

The Forensic Psychology Role: Victim's Information and Attendance Office (GIABV/DIAP Lisbon)

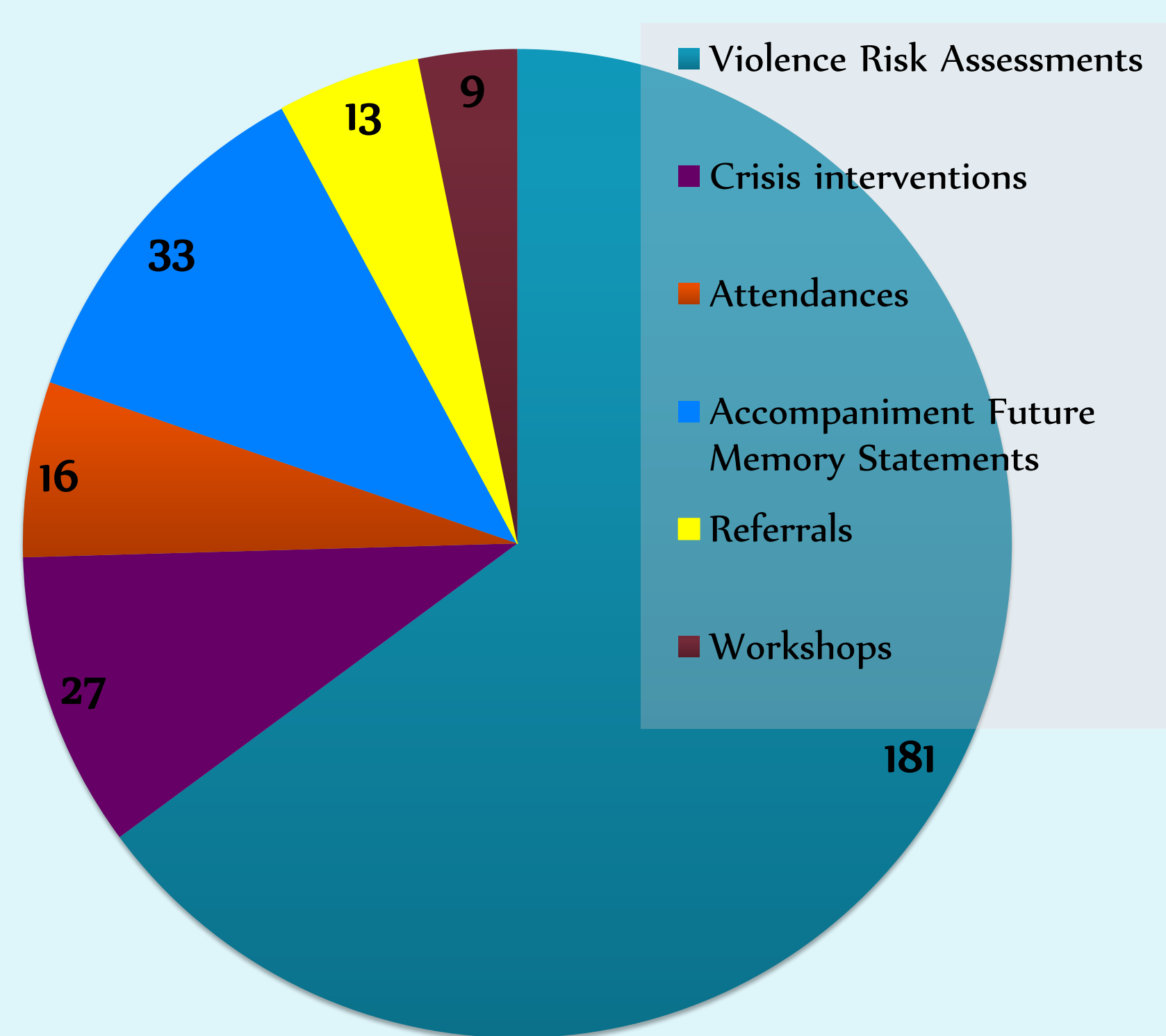
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Abstract: The Victim's Information and Attendance Office – Citizenship and Justice Area (Gabinete de Informação e Atendimento à Vítima – Espaço Cidadania e Justiça, GIABV) is situated in the 7th Section, Combat Unit against Domestic Violence, of the DIAP Lisbon (Public Prosecutor's Office), created in partnership with Egas Moniz Co-op, CRL. The GIABV has as main goals the violence risk assessment in intimate relationships; the attendance, accompaniment to future memory statements and crisis interventions in the domestic violence criminal proceedings, as well as scientific investigations and education. The goal of this paper is to demonstrate the work developed by GIABV in these different fields and also to characterize the violence risk assessments. The data collection was made from November 2011 to October 2015, using the information from the lawsuits, semi-structured interviews of the victim and of defendant, collateral information and clinical and forensic assessment tools. GIABV has performed a total of 181 violence risk assessments: 155 were in an intimate relationship context, having attributed low risk to 7% of the cases, moderate risk to 51% and elevated risk to 39%; 20 cases of violence against minors, 20% low risk, 47% moderated risk, 20% indeterminate, 13% non evaluated; 6 cases of violence against the elderly, 66% low risk, 17% moderated risk and 17% elevated risk. Our psychologists have also made 27 crisis interventions; 16 attendances; 33 future memory statements; 8 technical reports; 13 referrals to other services and 9 workshops, mainly to prosecutors and official justice technicians. The service of GIABV to the Public Prosecutor's Office comprehends several areas of intervention, mostly in moderate and elevated risk cases, having assisted to sustain various restraining measures, as preventive detention and ankle monitors.

