




***A descriptive analysis of the characteristics,
seriousness and frequency of Aboriginal intimate
partner violence in the Northern Territory:
a strategy for targeting high harm cases.***

Jeanette Kerr







-  Denotes Darwin City, Casuarina, Palmerston and Litchfield which is the wider Darwin area
-  Regional Towns
-  Separates Remote Northern from Remote Southern

LEGEND	
LANGUAGE GROUP
	JABIRUTOWN
	ELUOTTREMOTE TOWN
	DARRICACOMMUNITY

For information about the Aboriginal Interpreter Service visit www.nt.gov.au/ais

The data

- 88,000 unique domestic disturbance incidents
- 62,000 cases of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) (70%)
- 23,000 unique couples
- 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2014



Purpose

1. To provide a quantitative profile of IPV in the NT to establish an evidence-base for the articulation of government policy.
1. To provide evidence to inform the allocation of government resources across the NT so that they can target IPV according to the characteristics, frequency and severity of incidents reported to the NT Police, with the objective of preventing serious incidents and reducing total incidents





Key findings

- Aboriginal women in the NT are among the most victimised by intimate partners in the world (note: Personal Safety Survey)
- A higher than expected rate of offending by Aboriginal women
- Two-thirds of IPV incidents reported to police are low-harm
- Support for arguments of gender symmetry in IPV, at least in low-harm cases



Key findings

- Almost one-half of couples in the sample had only one appearance in the records over a four year period. Therefore almost half of the couples did not have a repeat incident in the four years.
- Findings indicate that the commonly accepted wisdom that IPV always escalates in seriousness and frequency is not true for the NT.
- For those couples that did have two or more incidents there was a very strong pattern of escalation in the frequency and seriousness of offending up to 20 incidents.
- Alcohol reduction measures do not reduce the rate of IPV incidents but does reduce the associated harm

Crime Harm

- Criminal Justice agencies measure crime by incident counts.
- Potentially misleading because all crimes are not equal on their harmfulness.
- Propose that incident counts be supplemented by translating them into a CHI based on sentencing guidelines, by which the harm of each crime is determined by multiplying the crime by the number of days in prison that crime would attract.
- CHI values offer greater clarity for evidence-based deployment of resources and development of policy, providing a standard 'bottom line for crime'.

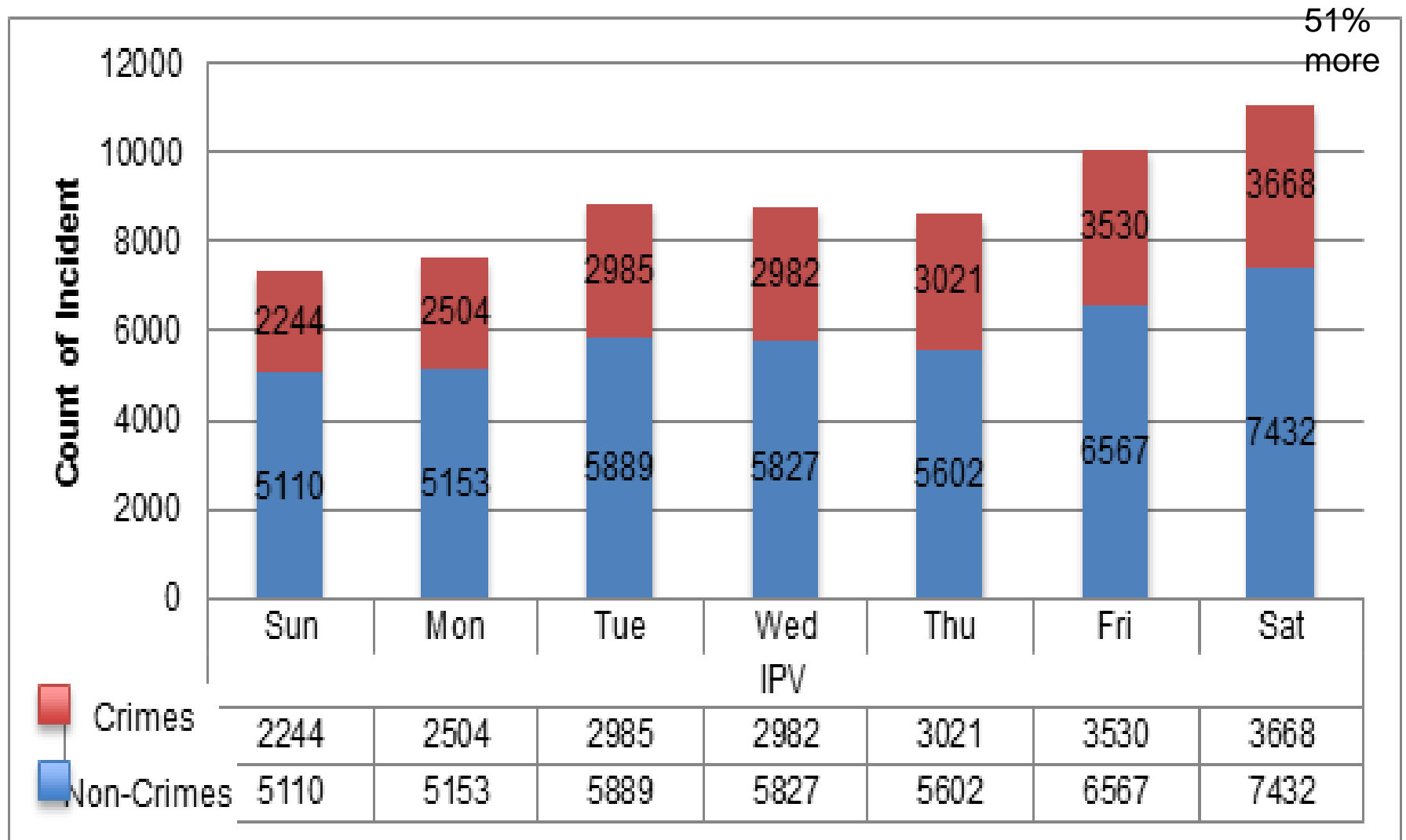


Two tiers

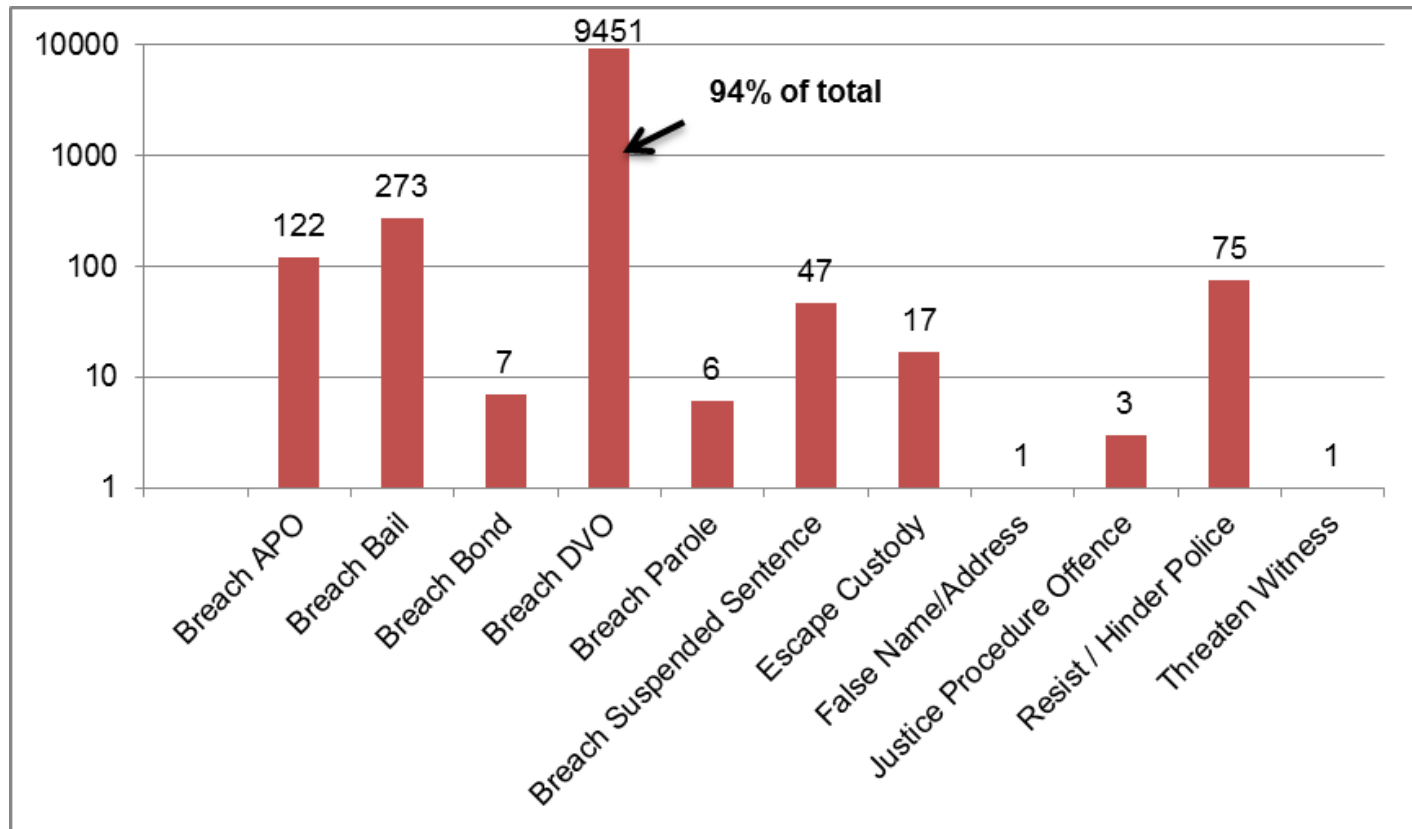
- ‘Crimes’ in this data set refer to incidents where there is prima facie evidence that a crime has been committed and there is a victim, offender and at least one criminal offence linked to the incident.
- ‘Non-crimes’ are incidents where no prima facie offence, victim or offender has been detected. Participants and evidence of a domestic disturbance are evident however, and linked to the incident.

