

Are you his
Princess
one minute

and a
STUPID BITCH
the next?

Does he tell you you're pretty? Pretty ugly. Pretty stupid. Pretty frigid.
Does he think you're fit? Fit for a beating.

This is abuse. You don't have to stand for it.

For information and help search

Home Office



DO YOU MAKE YOUR GIRLFRIEND
**WEAK AT
THE KNEES**

BECAUSE
**SHE'S
SCARED**
OF YOU?

Does her heart beat faster
when you threaten her?
Do you charm the pants off her,
or does a slap work better?

This is abuse. Stop yourself.

For information and help search

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Partner Violence and Control in Teenage Intimate Relationships: Results from current UK research

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School for  **Policy Studies**

 University of
BRISTOL

Presentation Outline

- Wider Context
- Definitions and Meanings
- Study Aims and Methodology
- Main Research Findings
- Conclusion – Messages for European Research

Wide Definition of Violence

‘Having names called is worse... because it hurts you more...if you have a fight...the pain goes and it heals, but having being called whatever is always at the back of your head.’

Fiona, aged 14, quoted from Barter *et al* 2004, p29

Wider Context

- Previous studies used large-scale surveys to determine incidence or prevalence.
- Identified a range of adverse outcomes – including mental health, depression, and suicide.
- Links to adult domestic violence.
- Young people's own experiences and agency largely ignored.
- Small number of European studies.

'Demonisation' of Youth



Maggie Atkinson – The Children’s Commissioner for England



‘More therapeutic, more family- and community-based, more about reparation than simply locking someone-up’.

April 2010

Partner exploitation and violence in teenage intimate relationships

Christine Barter, Melanie McCann, David Berridge and Kathy Evans

October 2009

www.nspcc.org.uk/inform

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 LOTTERY FUNDED

 NSPCC
Ready to children need stop. FULL STOP.

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School Research



- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) with the University of Bristol
- Funded by the Big Lottery Fund (UK).
- Team members: Christine Barter, Melanie McCarry, Kathy Evans, David Berridge and Annabel Lander.

Research Aims



The research aim was to explore with young people their experiences of physical, emotional and sexual forms of partner violence, including their coping strategies and views on intervention.

