

VIETNAMESE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PILOT RESEARCH

	<p>Project Coordinator: Ms. Le Khanh</p>
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Report consultants and elaborators: Dr. Mary Nhu Tran,
Economist, Mr. Peter Phuong Ngo, Sociologist

(N&P Consulting & Research Group - NPCR)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to the following people and agencies that have helped, supported and made this project possible.

First of all, we would like to thank to all of survey participants who have completed and returned the questionnaires.

Team Hackney, HCVS/CEN, in particular, Jake Ferguson, Liz Hughes and Andrea Enisuoh for their funding and support with this pioneering project.

Carol London-Baptiste, Supporting Vulnerable People, at London Borough of Hackney for her continuous help and support on this journey.

Tina Wathern at the nia project for her valuable time in helping with the questionnaires and attending our Network meetings.

Hackney Women's Forum, Marika Mason for her useful advice and support with the project.

VLC's staff and Management Committees for participating and launching these survey questionnaires.

The NPCR Researching Team, Mary Nhu Tran and Peter Phuong Ngo for their support with analysing, elaborating and presenting this report.

Last but not least, huge thank to our Network members and stakeholders for their continuous support with such a crucial pioneering project for the Vietnamese Community.

We are truly grateful and appreciated your support.

IN GRATITUDE

I would like to express a special thank and love to my dearest friends, Mr and Mrs Norris for their love, guidance, advice and encouragement throughout this project.

I am grateful everyday to Ovid Denega and his staff at Lien Viet Housing Association for making me feel welcome, special and safe while working on the project. Thank you for their ongoing support with facilitating appropriate resources which makes this project possible.

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A. INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence has been officially defined by the NHS, as well as many other UK social work and public services as any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, aged 18 and over, who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender and sexuality

The family members are defined largely as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister or grandparents and these may be direct relatives, in-laws or step-family.

This notion and definition are also used by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Crown Prosecution Service, where it does not include cases where the victim of the abuse is less than 18 years of age. In these cases, the domestic violence may be treated as child abuse

Being one of the most complicated and serious social problems, domestic violence or abuse as above defined may have a largely negative impact on the victims' health, including their mental health as well as affect their social, family, economic and financial backgrounds. Particularly, it may also harmfully impact on the children in affected families, and produce a serious negative influence on their socio-physio-psychological development.

As a social problem with an age-old root but becoming especially more and more complex in contemporary society, particularly in urban areas, domestic violence (DV) has impacted largely on almost all social and ethnic groups.

This Report is based on a pilot research in 2010, to gain a preliminary understanding of the extent of domestic violence amongst the Vietnamese community using services in Hackney with the aim to provide future appropriate services to meet the needs and to support the victims of DV in the community.

The pilot survey, with a sample size of 78-people has been carried out in this direction to provide reliable data in service of social projects dealing with domestic violence, for the benefit of South Eastern Asian using community services in Hackney.

This pilot survey has an objective to collect necessary findings to serve as a background for larger scale and more comprehensive research in the future to raise awareness about DV, its impacts and prevention.

The findings– have been fully included in the present report, with a breakdown into 4 parts: the Introduction, Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations.

There is also subdivision into 3 sub-parts, as to:

- Portrait of the surveyed people
- Who experiences domestic violence (DV); and
- Experiences of individual’s DV situations

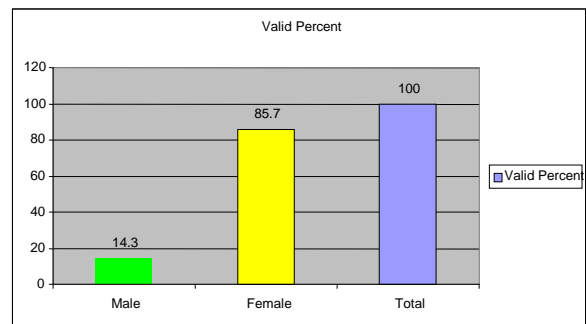
Following are the main findings of the reports:

B. MAIN FINDINGS

1. PORTRAIT OF THE SURVEYED PEOPLE

1.1 Gender:

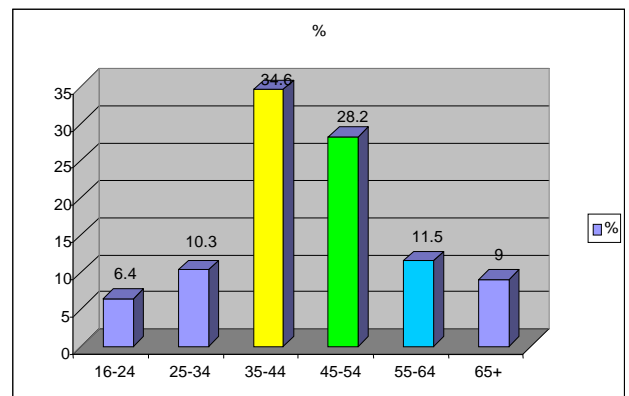
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Male	11	14.1	14.3
	Female	66	84.6	85.7
	Total	77	98.7	100.0
Missing	99	1	1.3	
Total		78	100.0	



There were 66 women (accounting for 85% of the total surveyed people) participating in this domestic violence survey, as compared to 11 men (which accounts for 14.3% of the total).

1.2 Age group

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	16-24	5	6.4	6.4
	25-34	8	10.3	10.3
	35-44	27	34.6	34.6
	45-54	22	28.2	28.2
	55-64	9	11.5	11.5
	65+	7	9.0	9.0
	Total		78	100.0



The three most important age groups are 35-44 years old group (with 34.6%), 45-56 years old group (with 28.2%) and 55-64 years old group (with 11.5%). The 25-34 years old group (with 10%) takes the fourth position.

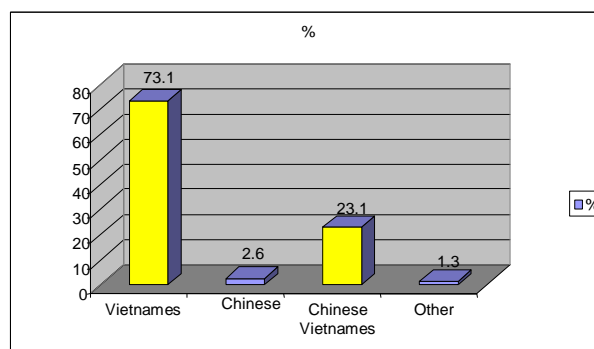
The data also suggest that there are more middle-aged people participating in this survey than young people and elderly people (9.0%).

The middle-aged groups account for 74.3% or nearly 1/3 of the total sample. The younger group (between 16-34 years old) only represents 16.7%.

Thus, it is possible to remark that this survey may reflect more of the point of view of the middle aged group than those of the young and the elderly groups.

1.3 Ethnicity:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Vietnamese	57	73.1	73.1
	Chinese	2	2.6	2.6
	Chinese-Vietnamese	18	23.1	23.1
	Other	1	1.3	1.3
	Total	78	100.0	100.0

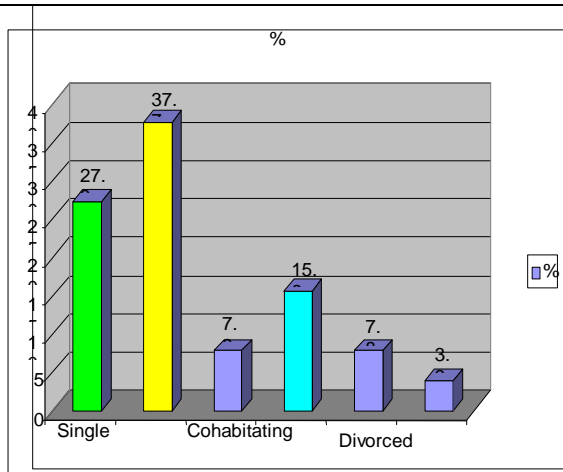


There are two main ethnic groups participating in this survey. The Vietnamese group accounts for 73.1% and the Chinese-Vietnamese (mixed race) group accounts for 23.1%. 2.6% of the survey participants are of Chinese ethnicity. Other groups only account for 1.3%.

Through the above data, it is also possible that the survey may reflect more the opinion of the Vietnamese group and the Chinese-Vietnamese group than those of the Chinese and other groups regarding domestic violence issues.