Non-Crime	41,504
Crime	20,292
Total	61,796

Total Incidents broken down by Crimes & Non-Crimes for Days of the Week

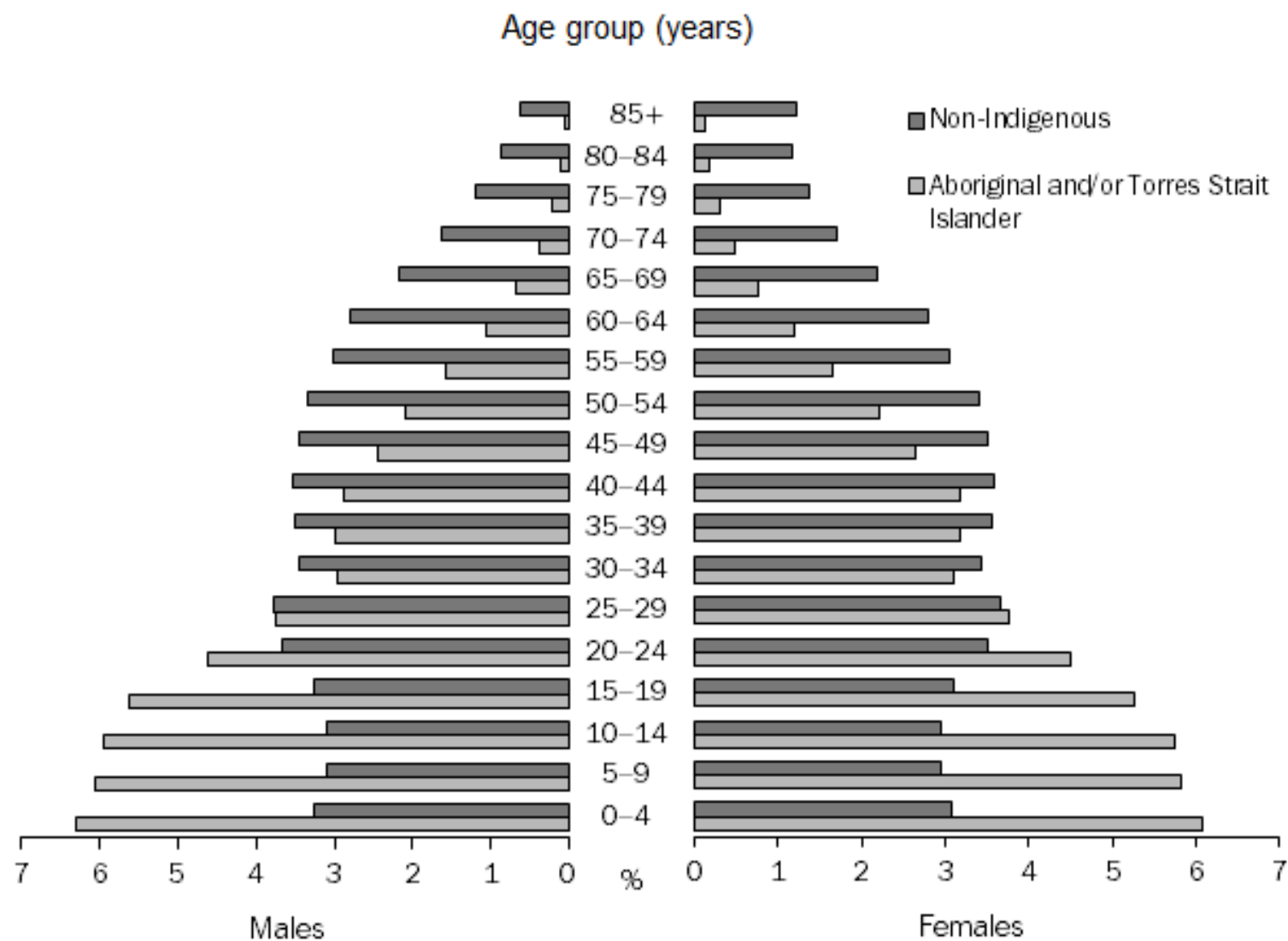


Number of Crimes Against Justice Procedures - Note Logarithmic Scale

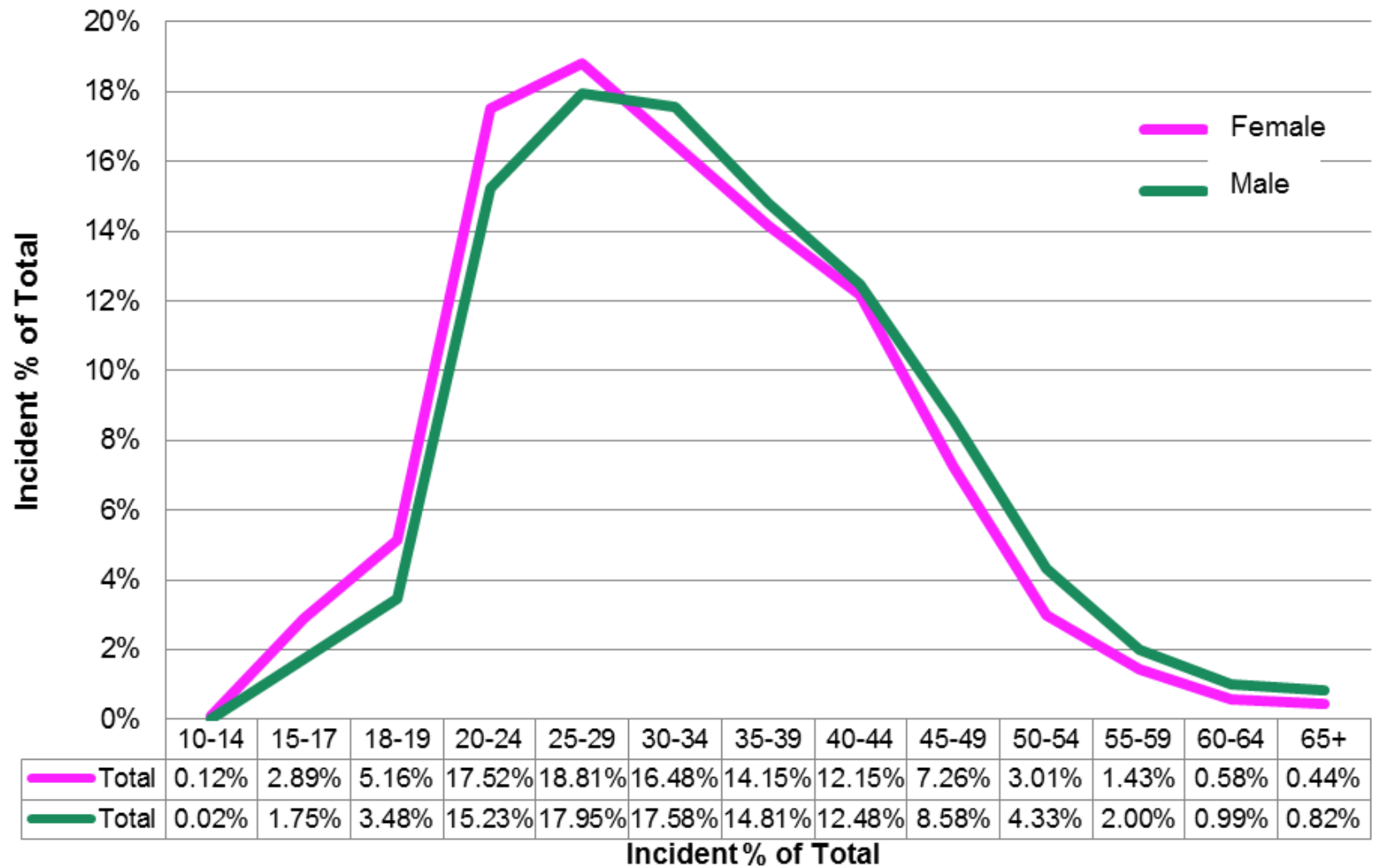


- Breach DVO are committed in almost half (47%) of all the incidents in the Crime category
- at least 60% of IPV when a DVO is present

