



OTTAWA 2023

64TH WORLD STATISTICS CONGRESS



IPS 488

**New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey:
Capturing Family members' controlling behaviour
as an extension of the crime and victims survey**

Dr Michael Slyuzberg

Principal Advisor, Lead of the New Zealand Crime and Victims
Research Programme

Monday, 17 July, 10AM - noon

What is the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey?



The NZCVS is a national representative random sample survey

- ~ 8,000 adults (15+) each year pre-pandemic
- 70 - 80% response rate
- Face-to-face interviews
- Covers victimisation in 12 months prior to the interview (with one exception)
- 5 years of data collected starting in 2018 (35,000 interviews)



New Zealand
Crime and Victims **survey**

HELP CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES

Family violence and offences by family members



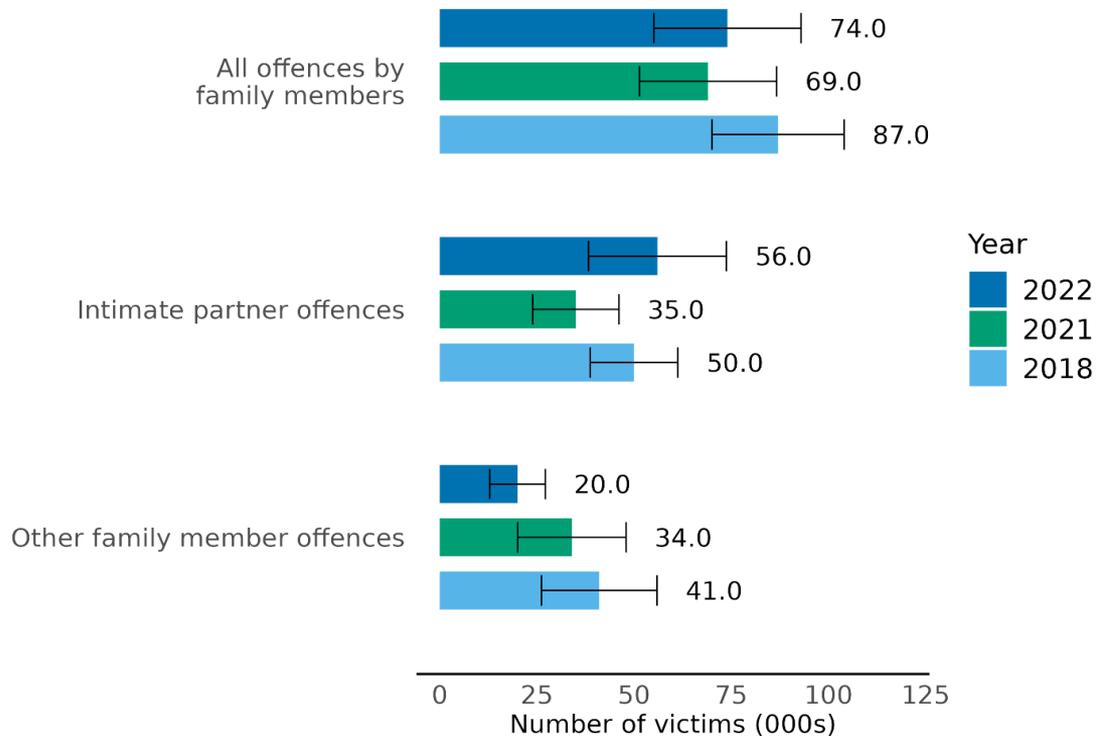
Family violence, as defined in the Family Violence Act 2018, is a pattern of behaviour that **coerces, controls** or **harms** in the context of a close personal relationship.

Family and sexual violence is gendered, and it is mainly or most often men who commit acts of violence against women

- Women are also more likely experience more severe forms of violence

In the NZCVS, **offences by family members** includes physical violence, sexual assault, threats and harassment and property damage where the perpetrator was a family or whānau member of the victim.

