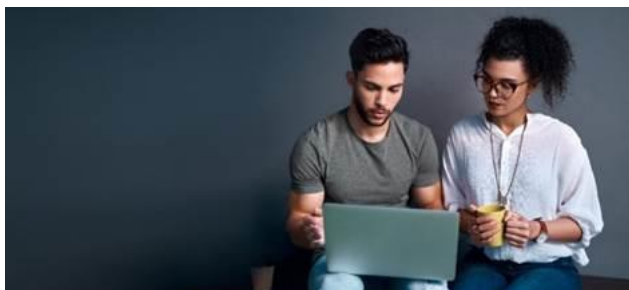


# Recent Research, Policy and other Resources

## A focus on victims, vulnerability and policing

### Horizon Scanning Report

July-October 2022



The VKPP *Research and Review* workstream scan literature on a quarterly basis to identify key academic journal articles, reports, policy documents, blogs/ podcasts, news articles and other materials relevant to victims, victim engagement, victim voice, policing and the criminal justice system. The team collate these thematically and include the most recently published material, although older pieces may be included where relevant<sup>[1]</sup>.

The citations contain title, author, date of publication, an abstract or summary of key points and a link to the resource. Resources that are international in scope can be easily identified by this icon:



The team try to identify open access links, so they are easily accessible, but this is not always possible. You may be able to access these pieces via the College of Policing library, however. If you have a police/pnn email address, you can sign up for free to access the College Library and request help from the librarians – See link [here](#) to request an account.

We would welcome any feedback, or if readers are aware of other relevant pieces you would like to flag for inclusion in future circulations, please do get in contact with us at [vkpp@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:vkpp@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)

#### About us:

The *Research and Review* team within the VKPP carry out:

1. Secondary research such as literature reviews;
2. Secondary analysis of case reviews (such as Child Practice Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and MAPPA Reviews) to extract learning for the police; and
3. Primary research into contemporary and perennial issues in policing.

The team seek to identify insights from this work, share learning and develop helpful resources for police. Our work continues to inform the evidence-base for the National Vulnerability Action Plan and other workstreams within the VKPP. Our work also seeks to inform national work, policy and debates relating to policing and vulnerability. The team consult regularly with policing and partner agency stakeholders and where possible victims and witnesses to help us make sense of our findings. Equity, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. Please contact [debra.allnock@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:debra.allnock@norfolk.pnn.police.uk) for further information about our work.

## Domestic Abuse and Stalking and Harassment

**Title:** Multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse

**Author(s):** The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

**Date:** 29/09/22

### Abstract

This briefing from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is part of an ongoing series of publications to share information arising from work undertaken by the Panel with safeguarding partners and those working in child protection. This paper sets out key findings from a thematic analysis of rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews where domestic abuse featured. It summarises the most common themes that emerged in relation to multi-agency safeguarding for children who are victims of domestic abuse, and includes examples of practice and recommendations.

**Link to Source (source is open access):** [Multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse paper - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114123/multi-agency-safeguarding-and-domestic-abuse-paper-2022.pdf)

## Adult Sexual Exploitation

**Title:** “I Went from Being Held Captive to Captivity Again”: How the Criminal Legal System Fails Black Women and Girl Survivors of Sex Trafficking

**Author(s):** Gonzalez, C.M.F

**Date:** 24/05/22

### Abstract

Black women and girls are disproportionately arrested and incarcerated for prostitution and prostitution-related crimes while being sex trafficked. Despite laws and policies meant to discourage criminalization, Black women and girls are profiled and subjected to both interpersonal and state violence due to their victimization. This paper uses one-on-one interviews with thirteen survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation across the United States and their encounters with the criminal legal system and incarceration. Grounded in Black feminist criminology, this research analyzes the experiences of survivors as victims and as criminals. Narratives demonstrate that courts and social services were unprepared, and often unwilling, to understand or acknowledge the intertwining trauma of racial and sexual abuse, inhibiting survivor’s healing and pursuits of justice. Learning from narrator’s insights, this article discuss what “justice” means for Black women survivors and how it may be achieved with and without institutional responses.