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND NON-INDIGENOUS POPULATION - 30 JUNE 2011



Age Category by Gender



Incidents & Crimes by Injury

Injury Type	% of Total
NO INJURIES TO VICTIM	76.6
MINOR BRUISING, CUTS, GRAZING, SWELLING	19.5
SERIOUS BRUISING / CUTS	2.8
BROKEN BONE/S	0.6
CHOKING	0.3
LIFE THREATENING INJURIES	0.07
DEATH	0.03
Total	100

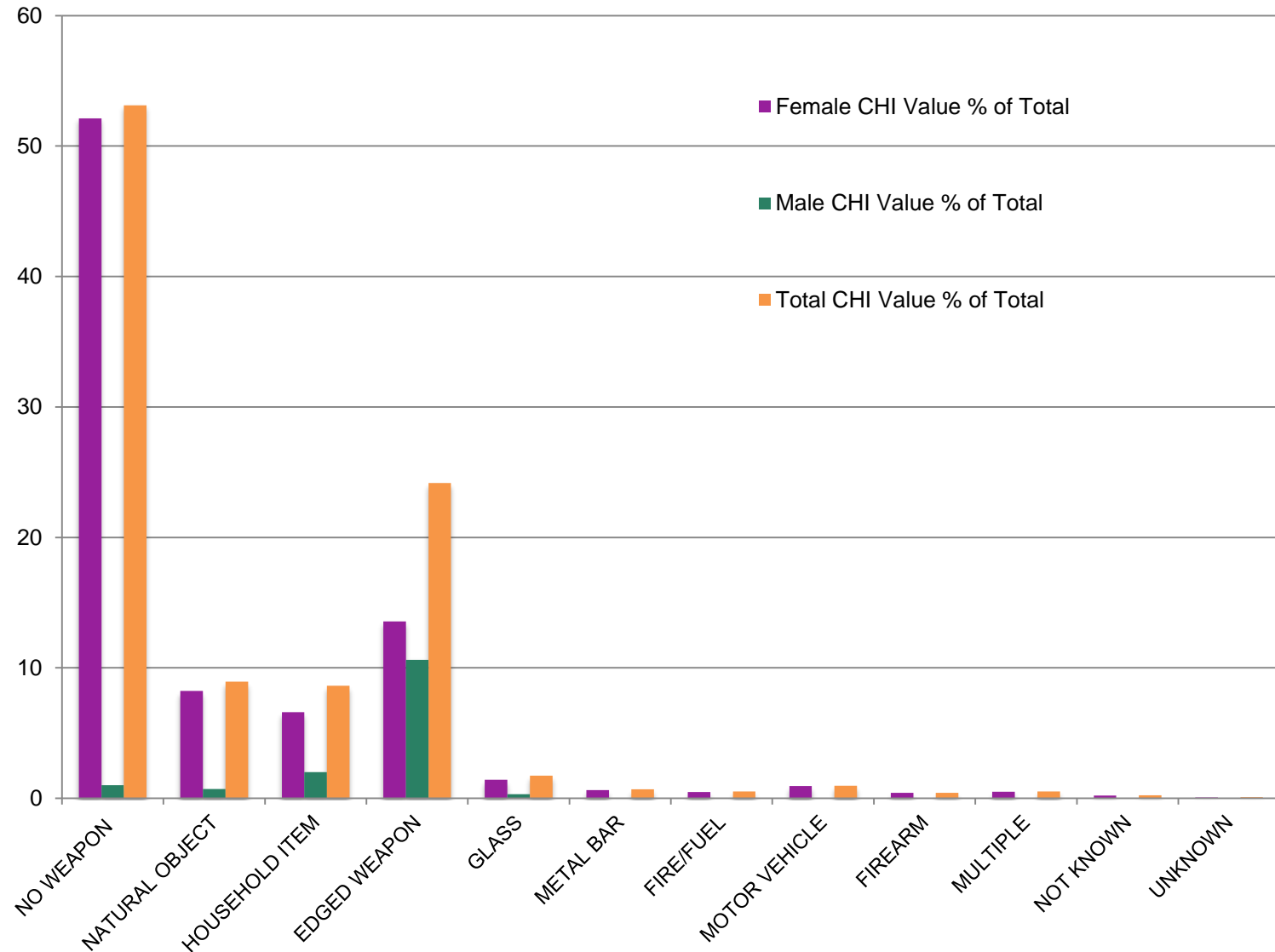
Injury Type	% of Total
NO INJURIES TO VICTIM	44.3
MINOR BRUISING, CUTS, GRAZING, SWELLING	44.8
SERIOUS BRUISING / CUTS	8.1
BROKEN BONE/S	1.7
CHOKING	0.9
LIFE THREATENING INJURIES	0.2
DEATH	0.1
Total	100

Weapons

Percentage of Total Incidents and Crime Harm Index Value (CHIV) for Crimes involving Weapons

Weapon	% of Total Incident Count	% of Total Sum CHIV
NO WEAPON	69.4	53.8
WEAPON	30.6	46.2
NATURAL OBJECT	10.2	9.7
HOUSEHOLD ITEM	9.1	9.9
EDGED WEAPON	6.5	20.9
GLASS	2.4	2.1
METAL BAR	0.7	0.8
FIRE/FUEL	0.3	0.6
MOTOR VEHICLE	0.1	1.2
FIREARM	0.1	0.5
MULTIPLE	0.4	0.2
NOT KNOWN	0.8	0.4
Grand Total	100	100

