



# When There's More Than One Assailant: Understanding Variations In Victims' Needs

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# Introduction



- In the CSEW between 2011/12 and 2019/20, more than a quarter of violent crime was perpetrated by multiple perpetrators
- Previous research into group composition e.g. age, sex and number of perpetrators in co-offending groups (*Van Mastrigt 2014; Lantz 2020; Andresen and Felson 2010; Carrington 2002*)
- Multiple perpetrator violent events (MPVEs) are often more severe and injurious to victims than single perpetrator violent events (SPVEs) (*Andresen And Felson 2010; Carrington 2002*).
- Previous research uses administrative data and focuses on perpetrators



## **Data and Sample**



- Eight years of data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2011/12 and 2019/20
- Violent events including common assault, attempted assault, serious wounding (including serious wounding with a sexual motive), and other wounding (including other wounding with a sexual motive), rape, attempted rape, indecent assault, robbery and attempted robbery.
- 6,838 victim forms, weighted to population (=7.65m)
- Slightly more victim forms for male victims than female victims
- 73% of violent events were SPVEs and 27% were MPVEs



#### **Research Questions**



- Two research questions:
- 1. What are the characteristics of victims of single perpetrator violent events (SPVEs) and how does this differ to victims of multiple perpetrator violent events (MPVEs)?

2. Are victims of multiple perpetrator violent events (MPVEs) more or less likely than victims of single perpetrator violent events (SPVEs) to access different types of services as a result?



# **Profiles of MPVEs and SPVEs**



|         |               |  | SPVE % | MPVE % | Total % |
|---------|---------------|--|--------|--------|---------|
|         | Sex*          | Male                                   | 53.1   | 71.7   | 57.5    |
|         |               | Female                                 | 47.3   | 28.3   | 42.5    |
| Victims | Ethnic group* | White                                  | 90.1   | 85.6   | 88.9    |
|         |               | Mixed/multiple ethnic groups           | 2.1    | 3.0    | 2.3     |
|         |               | Asian/Asian British                    | 4.4    | 6.5    | 5.0     |
|         |               | Black/African/Caribbean/ Black British | 2.8    | 4.2    | 3.2     |
|         |               | Other                                  | 0.5    | 0.7    | 0.6     |
|         | Age*          | 16-24                                  | 16.1   | 23.0   | 17.9    |
|         |               | 25-34                                  | 24.8   | 23.9   | 24.5    |
|         |               | 35-44                                  | 21.8   | 20.3   | 21.5    |
|         |               | 45-54                                  | 20.9   | 17.2   | 19.9    |
|         |               | 55-64                                  | 10.8   | 9.5    | 10.4    |
|         |               | 65-74                                  | 4.3    | 4.4    | 4.3     |
|         |               | 75+                                    | 1.3    | 1.8    | 1.4     |
|         | Closest       | Domestic                               | 20.1   | 2.6    | 16.4    |
|         | Relationship* | Acquaintance                           | 36.2   | 24.3   | 32.5    |
|         |               | Stranger                               | 43.7   | 73.1   | 51.1    |



### **Differences in accessing services**

| Results for logistic regression models     |  |      |              |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|------|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | MPVE   |      |              |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | OR from logistic regression <sup>1</sup><br>(95% CI) | SE   | Р            |  |  |  |  |  |
| Model 1 (Victim Contacted Victim Support)  | 1.152<br>(.860, 1.544)                               | .172 | .341         |  |  |  |  |  |
| Model 2 (police know about the event)      | 1.243<br>(1.062, 1.456)                              | .101 | .007<br>**   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Model 3 (Victim was injured)               | 1.325<br>(1.132, 1.551)                              | .607 | <.001<br>*** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Model 4 (Victim had treatment in hospital) | 2.143<br>(1.524, 3.015)                              | .373 | <.001<br>*** |  |  |  |  |  |

Significance codes \* p<.05; \*\* p < .01; \*\*\* p <.001

<sup>1</sup> Logistic Regression models also included: age of the victim, sex of victim, ethnicity of victim, relationship to the perpetrator(s), sex of the perpetrator(s), age of perpetrator(s) and socio-economic class of victim



## Conclusion



- Violence by multiple perpetrators is not uncommon in the CSEW
- Victims of multiple perpetrator violent events were more likely to report to police, be injured and seek medical treatment
- Victims of single perpetrator violent events may be under-represented in records from police, health ad specialist services