Number of victims of offences by family members



What are controlling behaviours?



Controlling behaviours are **specific acts of control** that are used to coerce, isolate and harm a person and **impact their self-determination**.

- Behaviours reflect some ways in which coercive control can be expressed in **familial relationships**.

Controlling behaviours are aspects of family violence that are **not necessarily captured as offences** and are not covered by questions relating to offences by family members.

In the NZCVS, **Controlling behaviour and harm questions** were designed to capture the broader patterns of family violence as it is defined in the Family Violence Act 2018

Objectives:

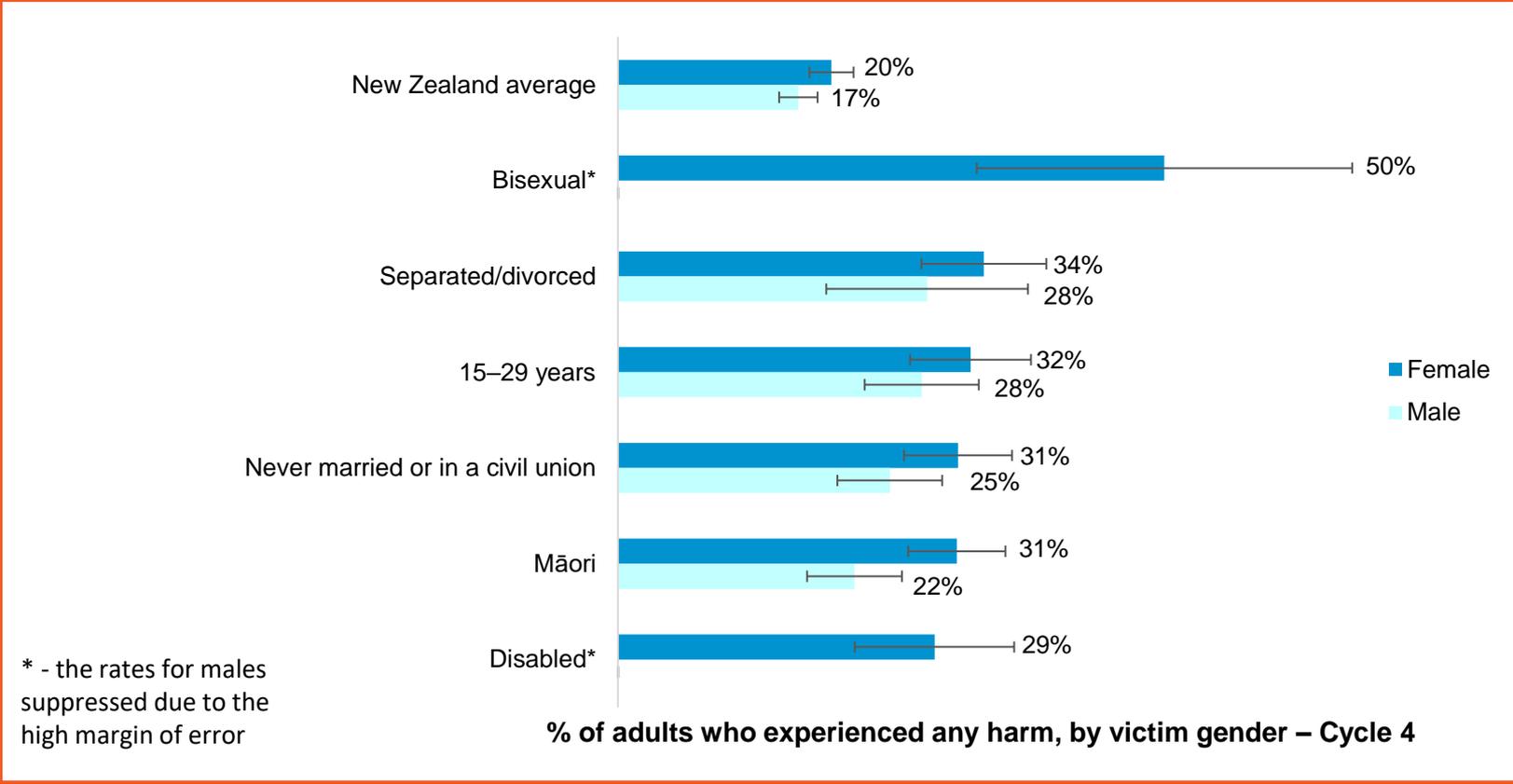
- Recognise family violence as a pattern of behaviour
- More comprehensively cover psychological abuse
- Measure experiences of relationships that are coercive or controlling or cause cumulative harm