Percentage of Total Crime Harm Experienced by Victims, by Gender and Weapon Type



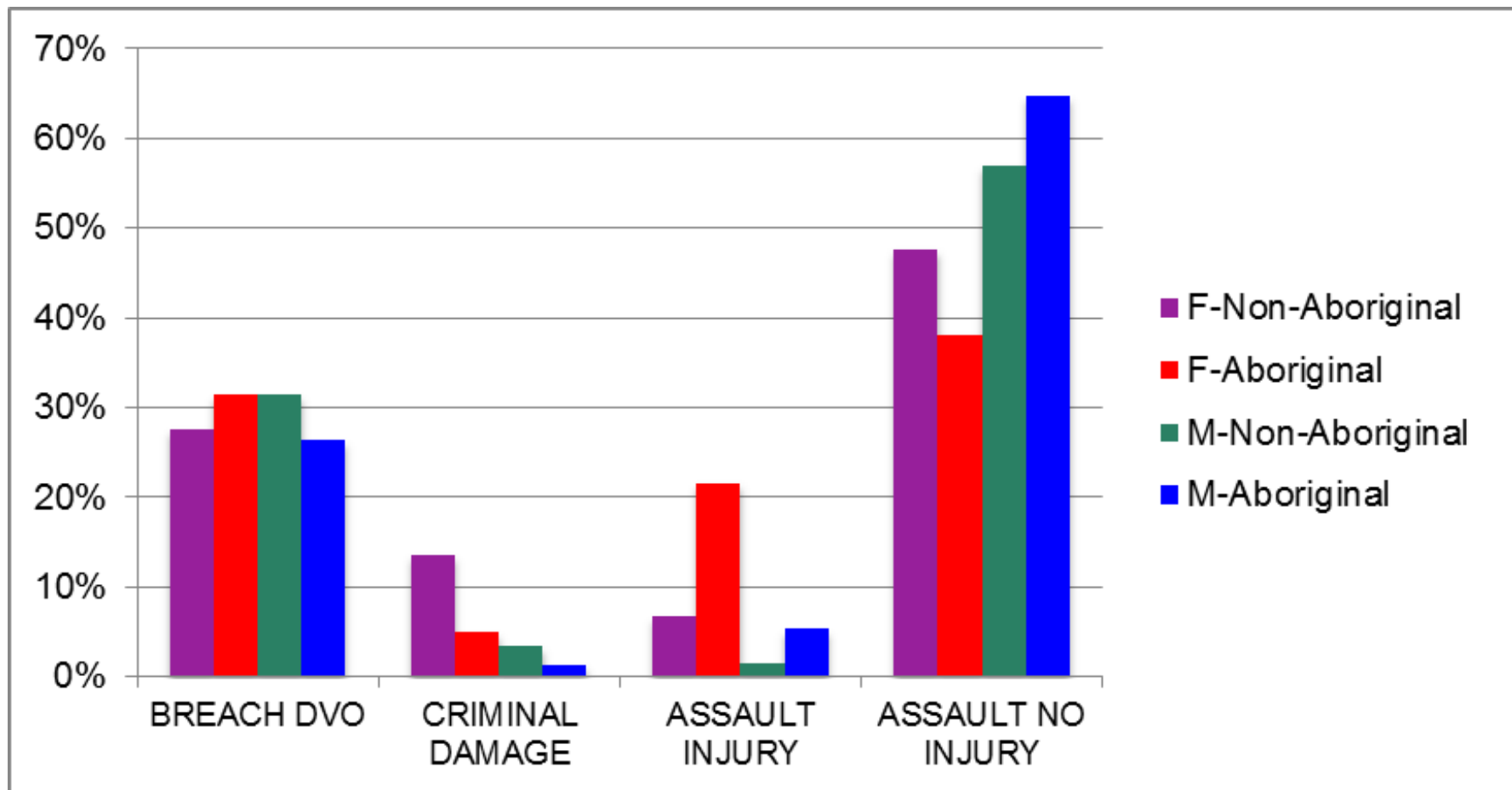
Gender

Number of Dyads in which Individual Males and Females Appear

Number of Dyads	Females	% of Females	Males	% of Males
1	11525	75.3	12709	75
2	2637	17.2	2925	17.3
3	735	4.8	909	5.4
4	254	1.6	280	1.7
5	89	0.6	90	0.5
6	41	0.3	28	0.2
7	15	0.1	8	0.05
8	3	0.02	3	0.02
9	0	0	0	0
10	1	0	0	0

Gender

Percentage of Offenders Committing Specific Crime Types, by Gender and Aboriginal Status



Breach of DVOs by Race, Gender & Partner Type

	Female		Female Total		Male		Male Total		Total
Injuries	Non Aboriginal	Aboriginal			Non Aboriginal	Aboriginal			
EX-PARTNER	64%	21%	25%		48%	22%	29%		25.73%
PARTNER	36%	79%	75%		52%	78%	71%		74.27%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%		100.00%

- the percentages of non-Aboriginal men breaching a domestic violence order against a current partner or ex-partner were similar.
- the percentage of Aboriginal men and women breaching a DVO against a current partner was more than three times as large as the percentage breaching a DVO against a former partner.

Women's Offending

It is argued that women's motivations for offending are qualitatively different to men's in that women will often perpetrate IPV either in self-defence or in retaliation for IPV being perpetrated on them.

To test this argument, a cohort of male victims was selected who were all victimised in 2014, the fifth year of the data set.

Analysis then identified the number of times in the previous four years of the data set that the male victim had been the offender in the dyad.



Women's Offending

Number of Crimes where Male Victim was Previously an Offender in the Same Dyad

Crimes	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number ¹	Percent
0	120	33.8%	74	66.7%	206	42.4%
1	53	14.9%	20	18.0%	77	15.8%
2	34	9.6%	9	8.1%	45	9.3%
3	33	9.3%	6	5.4%	41	8.4%
4	37	10.4%	0	0.0%	37	7.6%
5	16	4.5%	2	1.8%	18	3.7%
6	18	5.1%	0	0.0%	18	3.7%
7	17	4.8%	0	0.0%	17	3.5%
8	5	1.4%	0	0.0%	5	1.0%
9	2	0.6%	0	0.0%	2	0.4%
10	3	0.8%	0	0.0%	3	0.6%
12	4	1.1%	0	0.0%	4	0.8%
13	4	1.1%	0	0.0%	4	0.8%
14	5	1.4%	0	0.0%	5	1.0%
15	4	1.1%	0	0.0%	4	0.8%
Total	355	100.0%	111	100.0%	486	100.0%

Geographic Location

Number of Incidents (Crimes & Non-crimes) & Population by Location

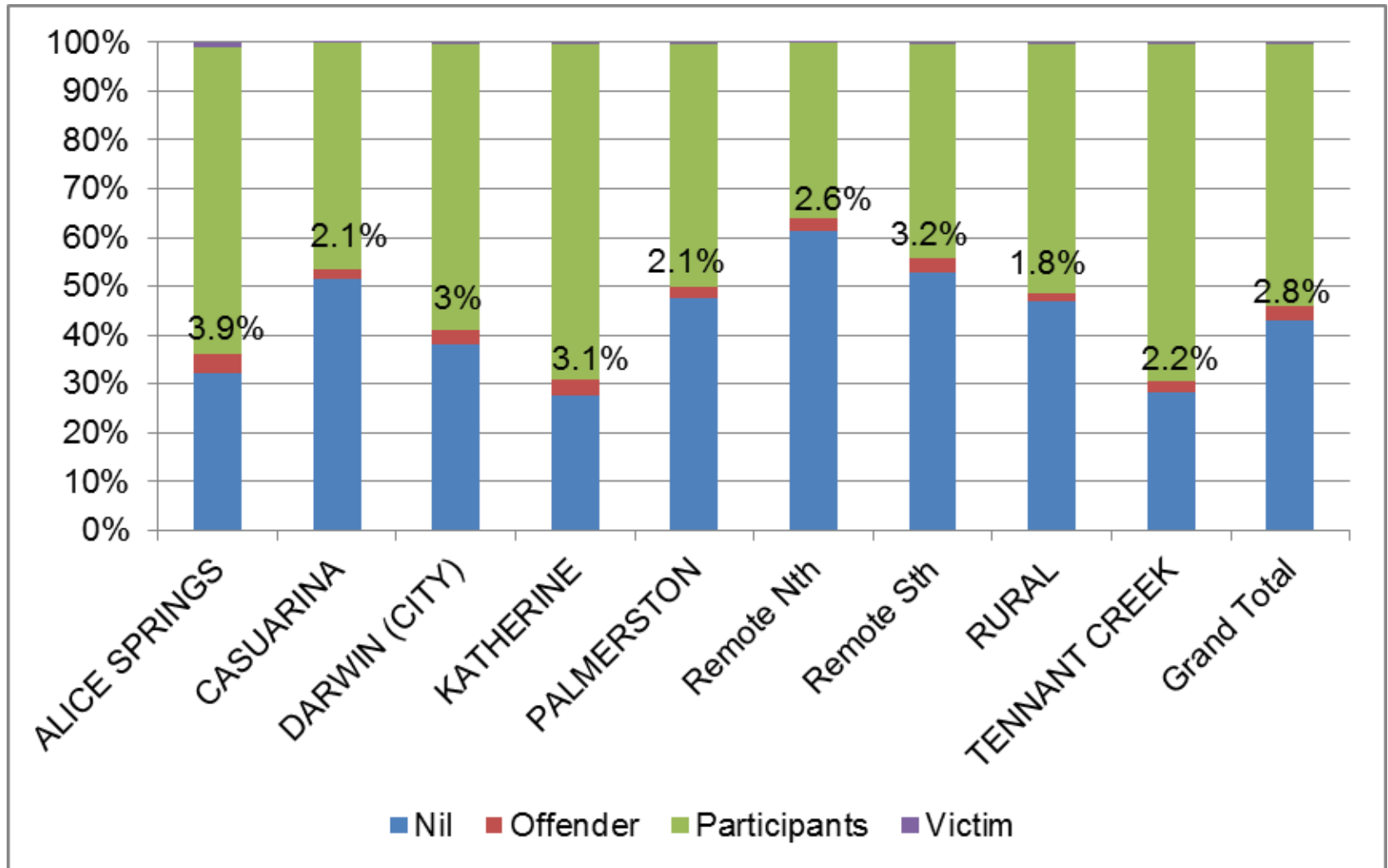
Total Incidents					
	Total	% of Total	Popn	% of NT Popn	Incidents / 1000 Popn
ALICE SPRINGS	14056	22.7	31250	12.8	450
CASUARINA	7280	11.8	58470	23.9	125
DARWIN (CITY)	6161	10	26281	10.7	234
KATHERINE	7023	11.4	11187	4.6	628
PALMERSTON	6655	10.8	33949	13.9	196
REMOTE NTH	10298	16.7	45000	18.4	229
REMOTE STH	4093	6.6	13622	5.6	301
RURAL	1617	2.6	21686	8.9	75
TENNANT CREEK	4613	7.5	3634	1.5	1269
Total	61796	100	245079	100	252