1.4 Marital Status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Single	21	26.9	27.3
	Married	29	37.2	37.7
	Cohabiting	6	7.7	7.8
	Separated	12	15.4	15.6
	Divorced	6	7.7	7.8
	Lone parent	3	3.8	3.9
	Total	77	98.7	100.0
Missing	99	1	1.3	
Total		78	100.0	



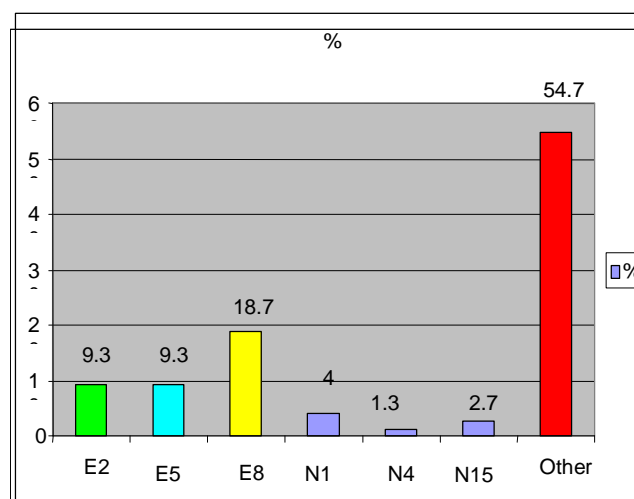
In terms of marital status, there are three most important groups in the survey. These are married group (with 37.7%), single group (with 27.3%) and separated people group (with 15.6%).

The cohabiting and separated groups come next, with the rate of 7.8% equally for each group.

With these rates and proportion, it seems that the survey may reflect more opinion of the married and cohabiting groups (45.5% once they are combined together) than the opinion of the single group (27.3%) or the separated as well as divorced groups (23.4% if combined.)

1.5 Locality of survey participants

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	E2	7	9.0	9.3
	E5	7	9.0	9.3
	E8	14	17.9	18.7
	N1	3	3.8	4.0
	N4	1	1.3	1.3
	N15	2	2.6	2.7
	Other	41	52.6	54.7
	Total	75	96.2	100.0
Missing	99	3	3.8	
Total		78	100.0	



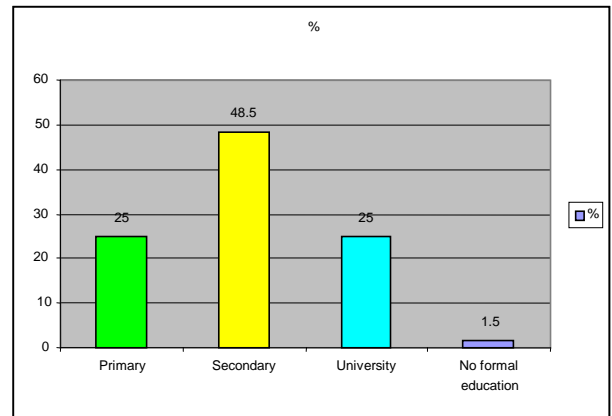
The three most popular postcode areas in Hackney where the surveyed people live are E8 (18.7%), E2 (9.3%) and E5 (9.3%).

54.7% of the survey participants are scattered in other places such as E3, N4, SE18 or Islington, etc.

The survey data suggest that more than 1/3 of the survey participants (or 37.4%) are living in central areas of Hackney, but more than half of the total sample is living in other areas in London.

1.6. Level of education

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Primary	17	21.8	25.0
	Secondary	33	42.3	48.5
	University	17	21.8	25.0
	No formal education	1	1.3	1.5
	Total	68	87.2	100.0
Missing	99	10	12.8	
Total		78	100.0	

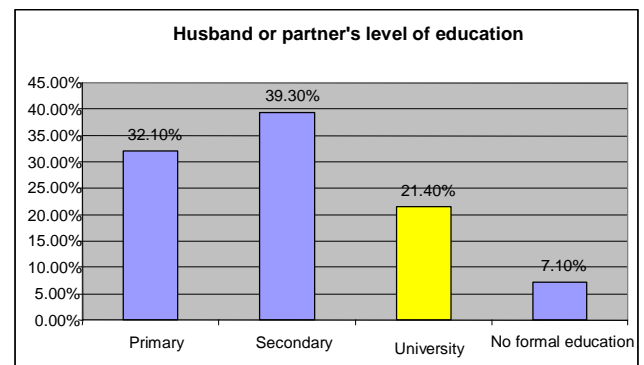


48.5% of the survey participants have finished secondary education as their highest level of education. Those who have only primary education account for 25%. This is also the rate represented by people with university education. The no formal education only accounts for 1.5%.

Most of the surveyed people have a medium and high education background with a combined rate of 73.5% for the secondary and university groups. Lower than one third (or 26.5%) of the total surveyed people have a limited educational background ranging from no formal education to only primary school education.

1.7 Level of partner's education

Husband or partner's level of education				Total
Primary	Secondary	University	No formal education	
9	11	6	2	28
32.1%	39.3%	21.4%	7.1%	100.0%



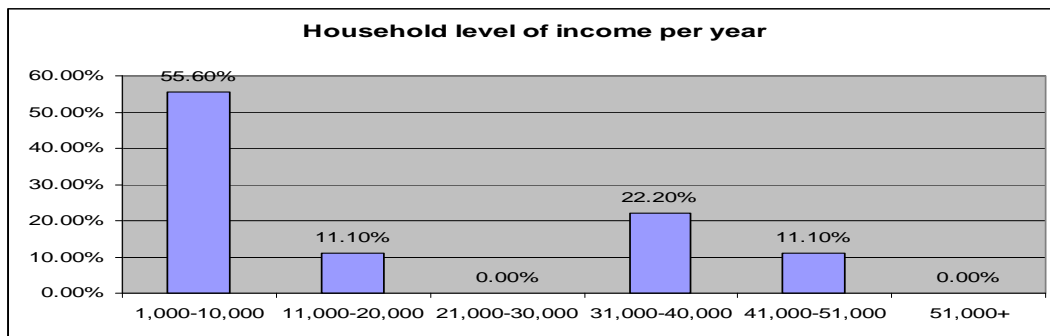
Of people who have suffered DV by their partners, 39.3% of those partners have an education at least up to secondary level. The rate of those partners who have primary education or no formal education accounts for only 39.2%, those with a university education 21.4%, thus secondary and university groups combined amount to 60.7%.

These figures confirm that DV may occur in all kind of families and peoples regardless of their educational background (amongst other factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, etc.) (NSPCC, Shayma Izzidien, 2008 and Ravi Thiara & Ruth Breslin, 2006)

1.8. Level of income

Household level of income per year						Total
1,000-10,000	11,000-20,000	21,000-30,000	31,000-40,000	41,000-51,000	51,000+	
10	2	0	4	2	0	18

55.6%	11.1%	.0%	22.2%	11.1%	.0%	100.0%
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More than 2/3 of the survey respondents with DV experience (or 66.7% of the total 18 who answered the question) have a low or very low household income with the level between £1,000 and £20,000.

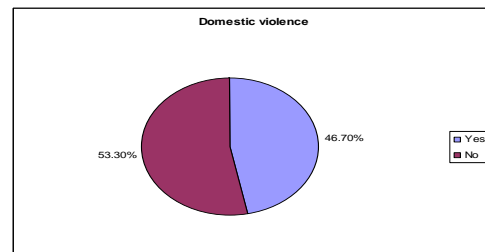
One third of the surveyed people or the rest of the people with DV experience (or 33.3) live in medium income households, with the annual revenue ranging from between £31,000 to £51,000 per household.

However, it is noticeable that more than half of the people impacted by DV live in very low-income families whose annual household income ranges from £1,000 to £10,000.

There seems to be a strong relation between poverty and DV in this survey as compared to previous studies with larger scale research. (*Cf, for instance, Jill Davies, 2000*)

2. WHO EXPERIENCES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

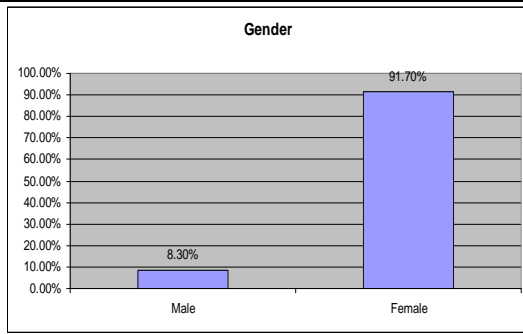
	Yes	No	Total
Count	36	41	77
Percentage	46.7%	53.3%	100.0%



46.8% of the survey participants report that they have been affected by DV, abuse or other violence, whereas 53.2% of all surveyed assert that they have not been affected. However it should be noted that of the people who said they had not experienced DV three people went on to answer the question as to WHO perpetrated the DV. This could suggest the real number of respondents experiencing DV is 39 or 50% of the total. The following part of the report will concentrate only on the number of impacted or affected people.