- Cycle 1 & 3 introduced questions around specific behaviours by partners or ex-partners
- Specific behaviours questions may inadvertently capture behaviours that are not harmful
- Specific behaviours are often nuanced and determined by context and culture
- Following further consultation, the decision was made to screen for ***impacts or harm*** in addition to specific behaviours
- Cycle 4 saw the introduction of questions asking about ***impact or harm*** caused by the behaviour of other family members

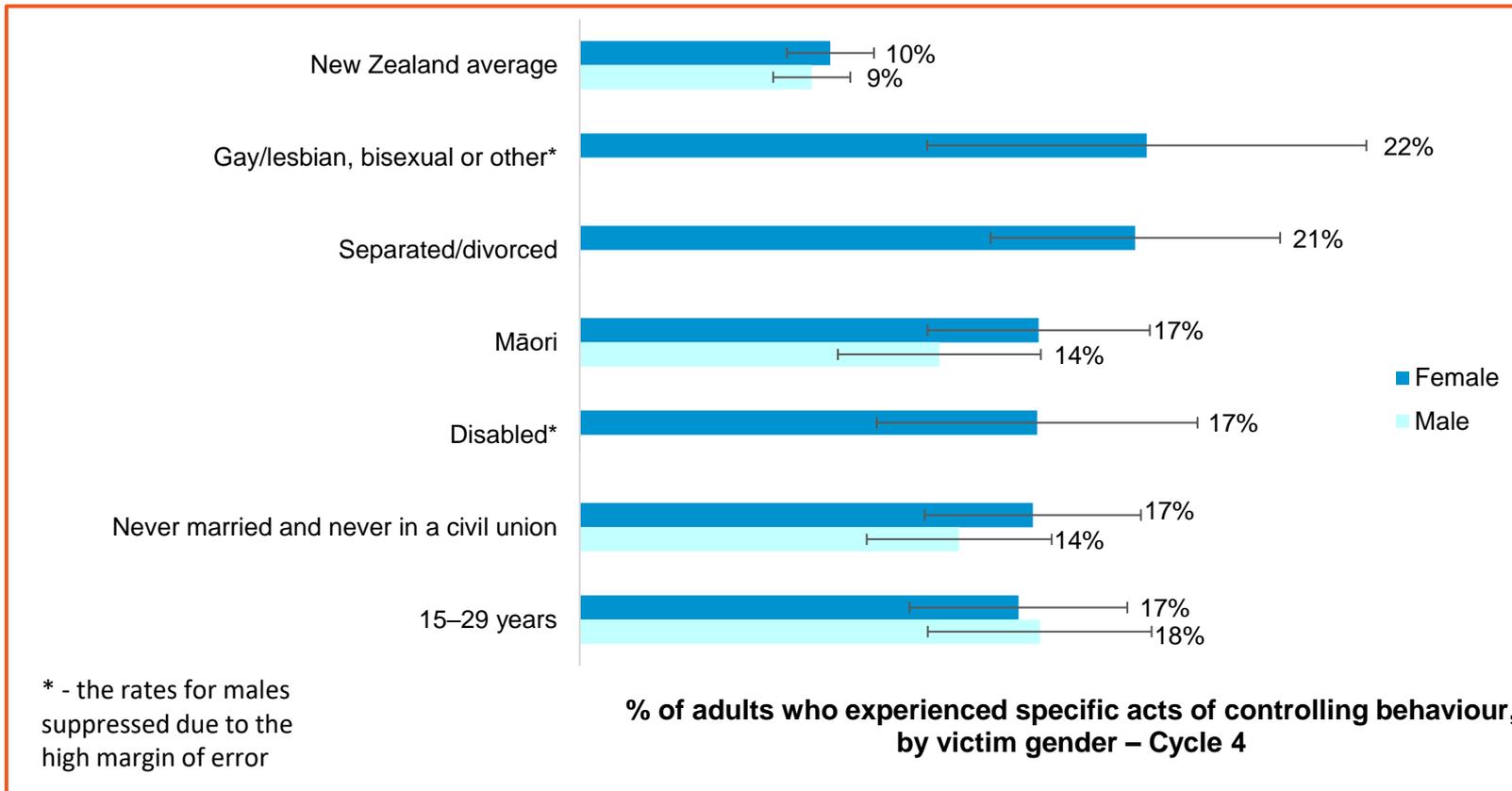