Geographic Location

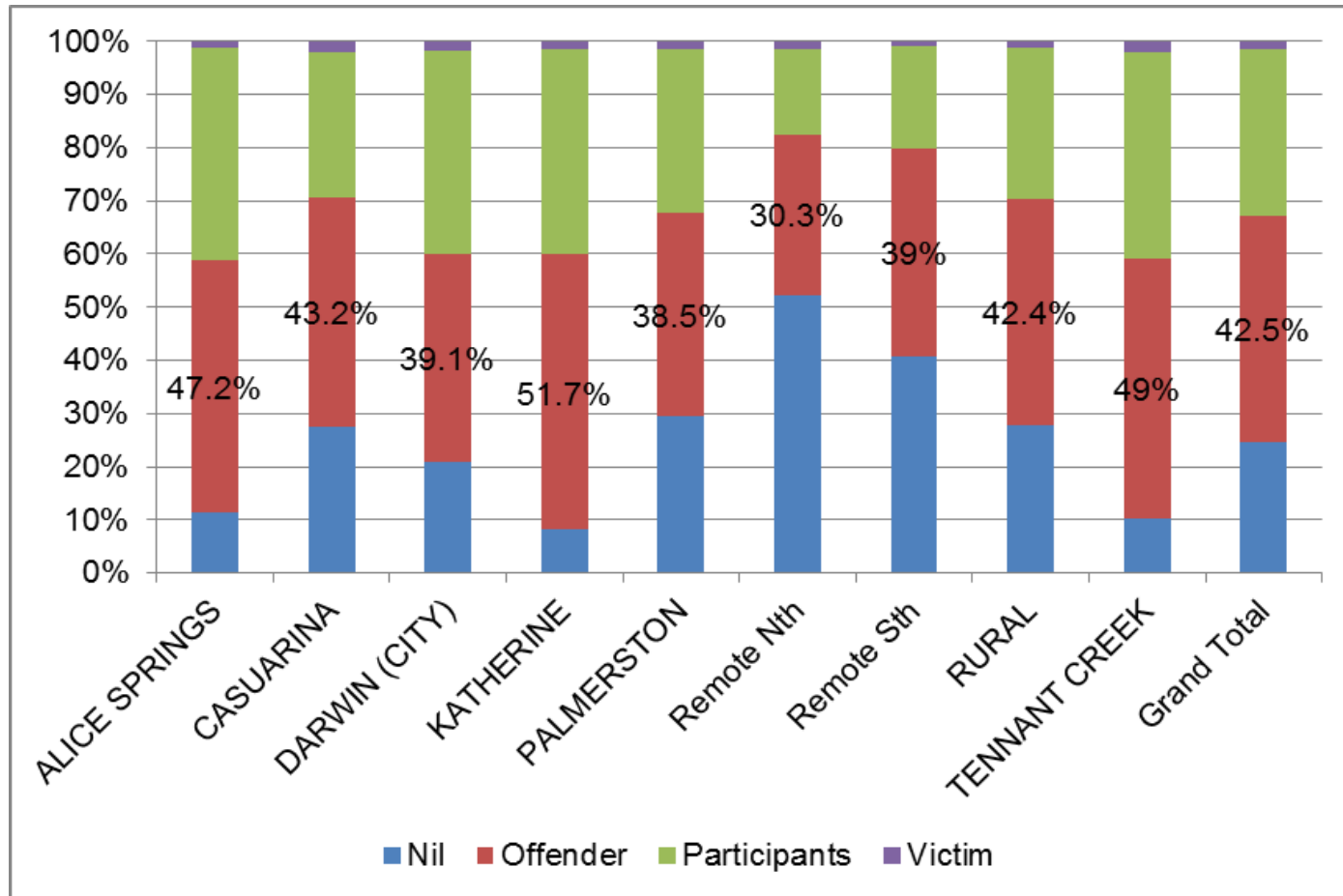
- Although Tennant Creek has an alarmingly high rate of IPV, it does not have a disproportionate ratio of crime harm to the total number of incidents.
- So while the incidence is higher than all other locations the severity is not.
- In contrast, Alice Springs, which also has a much higher than average incidence of IPV, also has a disproportionately high ratio of crime harm to incidents, with the crime harm rate being about 50% higher than the incidence rate.

Geographic Location	% Total Incidents	% Sum of CHIV
ALICE SPRINGS	22.7%	33.4%
CASUARINA	11.8%	9.2%
DARWIN (CITY)	10%	8.9%
KATHERINE	11.4%	9.8%
PALMERSTON	10.8%	7.3%
REMOTE NTH	16.7%	11.5%
REMOTE STH	6.6%	8.9%
RURAL	2.6%	4.8%
TENNANT CREEK	7.5%	6.2%
Total	100%	100%

Intoxication by Location for Non-crimes



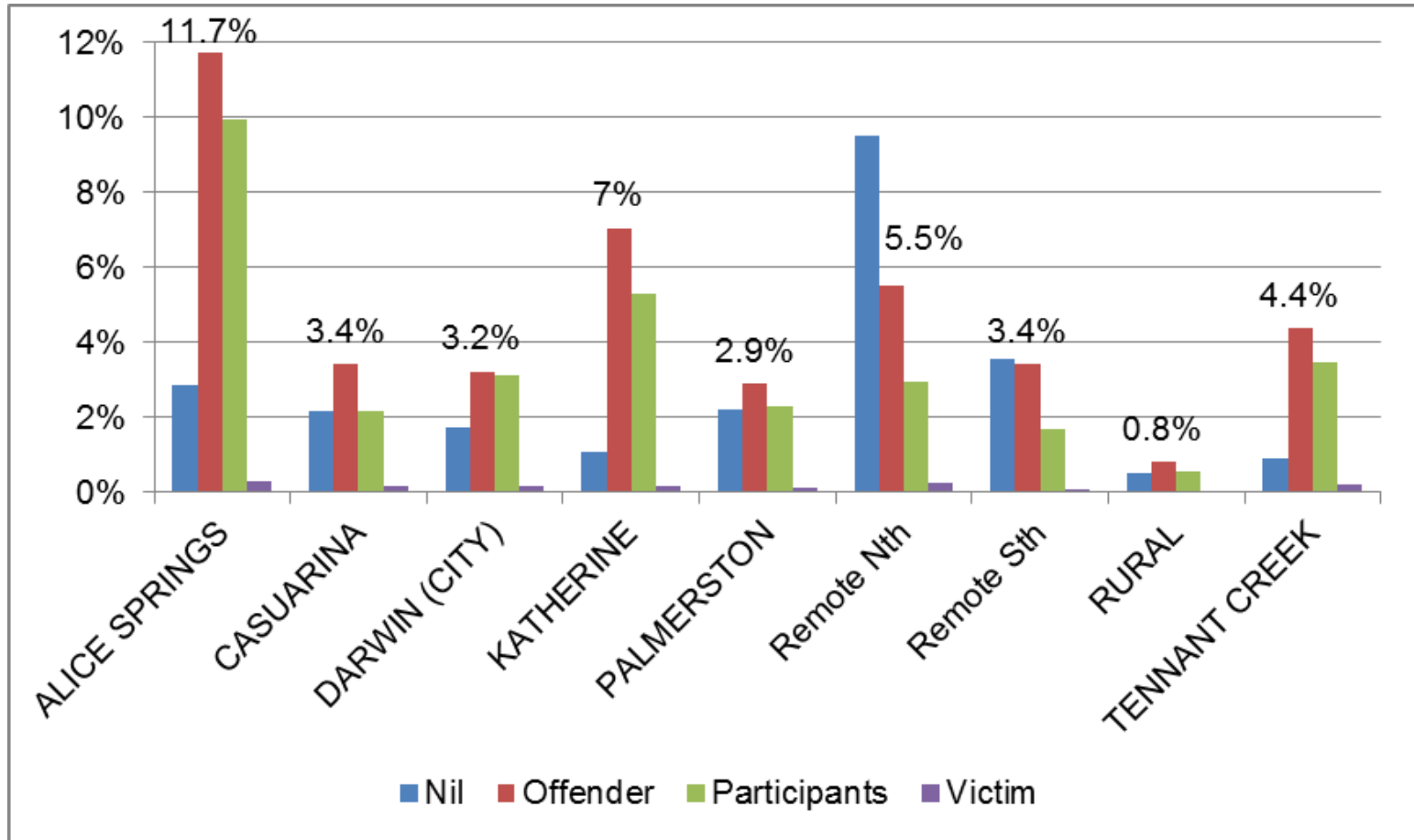
Intoxication by Location for Crimes



Crimes involving intoxication by any or both parties (75.5%) include alcohol used by the offender (74%).