2.1. Gender

	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Count	3	33	36
% Affected by domestic violence, abuse or other violence	8.3%	91.7%	100.0%



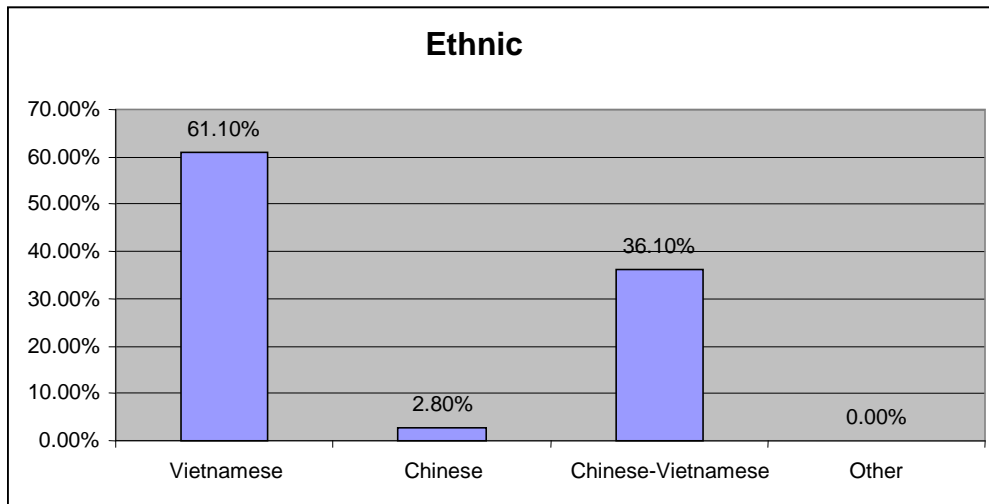
The 91.7% of the total 36 people reporting that they have experienced DV, abuse or other types of violence are women. Only 8.3% of the total respondents are men.

Women have a rate of DV experience, which prevails over that of men in the survey, with nearly 11 times higher than the rate of men.

This finding not only corresponds to the fact that the number of female participants in the research is 6 times higher than that of male participants, but also appears to correspond to the difference in general in DV situation between the two genders (*Linda McKie, 2006, p.6-7.*)

2.2 Ethnic origin

	Ethnic origin				Total
	Vietnamese	Chinese	Chinese-Vietnaese	Other	
Count	22	1	13	0	36
% Affected by domestic violence, abuse or other violence	61.1%	2.8%	36.1%	.0%	100.0%

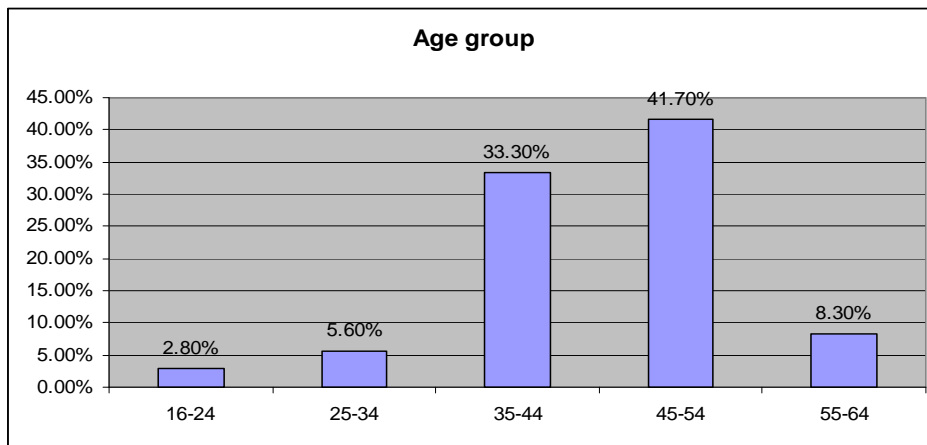


Among 36 people with DV experience, there are 22 Vietnamese (61.1%), 13 Chinese-Vietnamese (36.1%) and 1 Chinese (2.8%).

It is possible to observe from this survey that the majority of the families with DV are of either Vietnamese or Chinese Vietnamese.

2.3 Age groups

	Age group						Total
	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
Count	1	2	12	15	3	3	36
%	2.8%	5.6%	33.3%	41.7%	8.3%	8.3%	100.0%

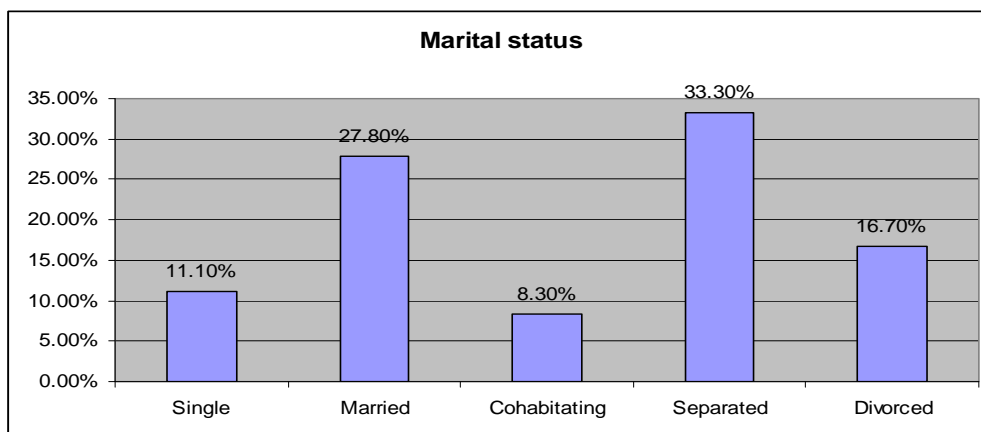


The middle-aged groups between 35 to 54 years old combined are the majority group with people who have experienced DV (75%). The group between 55 to 64 years old is the second age group with 16.6%. The younger groups between 16 and 34 are having less people having problems with DV.

There seems to be more DV cases in middle-aged and high-aged groups compared to those in the young-aged groups. It is noticeable that 8.3% of the elderly group report suffering from DV, while only 2.8% of the young group between 16-24 years old are affected. *See more the relationship between age group and socio-psychological problems in Asian people with other research project and survey reports. (Cf. for instance: The mental health of south Asian community in Britain.)*

2.4 Marital status

	Marital status						Total
	Single	Married	Cohabiting	Separated	Divorced	Lone parent	
Count	4	10	3	12	6	1	36
% Affected by domestic violence, abuse or other violence	11.1%	27.8%	8.3%	33.3%	16.7%	2.8%	100.0%



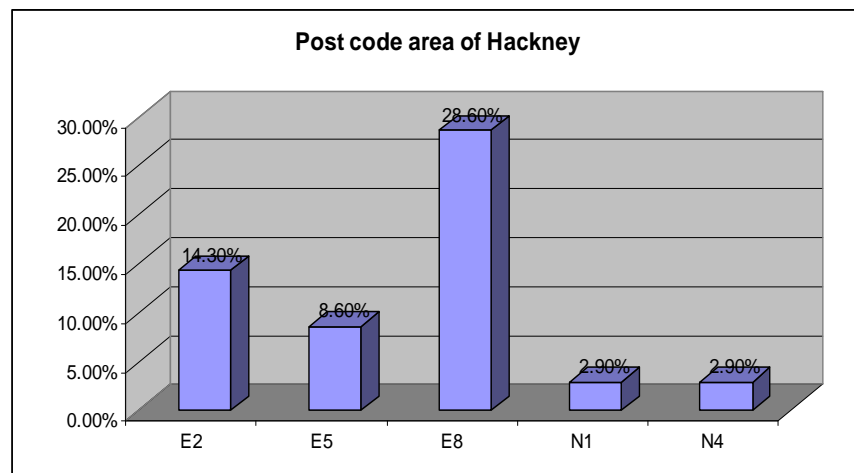
The combined group with the highest rate of people who have suffered from DV are concentrated in the separated and divorced groups (with 50%).

The married and cohabitating groups represent 36.1% of the total groups that have DV problems. The rate, which accounts for more than 1/3 of all of the responded surveyed people with the experience, may suggest that DV may be a problem with these families or households.

Finally, the rate of 11.1% in the single group, though it is low, also suggests that DV is prevalent across all marital status groups.