**Link to Source (source is open access):** [“I Went from Being Held Captive to Captivity Again”: How the Criminal Legal System Fails Black Women and Girl Survivors of Sex Trafficking · 2022 | Volume 11, Issue 3 \(qualitativecriminology.com\)](https://www.qualitativecriminology.com/issue-3-2022/volume-11-2022/i-went-from-being-held-captive-to-captivity-again-how-the-criminal-legal-system-fails-black-women-and-girl-survivors-of-sex-trafficking-2022/)

## Mental health

**Title:** Policing along the spectrum: Reducing risk and improving service delivery

**Author(s):** Leydier, B.T

**Date:** 22.08.22

**Abstract**

*Autism spectrum disorder* is a complex life-long neurodevelopmental disorder that affects social skills, language, learning, cognitive function, physical abilities, and behavior. Moreover, autism is becoming increasingly prevalent in Canada and abroad. Inevitably, law enforcement professionals will interact with the autistic population in their duties; however, many exchanges produce poor outcomes. Physical restraint is often used, and the benefit of autism-trained Crisis Intervention Teams is underutilized, especially in Canada. In addition, current training outcomes for law enforcement professionals are ephemeral and unlikely to yield mastery. This article argues three antidotes to improve service delivery and reduce risk: Crisis Intervention Teams that incorporate autism training; methodologically sound and rigorously evaluated practical training; and community outreach, which creates relationships proactively and fosters trust. Future research should: analyze the outcomes of autistic-trained Crisis Intervention Teams; determine qualitatively what the population with autism and their stakeholders seek in a comprehensive training curriculum; and determine the success of nascent training courses and community outreach goals.

**Link to Source (source is not open access):** [Policing along the spectrum: Reducing risk and improving service delivery - Thomas B Leydier, 2022 \(sagepub.com\)](https://doi.org/10.1177/1043986222111111)

**Missing and Absent**

**Title:**

**Author(s):**

**Date:**

**Abstract**

**Link to Source (source is not open access) :**

**Managing of Sex and Violent Offenders**

**Title:**

**Author(s):**

**Date:**

**Abstract**

**Link to Source (source is open access):**

**Adults at Risk**

**Title:** Divergent perspectives: autistic adults' perceptions of the police

**Author(s):** Parry, M.M & Huff, J.

**Date:** 24/05/2022

### **Abstract**

#### Purpose:

Much of the current criminological research regarding police and the autistic community focuses on police training for interacting with autistic individuals or the experiences, fears and perceptions of parents or caregivers. Largely absent from the criminological research are the opinions and perceptions of autistic adults. The purpose of the paper is to examine perceptions of the police and police-led initiatives among these individuals.

#### Design/methodology/approach:

The authors analyze data from 121 autistic adults regarding their perceptions of the police and police-led autism awareness efforts using ordinary least squares (OLS) regression. Variables of interest include perceptions of procedural justice, police treatment of autistic individuals, fear of interacting with police and perceptions of police autism awareness campaigns.

#### Findings:

Findings indicate that autistic respondents vary in perceptions of the police. Prior negative experiences with police have a stronger influence on perceptions than do positive experiences. Support for awareness campaigns is also varied.

#### Originality/value:

Despite high-profile police incidents involving autistic individuals, there have been no empirical examinations of autistic adults' global perceptions of the police or police-led autism awareness campaigns. The current study addresses that oversight by directly examining autistic adults' perceptions. The approach is particularly salient given the ongoing police public scrutiny surrounding officer interactions with individuals from special populations, which is largely uninformed by research centering the voices of impacted individuals.

**Link to Source (source is not open access):** [Divergent perspectives: autistic adults' perceptions of the police | Emerald Insight](#)

## **Child Abuse**

**Title:** Silent screams: Listening to and making meaning from the voices of abused children.

**Author(s):** Iorfa, S. K., Effiong, J. E., Apejoye, A., Johri, T., Isaiah, U. S., Eche, G. O., & Ottu, I. F.

**Date:** 26/01/2022

### **Abstract**

Background: Sexual violence against children is a major clinical, public health and human rights concern globally. Specifically, child sexual violence (CSV) is one of the world's leading causes of trauma in children. In extreme cases, victims of CSV grow up with a plethora of maladaptive behaviours, which may be salient in the course of growth but later present in adulthood as severe cases of comorbid psychopathologies. It is expected therefore that CSV cases be treated with urgency and policies/laws against perpetrators be translated into visible outcomes. However, many CSV cases go unreported; and where there are attempts at reporting, the manner and

approach of handling these cases is discouraging and futile. In this study, we explored the lived experiences of CSV survivors in Nigeria who tried reporting and opening up their experiences.