Alcohol & Crime by Location

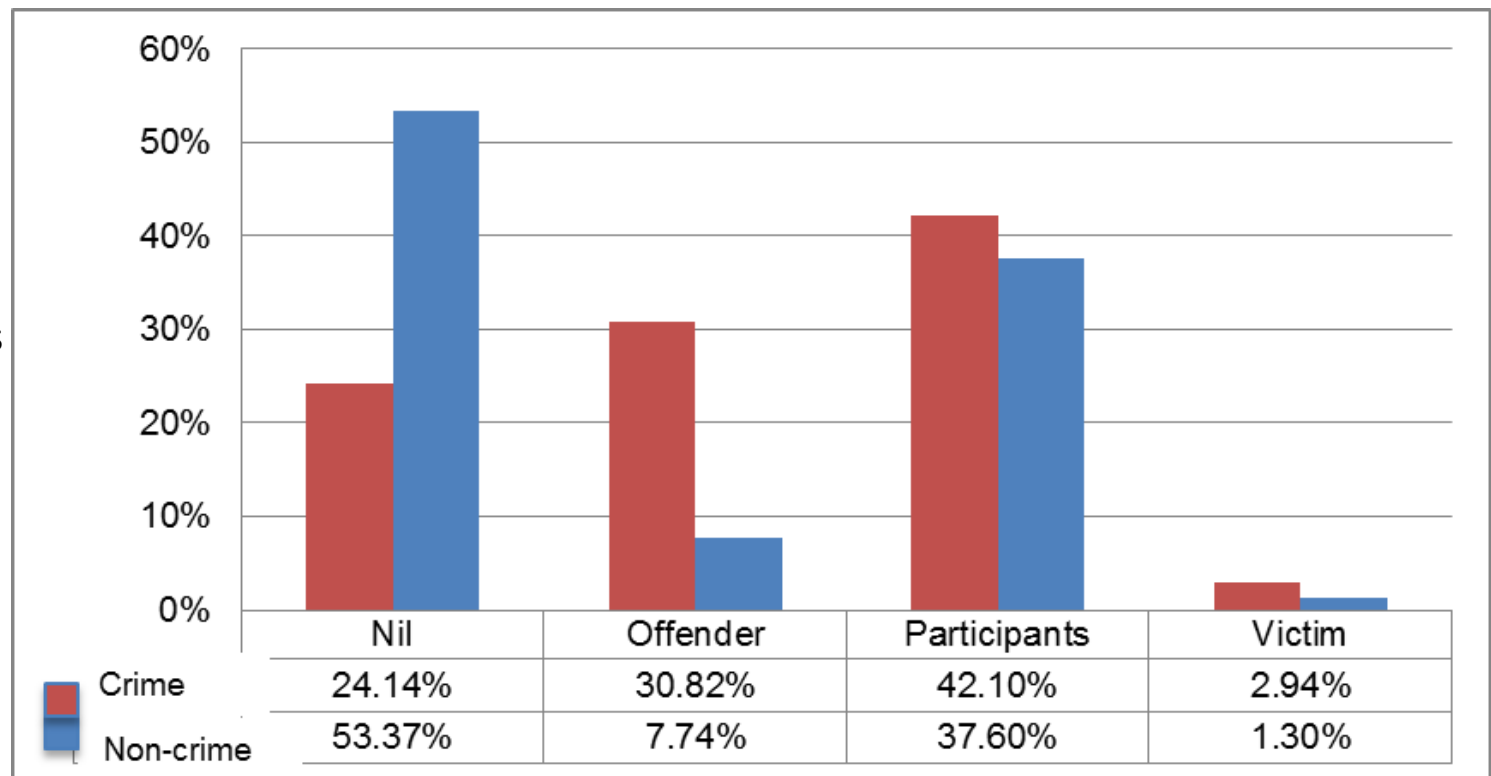
Intoxication by Location by Percent of Total Crime



Outside of Darwin 76.5% of IPV Crime

Alcohol & Crime Harm

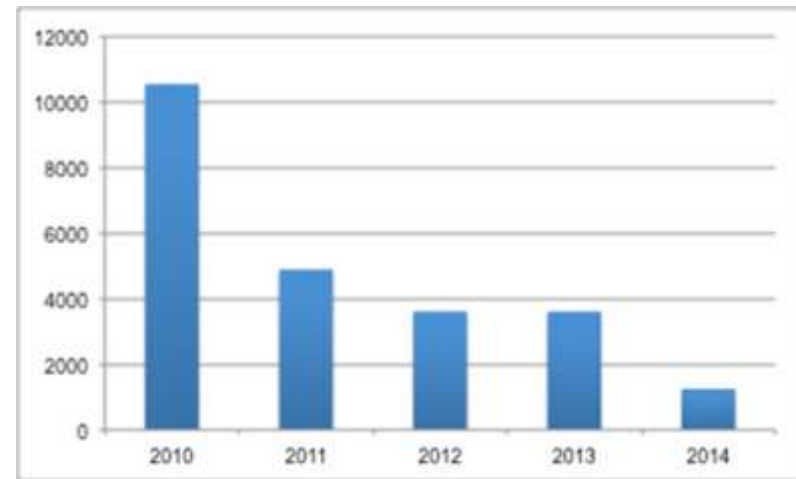
- To examine the impact of alcohol involvement on crime harm, CHI values were compared for Non-crimes and Crimes.
- Crime harm is higher when alcohol is involved with both offenders and victims.
- Crimes are more likely to occur when both the victim and offender or the offender alone is intoxicated.
- When an IPV incident occurs and no alcohol is involved a Non-crime is more than twice as likely to result than a Crime.



Desistance

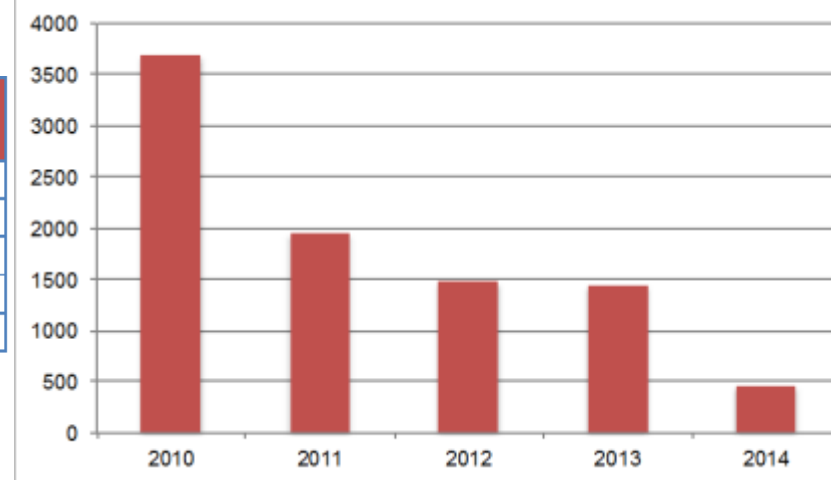
Total Incidents (4yr Window) & Desistance by Year

Year	Count of Incident	Probability of Re-occurrence	% Re-offending from Year 1
2010	10557		
2011	4898	46.4%	46.4%
2012	3621	73.9%	34.3%
2013	3616	99.9%	34.3%
2014	1250	34.6%	11.8%