2.5 Postal areas in Hackney

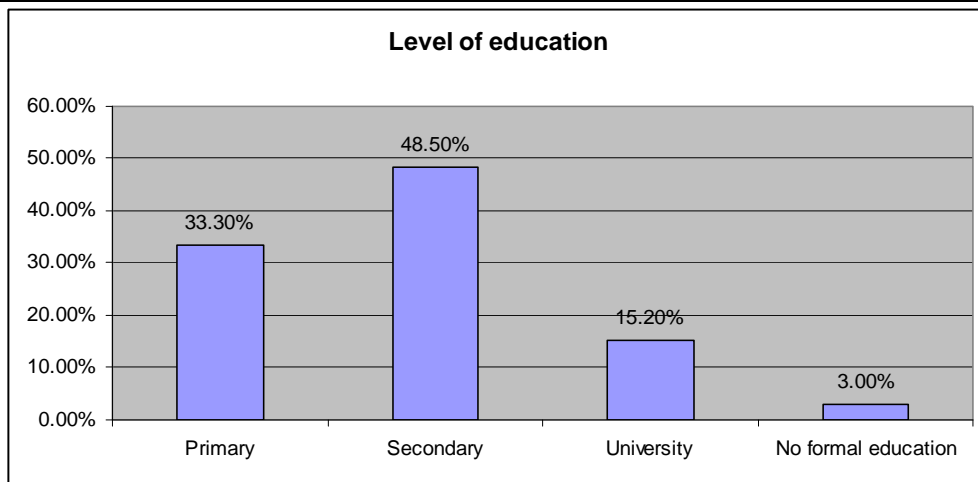
	Post code areas							Total
	E2	E5	E8	N1	N4	N15	Other	
Count	5	3	10	1	1	1	14	35
% Affected by domestic violence, abuse or other violence	14.3%	8.6%	28.6%	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%	40.0%	100.0%



The three most crowded postal areas in Hackney where Vietnamese and Chinese-Vietnamese people with DV are living are E8, E2 and E5 with the respective rates as 28.6%, 14.3% and 8.6%.

2.6 Level of Self-education

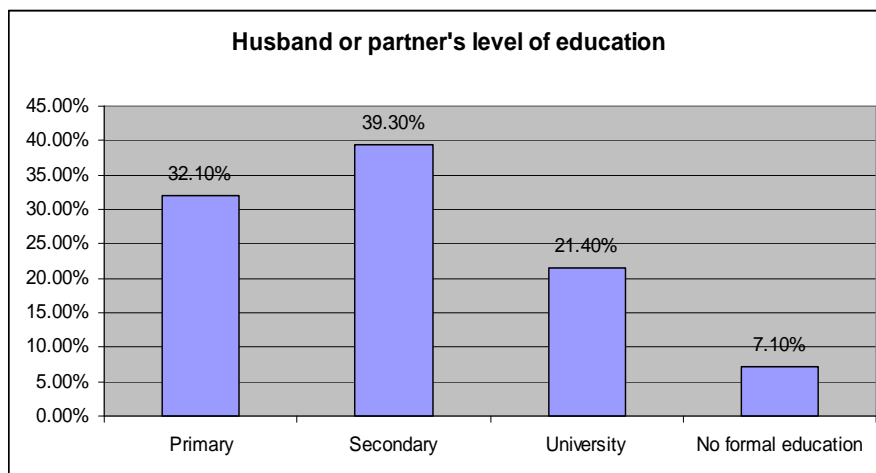
	Level of education				Total
	Primary	Secondary	University	No formal education	
Count	11	16	5	1	33
% Affected by domestic violence, abuse or other violence	33.3%	48.5%	15.2%	3.0%	100.0%



More than 1/3 of the survey respondents with DV experience (or 36.3%) only have either a primary education background or without any formal education at all. However, it is those with secondary education level who form the group with highest rate among all people having DV problems. The DV seem to be less popular in the group with university education background where the rate accounts for only 15.2%

2.7 Partner's level of education

	Husband or partner's level of education				Total
	Primary	Secondary	University	No formal education	
Count	9	11	6	2	28
% Affected by domestic violence, abuse or other violence	32.1%	39.3%	21.4%	7.1%	100.0%



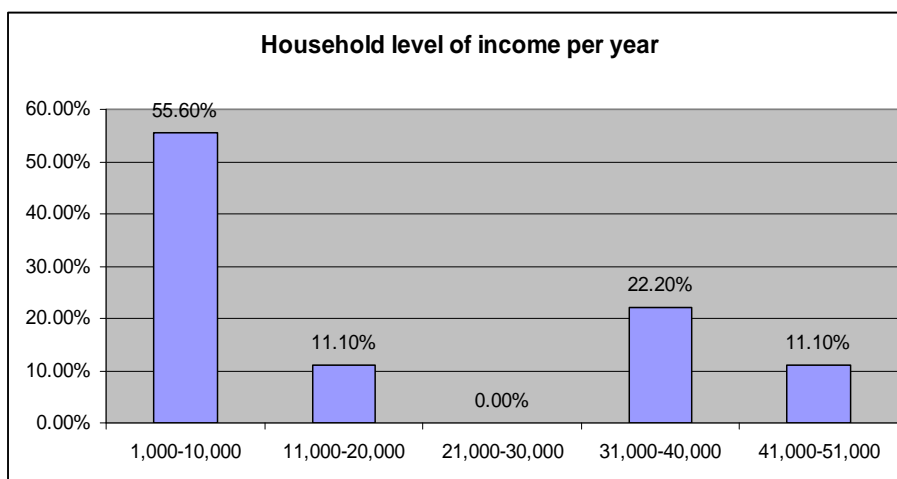
The responded surveyed groups with the lowest level of education background (no formal education and primary education) and the secondary education level share the highest rates in the total responses concerning partner's level of education.

Actually, 39.2% of the DV experienced peoples' partners have gone to primary school or have been without any formal education. 39.3% of the partners are reported to have secondary education background, whereas those who went to University account for only 21.4%.

The responses to both of the above questions concerning level of education or partner's level of education seems to prove that DV may exist in all types of social groups regardless of their educational background levels. However, it seems that the rate of DV experienced in those with higher education accounts for a lower level of DV experience as compared to other levels studied in the survey.

2.8 Household income level

	Household level of income pre year						Total
	1,000-10,000	11,000-20,000	21,000-30,000	31,000-40,000	41,000-51,000	51,000+	
Count	10	2	0	4	2	0	18
% Affected by domestic violence, abuse or other violence	55.6%	11.1%	.0%	22.2%	11.1%	.0%	100.0%



The group with low household income levels (between £1,000 and £20,000) turns out to be the most important group in the survey having DV experience (66.7% of the 18 responses). However, DV is also found in medium and rather high-medium household income level groups (between £31,000 and £51,000) with 33.3% or one-third as compared to the total responses.

This fact suggests that DV may appear in all types of household income groups, but it tends to exist more with those with low household income levels.

3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATION

3.1 Types of abuse suffer

There are 22 types of abusive behaviours being listed and surveyed with 36 people responding to the question, of which 33 were women.

The largest groups of abusive behaviour reported are: belittlement or humiliation (35.3%), not allowing freedom of choice, neglect, insults or degrading activities (each accounting for 32.4 %).

The second group is: throwing objects at the victim or in the house, hitting or beating, scaring or frightening the victim or the children on purpose (20.6% each).

The third group is threatening violence against the victim or their children and not allowing freedom of movement outside the house (17.6% each), and

The fourth group: choking, keeping you without enough money to live on (11.8% each).

Throwing objects at you or in the house	20,6
Slapping	29,0
Hitting or beating	20,6
Kicking	8,8
Dragging	5,9
Choking	11,8
Burning	
Threatening violence against you or the children	17,6
Threats with weapons	5,9
Having sexual intercourse against your will	5,9
Using physical force for sexual intercourse	
Using you for sexually degrading acts	
Insults or degrading activities	32,4
Belittlement or humiliation	35,3
Scaring or frightening you or the children on purpose	20,6
Not allowing you freedom of choice	32,4
Neglect	32,4
Starvation or keeping you short of food	8,8
Keeping you without enough money to live on	11,8
Not allowing you freedom of movement outside the house	17,6
Not allowing you religious freedom	2,9

3.2 Reasons for abusive behaviour (total responses: 54)

Likely reasons					
Affairs	Financial problems	Stress related	Partner got drunk	Partner taking drugs	Partner gambles
9	12	10	9	5	9
1.6%	22.2%	18.5%	1.6%	9.2%	1.6%

The likely reasons for triggering domestic violence are financial problems (22.2%), stress related (or mental stress) (18.5%) and partner taking drugs and prove to be the three leading reasons.

However, it is possible to see that, stress related or drug taking reasons are only intermediate reasons. There will usually be more fundamental causes behind these reasons that this pilot research wants to further study and find out in a next research step with a larger scale survey, if possible.

