

Fatal Adult Child to Parent Abuse

*Findings from the 2020
London DHR Case
Analysis and Review of
Local Authorities DHR
Process*

STANDING TOGETHER

against domestic abuse

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Overview

- Fatal violence against parents: context and knowledge base
- Key findings from the 2020 London DHR analysis of parricide cases
- Recommendations and reflections

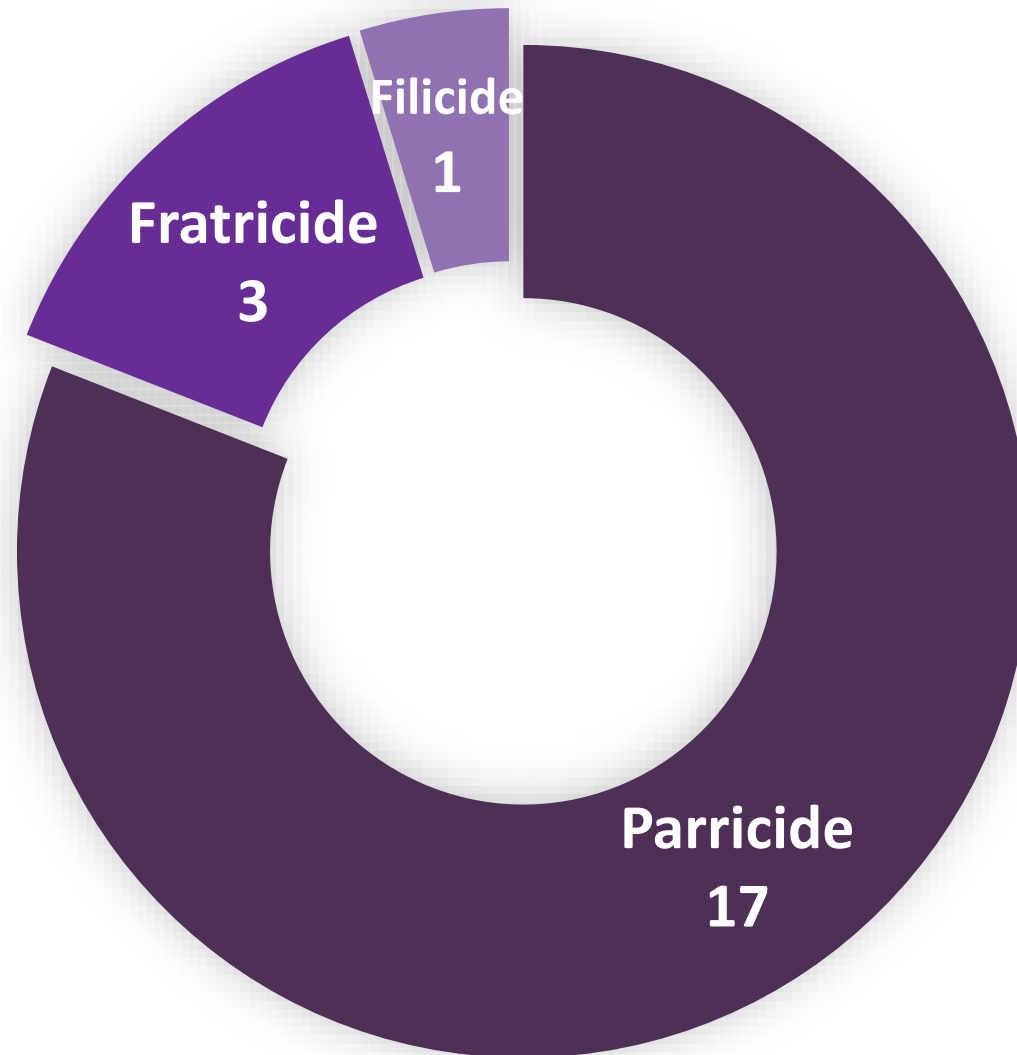
Violence against parents: a curious dichotomy

- Domestic abuse framework in England and Wales
- Limited research
- Limited or unavailable data
- Exclusive focus on adolescents (Holt & Shon, 2018)

Fatal violence against parents

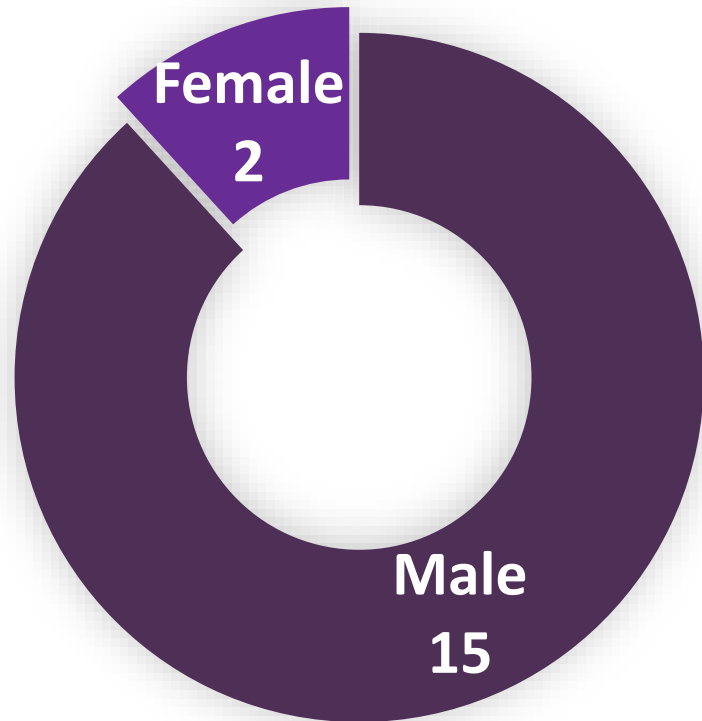
- Rarely examined in the UK (Holt, 2017)
- Small clinical samples focusing on the role of mental illness in particular
- Data more accessible nationally (Home Office Homicide Index)
- Ongoing / forthcoming research (*Investigating Parricide* by the Oxford Filial Violence Project)

