Cleared Otherwise:** 147 files

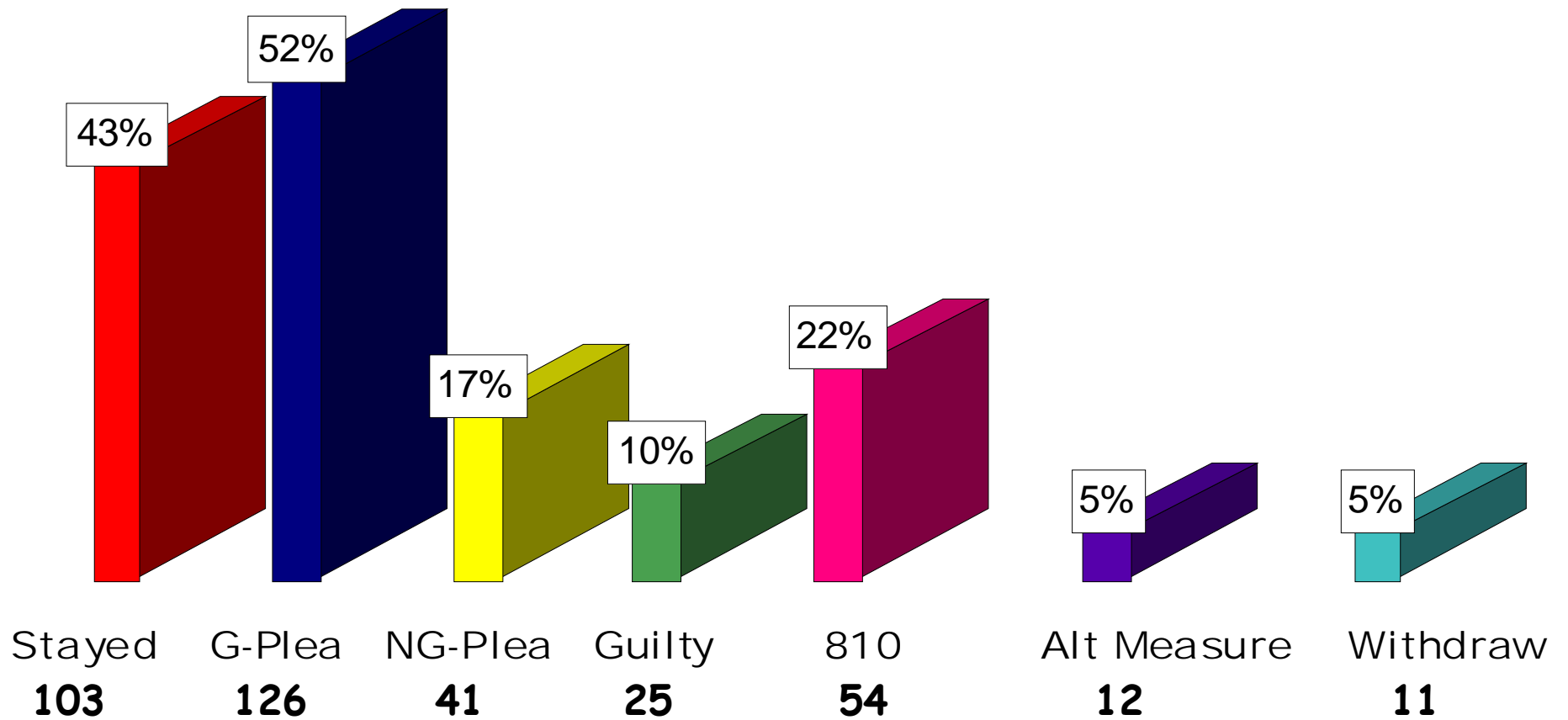


# Accused Detained



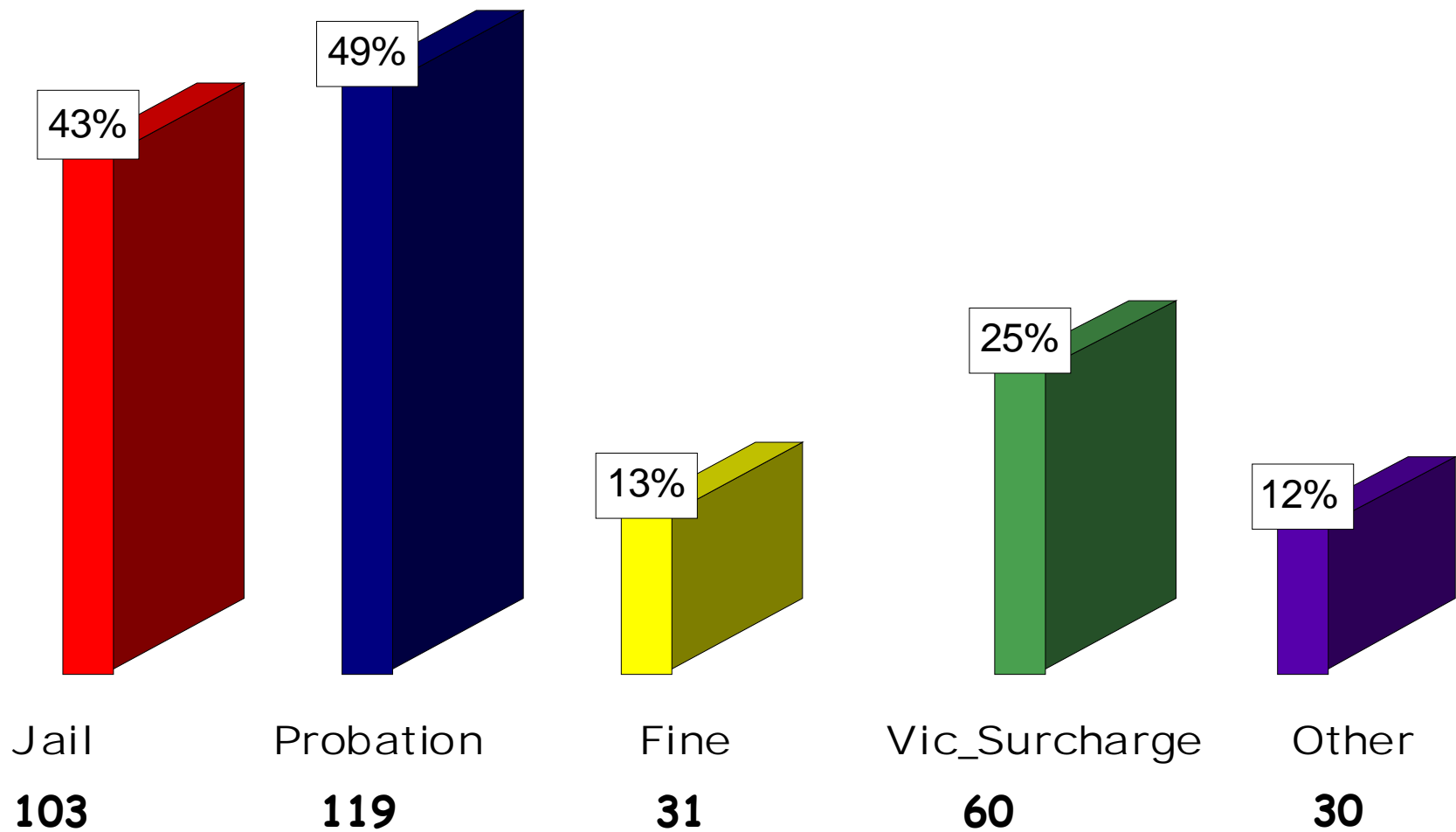
# Disposition Summary

241 Confirmed Files



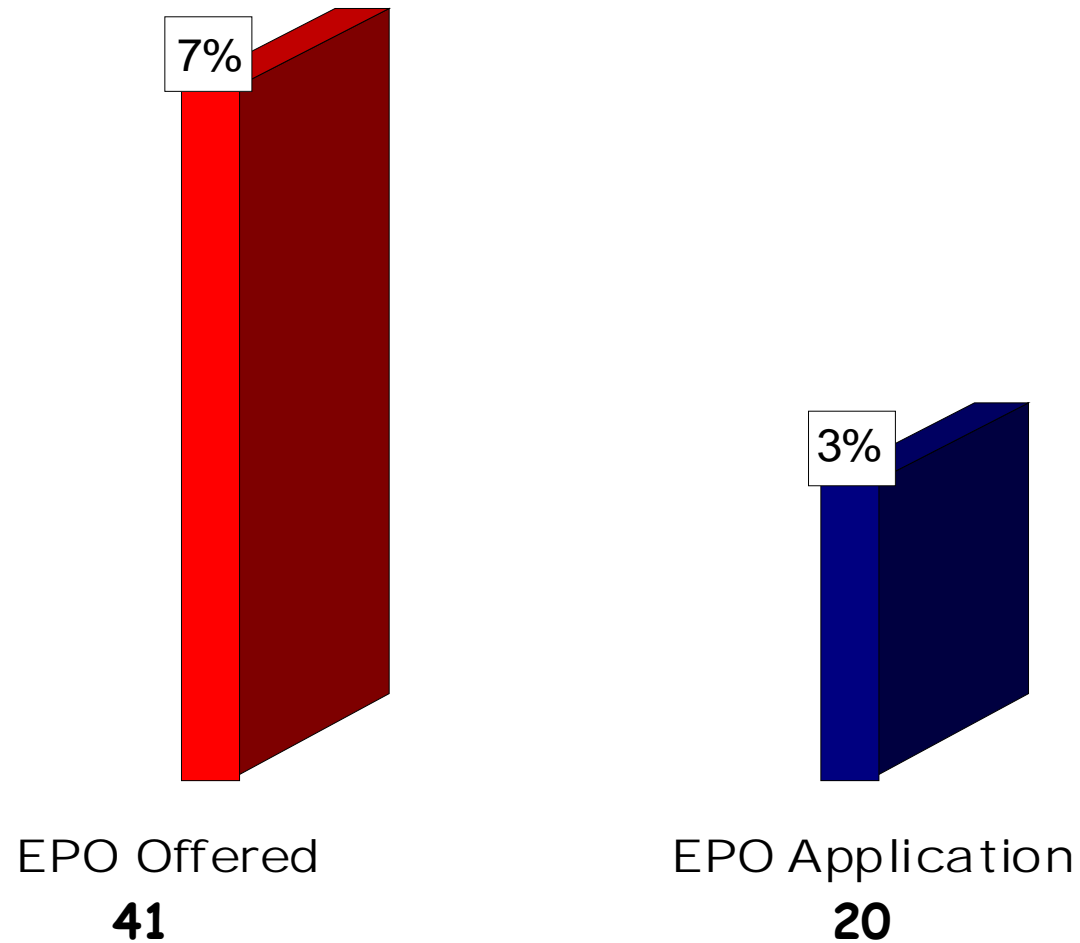
# Sentencing Summary

241 Confirmed Dispositions



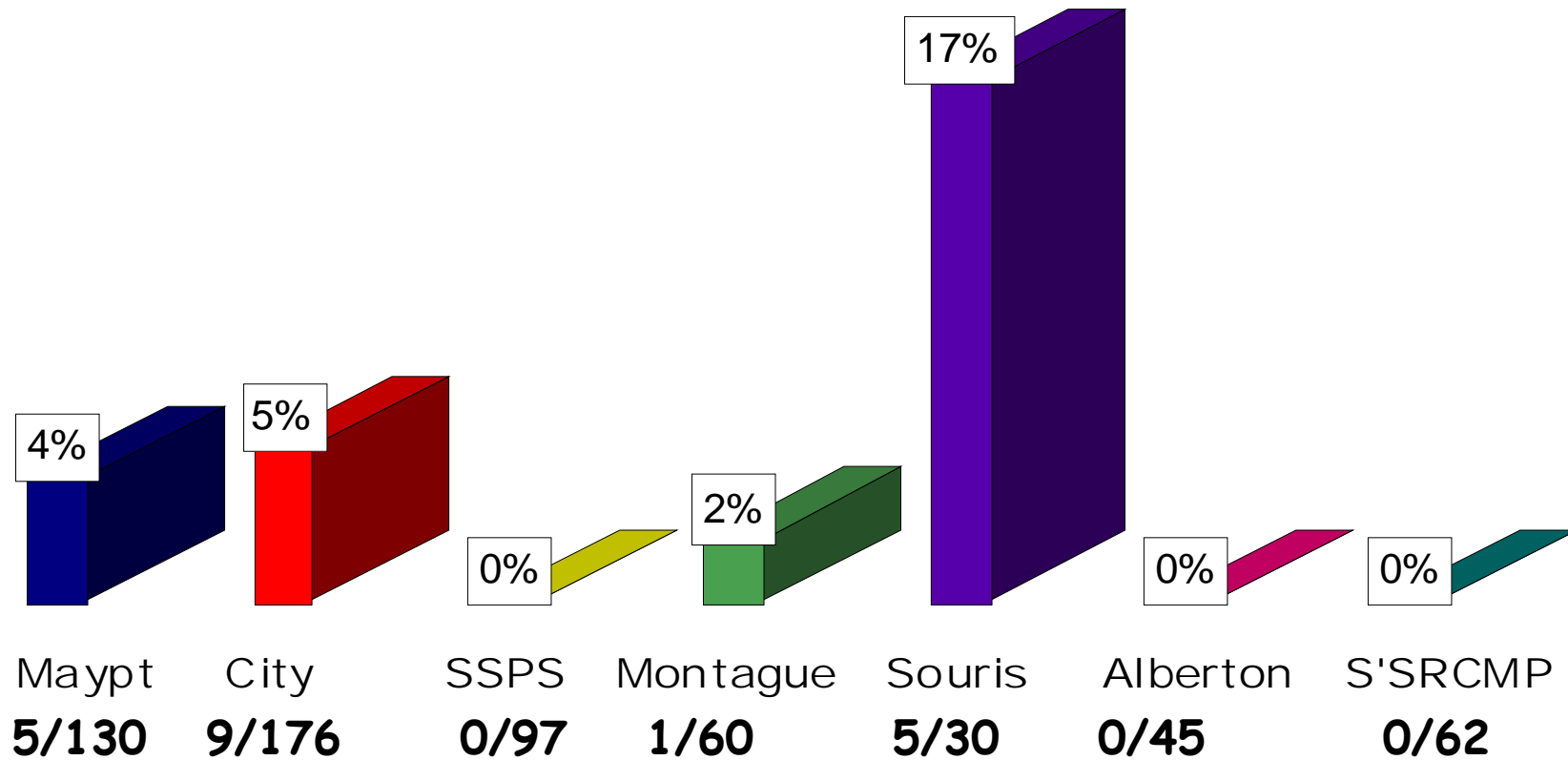
# VFVA - EPO applications

2002 - 604 Police DV Files



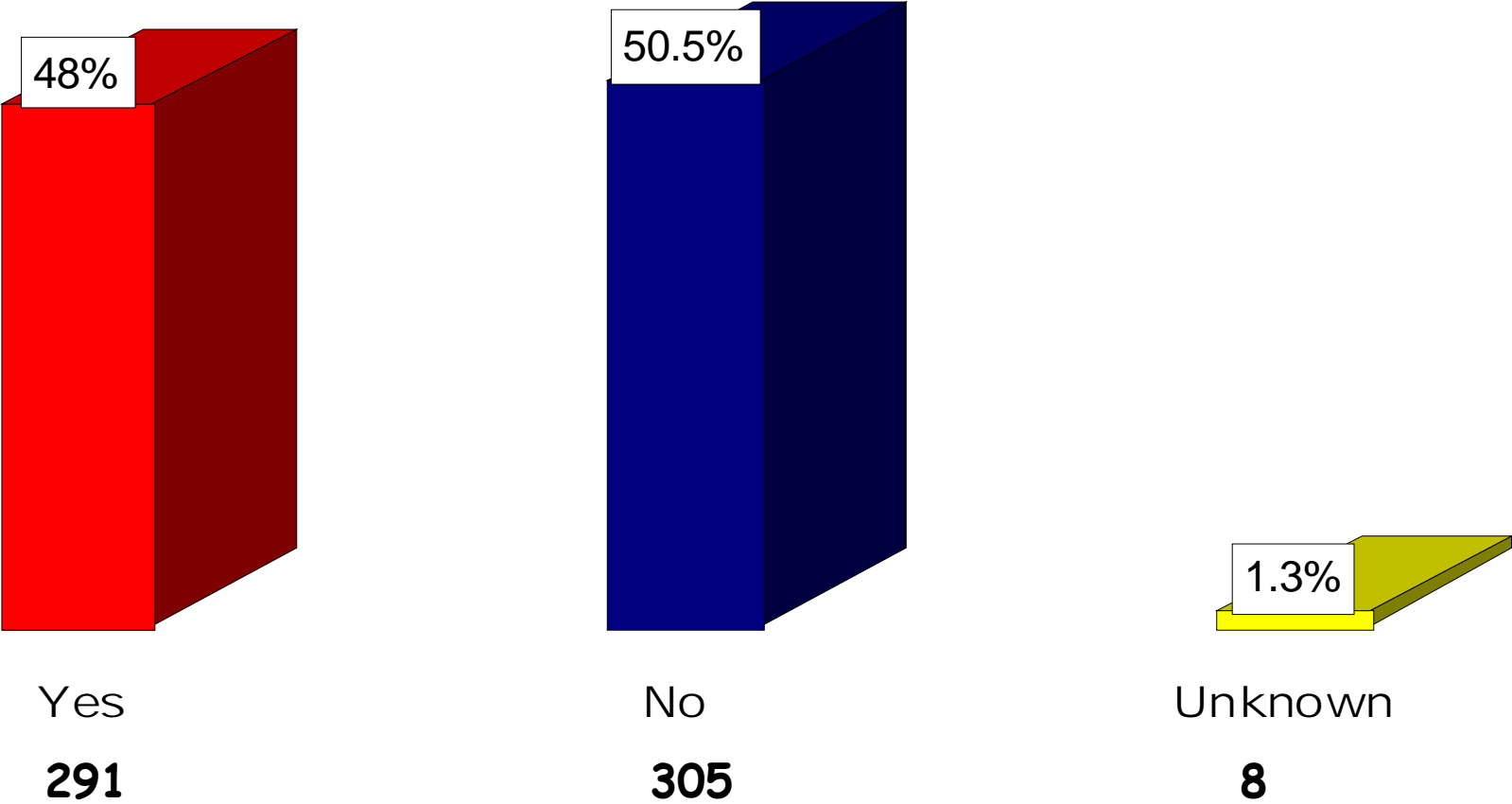