3.3 Frequency of DV

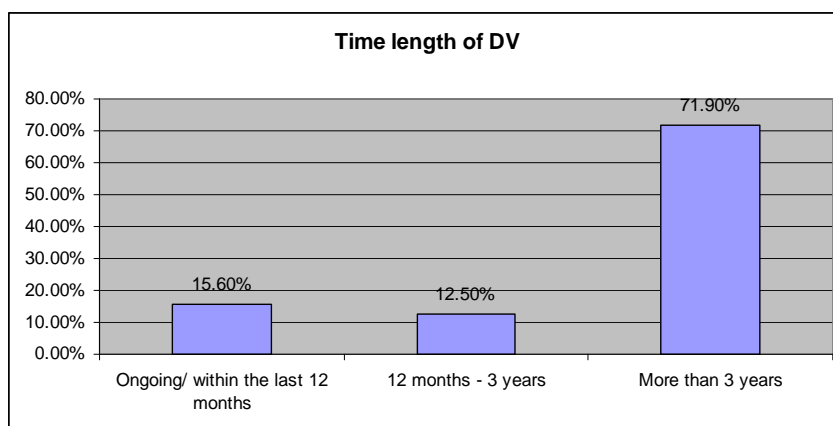
	Frequency of being abused on average						Total
	Everyday	Once a week	Twice a week	Once a month	Twice a month	Other	
Count	9	6	1	8	2	6	32
% Affected by domestic violence, abuse or other violence	28.1%	18.8%	3.1%	25.0%	6.3%	18.8%	100.0%

In this survey, the intensiveness of DV has been partly surveyed via measuring the abusive frequency. The results show that on average, DV happen everyday (28.1%) as largest group, then once a month (25.0%) and then once a week (18.8%).

If dangerous types and levels of abusive behaviours continue everyday against the victims and the related people, DV can become a highly serious problem which relate to criminal conducts which might be more properly dealt with or intervened by legal sanctions, prosecution or by other injunctions as one of the necessary emergency measures taken to protect the victims and to deal with the dangerous inappropriate actions (*Home Office, 2004*).

3.4 Time length of DV

How long is it since you suffered abuse			Total
Ongoing/ within the last 12 months	12 months - 3 years	More than 3 years	
5	4	23	32
15.6%	12.5%	71.9%	100.0%



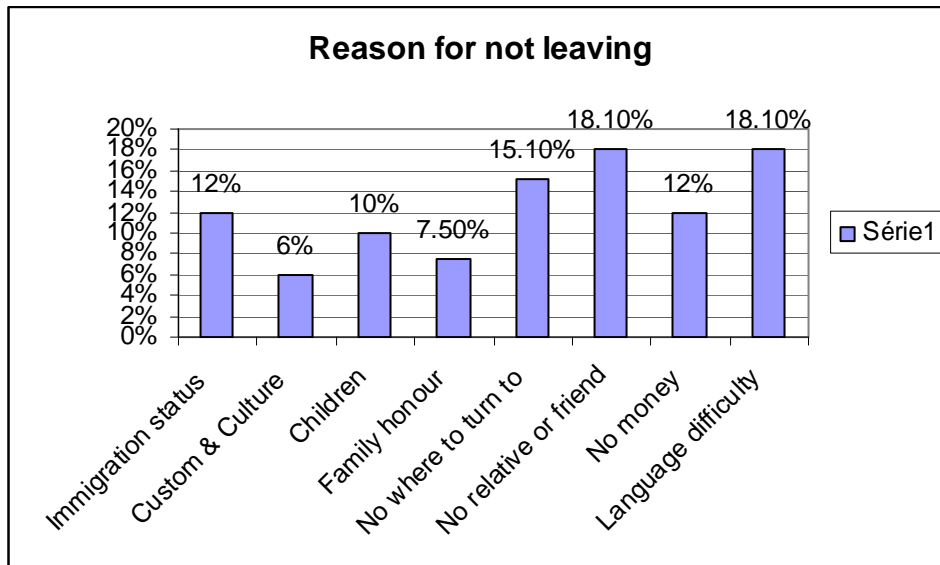
The seriousness level of DV can also be reflected partly via the history of DV. In the survey, nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the responses reported that they have suffered the abuse for more than 3 years (71.9% of 32 responses). 15.6% declare that they have suffered from the problem starting in the last 12 months.

3.5.1 Reason for not leaving (Number of responses: 66)

Reasons for not leaving							
Immigration status	Custom & Culture	Children	Family honour	No where to turn to	No relative or friend	No money	Language difficulty
8 12%	4 6%	7 10%	5 7.5%	10 15.1%	12 18.1%	8 12%	12 18.1%

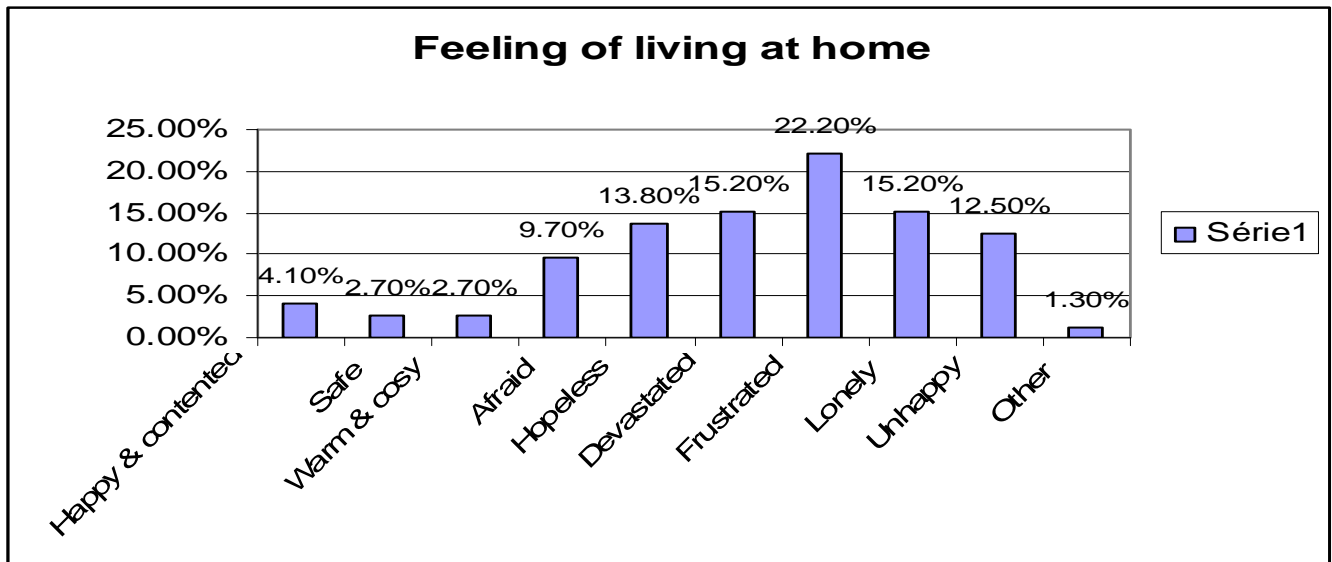
Out of the 8 reasons why the DV victims have chosen for not leaving, no relatives/friends and language difficulty are the 2 major reasons, which are at the same time typical with minority ethnical groups.

The second main reason is nowhere to turn to (15.1%) and the third group of reasons is immigration status and no money, these two legal and financial reasons both represent 12% for each of them.



3.5.2 Feelings about living at home (Number of responses: 72)

Happy & contented	Safe	Warm & cosy	Afraid	Hopeless	Devastated	Frustrated	Lonely	Unhappy	Other
3	2	2	7	10	11	16	11	9	1
4.1%	2.7%	2.7%	9.7%	13.8%	15.2%	22.2%	15.2%	12.5%	1.3%

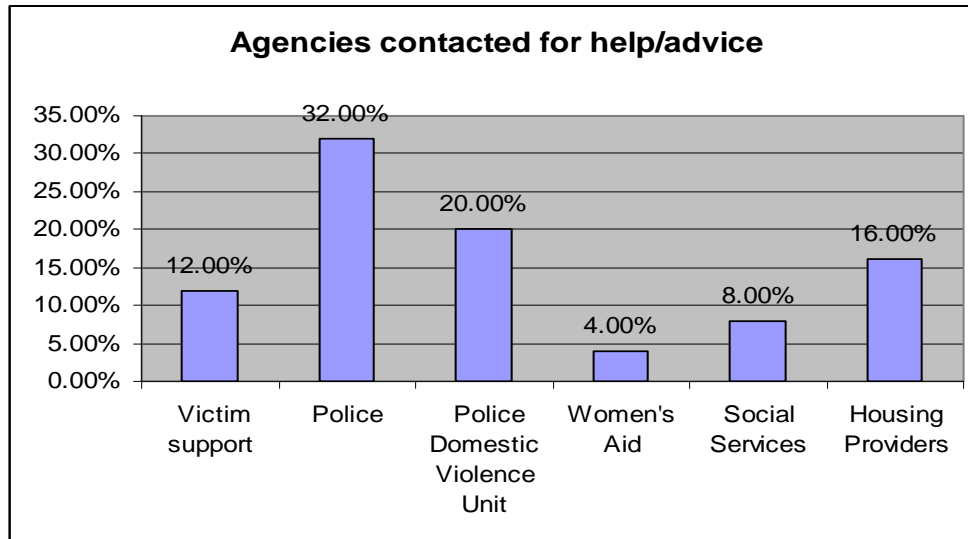


To measure the psychological conditions related to DV level in the family, 10 indicators about the feeling of living at home have been surveyed with 72 respondents in the pilot research.