School based Methodology

- **National Survey – Questionnaires**

1,353 young people, aged 13-17

8 schools: 4 England; 2 Scotland; and 2 Wales

- **Semi structured Interviews**

91 young people

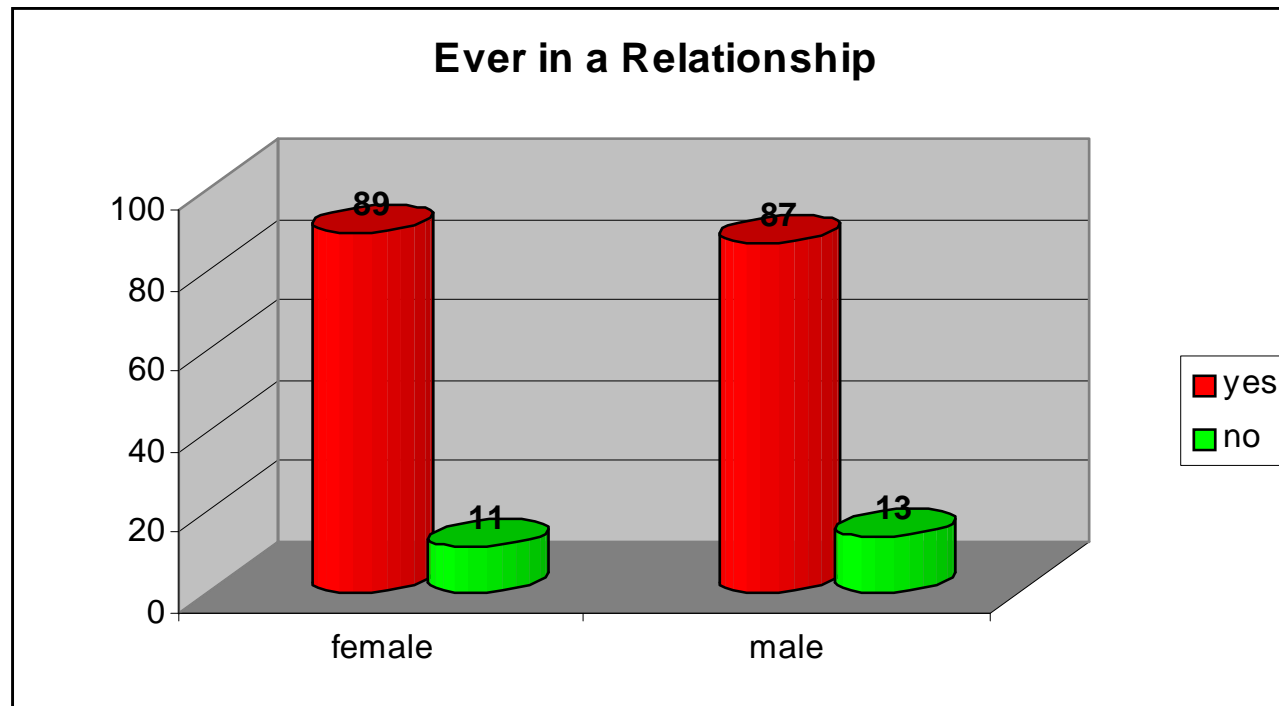
- **Young People's Advisory Group**

Relationship Findings



Ever Been in a Relationship

- 1353 completed surveys
- 1185 had a relationship



Incidence Rates and Impact for Teenage Partner Violence



Physical Partner violence: Two levels

- Have any of your partner ever used physical force such as: punching slapping, hitting, or holding you down?
- more severe force such as punching, strangling, beating you up, hit with an object?

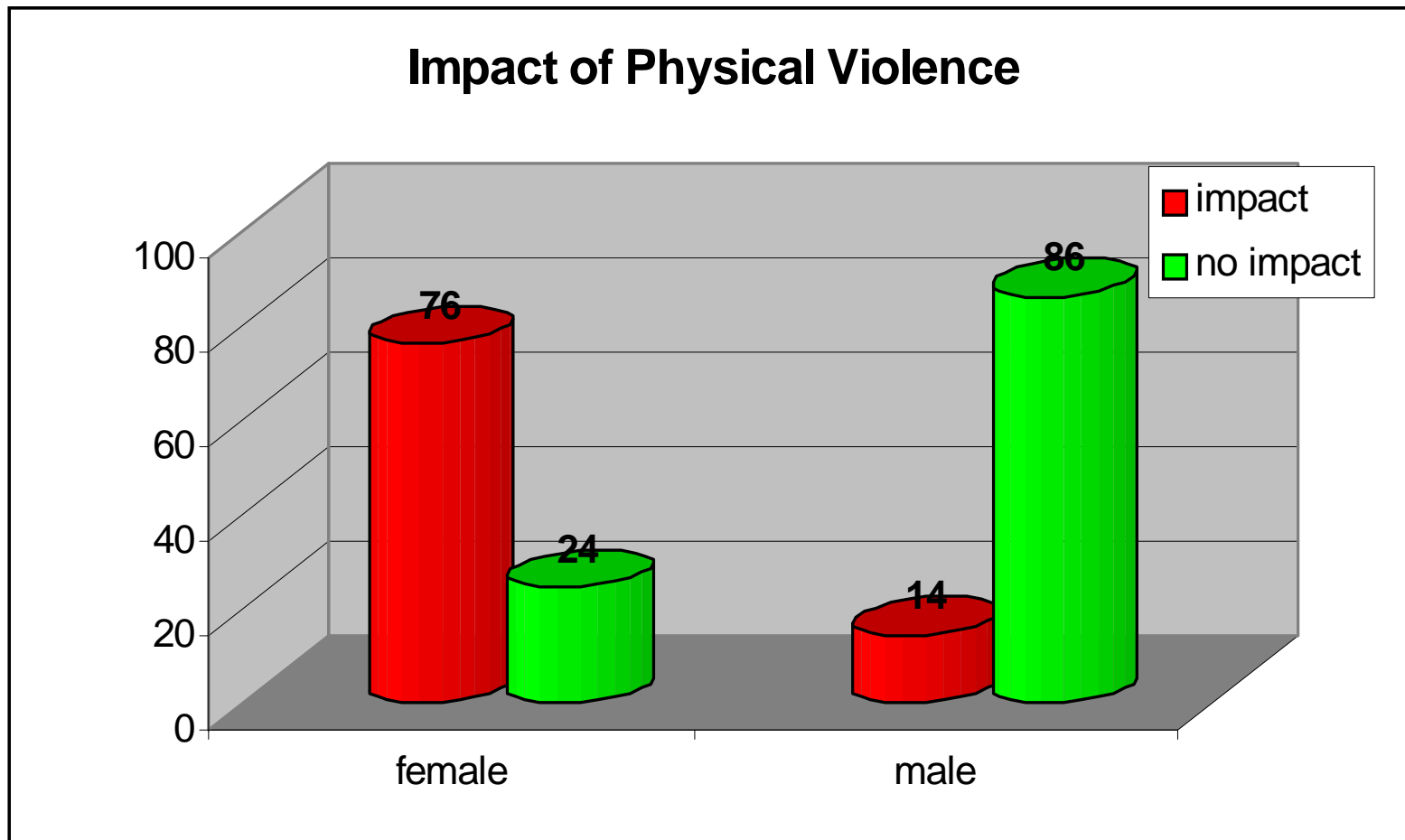
Sian: I only went out with him for a week.
And then ... 'cos I didn't want to do what
he wanted to (have sexual intercourse)
he just started... picking on me and
hitting me.