- Gender Asymmetry: Women are more likely to experience more severe violence than men (Fanslow et al 2023)
- Capturing harm may be a more reliable measure than capturing specific behaviour only and may show the gender differences more clearly
- The resultant harm from behaviours is likely to have more of a negative impact on the victims wellbeing and be considered family violence under the Family Violence Act 2018 definition
- Behaviours may be experienced but not causing harm

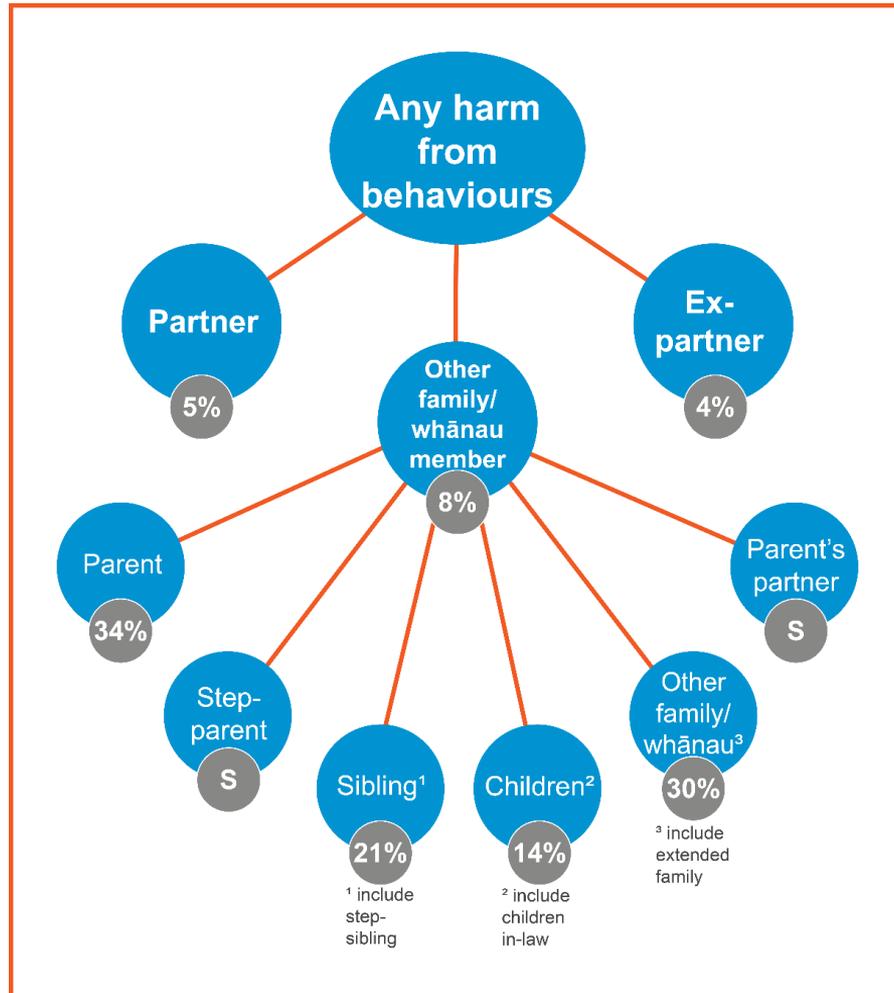
Prevalence of harm by victim's gender and personal factors