Following are the three main type of feeling expressed by the 72 surveyed people: frustrated (22.2%), devastated and lonely (15.2%) and hopeless (13.8%).

3.6 Agencies contacted for help/advice (Number of responses: 25)

Approached agencies							
Victim support	Police	Police Domestic Violence Unit	Women's Aid	Social Services	Housing Providers	Citizens Advice Bureau	Other
3 12.0%	8 32.0%	5 20.0%	1 4.0%	2 8.0%	4 16.0%	%	2 8.0%



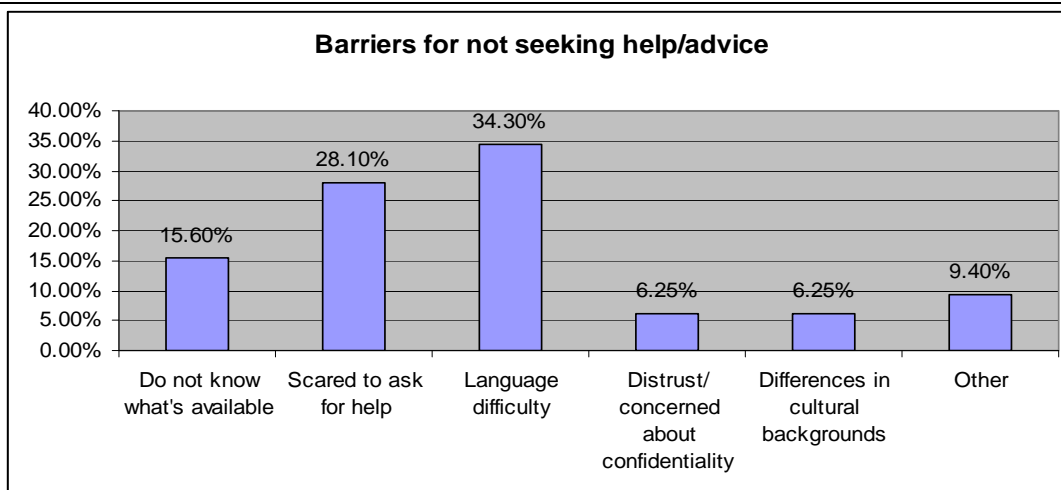
Police, police DV unit and housing providers are the three leading agencies that the surveyed people with DV problems have approached for advice and help. Combined together, these 3 agencies account for 68%.

This choice suggests not only that people with DV problems seem to seek mainly intermediate or emergency help for safety, security and for shelter. Social and community organisations may have a large potential for help by way of intervening activities in the near future if they are willing to do so.

This question may need to be studied in a next step of research.

3.7 Barriers for not seeking for help (Number of responses: 32)

Barriers					
Do not know what's available	Scared to ask for help	Language difficulty	Distrust/ concern about confidentiality	Differences in cultural backgrounds	Other
5 15.6%	9 28.1%	11 34.3%	2 6.25%	2 6.25%	3 9.4%

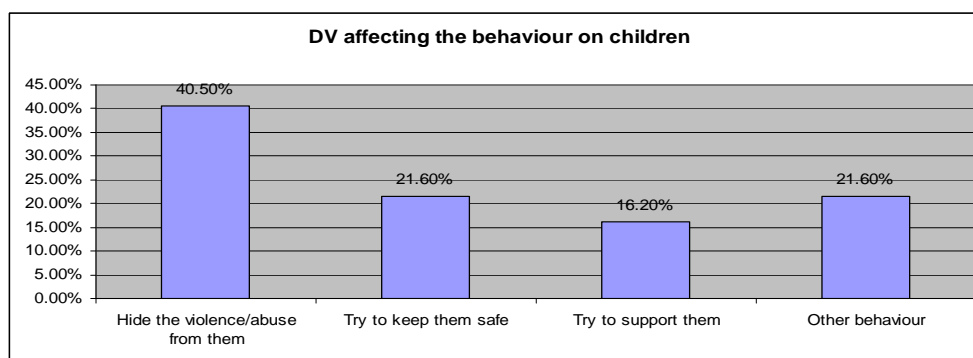


There are three very important barriers that hinder people from seeking help when having a DV problem. These are language difficulty (34.3%), which is a very specific barrier relating to minority ethnic groups, the second barrier is being scared to ask for help (28.1%) and thirdly do not know what's available (15.6%).

The second barrier seems to be resulting from a group of more profound causes while the third barrier may relate to further community support in terms of awareness raising, publicity, education, social work interventions and other social and community services amongst other measures and agencies that may involve.

3.7.1 DV affecting the behaviour on children (Number of responses: 37)

Attitudes toward children			
Hide the violence/abuse from them	Try to keep them safe	Try to support them	Other behaviour
15	8	6	8
40.5%	21.6%	16.2%	21.6%

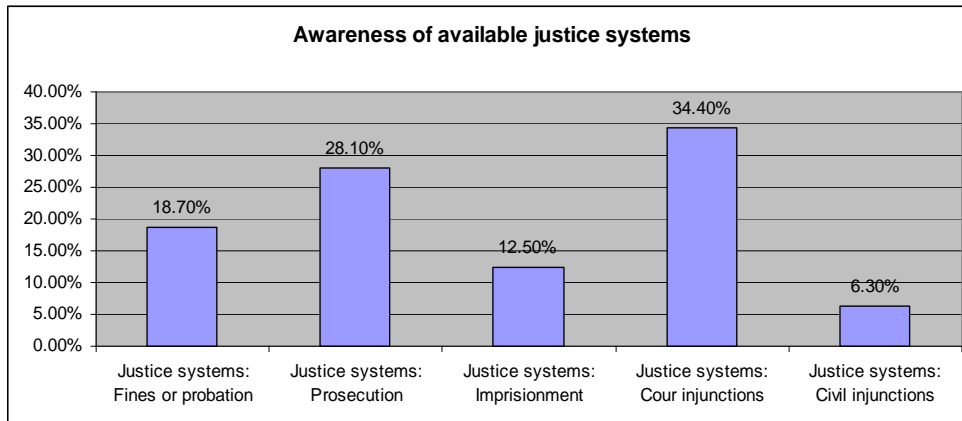


Besides women, the elderly people and some other disadvantaged social groups, children can be direct or indirect victims of DV. Under the impact of DV or the abuse, adult victims' behaviour towards their children may also be affected and diverse.

In this survey, 40.5% of the surveyed people report that they hide the violence/abuse from the children, 21.6% say they try to keep children safe, whereas 16.2% try to support them.

3.7.2 Awareness of available justice systems (Number of responses: 32)

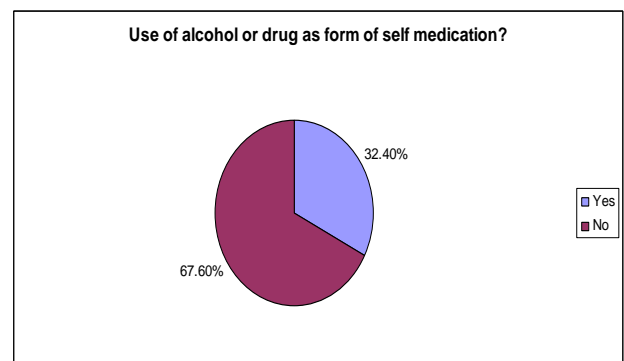
Justice systems				
Fines or probation	Prosecution	Imprisonment	Court injunctions	Civil injunctions
6	9	4	11	2
18.7%	28.1%	12.5%	34.4%	6.3%



Only 34.4% of the people impacted by DV report that they are aware of court injunctions which can ensure their own and their children’s safety. Only 28.1% of them are aware of prosecution and just 18.7% know about fines or probation.

3.7.3. Problematic use of substances as a way to cope with DV

	Have you turn to alcohol or drug as form of self-medication...?		Total
	Yes	No	
Count	11	23	34
% Affected by domestic violence, abuse or other violence	32.4%	67.6%	100.0%



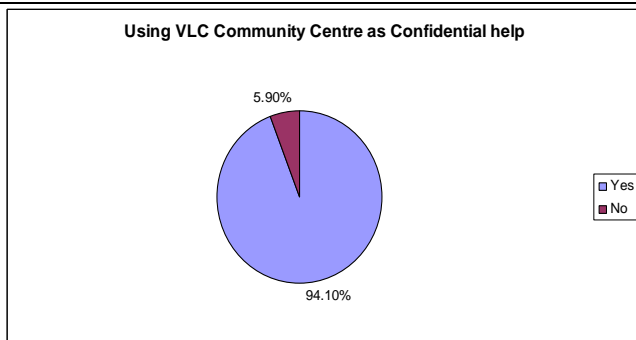
Nearly 1/3 of the people affected by DV (or 32.4% of the 34 responses) report that they have turned to alcohol or drugs as a form of self-medication to deal with DV problems. This tendency with such an important rate suggests that their DV conditions and consequences may be worsened with this type of measure to cope with the abuse.