Subjective Impact

- **No Impact:**
 - loved/protected
 - no effect
 - thought it was funny
- **Negative Impact:**
 - scared/frightened
 - upset/unhappy
 - angry/annoyed
 - humiliated

Kelly: He raised his fist to hit me...and I was thinking ...I know it sounds stupid but...I felt as if I deserved it, but I was scared.



Callum: She tried to batter me but I'm too strong...it's nothing, just a laugh.

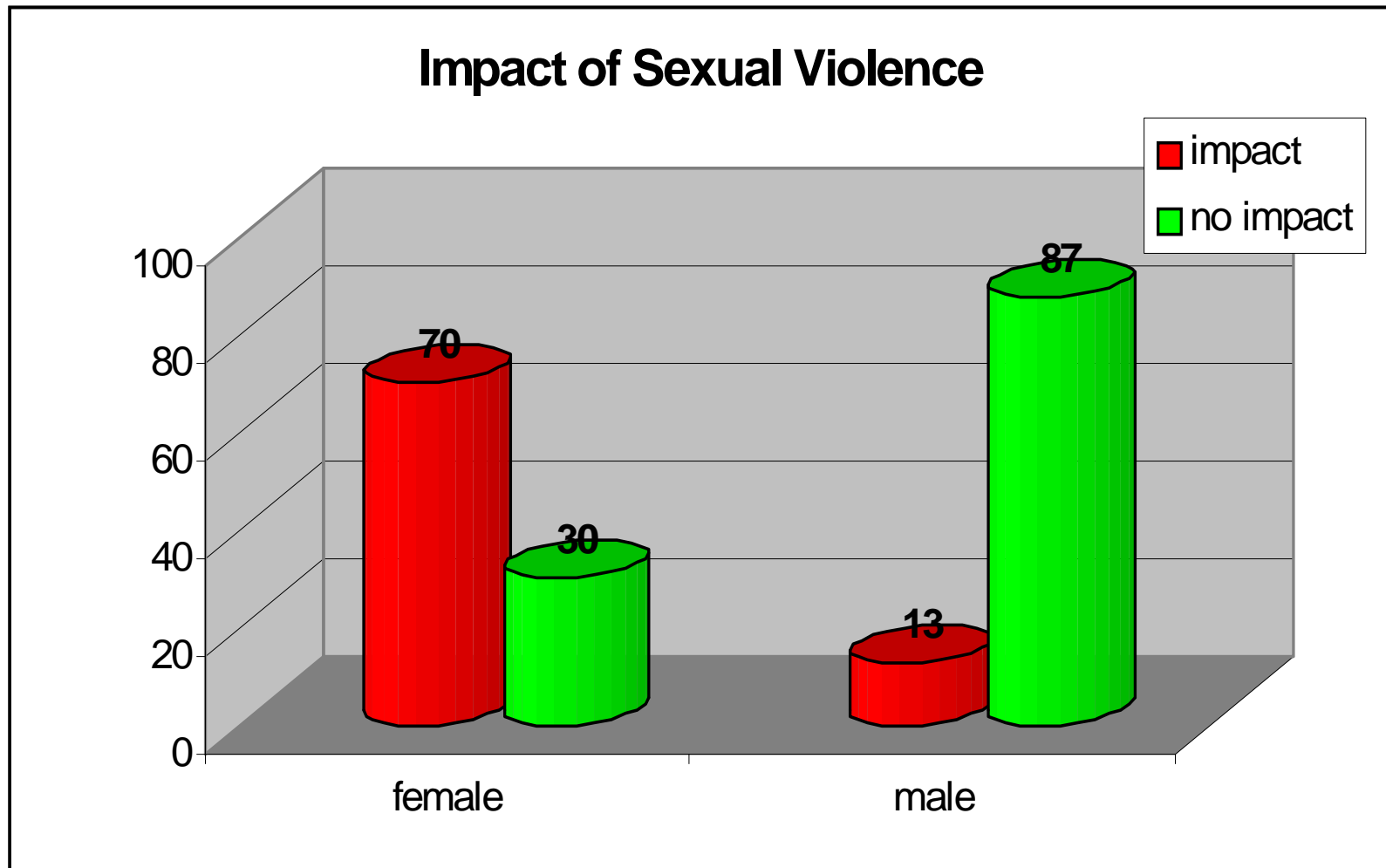
Sexual Violence: Four levels

- Have any of your partners ever:
- **Pressured** you into kissing, touching or something else
- **Physically forced** you into kissing, touching or something else
- **Pressured** you into having sexual intercourse
- **Physically forced** you into sexual intercourse

Tasminder: See with my relationship it wasn't up to me (when to have sex). But when it happens it just kind of happens and then afterwards you think oh my god.



Rebecca: I can't believe I've done it (pressured into oral sex)... It was the most horrible thing...it makes me sick, its the fact that I don't know why I done it.