Method

GIABV's Work



Participants in Intimate Partner Violence

Total: 145 Violence risk assessments in intimate relationships
Ages: Between 20 and 80 ($M=44.8$; $DP=11.8$)

♂ 9% Victims
81% Defendants
10% Victim/Defendants

♀ 84% Victims
7% Defendants
9% Victim/Defendant

Data Collection in Intimate Partner Violence

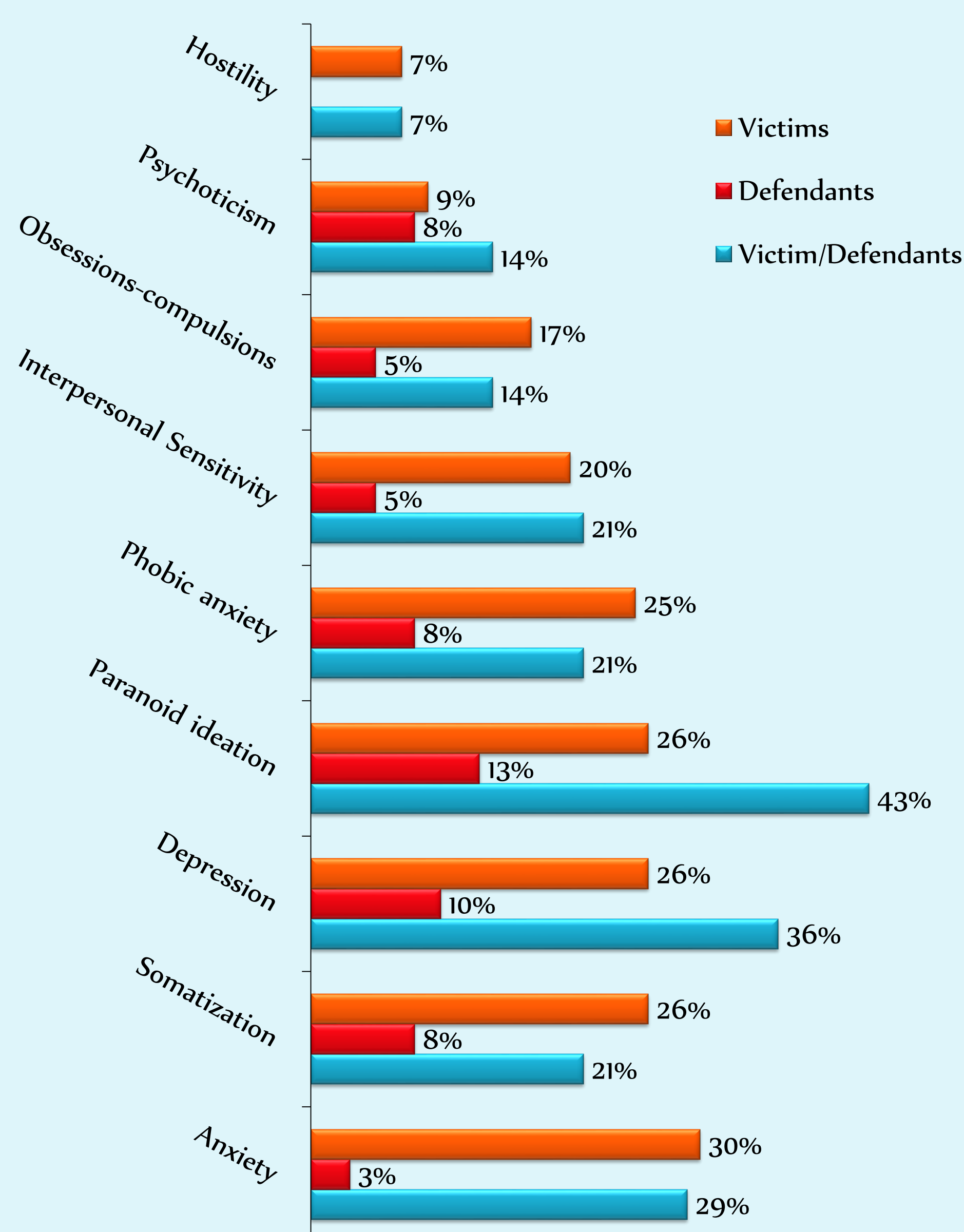
Violence risk assessments are different for victims and defendants and that is the reason why this Office has created different protocols (Almeida, Baúto & Sousa, 2011; Sousa, Baúto, & Almeida, 2011).