4. Role of VLC in dealing with DV

4.1 VLC role as a service provider:

	Would you consider using V.L.C Community Centre's CONFIDENTIAL help?		Total
	Yes	No	
Count	32	2	34

% Affected by domestic violence, abuse or other violence	94.1%	5.9%	100.0%
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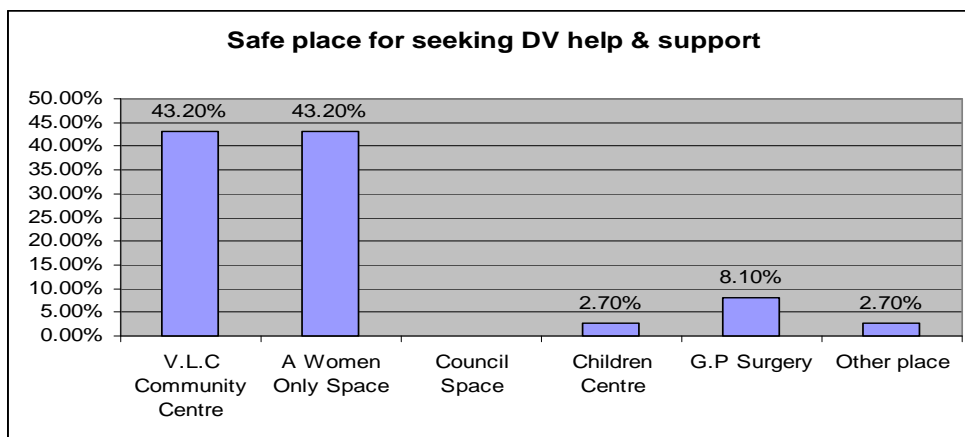
The research has raised a question on the possibility of V.L.C Community Centre having a role in helping and supporting on DV issues, with the direct question asking “Would you consider using the service?” Out of 34 responses, 94.1% of the surveyed people have responded that they want the V.L.C role and service.

It should be noted that Survey participants were, in the main, people who visit the VLC as users of their facilities, and its staff and management officers and others who attended a domestic violence network meeting organised by the VLC. Therefore in answer to this question it might be a natural response to show their support for the VLC.

This preliminary research data suggest that the community is having a need for dealing with the social problem and for supporting the people.

4.2 Safe places for seeking DV help & support (Number of responses: 37)

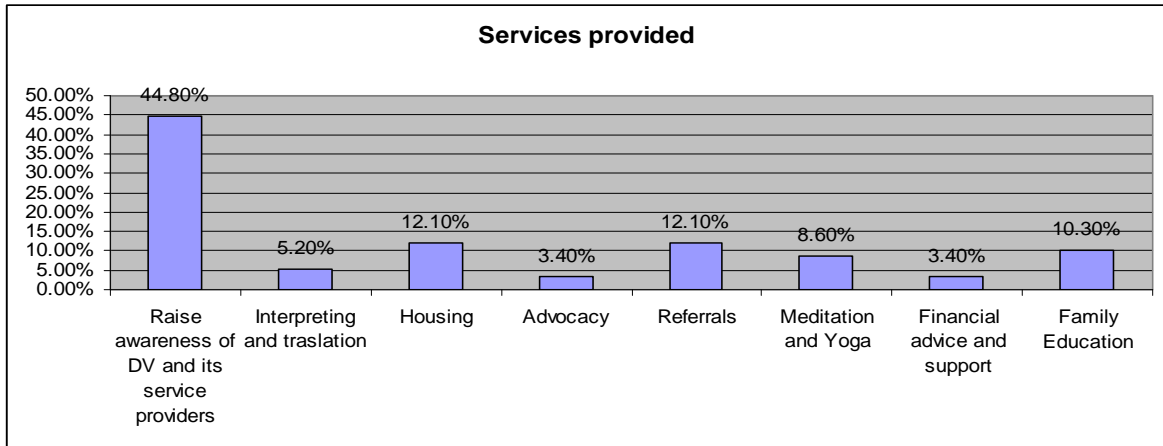
Most safe place					
V.L.C Community Centre	A Women Only Space	Council Space	Children Centre	G.P Surgery	Other place
16	16		1	3	1
43.2%	43.2%		2.7%	8.1%	2.7%



The next question was about places where victims of DV would feel most safe in attending for help if a confidential service was not provided by V.L.C Community Centre. The two preferred places selected were V.L.C Community Centre and a woman-only-space (both with equally 43.2% rate). The third selected place is G.P Surgery.

4.3 Type of DV services meeting the needs (Number of responses: 58)

Services provided								
	Raise awareness of DV and its service providers	Interpreting and traslation	Housing	Advocacy	Referrals	Meditation and Yoga	Financial advice and support	Family Education
Count	26	3	7	2	7	5	2	6
Percentage	44.8%	5.2%	12.1%	3.4%	12.1%	8.6%	3.4%	10.3%



Out of the 58 responses regarding this question about the services that could be provided to meet the needs of the community as a whole and of those who have a DV problem, the majority of people (44.8%) have selected 'raise DV awareness and its service providers', 24.2% have chosen 'housing' and 'referrals, whereas 10.3% found family education services are necessary.

C. SUMMARY

This pilot survey has collected much information and data useful for a better understanding of domestic violence in the Vietnamese, Chinese-Vietnamese and Chinese communities living in Hackney.

- The findings of the survey show that women prevail over men as a social group being more affected by DV (with 33 women versus 3 men) which indicates 91.7% Vietnamese or Chinese-Vietnamese women suffered or still suffering DV.:-

-
- Among 36 cases out of the total 78 surveyed people in the sampled survey, in terms of ethnicity, Vietnamese is the group with the highest rate of people affected by DV (61.1%), whereas the second group is Chinese-Vietnamese group (36.1%).
 - Most of people affected by DV belong to the age groups of 45-54 (41.7%) and 35-44 (33.3%) years old, with the total rate reaching 75% if we regroup them to a bigger group between 35 and 54 years old. In other word, it is found out that middle aged people have to cope more with DV than the young or elderly people.
 - In terms of marital status, separated people are the largest group having DV problems (with 33.3%), whereas married (27.8%) and divorced people (16.7%) are the next two important groups having the problems with high rates.
 - Most of people responding to DV problem are living in the central Hackney area with the largest post codes are E2, E5 and E8 with a combined rate up to 43.7%, nearly half of the surveyed cases responding to DV.
 - In terms of education level, more than 1/3 of the survey respondents have a low background educational level with 36.3% only going to primary school or without any formal education. But nearly half of the total (or 48.5%) have benefited from secondary education.
 - As far as household income is concerned, nearly 2/3 of people with DV problems live in a family with low or very low annual household income, with 66.7% between £1,000 and £20,000 per year.
 - The most affected type of abuse that women are experiencing or have experienced is belittlement or humiliation (35.3%), and the least not allowed religious freedom. The second group of abusive behaviour is insults or degrading activities, not allowing freedom of choice and emotional neglect which accounted for 32.4%. Thirdly, throwing objects at victims or in the house, hitting or beating, scaring or frightening victims or their children on purpose (all 20.6%), threatening violence against you or the children and not allowing freedom of movement outside house is 17.6%. Other serious physical assault abuses are choking, kicking, dragging, threatening with weapons, rape and starvation.
 - In terms of reasons for causing abusive behaviour respondents say financial problems (22.2%), stress related (18.5%), partner taking drugs 9.2% are the main reasons.
 - 28.1% of people with DV problem report that they suffer from abusive behaviour everyday, 25.0% assert that they suffer once a month, 18.8% suffer once a week and other type of frequency.
 - An important proportion of DV victims claim that they have suffered from DV for more than 3 years (with 71.9%). Some suffer for more than 11 years, one for more than 24 years. None during these periods ever contacted any of the Agencies for help or support.
 - 34.3% of the victims cannot seek help due to language barriers. 28.1% of victims are scared to ask for help. 15.1% of victims have nowhere to turn to and 12% is due to immigration status, the rest is due to cultural differences.
 - The percentage of DV victims who have an appropriate awareness of available justice systems who can ensure the safety for themselves or for their children is low, for instance, only 6.3% have learnt that civil injunctions exist.
 - Nearly 1/3 of the victims have used alcohol or drugs as a form of self-medication to cope with DV problems.