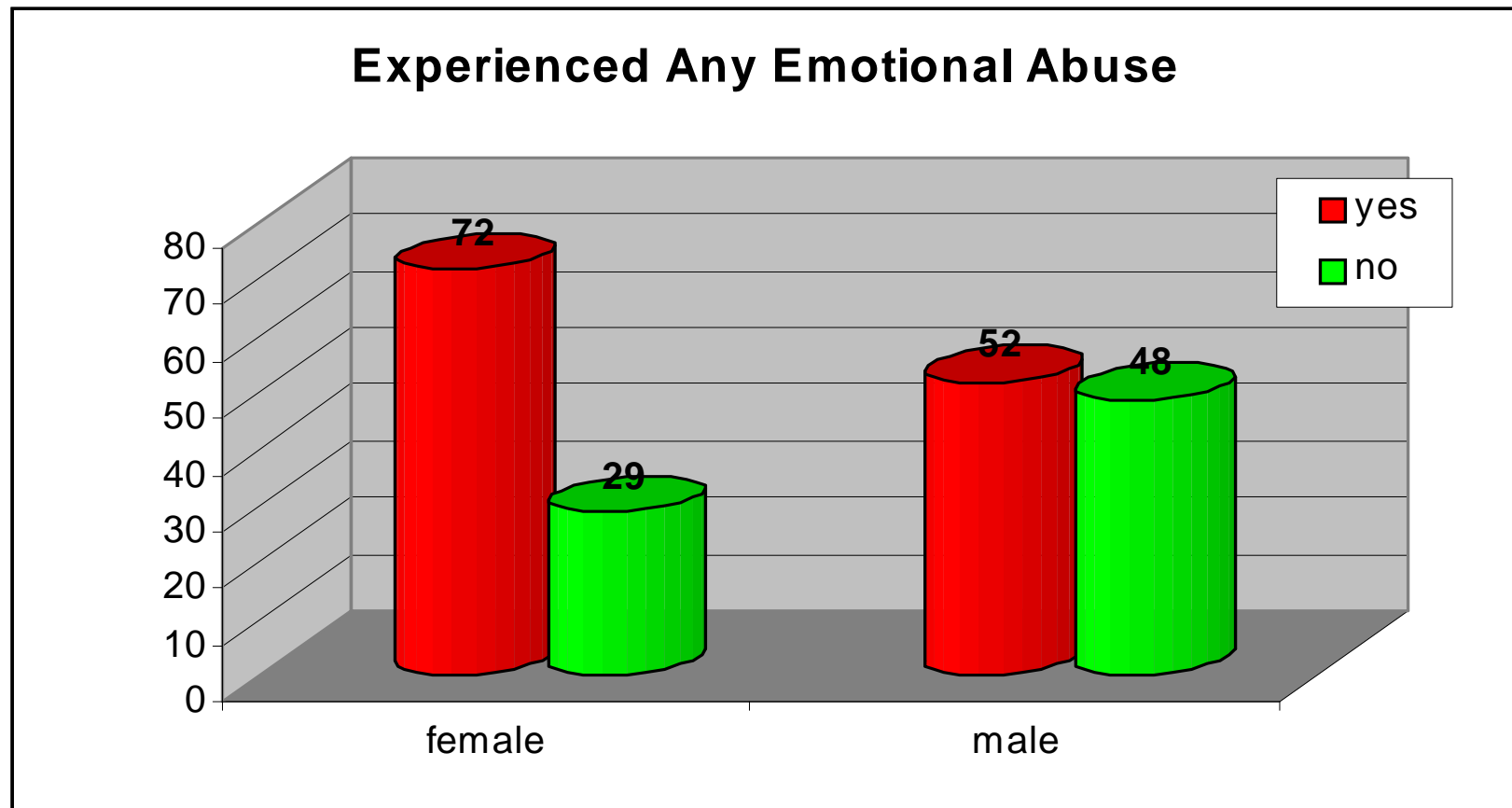
Emotional Violence: Eight components



Have any of your partner ever:

- Made fun of you
- Said negative things about your appearance/body/
family/friends
- Shouted at you/screamed in your face/called you names
- Threatened to hurt you physically unless you did what they wanted
- Told you who you could see and where you could go