Method: Using the hermeneutic phenomenological approach, responses from 11 girls aged 15 to 17 years at the time of the study and 8 to 16 years at onset of abuse were obtained. Data were gathered through interviews, and the victims' experiences were aggregated using content analysis.

Results: The major findings were summarized under the following themes: (a) silents screams, (b) trauma and the search for a therapeutic ear, (c) stigma and (d) withdrawal: our last resort. Respondents reported crying out and begging perpetrators to stop the act. They also reported experiencing trauma and related physical/mental health issues after the act. As they sought whom to disclose to, they reported feeling stigmatized and eventually having to withdraw and recoil.

Conclusions: Implications of the study cut across medical practice, social work, therapeutics and policy formation/implementation for the prevention of CSV and attending to CSV victims in hospitals, homes and schools. The importance of empathic therapeutic processes was discussed. The need for a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach in tackling CSV was also highlighted.

**Link to Source (source is open access):** [Silent screams: Listening to and making meaning from the voices of abused children](#)

### Harmful Sexual Behaviour

**Title: "Frantic Online Searches for Help": Design Considerations for an Online Early Intervention Service Addressing Harmful Sexual Behaviour**

**Author(s):** McKibbin, G., Tyler, M., Gallois, E., Spiteri-Staines, A., Humphreys, C & Green, J

**Date:** 22/07/2022

#### **Abstract**

Secondary prevention efforts, which target risk and protective factors associated with harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) and seek to intervene early in the trajectory of HSB, are underdeveloped in Australia. This study explored design considerations for an online early intervention service for children and young people worried about their sexual thoughts and behaviours. A trauma-informed child right's framework underpinned the study, which involved 10 individual interviews with international experts in HSB, and one group interview ( $n=3$ ) with Australian practitioners. Analysis was carried out using thematic analysis. Results reflect design considerations in relation to: theoretical approaches; practice frameworks; service delivery components; and helpseeking challenges. Key tensions emerging from the results are discussed, including the need to move beyond binary constructions of victims and perpetrators.

**Link to Source (source is not open access):**

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13552600.2022.2102682>

### Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation

**Title: Female Genital Mutilation Resource Pack**

**Author(s):** Home Office

**Date:** 01/08/2022

**Abstract**

This resource was developed in response to requests for clearer direction from central government about the safeguarding responsibilities of local authorities. It is designed to highlight examples from areas where effective practice has been identified and to emphasise what works in protecting survivors and those at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM). This resource pack was updated: in November 2015 to reflect legislative changes; in May 2016 to reflect the publication of statutory guidance on FGM; in February 2019 with some minor amendments; in February 2020, wholesale. It equips commissioners both with the data they need to understand the scale of the problem in their area and with an insight into some of the tools they can use to combat it effectively.

**Link to Source (source is open access):** [Female genital mutilation: resource pack - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

VAWG related including Serious Sexual Offences

**Title: What can we Learn From Police Data About Timeliness in Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Investigations in England and Wales?**

**Author(s):** Lovett, J., Hales, G., Kelly, L., Khan, A., Hardiman, M. & Trott, L.

**Date:** 03/10/2022

**Abstract**

The issue of timeliness in rape and other serious sexual offence investigations has been raised in a number of inspections and reviews, and there are policy imperatives to decrease delays, but there has been little exploration of police data to understand what contributes to them and enable practical recommendations or options. This paper explores what official data from two police forces participating in Operation Soteria Bluestone tell us about the timelines of these investigations, what this reveals about the gaps in policing data, and what additional knowledge can be gained from qualitative methodologies, in this instance case file analysis and case reviews.

