

# The overlap between child maltreatment and domestic violence perpetration

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## Aim of this Study

Gain a better understanding of the prevalence and nature of perpetration by dual-system involved men.



## Key Concepts

- Dual-system Perpetration
  - Having at least one contact as a perpetrator with both the child protection system (child maltreatment) and the civil court system (domestic violence)
- Longitudinal Analysis
  - Population-based administrative data
- Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Perpetration
  - Recorded as respondent on at least one domestic violence order (DVO) between the ages of 22 and 30 years
- Child Maltreatment (CM) Perpetration
  - Recorded as person responsible for harm/risk of harm to a child (following a substantiated investigation) between the ages of 22 and 30 years



## Past Research & Background



- Little longitudinal research has been conducted on men who have dual-system contact
- Most dual-system literature focuses on the victim and is cross-sectional
- Research suggests that DFV and CM are likely to co-occur within families
- It is assumed that males who perpetrate DFV or CM are likely to also perpetrate the other
- Historically, DFV and CM were treated as distinct forms of violence
- Exposure to DFV – Classified as emotional harm in QLD



## Why focus only on males?

- There is controversy in the literature around the gendered nature of DFV.
- Males are more commonly named as the respondent on a DVO
- Research shows that females are just as likely to be recorded as being responsible for CM.
  - Females are more likely to be responsible for neglect
  - Females are found responsible for failing to protect
  - Females spend more time child-rearing



## Aim and Research Questions

Aim: Gain a better understanding of the prevalence and nature of perpetration by dual-system involved men.

1. How prevalent is male perpetrated DFV, CM and dual-system involvement?
2. How does the nature of DFV differ between those who have been a respondent on a domestic violence order and those that have dual-system contact?
3. How does the nature of CM differ between those who have been the person responsible for child maltreatment and individuals who have had dual-system contact?



### Queensland Cross-sector Research Collaboration

- Longitudinal Population Data – 1983, 1984 and 1990 (stored in SAL)
- Individual level linked data for each individual who had contact with:
  - Queensland Births, Deaths and Marriages
  - Child Protection System (victims and maltreaters)
  - Queensland Police Service (youth cautioning and conferencing)
  - Courts (youth and adult court appearances)
  - Domestic Violence Orders (civil orders – respondents and aggrieved)
  - Queensland Health
- **269,784** unique individuals



### Data for Current Study

- 1983 and 1984 male birth cohort
- Datasets used:
  - Domestic Violence Orders (respondents)
  - Child Protection System (person responsible)
  - Queensland Births, Deaths and Marriages (named parent)
  - Courts (Guilty appearances for breaching a DVO)
- Queensland male population:
  - **68,323** males aged 30 in 2013 and 2014
  - **2,741** Indigenous males aged 30 in 2013 and 2014



#### 1.1 How prevalent is male perpetrated domestic and family violence?

- Of the 68,323 males **5,130** have been the respondent of at least one DVO between the ages of 22-30 years (**7.5%**)
  - The average number of DVOs was 1.5 orders (max 9 orders)
- Of the 2,741 Indigenous males **1,204** have been the respondent of a DVO between the ages of 22-30 (**44%**)
  - The average number of DVOs was 1.8 orders (max 9 orders)

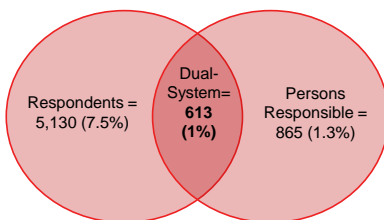


#### 1.2 How prevalent is male perpetrated child maltreatment?

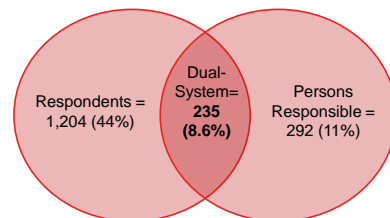
- Of the 68,323 males **865** have been identified as the person responsible for harm to a child (**1.3%**)
  - The average number of substantiations was 1.5 (Max 8 substantiations)
- Of the 2,741 Indigenous males **292** have been identified as the person responsible for harm to a child (**11%**)
  - The average number of substantiations was 1.6 (Max 8 substantiations)



#### 1.3 How prevalent is male dual-system involvement?



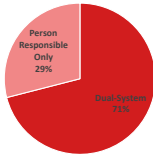
#### 1.3 How prevalent is Indigenous male dual-system involvement?



## 1.4 Overlap of DFV and CM Perpetration

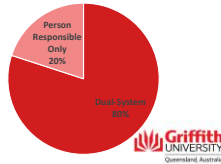
Of the 865 persons responsible for harm

- 252 had single-system contact
- 613 had dual-system contact



Of the 292 Indigenous persons responsible for harm

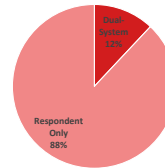
- 57 had single-system contact
- 235 had dual-system contact



## 1.4 Overlap of DFV and CM Perpetration

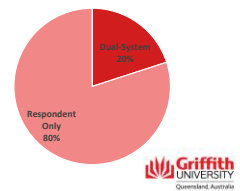
Of the 5,130 respondents

- 4,517 had single-system contact
- 613 had dual-system contact



Of the 1,204 Indigenous respondents

- 969 had single-system contact
- 235 had dual-system contact



## 2. How does DFV differ between respondents and those that have dual-system contact?

- Of the 5,130 respondents
  - 4,517 had single-system contact
  - 613 had dual-system contact
- The greatest predictors of dual system contact were:
  - Being a parent
  - Indigenous status
  - Number of DVOs
  - Breach of a DVO
  - Number of breaches



## 3. How does CM differ between those responsible for CM and those who have had dual-system contact?

- Of the 865 persons responsible
  - 252 had single-system contact
  - 613 had dual-system contact
- The greatest predictors of dual-system contact were:
  - Being identified as responsible for emotional harm to a child
  - Indigenous status
  - Being a parent
  - Number of substantiations
  - Being identified as responsible for sexual harm to a child had a negative relationship (i.e. less likely to have dual-system contact)



## Summary of Results

1. There is a high-degree of dual-system contact.
2. The frequency and nature of this violence is different for males with dual-system contact.
3. Over representation of Indigenous males.



## Implications

- A better understanding of cumulative harms experienced by families over time.
- Small group of perpetrators are responsible for most systems contact.
- Whole-of-government or multi-systemic responses.
  - Need to build upon and evaluate initiatives already in place
  - Highlights the need for cross-system data sharing.
- Highlights the need for better informed data systems.
  - Admin data should note the presence of DFV within a family.



### Limitations

- Only includes official data
  - Both DFV and CM are drastically underreported
- Limited information regarding DVOs
  - Only started from June 2007
  - No data pertaining to relationship or type of violence.



### Where to next?

- Overlaps in differing systems
  - Aggrieved persons on a DVO
  - Criminality
  - Victims of child maltreatment
- Timing
- Gender differences – Do we see for same for women perpetrators?



### Thank You

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