- Constantly checked up on what you were doing
- Used private information to make you do something
- Used mobile phones/internet to humiliate/threaten you

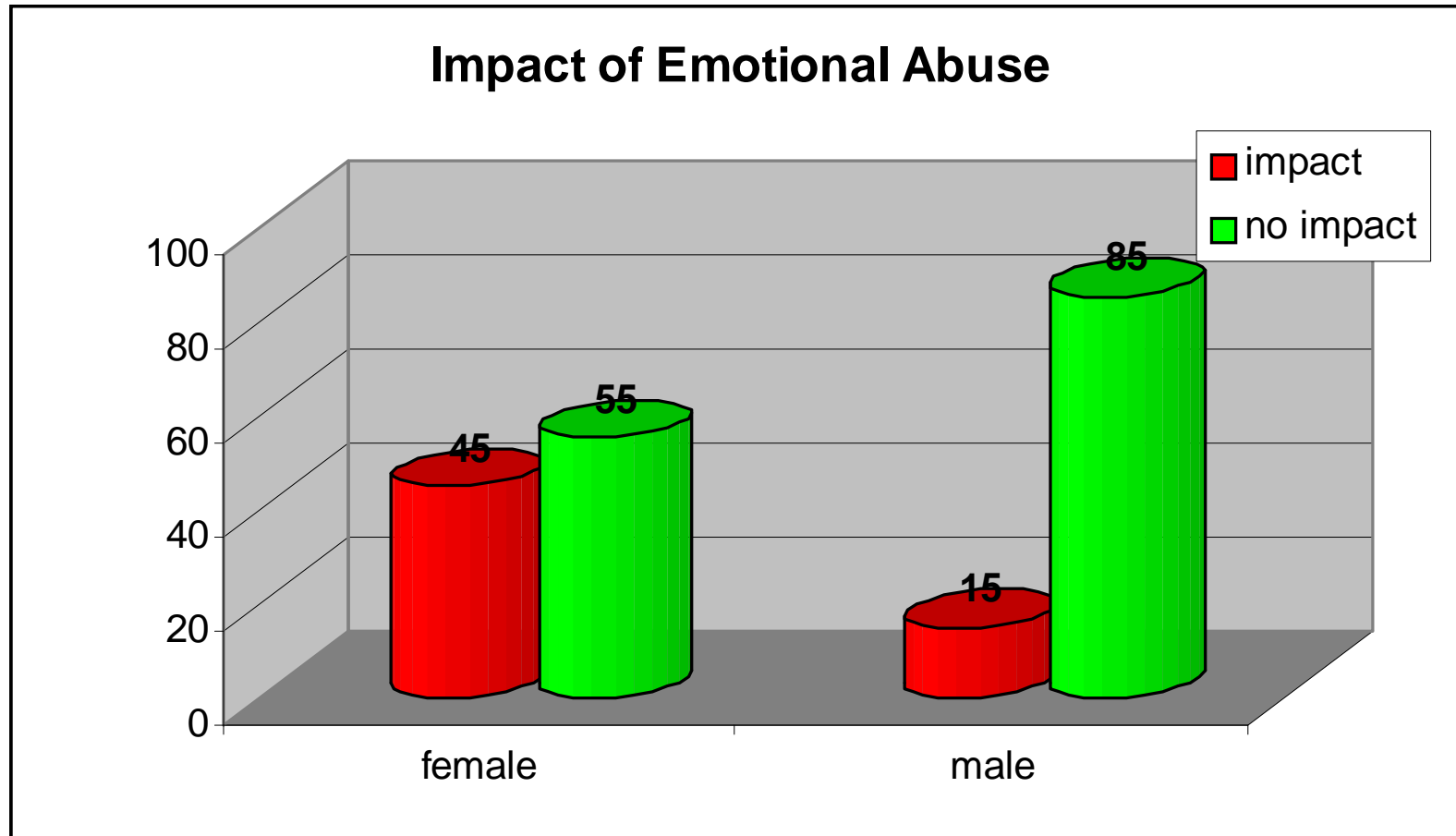
Amy: I'd be out with my friends and he'd drag me off and say he didn't want me out any longer and I'd got to go in and it could be like half past six.



Int: How did you deal with it [constant phoning]?

Josh: I turned my phone off.

Ryan: I had enough [of the checking-up on] so I just walked away.



Lucy: It was just like he'd get really angry over the littlest thing that I did and that just upset me.

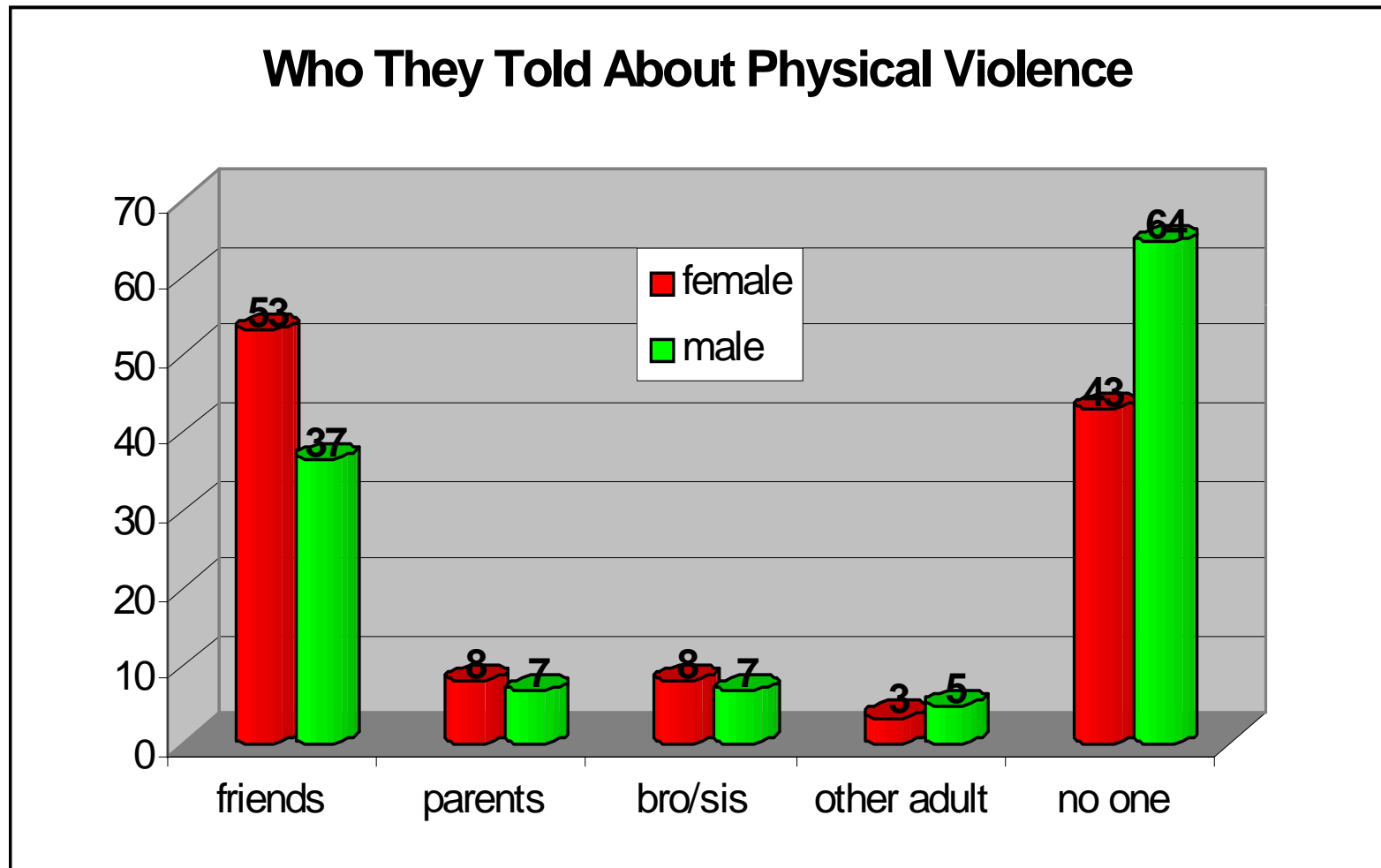
Nature of Violence

- Changes in violence over time
- Violence often not enough to end a relationship
- Post-relationship violence

Who do young people tell?

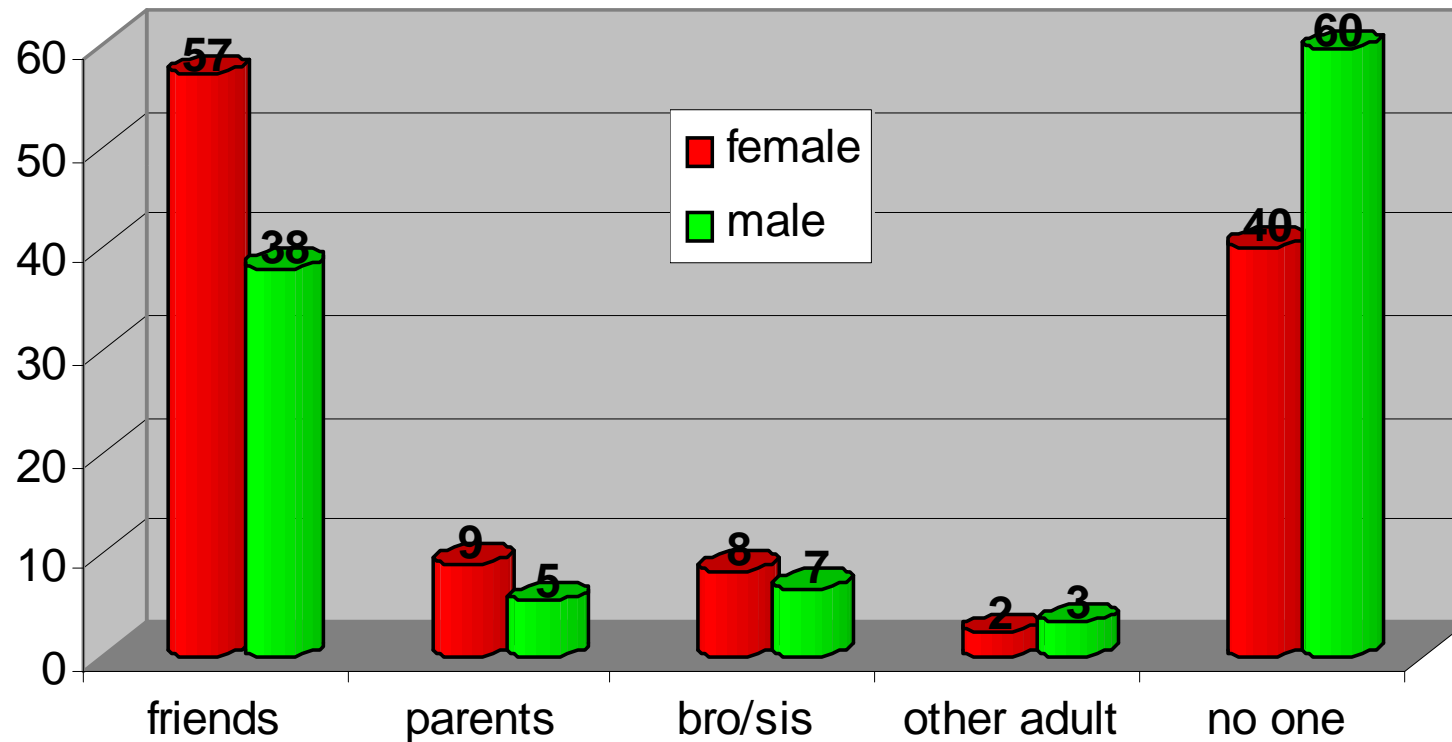


Emma: I felt like I couldn't really talk to anyone about it. I thought it was normal, so I was like 'Okay I'll just get on with it'.

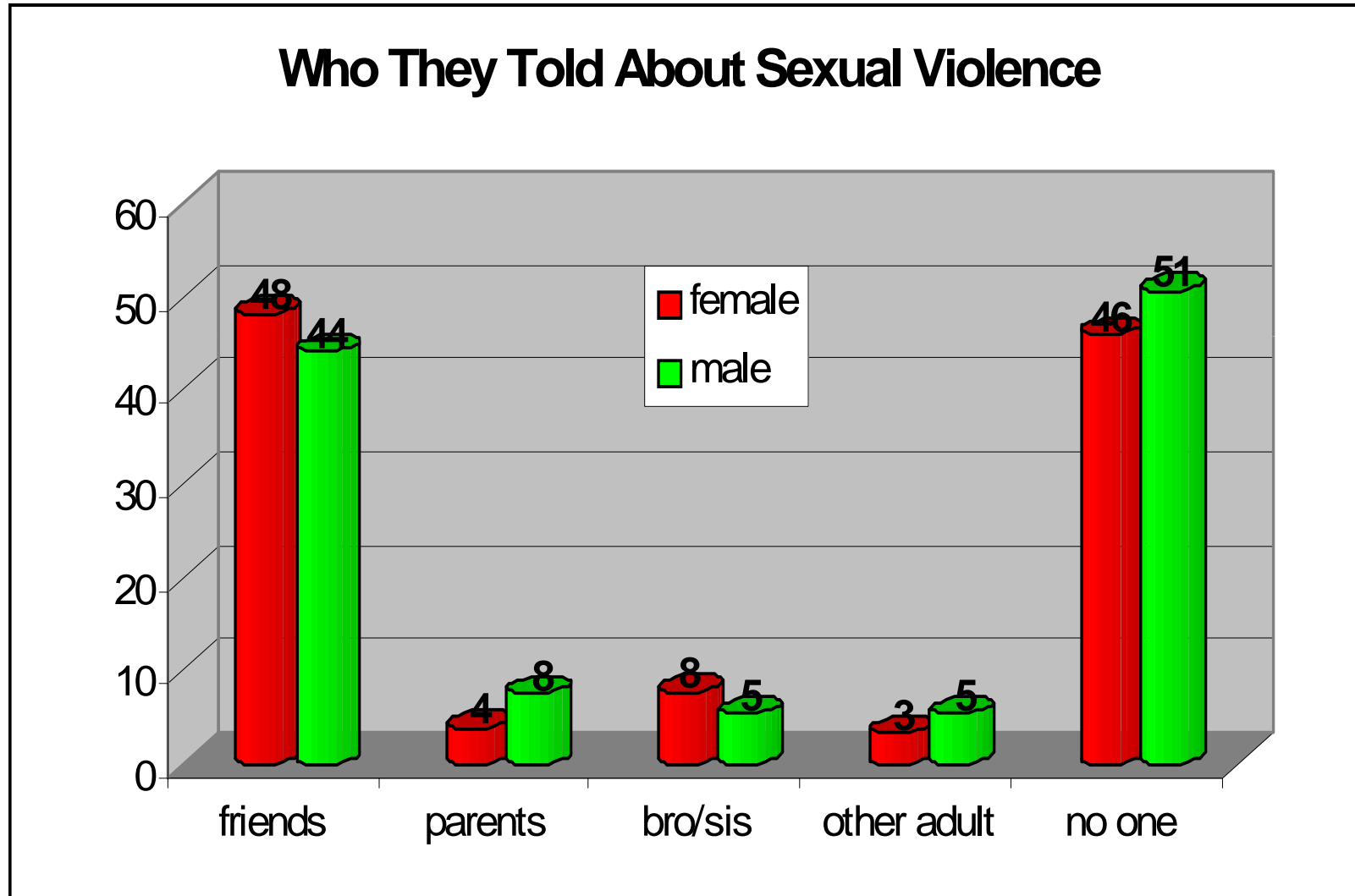


Moira: Everybody does it [controlling behaviour], I thought he was weird and then I talked to my friends and all their boyfriends are the same so...

Who They Told About Emotional Abuse



Tanisha: She's [school mentor] really supportive, she understands and knows what our lives are like at home.



Learning Mentors

- Not viewed as a primarily child welfare service but an educational support and therefore less stigmatising to access
- The service was school-based, mentors were from the local community and perceived as being able to understand their lives.

Risk Factors

- Age and Gender
- Older Partners – girls only
- History of Family/Peer Violence
- Same-Sex Partner

Implications for European Research



Research to measure:

- Incidence rates for different forms of teenage partner violence across European Countries.
- The differential risk factors associated with different countries.
- The impact of social structures and cultures including gender roles, perceptions of children and young people, and openness about young sexualities including emotional and physical intimacy.
- The Wider policy and practice context

Conclusion

That's cool, someone fighting our corner.

Zoe , aged 14.