Adult Family Homicides (AFH) Cases Analysed

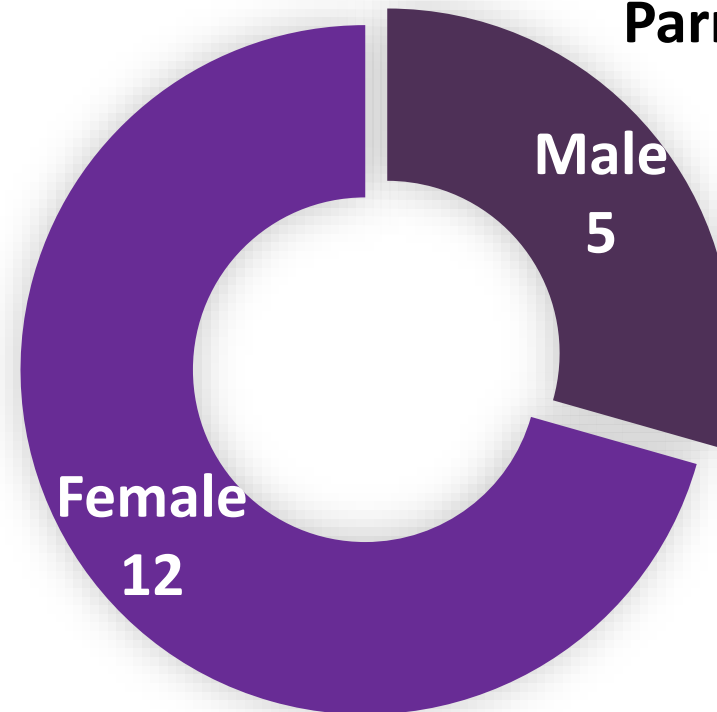


Parricide Cases – Sex

Parricide Perpetrators



Parricide Victims



Parricide Cases – Age and Ethnicity

- **Victims' ages:** 43 to 86
- **Perpetrators' ages:** 15 to 55
- **Ethnicities:** Majority of victims and perpetrators non-White British

Intersectionality

'If you don't have a lens that's been trained to look at how various forms of discrimination come together, you're unlikely to develop a set of policies that will be as inclusive as they need to be.'

-Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw

- Explores the complex ways in which multiple forms of structural discrimination (based on divisions such as class, sex, race, migrant status, age, sexual orientation, disability etc) combine or intersect to create heightened and persistent forms of inequality, marginalisation, disadvantage and powerlessness.
- An intersectional approach is vital in identifying and analysing the multiple and overlapping barriers that create vulnerability and risks.
- It is key in determining questions of how a victim came to be at risk, the barriers faced in reporting abuse, how a victim is treated, what support they have, and what options for protection are available to them.

Parricide Cases – Prominent Features

- **Mental health**
- **Substance use**
- **Caring relationships and responsibilities**

Common Practice Issues

- **Risk** to other family members overlooked in mental health assessments
- **Lack of involvement** of families in care plans
- Consistent **lack of carer's assessments**
- The role of **GPs**
- The curious case of **Adult Social Care**
- **Silencing** of victims' voices

Useful Recommendations

- Providers of community health services, substance misuse services and mental health services should be increasingly aware of adult child to parent violence and the gendered nature of these crimes and consider the risks to parents or family members of their adult service users, especially when living together and when the service user is financially dependent on them
- An understanding of risk factors for adult children who are dependent on their parent(s) financially, emotionally or due to substance misuse or mental ill-health requires much more awareness raising and proactive encouragement for early help and support

Useful Recommendations

- A better understanding of the experience of older people linked to caring responsibilities and domestic abuse
- NHS England and the Home Office to utilise the learning gained from Domestic Homicide Reviews (and other Mental Health Reviews) to develop a greater understanding of the issues surrounding domestic homicides committed by individuals with diagnosed mental health conditions

Useful Recommendations

- IDVA co-located at Substance Use and Mental Health services, ensuring their briefings and consultations with staff include specific information on familial abuse, in particular adult child to parent abuse
- Better recognition of caring roles and responsibilities: The Carers Trusts define a carer as anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction who cannot cope without their support. This stresses the **importance of having carers teams within MH and SU services**
- The Home Office should utilise Domestic Homicide Review findings to develop – and share nationally – a greater understanding of the nature and risk factors relating to familial abuse, and any trends to be aware of

Food for Thought

Are you capturing/monitoring AFV cases and cases of violence against parents in particular?

Are you seeing risk and responding to it differently in these cases?

What are you doing to support older victims?
(e.g. Silver Project in London)

Beyond Practice, Policies, and Procedures

Let's be political!