Victim/Defendant

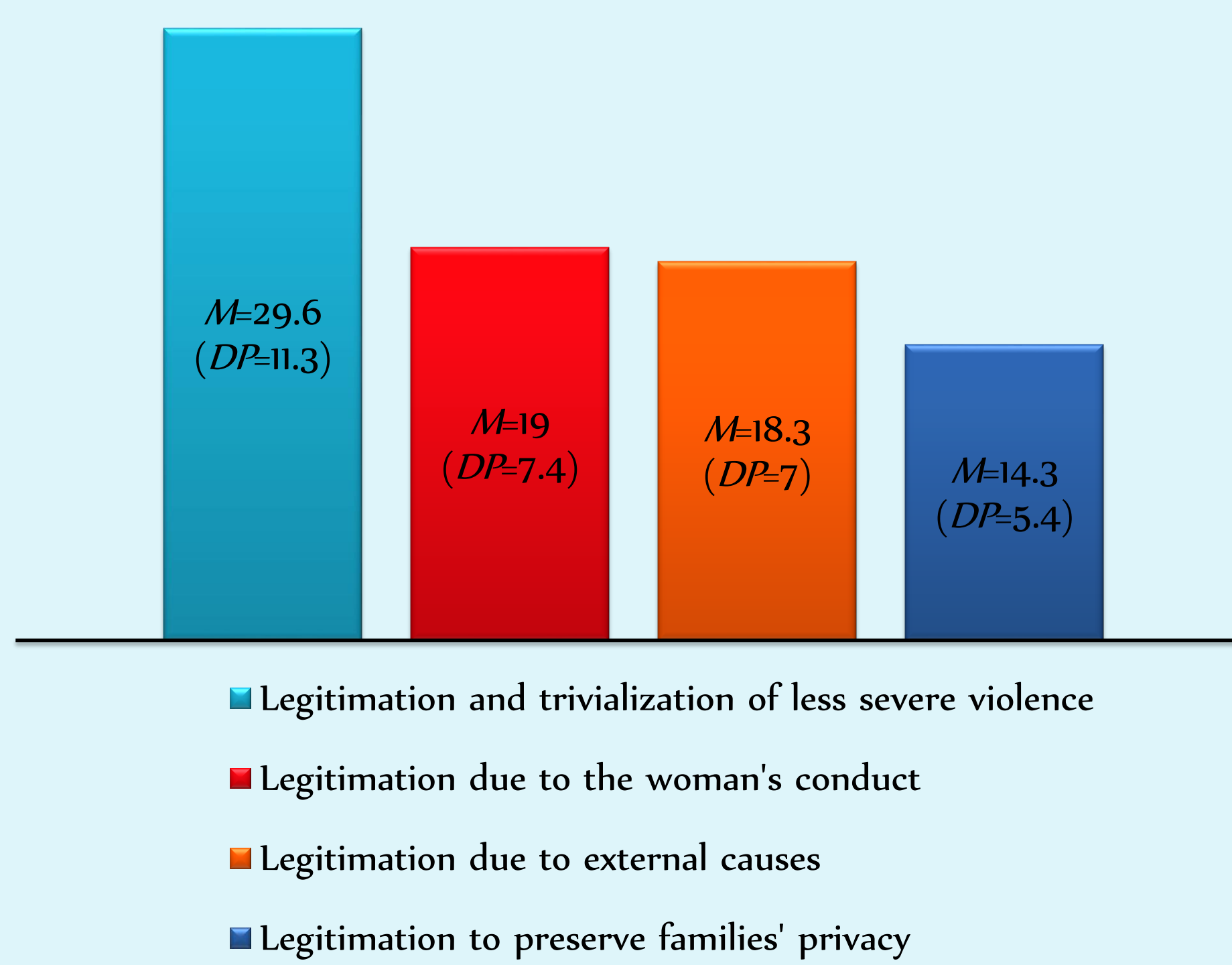
- * Lawsuit
- * Collateral information
- * Semi-structured interview with verbal credibility assessment
- * Tools:
 - * Psychiatric symptomatology indicators
 - * Domestic violence beliefs and attitudes
 - * Adult attachment
 - * Violence risk (risk and protective factors)
 - * Personality