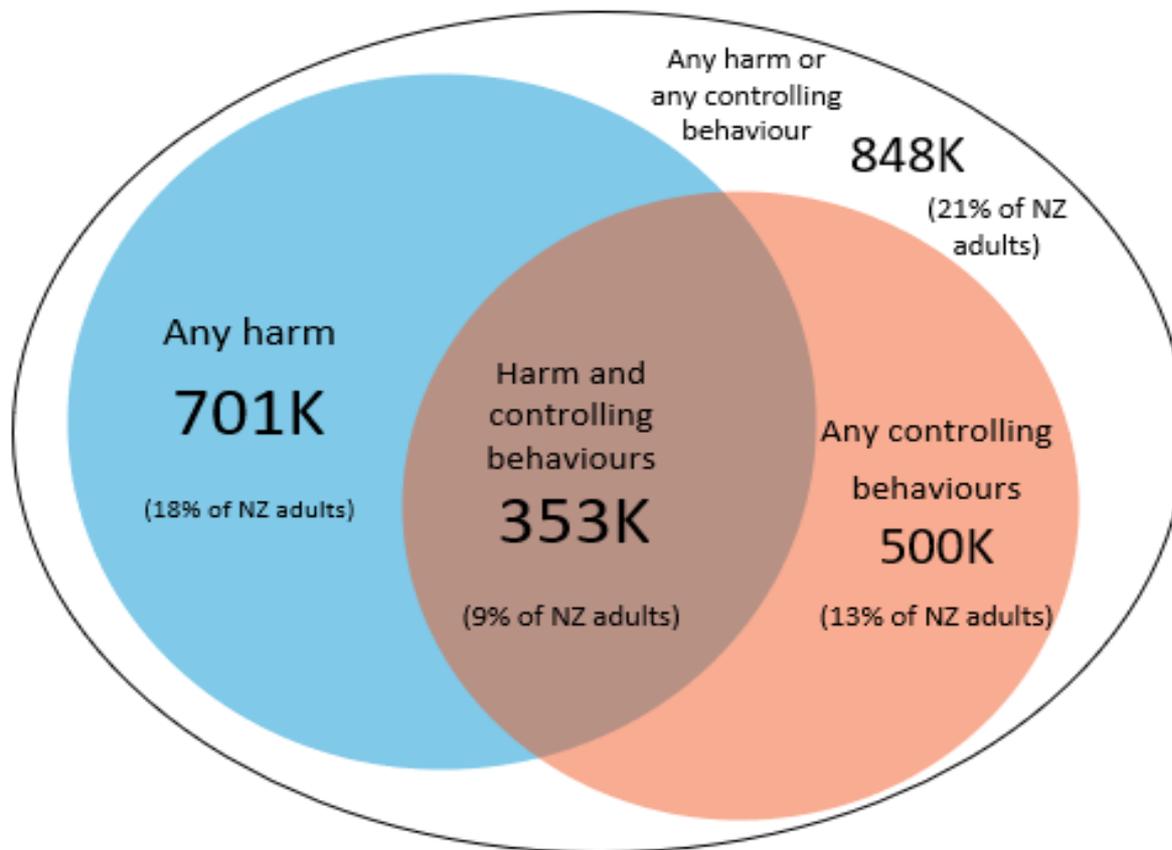
Prevalence of controlling behaviour occurring with harm by victim's gender and personal factors