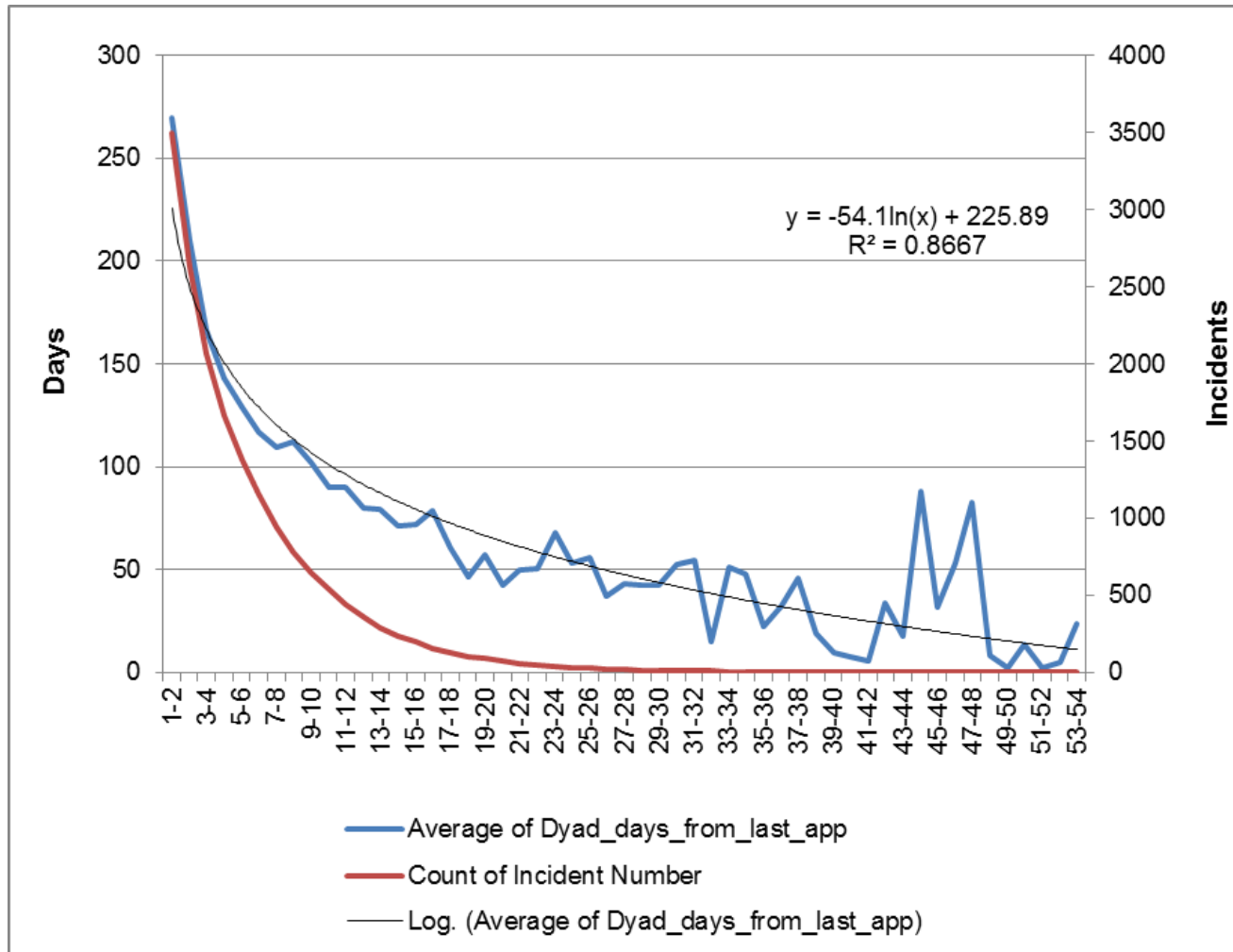
Crimes (4yr Window) & Desistance by Year

Year	Count of Incident	Probability of Re-occurrence	% Re-offending from Year 1
2010	3685		
2011	1947	52.8%	52.8%
2012	1477	75.9%	40.1%
2013	1445	97.8%	39.2%
2014	467	32.3%	12.7%



Intermittency

- between incidents 1 & 2 an average intermittency of 270 days
- between incidents 2 & 3 intermittency decreased to an average of 210 days
- by appearances 9 & 10 intermittency had reduced to an average of 102 days



This pattern of decreased intermittency and therefore escalation in frequency is very strong

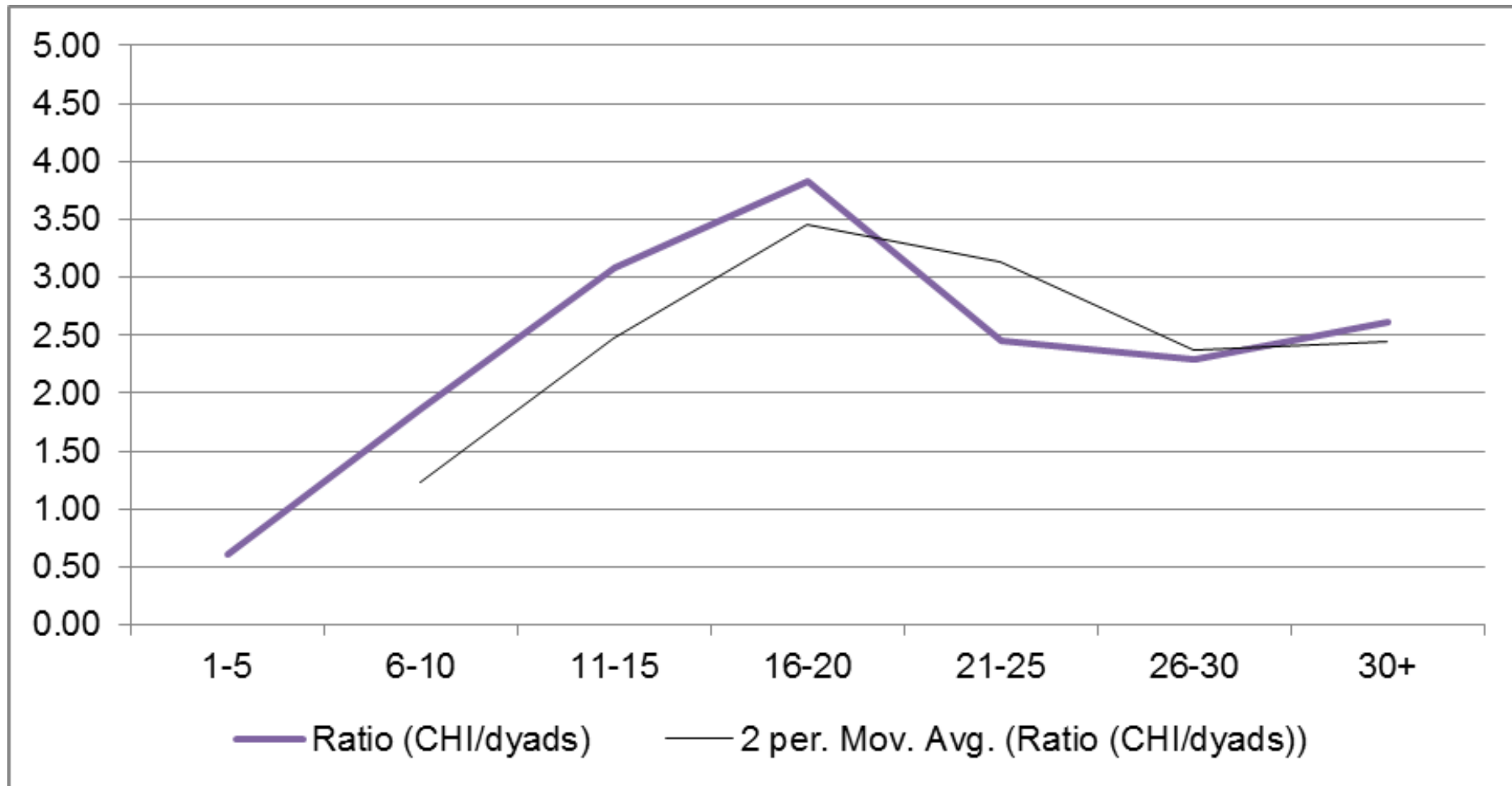
Escalation in Severity (Crime Harm)

Ratio of CHI to Dyad Appearances Blocked by 5 incidents

Incidents	No. dyads	No. incidents	% of dyads	% of incidents	% of CHI Value	Ratio CHI/Dyads	Ratio CHI/ Incidents
1-5	4794	9131	78%	38%	47%	0.60	1.23
6-10	843	6437	14%	27%	26%	1.87	0.95
11-15	341	4295	6%	18%	17%	3.09	0.95
16-20	122	2138	2%	9%	8%	3.82	0.85
21-25	47	1060	1%	4%	2%	2.45	0.42
26-30	14	382	0%	2%	1%	2.29	0.33
30+	15	548	0%	2%	1%	2.61	0.28

