

Police Perspective

Domestic Abuse

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Definition of domestic abuse

*Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners **or family members regardless** of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: Psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional*



Definition of domestic abuse

Intimate Partners includes those who are or have been in a relationship with each other, with some degree of continuity and stability. The relationship must also have, or have had, or be reasonably supposed to have had, a sexual aspect, such as in the relationship between a husband and wife or between others generally recognised as a couple, including same sex couples. They need not be living together on a full time continuing basis and need not ever have done so.



Definition of domestic abuse

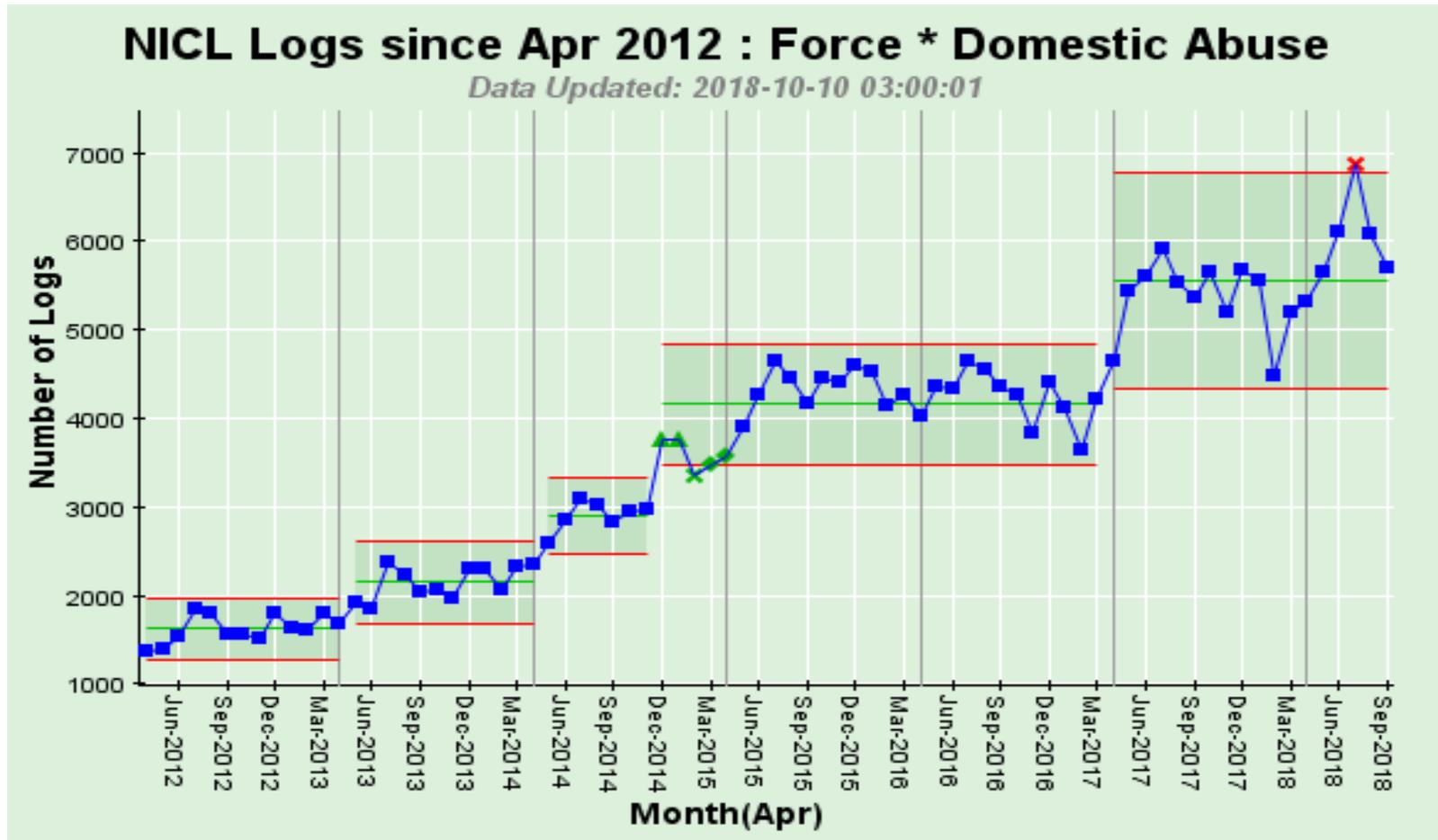
'Family members' are defined as below:

**mother, father, son, daughter, sister, brother
grandparents, whether directly related, in-
laws or stepfamily.**

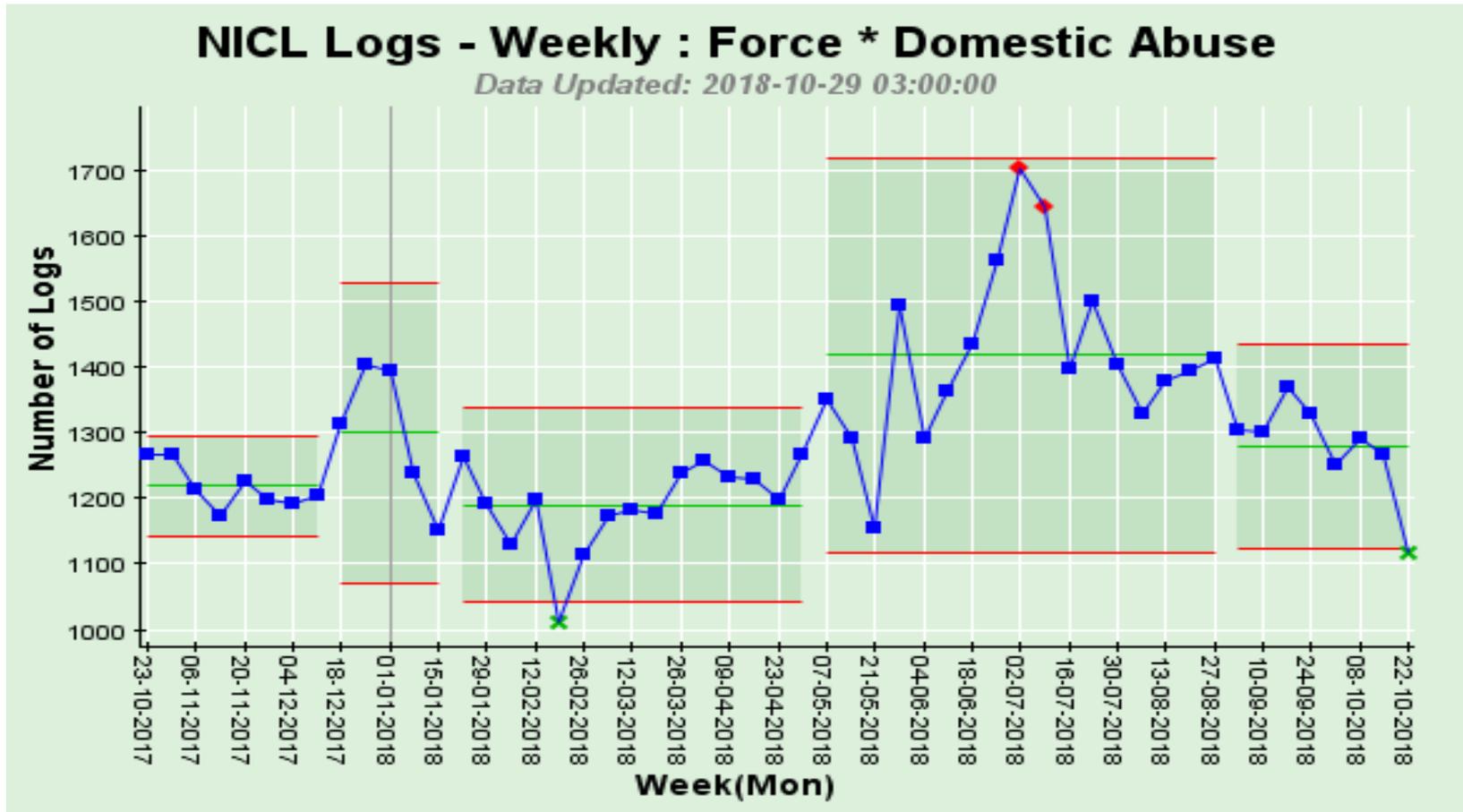
Aunts and uncles are included for HBV ONLY.



Increasing confidence to report



Summer Demand



DASH Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment Categorisation

STANDARD

Current evidence does not indicate likelihood of causing serious harm.

MEDIUM

There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The offender has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, for example, failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, drug or alcohol misuse.

HIGH

There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.



Honour Based Abuse & Forced Marriage

Honour-based violence and forced marriage are also forms of domestic abuse.

- *Honour-based violence is “a crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community”.*
- *Forced marriage is “a marriage conducted without the consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor”.*



Coercive Control

Coercive control is a stand alone criminal offence

Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 created a new offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship

Key Legal Principles:

Causing a victim to fear, on at least two occasions, that violence will be used against them

or

Causing a victim serious alarm or distress which has a substantial adverse effect on their day-to-day activities



Clare's Law

A scheme to let people find out from police if their partner has a history of domestic violence

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme - known as Clare's Law - is intended to provide information that could protect someone from being a victim of attack

The initiative is named after 36-year-old Clare Wood who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in 2009.



Operation Encompass

- Underpinned from evidence that the process of early reporting has a meaningful impact on learning and emotional well-being
- Children are often the silent victims of domestic abuse
- Operation works by sharing information with schools at an early stage- ideally before the child's first school day after the incident.
- Allows teachers to monitor child's condition, have a safeguarding approach & be have a nuanced approach to any challenging behaviour
- Can also help with future monitoring of issue & the way child feel confident to talk to their teachers & family issues effecting
- Legal & administrative challenges in delivering operation



BME & migrant women – barriers to leaving & reporting

INTERNAL BARRIERS - women

- Fear of further or worse violence post-separation
- Love or feelings of obligation/duty towards the perpetrator
- Shame and guilt, and fear of 'dishonour'
- Fear of the unknown
- Fear of deportation and destitution
- Fear and experience of racism
- Unaware of rights, services and lack of English language
- Fear of isolation and social ostracism
- Financial worries
- Exhaustion and uncertainty
- Low self esteem and self confidence, depression
- Impact on children and siblings



BME & migrant women – barriers to leaving & reporting

- **INTERNAL: BARRIERS - family/community**
- Community and religious leaderships that encourage women to solve problems within the community (e.g. through mediation, religious councils/arbitration forums)
- Fear of reprisals and further violence
- Perpetrator using emotional blackmail or appearing remorseful/apologetic

- **EXTERNAL BARRIERS**
- Finding a police station!
- Failure of agencies to protect and support
- Immigration/asylum laws
- Racism and discrimination - harassment and unequal treatment, negative stereotyping and “over-policing”
- Lack of cultural awareness or understanding
- ‘religious sensitivity’ – e.g. non-intervention, mediation and reconciliation, religious arbitration or “under-policing” and “self-policing”.
- Lack of suitable facilities e.g. interpretation