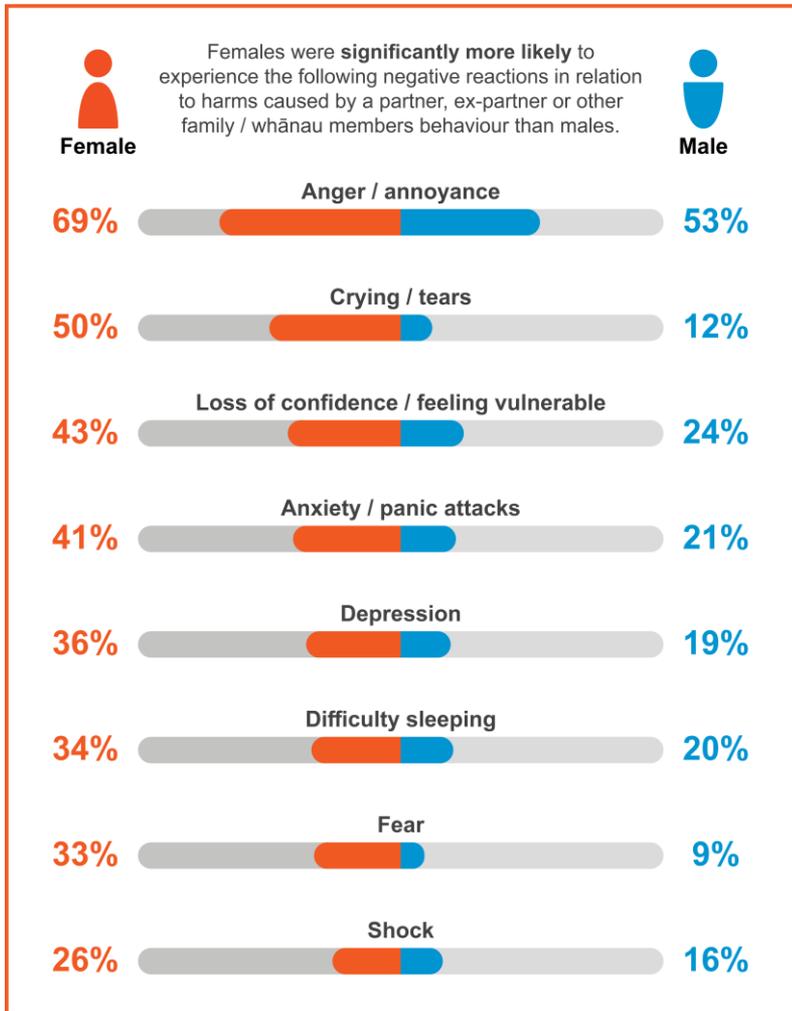
Percentage of adults who experienced any harm, by perpetrator relationship