# VFVA - EPO's

## Application by Jurisdiction



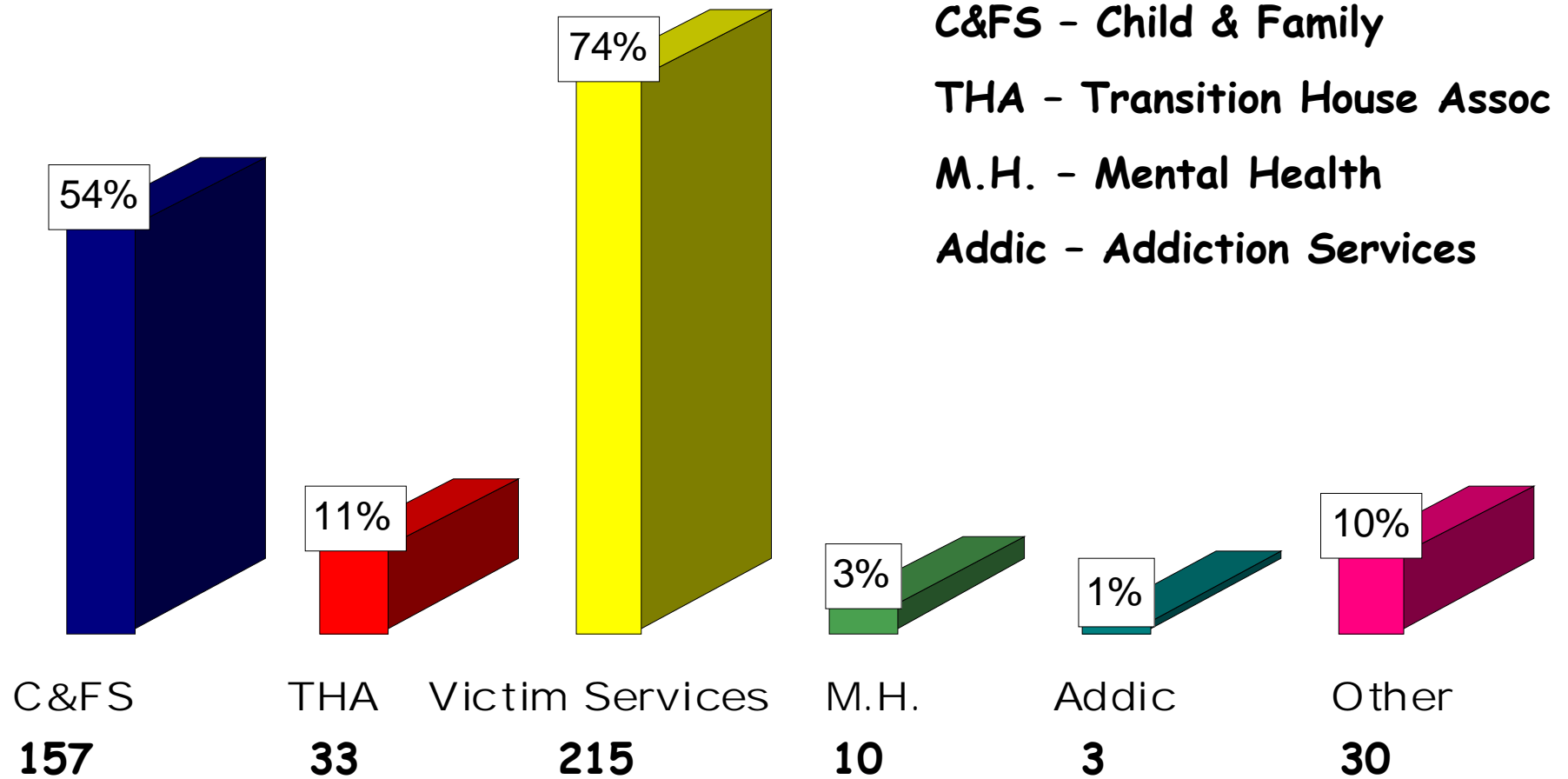
# Police Referrals to other Agencies

2002 - 604 Police DV files



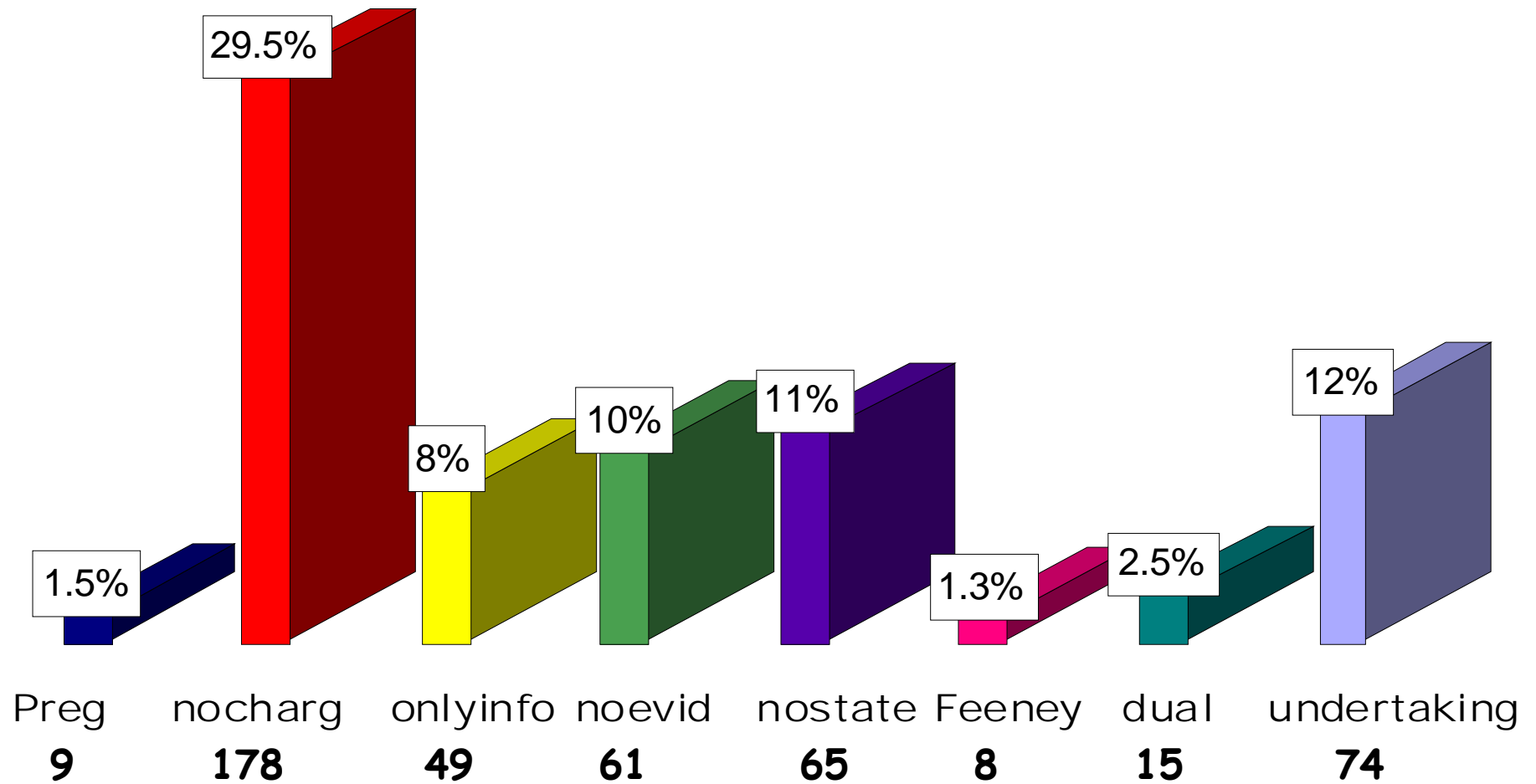
# Police Referrals to other Agencies

2002 - 291 Police DV files with outside referrals



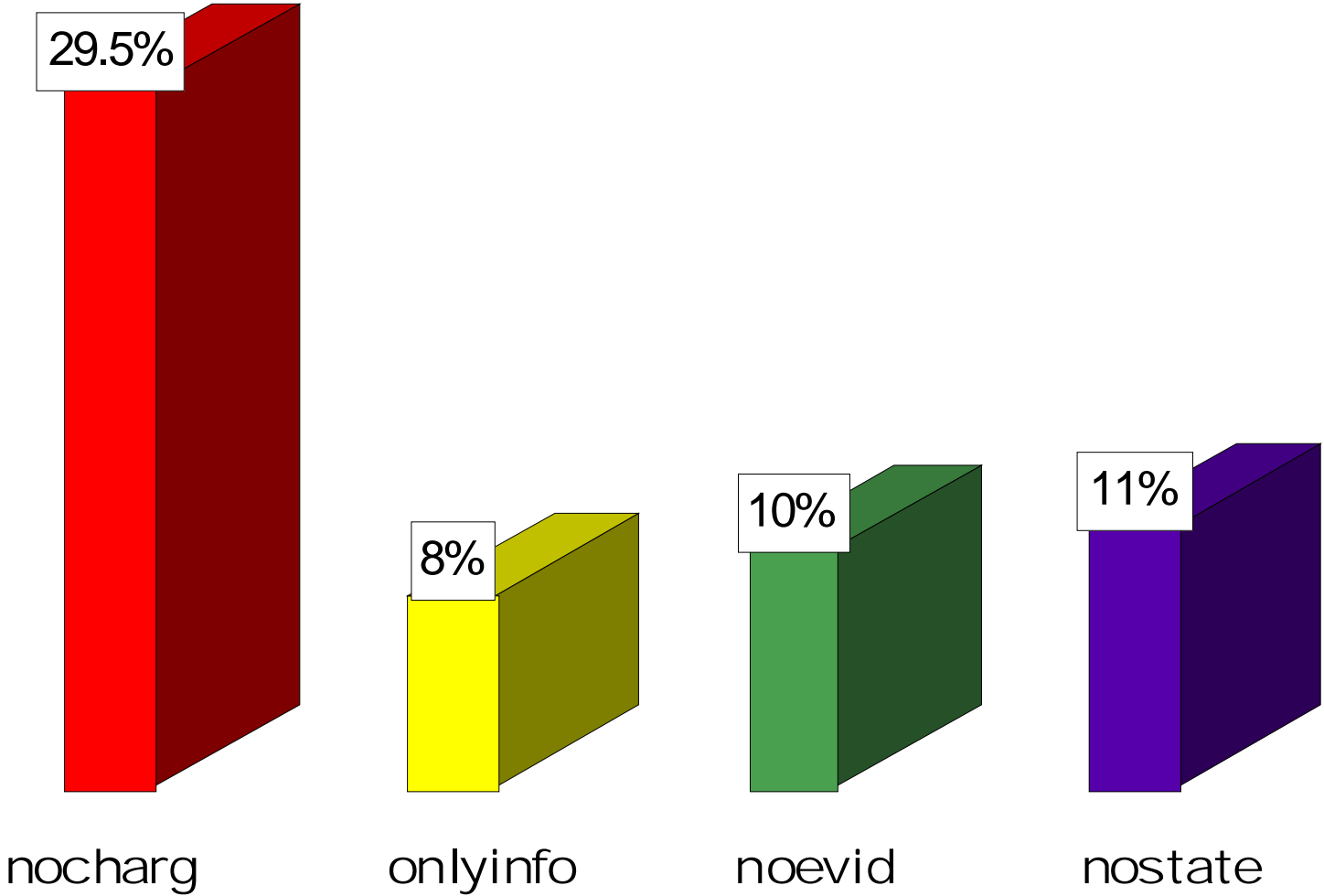
# Other Information

2002 - 604 Police DV files



# Related Information

2002 - 604 Police DV files