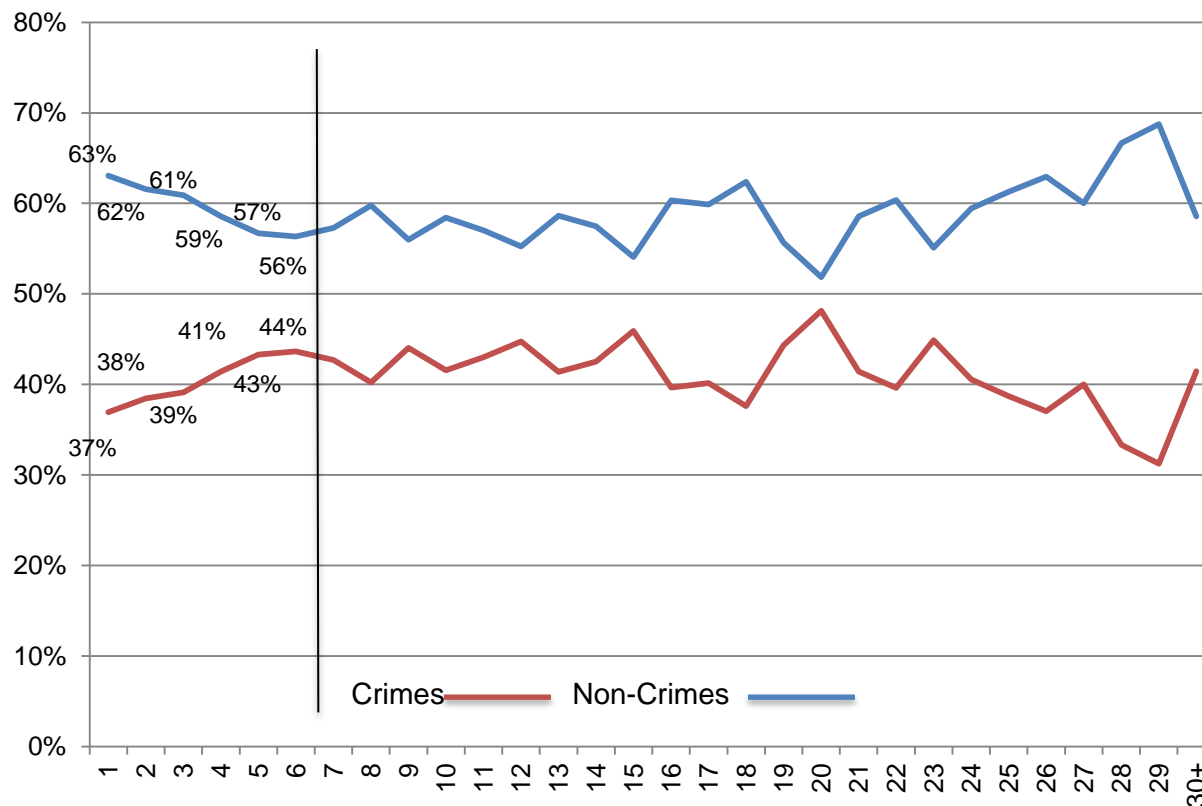
Escalation in Severity (Crime Harm)

Ratio of CHI to Dyad Appearances Blocked by 5 incidents



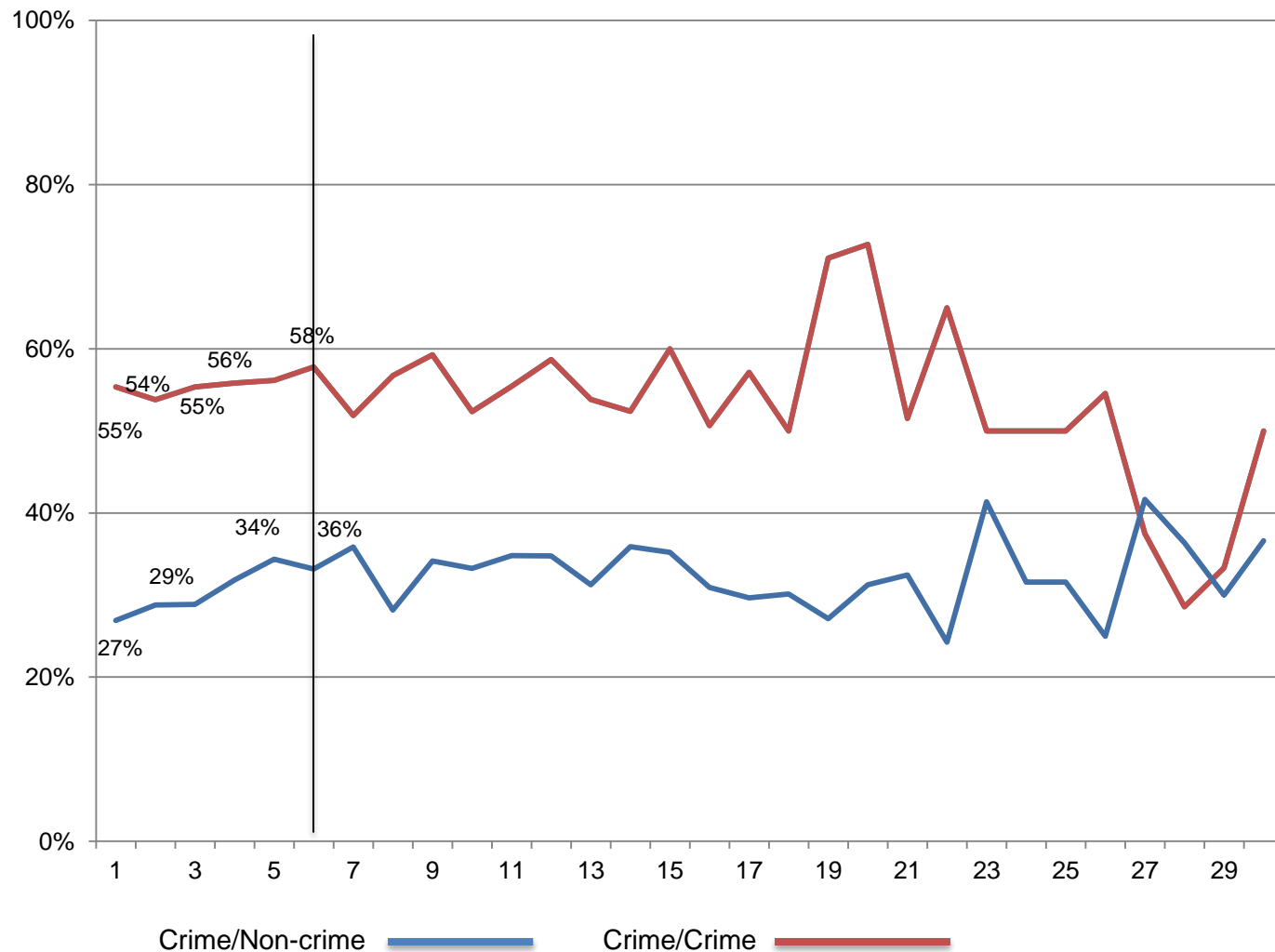
Conditional Probability

Conditional Probability of Crimes and Non-Crimes at Repeat Incidents



Conditional Probability

Conditional Probability of Crimes Following both Crimes and Non-Crimes




Recommendations – Young People

1. It is critical that strategies are developed that will ensure that when young people are reported as being involved in IPV that immediate and intensive early interventions are applied in an attempt to prevent further IPV.
2. Serious consideration should be given to developing and implementing education programs, initially in schools, but in the wider media, including social media, so that young people have the opportunity to learn about IPV and discuss respectful relationships.



Recommendations – Alternative Justice


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3. Consideration should be given to alternative justice intervention strategies that are targeted and collaborative and that include legal services, the judiciary, police, community involvement and social services. Useful models may include the Family Group Decision Making model, Sentencing Circles and Community/Family Conferencing.
 3. Domestic violence legislation should be reviewed, in line with recommendation three, to allow for a more flexible, family and community focused approach in responding to IPV that will both ensure the victim's safety and give the couple the choice to remain together or not.

Recommendations – Focussed Deterrence


5. As part of a focused deterrence strategy, there should be consideration of introducing offender reporting legislation to allow the targeting and monitoring of serious and recidivist offenders who commit IPV at a high rate and who also commit IPV across a number of dyads.
6. It is important that there is an investment in NT research to develop an evidence-based risk assessment process to identify the individual dyads at most risk of harm to prevent serious harm cases. It is recommended that this research focuses on the methodology of the CHI, the previous use of weapons, the availability of alcohol and the age of the dyads as a starting point.



Recommendations - Alcohol

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7. Serious consideration must be given to the cost that alcohol harm is having, not only on the wider NT community but particularly the NT Aboriginal population, on both men and women and their children. A significant investment in evidence-based intervention programs and in developing strategies to reduce alcohol availability is critical in reducing the victimisation of Aboriginal people, women in particular.
 8. Reduction in the number and density of alcohol outlet licenses to further restrict the supply of alcohol is essential for the safety and wellbeing of all Territorians.

Recommendations – Further Research

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9. IPV should be differentiated from FV in crime analysis and the reporting of crime to allow for more effective targeting and tracking of both types of violence and to test interventions. IPV that makes up about three-quarters of all FV has been camouflaged by the wider FV dataset, as such, more effective and discriminative interventions for IPV have not been obvious.
 10. Now that a descriptive analyses has been undertaken a future body of research is recommended to analyse the different typologies of IPV identified in this research: one-time reported IPV, chronic low-harm dyads and chronic high-harm dyads, with the aim of developing a risk assessment tool to assist a tiered response or triage process appropriate to the vulnerability of the dyad and risk to the victim.



jeanette.kerr@nt.gov.au