D. CONCLUSION

The findings from the pilot survey show that there is domestic violence amongst Vietnamese and Chinese-Vietnamese women living and using services in Hackney.

Due to the language barrier, having no one to turn to, lack of knowledge of the DV service providers, scared to ask for help, and cultural differences; many Vietnamese women silently suffer with DV for a long time.

The majority suffer for more than 3 years, some 11 years, other for 24 years, and have hidden the problem from their children, family and friends. They rarely contact any of the DV agencies for help or support because of the above reasons. Some survivors have the courage to contact police for help but that's only when they have a life or death decision to make.

The level and nature of DV in many cases is serious and survivors need emergency support with cultural and practical issues, especially women and children.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The survivors, households and families have expressed their wish to be supported in terms of raising awareness with specialist service providers, for housing, referrals, relationship education and prevention initiatives.**
- 2. Set up a Women Centre for the Vietnamese, Chinese, Laotian and Cambodian communities in the London Borough of Hackney.**
- 3. Ensure clear signposting for DV survivors to obtain relevant support from agencies.**
- 4. Provide interpretation and translation services for survivors.**
- 5. Provide educational programmes amongst young children, teenagers and men in particular to promote understanding of DV its impact and its criminality.**
- 6. Specialist counselling programme for perpetrators is also highly recommended as perpetrators may need help with changing their attitudes or behaviours towards people, women in particular.**
- 7. Have a stronger justice system and prosecution process for perpetrators across the country. Make them be accountable for their actions. There must be zero tolerance.**
- 8. However, in order to build up a more comprehensive and thorough knowledge about the needs of the communities, and their expectations and aspirations, it is recommended that a further step survey be commissioned with a larger scope of investigation in the near future.**

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APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- Q6** - (04) Sometimes, we have disagreement & differences in thought & feeling
- (05) Lack of love, mistreated, no respect, physical abuse of children, financial difficulties
- (21) Have no boyfriend

(22) Have an unstable career
(36) Living with partner, problems with legal immigration
(55) Feel hopeless because lived here for long time but no legal right to remain in UK. I have a mental illness, feeling lonely & scared-don't know what future holds
(61) Feeling scared/afraid because I often get physical abuse by husband
(69) Arguments
(70) My husband thinks he is king of family
(78)* Afraid of getting physical abuse by husband

Q8 - (04) Mental abuse

Q9 - (05) Don't know- perhaps this person is suppressing their sexual orientation or hiding their feelings
(43) It's his personality
(46) Has no job
(70) Forbidden wife to go out

Q10 - (05) I feel lonely & sad every day
(7)* Answered twice
(69) Whenever the husband feels like having a fight
(70) Whenever he likes
(75)* Sometimes

Q11 - (14) 11 years of suffering
(74)* Suffer for past 24 years
Q13 - (43) Never contacted any agencies at all
(51) Thanks to Lien Viet for providing a place to live

Q14 - (61) Have not reported because still love husband
(64)* Never been abused

Q15 - (05) She was always generous but suffered in silence so that the children had somewhere to live
(25) Giving more love & care towards the children
(26) Socialise with friends & visit VLC centre
(29) Not confident to talk about the issue

Q17 - (78)* Self harm (marked herself with knife 'I hate life')

Q21 - (73) Customers



COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR REFUGEES FROM
VIETNAM, LAOS & CAMBODIA

151 Whiston Road, Haggerston, London E28 1BN - Tel: 0207 739360 -
Email: vlcentre@yahoo.co.uk



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

Domestic violence can be defined as any form of physical, sexual, emotional, verbal and financial abuse between intimate partners or any other members of the family, including abuses towards elderly and young girls. Domestic violence or abuse has a great impact on the victims' health, emotions, sociological-economic, and their children's psychological development. As a result, VLC Women's Support Network is conducting a survey questionnaire to gain a clear view of the extent of domestic violence, so that appropriate services could be provided to meet the needs of female victims within the community. We would be grateful if you could spare a few moments to answer the following questions. The information you provide will be tremendously useful and will be kept strictly private and confidential in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

1. Are you? Male Female

2. What is your age group?

16 - 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	45 - 54	<input type="checkbox"/>
25 - 34	<input type="checkbox"/>	55 - 64	<input type="checkbox"/>
35 - 44	<input type="checkbox"/>	65+	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. What is your ethnic origin?

Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed race	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other? Please specify.....

4. What is your marital status?

Single	<input type="checkbox"/>	Separated	<input type="checkbox"/>
Married	<input type="checkbox"/>	Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cohabiting	<input type="checkbox"/>		

5. Which post code area of Hackney are you living in?

E5	<input type="checkbox"/>	E9	<input type="checkbox"/>
E8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other? Please specify.....

6. How do you feel about living in your own home?

Happy & contented	<input type="checkbox"/>	Devastated	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frustrated	<input type="checkbox"/>
Warm & cosy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lonely	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afraid	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unhappy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hopeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

If your answers were afraid, unhappy, hopeless, devastated, frustrated or lonely, please explain why:

.....

7. Have you ever been affected by domestic violence, abuse or other violence?

Yes No

If yes, was it by:

Your partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighbour	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Other? Please specify.....

8. If you have experienced domestic violence, which of the following abuses have you suffered?

Slapping	<input type="checkbox"/>	Using physical force for sexual intercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Throwing objects at you or in the house	<input type="checkbox"/>	Using you for sexually degrading acts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pushing or shaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insults or degrading activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hitting or beating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Belittlement or humiliation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kicking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scaring or frightening you or the children on purpose	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dragging	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not allowing you freedom of choice	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Starvation or keeping you short of food	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatening violence against you or the children	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keeping you without enough money to live on	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threats with weapons	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not allowing you freedom of movement outside the house	<input type="checkbox"/>
Having sexual intercourse against your will	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not allowing you religious freedom	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. What are the likely reasons for triggering the domestic abuse?

Affairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner got drunk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner taking drugs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stress related	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner gambles	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other? Please specify.....

10. On average how many times have you been abused?

Every day	<input type="checkbox"/>	Once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twice a month	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twice a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other? Please specify-----.

11. How long is it since you suffered abuse?

Ongoing/ within the last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	More than 3 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 months - 3 years	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Other? Please specify.....

12. If you are suffering from, or have suffered from domestic violence, why did you not leave?

Immigration status	<input type="checkbox"/>	No where to turn to	<input type="checkbox"/>
Custom & Culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	No relative or friend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children	<input type="checkbox"/>	No money	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family honour	<input type="checkbox"/>	Language difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Have you ever approached any of the following agencies for advice or help?

Victim support	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police	<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing Providers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Domestic Violence Unit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Citizens Advice Bureau	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women's Aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other? Please specify.....

14. If you have not been to any agencies, are there any barriers to you asking for help/advice?

Do not know what's available	<input type="checkbox"/>	Distrust/concerned about confidentiality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scared to ask for help	<input type="checkbox"/>	Differences in cultural backgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Language difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other? Please specify.....

15. If you or your children are suffering or witnessing domestic violence or abuse how does it affect your behaviour towards your children?

Hide the violence/abuse from them	<input type="checkbox"/>	Try to support them	<input type="checkbox"/>
Try to keep them safe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other? Please specify.....

16. Are you aware of any of the following justice systems that are available to ensure you and your children's safety?

Fines or probation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Court injunctions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prosecution	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil injunctions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Imprisonment	<input type="checkbox"/>		

17. As a result of domestic violence we understand that women sometimes use drugs or alcohol as a way of coping with the stress. Have you, or would you, turn to alcohol or drugs as a form of self-medication, or self-relief from pain, fear, isolation or guilt?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

18. If V.L.C Community Centre provides CONFIDENTIAL help and support on domestic violence. Would you consider using the service?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------

19. If No, where would you feel most safe in attending for help with Domestic violence?

V.L.C Community Centre
A Women Only Space
Council Space

Children Centre
 G.P Surgery
 Other

Other? Please specify.....

20. What kind of services do you think could be provided to meet your need or the needs of the community as a whole?

Raise awareness of Domestic Violence and its service providers
Interpreting and translation
Housing
Advocacy

Referrals
 Meditation and Yoga
 Financial advice and support
 Family Education

Other? Please specify-----.

21. Have you ever witnessed violence or abuse yourself?

Yes No

If yes, was it by:

Your partner Friends
Family member Other
Neighbour

22. What is your level of education?

Primary University
Secondary No formal education

23. What is your husband or partner's level of education?

Primary University
Secondary No formal education

24. What is your household level of income per year?

1,000 - 10,000 31,000 - 40,000
11,000 - 20,000 41,000 - 51,000
21,000 - 30,000 51,000+

Thank you for spending your valuable time in completing this survey questionnaire. The information you provided will be tremendously useful and will be kept strictly private and confidential in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Date of completion:

Thank you.