

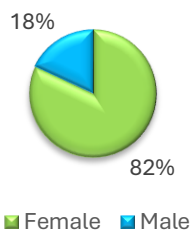
Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) Thematic Overview 2025

A DARDR is a review into the circumstances around a death of someone following domestic abuse. This can include some suspected victim suicides. The purpose is to establish what can be learned from the death regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims.

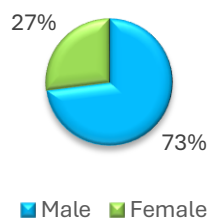
This summarises the key themes from 11 recently completed reviews.

Published DARDRs are available on the www.setdab.org website.

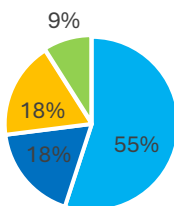
Victim



Perpetrator

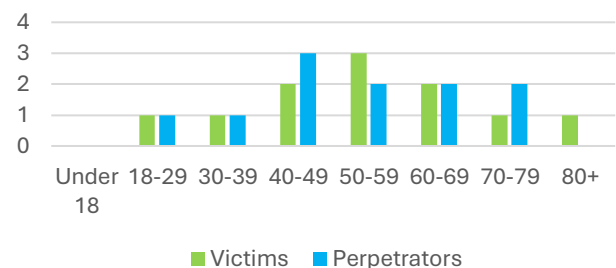


Dependent children in
four cases



■ Intimate Partner Homicide ■ Adult Family Homicide
■ Suspected Victim Suicide ■ Death by dangerous driving

Victim and perpetrator age



Key themes

Understanding the dynamics and complexities of domestic abuse and coercive control

- It may not always be clear who is the victim and who is the perpetrator, requiring a holistic approach to risk identification.
- Understanding of the signs and risks in the stages of coercion and the homicide timeline, by professionals, victims, friends, communities and employers.
- Contact of both victims and perpetrators with primary care and health services shows the importance of being aware of signs of domestic abuse and how to approach patients in a trauma informed way.

Multi-agency working and information sharing

- Importance of multi-agency working, of being professionally curious in asking questions that identify the needs of the victim and working in partnership to share information to provide holistic support taking a whole family approach.

Consideration of the whole family when responding to domestic abuse

- Awareness of children as victims under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and how relevant information should move with families when they move areas.
- Consider the needs of, and impact of, domestic abuse upon other members of the family.

Intersectionality and domestic abuse

- Understanding how layers of intersectionality can impact on victims recognising, seeking help or being identified as victims of abuse. This can include complex needs, ethnicity, social status, older victims, identity as a woman against views of male privilege/entitlement and possible barriers faced by male victims.
- Professional barriers to seeking support and workplace responses.

Carer dynamics and co-existence of dementia

- Importance of support for carers coming to terms with a close relative having dementia including generational attitudes and barriers to persons being able to accept support using a *ask-probe-explain-ask-again* approach.
- Whole family approach to dementia diagnosis pathway and support.
- The importance of exploring relationships for any previous history of domestic abuse and understanding of and provision of support to prevent carers stress potentially manifesting in other forms of abuse.
- The importance of facilitating adult's voices to be effectively heard and their wishes recorded.
- Consideration of safeguarding and information sharing when there are concerns including around a carer's mental health.

Identification, assessment and management of risk

- Domestic abuse risk assessment should consider an individual's history as well as current circumstances with professional curiosity being applied.
- Risks around the lawful possession of firearms including sharing information with partners to manage and mitigate risk including consideration that this could be a barrier to a disclosure of declining mental health.
- The importance of efficient record keeping ensuring effective decision making and appropriate action.
- Information sharing, including with cross boundary areas.
- The importance of all core agencies being present and sharing information at MARAC to ensure the risk is understood and a coordinated plan is put in place.

Engaging with those who have multiple complex needs

- Importance of being trauma informed, flexible and person centred when engaging with service users facing multiple complex needs and considering barriers to engagement and how these might be overcome, also how disengagement may reflect increased risk.
- To not just focus on the presenting issues of mental ill health or substance misuse without exploring the context or environment behind these including domestic abuse.

Professional Curiosity

- Importance of routine enquiry and professional curiosity around domestic abuse.
- Importance of professional curiosity with a focus on enquiry about mental health when presenting with poor physical health where this has a significant impact on quality of life.
- Greater professional curiosity and consideration of the benefits of sharing information in relation to concerns for safety.
- Professional curiosity within the work place on domestic abuse and around who is doing what to who.

Domestic abuse and suicide

- The importance of better connecting the risks of suicide, self-harm, and suicidal ideation in domestic abuse cases.
- Importance of routine enquiry about domestic abuse and suicidal ideation across mental health and domestic abuse sectors.
- Understanding of the association between domestic homicide and prior perpetrator suicidal ideation, self-harm, and threats of suicide to reduce the suicide deaths in this group and therefore reduce the risks this could place a victim in.