Results

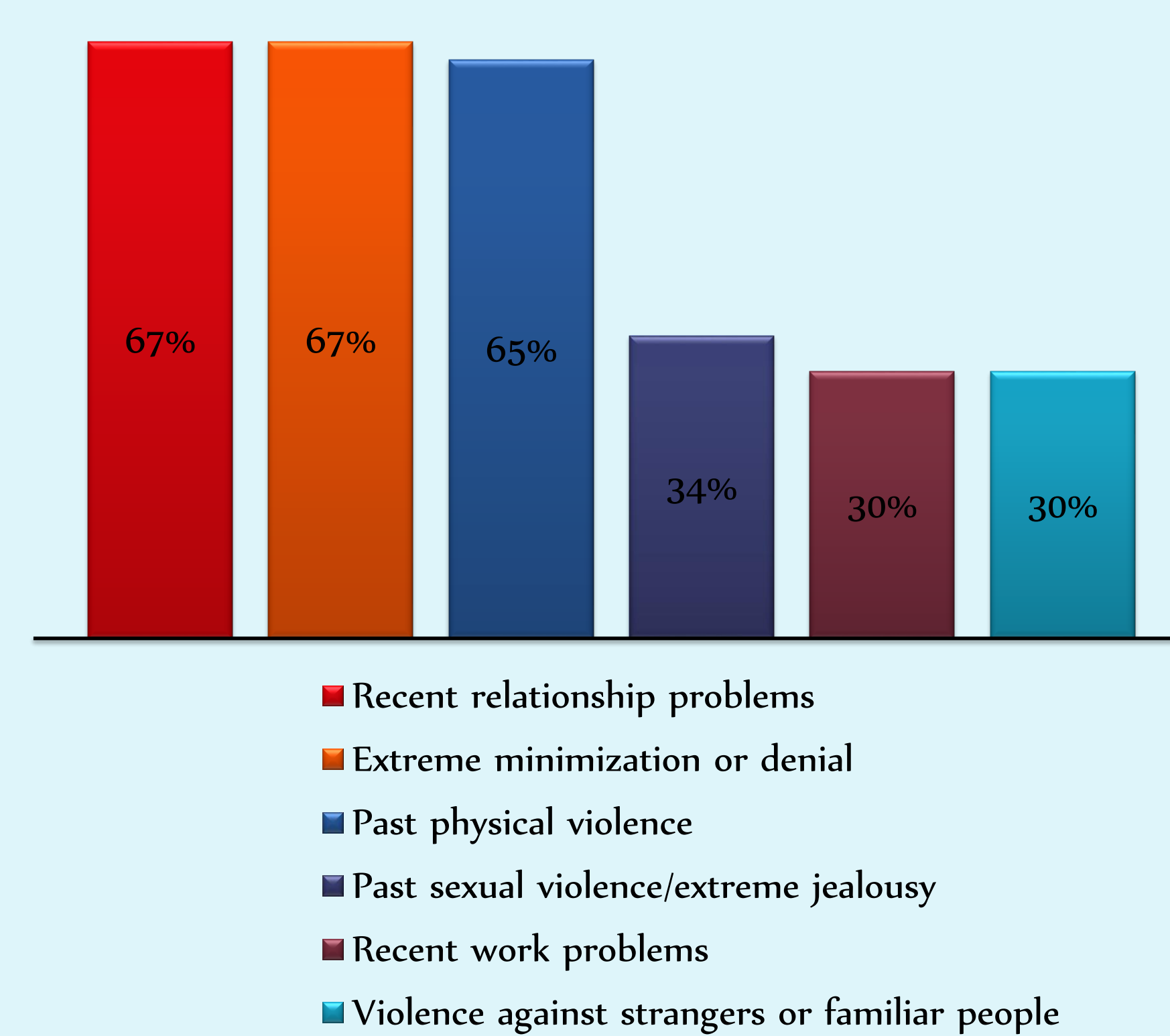
Psychiatric Symptomatology Indicators in Intimate Partner Violence