**Link to Source (source is open access):** <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s43576-022-00069-8#Fn14>

VAWG related including Serious Sexual Offences

**Title: The Attrition Problem: The Role of Police Officer's Decision Making in Rape Cases**

**Author(s):** Sinclair, O.

**Date:** 19/09/2022

**Abstract**

Rape offences in England and Wales garner incredibly low levels of convictions. The policing stage of a complaint experiences high levels of case discontinuances. The aim of this research is to explore police officer's decision making in rape cases and how that shapes the attrition of cases. The method employed in this study is qualitative interviews, with retired or serving police officers, with the use of vignettes. This study found that police officers prioritise and continue with cases that they predict to be most likely to reach a conviction. Such predictions are guided by assessments over the strength of the evidence in cases, informed by a range of legal and extra-legal factors. An overarching prediction employed is how likely a jury would be to convict a case. However, the participants reported that they find it incredibly difficult to accurately predict jury verdicts, making such decisions premised on a flawed logic.

**Link to Source (source is open access):** <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jip.1601>

**Child Sexual Exploitation**

**Title:** A contemporary case file analysis of child sexual abuse in institutional settings in England and Wales

**Author(s):** Brown, S. J.; Zammit, J.; and King, S.

**Date:** 09/22

**Abstract**

Despite increased institutional safeguards and regularly updated statutory guidance that stresses safeguarding is 'everybody's responsibility', children continue to be sexually abused in institutional contexts in England and Wales. There also remains a lack of contemporary knowledge about institutions' responses to concerns about [risk of] CSA.

**Link to source (source is open access):** [A contemporary case file analysis of child sexual abuse in institutional settings in England and Wales - ScienceDirect](#)

**Other**

**Title:** How Do Investigation Experiences Shape Views of the Police? Qualitatively Exploring Sexual Assault Survivors' Interactions With Police Detectives and Subsequent Views of the Police

**Author(s):** Lorenz, K

**Date:** 02/09/22

**Abstract**

Little attention has been paid to views of the police among sexual assault survivors. Understanding views of the police among a large population of crime victims who have historically been silenced

and mistreated by our criminal-legal system can help inform recent and ongoing conversations about police funding and criminal justice reform. Qualitative interview data from a community sample of sexual assault survivors explored how police detective interactions during sexual assault investigations shape views of the police. Negative interactions led to negative views of the police and for some were based on a culmination of positive and negative experiences. I share recommendations for responding to sexual assault that consider sexual assault survivors' experiences with and views of the police.

**Link to Source (source is not open access):** [How Do Investigation Experiences Shape Views of the Police? Qualitatively Exploring Sexual Assault Survivors' Interactions With Police Detectives and Subsequent Views of the Police - Katherine Lorenz, 2022 \(sagepub.com\)](#)

**Title: Who counts? The invisibility of mothers as victims of femicide**

**Author(s):** Condry, R., Miles, C

**Date:** 04/06/22

**Abstract**

This article focuses on the important and persistent phenomenon of women killed by their sons. We argue that parricide (the killing of parents) is a gendered form of violence, given that women are disproportionately represented as victims compared to other forms of violence (aside from domestic homicide by current or ex partners) and that son-mother killings are a form of femicide that is often hidden. Not only do they fall under literal definitions of femicide in that they involve women being killed by men, but they also, we contend, fall under motivation-driven definitions as the killing of women by men because they are women and an institutional state failure to protect them as women. Drawing upon analysis of Homicide Index data and 57 case studies of parricide in the United Kingdom, we show that in many cases women are killed by their adult-aged mentally ill sons, within a broader context of 'parental proximity', maternal caregiving and intersectional invisibility, which ultimately renders them vulnerable to fatal violence.

**Link to Source (source is open access):** [Who counts? The invisibility of mothers as victims of femicide \(sagepub.com\)](#)

[\[1\]](#) The aim of this document is to share new resources of relevance to vulnerability to promote awareness of current research, debates and practices in the field. Whilst we review each piece to ensure relevance, we do not make claims about the robustness of findings or arguments within each piece and as such do not explicitly endorse or critique what is shared.