# Victims make decisions about staying in or leaving an abusive relationship within context of Survival

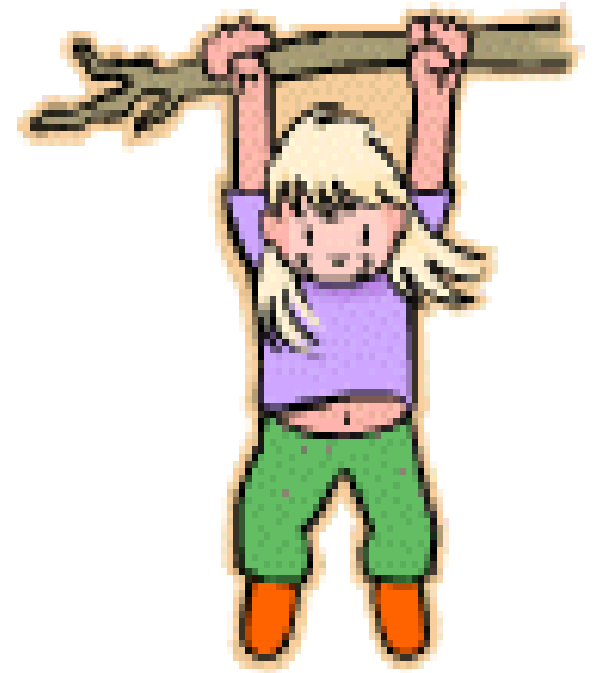
- Victim said she never called a week ago (when partner held knife to her throat) because she didn't want the accused to lose his job or have a criminal record
- Victim said she didn't want charges because accused would only come back and do more damage to her property
- Police contacted victim who was initially uncooperative as she felt it would be a financial risk if police became involved
- Reported for information only, adamant no police intervention
- Victim refused to give statement, only wants accused kept away from her and kids
- Victim refused to cooperate and give statement, no physical evidence. so police unable to proceed

# Family Violence: Impact on Children



# Provincial Overview

- Exposure to domestic violence was the second most common form of substantiated maltreatment identified in the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect - 2003 (Oct 2005)
- Rate of exposure to domestic violence increased 259% since 1998 - Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect - 2003 (Oct 2005)
- Director of Child Welfare for PEI states that domestic violence is the second highest form of child abuse reported to C&FS with neglect being the first
- On PEI, 2002, children were known to be involved in 50% of domestic violence reported to police

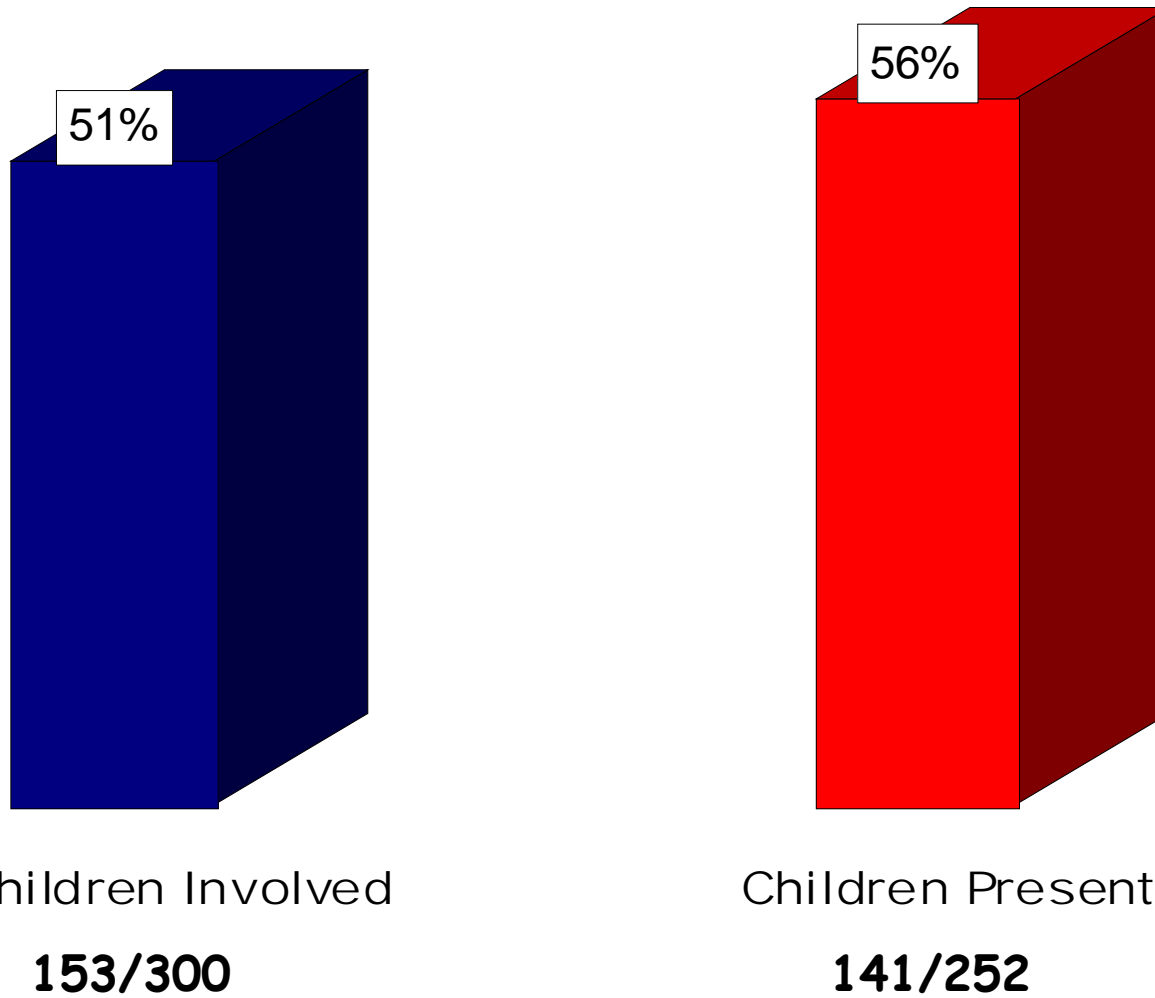


# Impact on Children

- 429 children were represented in the 300 cases of domestic violence involving children reported to police
- Male / female children were equally represented
- The most prevalent age group involved young children ages 0 - 6 years
- Most families involved one to two children
- Mandatory reporting by police to C&FS when responding to domestic violence and children living in the home

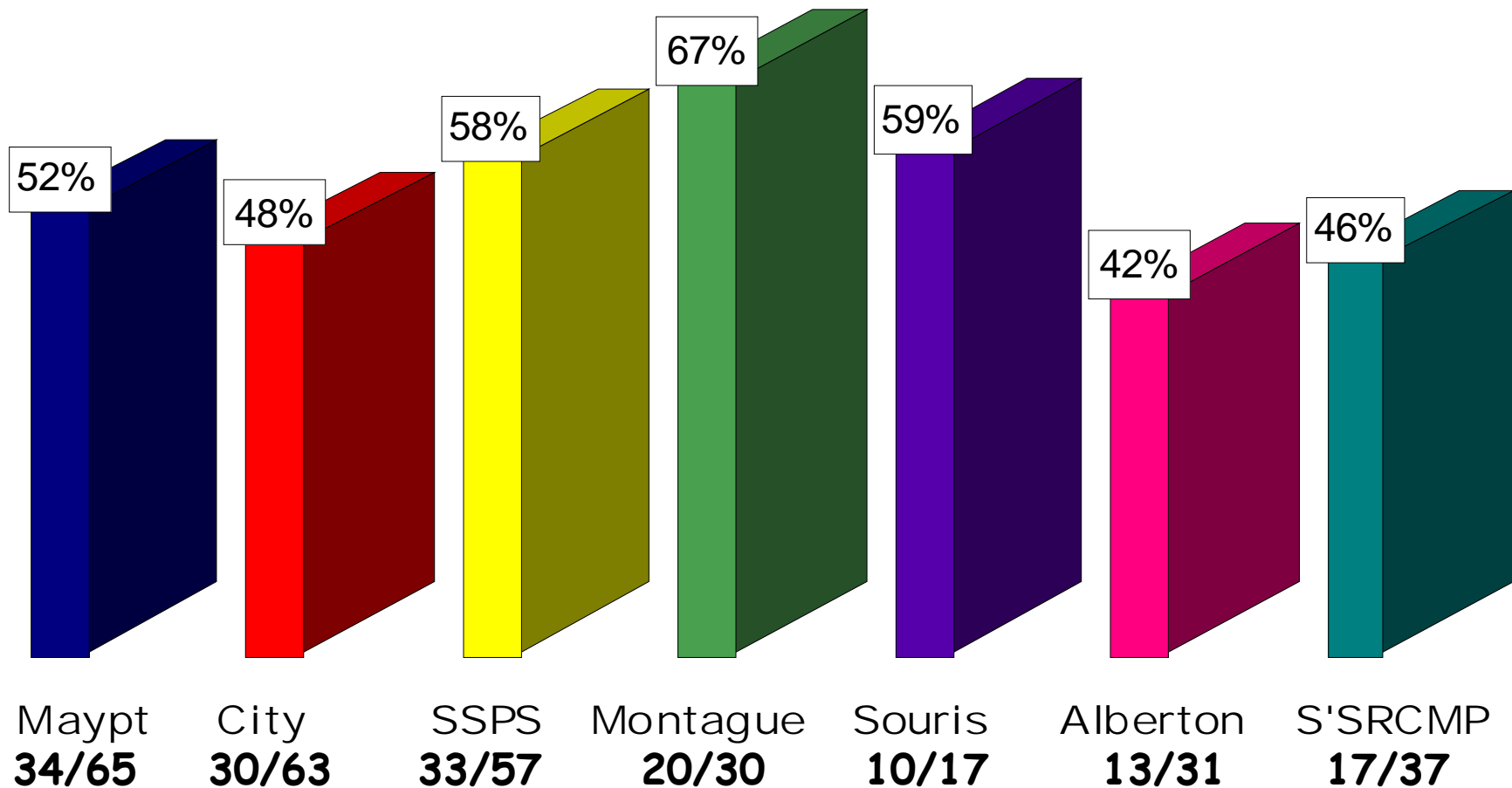


# Police Referrals to C&FS



# Mandatory Referral to C&FS

2002 - 300 DV files involving Children



- Victim 4 mos pregnant, scratch over eye, redness on cheek, marks on back. Victim said it was different because accused assaulted her in front of 3 yr old
- Slapped and grabbed victim by throat, name calling, threatened to kill - accused said he stopped when he heard the two kids crying (ages 9 & 11)
- 15 yr old son present and also assaulted along with younger children. Victim choked unconscious and accused tried to throw her out window, smashed tv, dresser, mirror and VCR
- 3 mos old struck accidentally when accused threw victim to floor several times and victim's leg struck infant - 3 mos twin and 3 yr old also present
- Victim woke 10 yr old child up to come and help her - broken nose, knife held to throat, punched, etc. Child finds mother on floor bleeding.
- Window broken / glass on floor - 5 yr old and 1 yr old present - 5 yr old sd she didn't touch phone, visibly shaking saying she was cold (Aug). Police note fear level of child reflected in her physical reaction



# Police Response to Study



Joint Press Conference with PEI Association of  
Chiefs of Police and the Attorney General for  
Prince Edward Island

September 2005

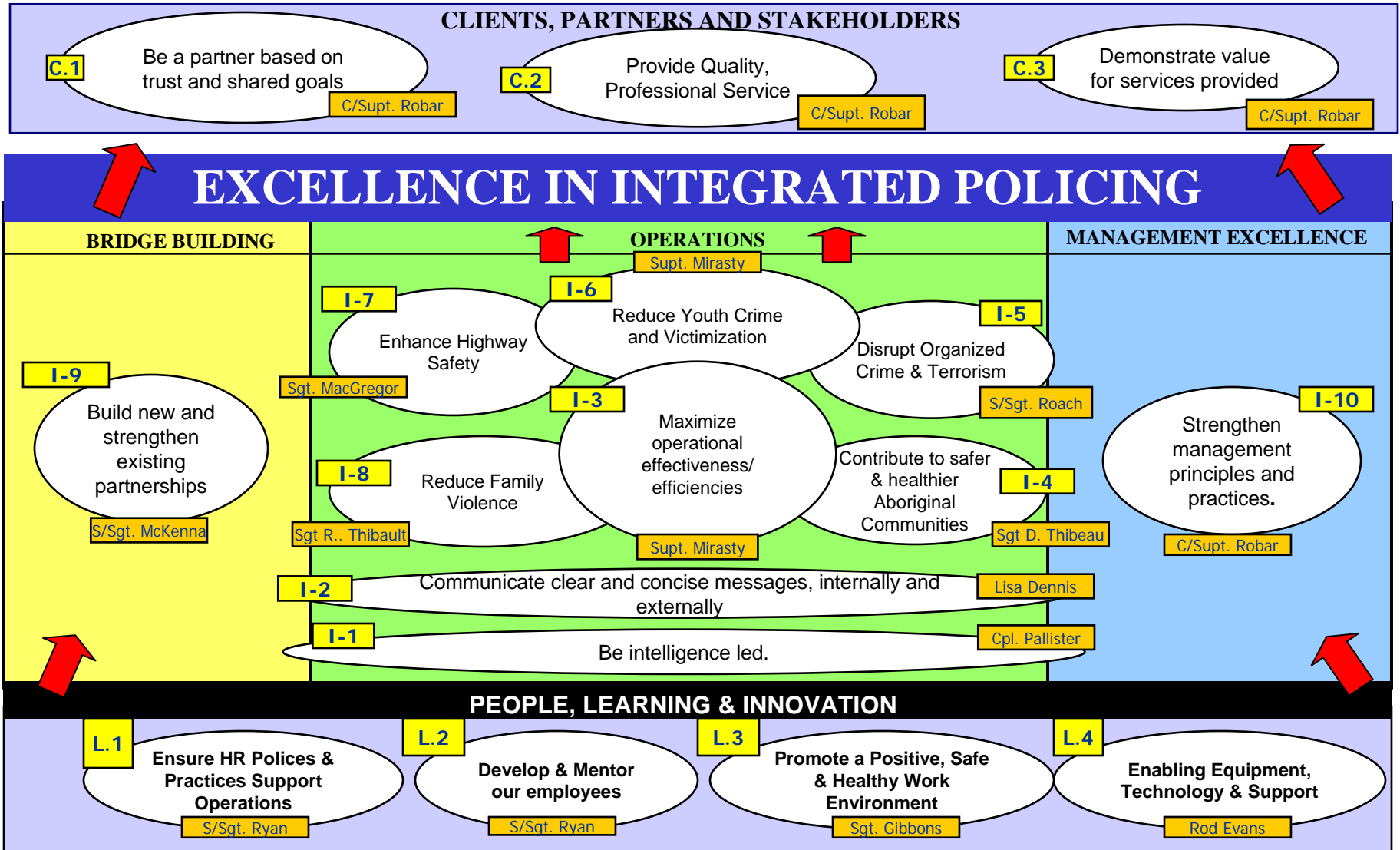


# Provincial Strategy

- Victims of Family Violence Act Steering Committee
- Leadership from PEI Association of Chiefs of Police
- RCMP "L" Division Balanced Score Card
- Enhanced police training with 5 primary components:
  - Definitions
  - Offence Criteria
  - Police Action
  - Court & Release
  - Sentence & Follow-up



**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**  
 Terrorism, Aboriginal Communities, International Policing, Organized Crime, Youth



Province of PEI Policing Priorities  
 Youth, Highway Safety, Family Violence Prevention and Community Policing

# RCMP "L" Division

- Family violence prevention identified as a policing priority
- Family Violence Consultant identified by the Commanding Officer, Chief Supt Randy Robar, as the initiative owner for the Balanced Score Card objective of family violence prevention for the RCMP in Prince Edward Island
- Balanced Score Card measurements to include:
  - Training
  - Data collection
  - Audits
  - Documentation
  - Mandatory reporting to Child & Family
  - Emergency Protection Orders

# Contact Information



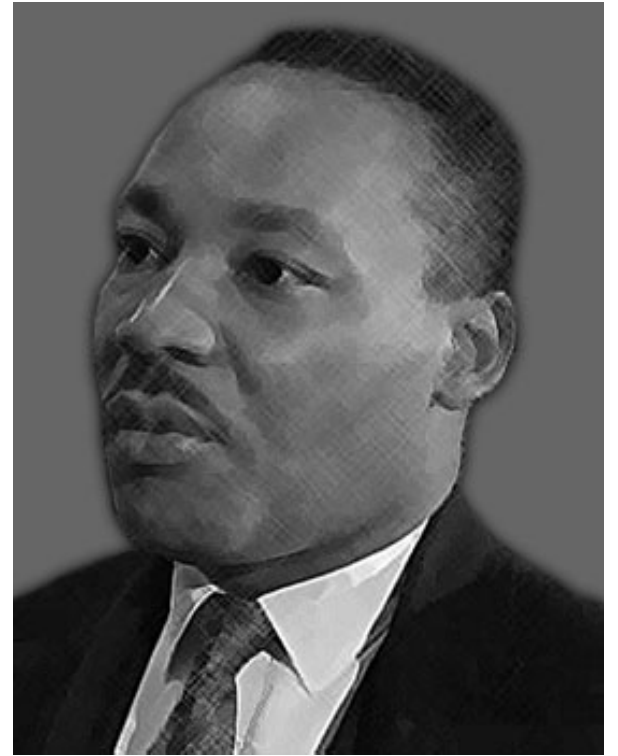
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C1A 7N8  
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1-902-368-4969 (fax)

To download a copy of the report entitled  
"Police Response to Domestic Violence: A Provincial Overview 2005"  
go to:

[www.gov.pe.ca](http://www.gov.pe.ca)

Click on "Department" and then scroll down to "Initiatives" and click on  
"Family Violence Prevention"

**“ Our lives begin to end  
the day  
we become silent  
about things  
that matter ”**



**Martin Luther King, Jr**

Thank You

