

IANSA Women's Network – Disarming Domestic Violence Campaign, 2009

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Quantitative questions:

It is important to get an overview of assaults on women in general and ask the following questions.

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|------|------|------|
| Number of assaults on women in general | | | |
| How many of these were sexual assault? | | | |
| What proportion occurred in the woman's home/perpetrator's home/outside the home? | | | |
| What is the relationship between the perpetrator and victim/survivor in reported assaults? | | | |

These are important questions because the police may not name 'domestic violence' if the perpetrator is a father, brother, child etc. They also may not cite 'DV' if the assault happens outside the home even though we know that this is widespread (in the street, at the workplace etc).

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|------|------|------|
| Number of reported cases of domestic violence including domestic sexual assault | | | |
| Number of cases of sexual assault not in the home | | | |
| Number of reported cases of DV with a firearm used to threaten but not fired | | | |
| Number of reported cases of sexual assault with a firearm used to threaten but not fired, including: - Being hit with a gun - Being shot - A shot being fired - A pet or possession being shot | | | |
| Number of cases of firearms injury during DV | | | |
| Number of cases of firearms injury during other sexual violence | | | |
| Number of reported cases of lethal DV violence with firearms | | | |
| Number of reported cases of lethal sexual assault with firearms | | | |
| Number of cases – perpetrator did not have license for arms possession | | | |

- Age of victim; age of perpetrator
- Sex of victim; sex of perpetrator
- Relationship of perpetrator/s to victim (known: husband, father, brother, sister, mother, intimate partner (male or female), friend; or unknown)
- If a relationship exists, for how long has the perpetrator known the victim?
- What was the current relationship between victim and perpetrator (married and living together, married & living apart, formerly married, legally separated, dating, casual friends etc)
- Where did the assault take place?
- When did the assault take place?
- Were there any witnesses to the assault (especially children of both or either perpetrator or victim)?
- Were there any previous charges against the perpetrator or previous call outs? Any for DV or other sexual assault? Any involving firearms? *Often there aren't actual convictions but there may be records of charges (which could have been dropped subsequently) or previous visits.*

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Qualitative questions:

1. Do police undergo any training on reacting to domestic violence or other sexual assaults?
2. Do guidelines for police exist re domestic violence and firearms?
3. Do police routinely check for the presence of a firearm when called to a DV or other sexual assault incident? If so, what do they do with the firearm?
4. Do they know if a firearm is present before they go?
In countries with regulations and systems they can find out.
5. Do they ask if a firearm is in the house/in possession of the perpetrator? Do they do this as an obligation or requirement or independently, because they think it is a good thing to do?
6. How do police officials react when a perpetrator uses a firearm in violent behavior towards a wife, intimate partner, ex-wife, ex-partner, or other members of the family or the household?
7. Are they required to take the gun away if called to a domestic violence incident or is it up to them what they do?
8. Can they seek an order to remove the gun or store it elsewhere (not in the home)?
9. Do police respond differently if a firearm is used inside the home and outside the home?
10. Do police officials check for possession of a firearms license? What happens if the gun is licensed or registered? What if the gun is legally owned by someone else?
11. What is the response if a perpetrator does not have a firearms license? What if a perpetrator does have a firearms license?
12. Can they remove the firearm or cancel the licence or make a note in their records to stop the perpetrator from buying/owning another gun?
13. Will the perpetrator be charged for illegal possession of a firearm if charged for an offence related to domestic violence? If they are not charged for domestic violence, would the fact that they have a gun be recorded?

It would also be useful to find out:

1. What is the application process to obtain a licence to buy a gun? If someone applies, what measures are taken to find out about their history re domestic violence?
2. Are they required to get approval from their partner (current or past) or their doctor?
3. What is the delaying factor? Is there a waiting period for the first gun and/or subsequent guns?
4. What is the record that is available for the police to check to know whether they have a gun?
5. Storage requirements? What checks are made? Do the police come and see?
6. Do the police know if a gun has been sold or disposed of? How?
Is there a requirement for notification?
What happens if someone moves address?
7. Who can report concern to the police about someone having a firearm?
8. Who can report domestic violence? *This is useful to know – whether reports from a relative, friend, neighbour etc are taken seriously.*