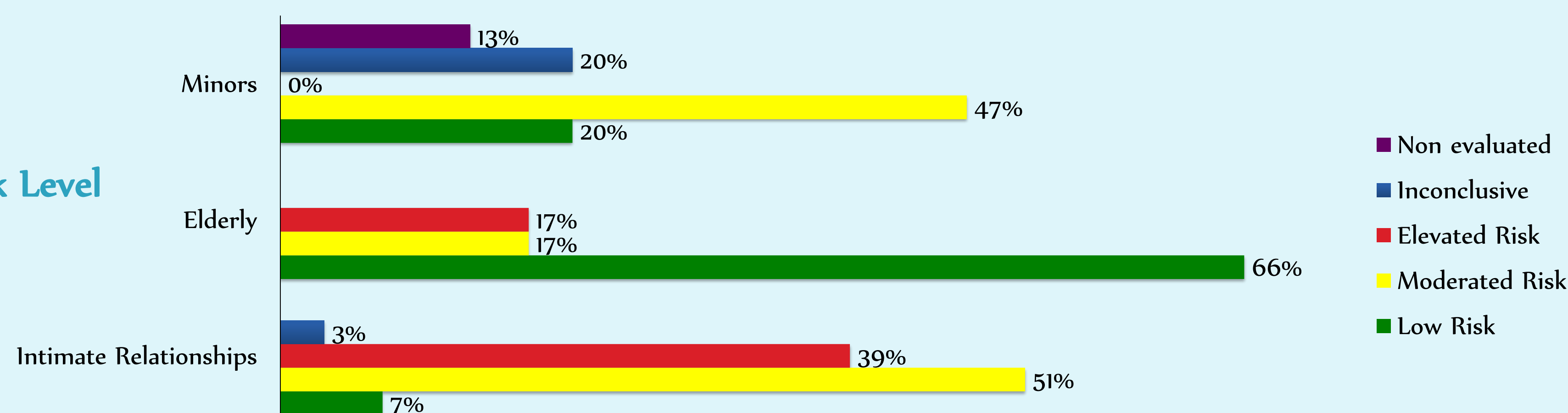
Domestic violence beliefs in Intimate Partner Violence



Main Risk Factors in Intimate Partner Violence



Risk Level



Discussion/Conclusion

The data shows that the Public Prosecutor's Office mainly requests for violence risk assessments, namely for intimate partner violence. In these intimate relationships it is possible to see that anxiety is the most common psychiatric symptomatology indicator in victims, paranoid ideation in defendants and in victim/defendants. As for the most prevalent beliefs, it shows legitimation and trivialization of less severe violence. The main risk factors for this type of violence are the recent relationship problems and extreme minimization or denial. The most common level of risk in the cases assessed by GIABV is the moderated one. Although it hasn't been possible to quantify the impact of the work developed by this Office, the public prosecutors have stated that our assessments help to apply restraining measures, namely it happened with four preventive prisons. GIABV is an example of a good articulation between Forensic Psychology and Law, therefore possible as well as important to reproduce this type of Offices nationwide.

Referências

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