Relations between harm and controlling behaviour



Negative reactions in relation to harms, by gender



As a result of the controlling behaviours or harms experienced



20% of adults had to take time off work



9% of adults had to take time off from studying

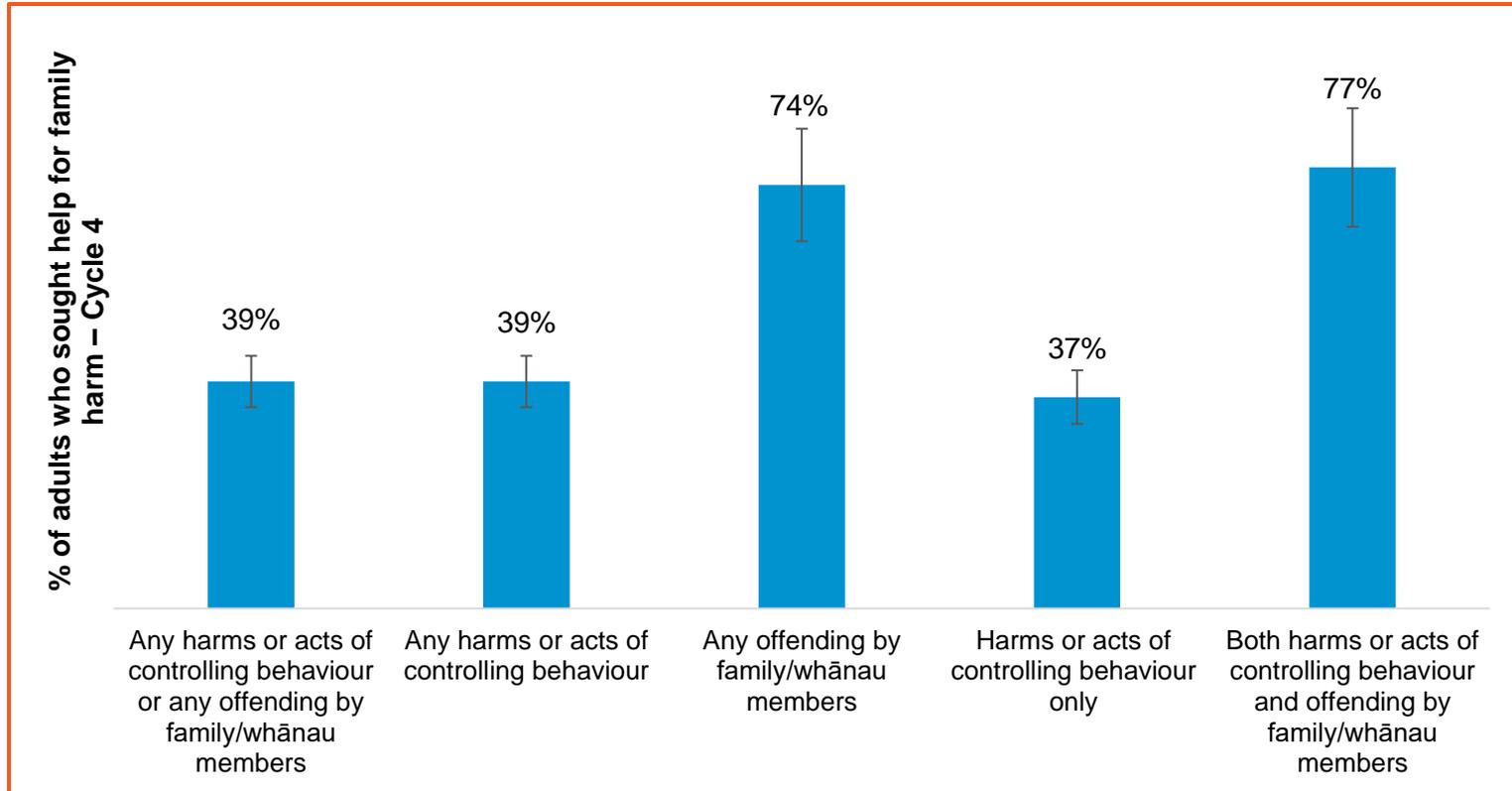


12% of adults had spoken to the Police



24% of adults had spoken to a health professional

Help-seeking for family violence



Where to from here?



- The ability to expand this analysis as more cycles of the NZCVS are completed and the sample size increases.
- Potential to include cross sectional analysis to investigate different demographics groups and the impact of controlling behaviours and harm (for example Māori adults, disabled adults, and adults with diverse sexualities).
- Exploring coercive and controlling behaviours by non-intimate partners, for example other family members like parents and children and any age dynamics
- The prevalence rate of offending by family members (2%) is considerably lower than the prevalence rates of harm as a result of behaviours and acts of controlling behaviour. It would be useful to explore this disparity more.

THANK YOU.



New Zealand
Crime and Victims **survey**

HELP CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES