This project aims to raise awareness of the issue, and develop recommendations for effective police policies to support practitioners and help families experiencing APV.

**Aims of the APV Project**

- To investigate how violence is experienced and negotiated by parents and adolescents.
- To explore how APV cases are currently processed and managed within the criminal justice system.
- To develop practical policy recommendations for families experiencing APV, police, youth justice, and others who work with these families.

**Legal issues and practical implications**

- **Lack of an official recognition of the problem** of adolescent to parent offending. *Not officially defined as domestic violence* if the adolescent was under the age of 18 at the time of offending until 2013, and of 16 from now on. *Children of a younger age still lack an official definition*.
- Consequent **lack of police policy** specifically guiding police forces on how reported incidents should be responded to.
- Consequent **lack of specialist knowledge and training** to respond to the problem.

**Our definition of APV:**

"Physical violence, threats of violence and criminal damage towards parents/carers by their adolescent children (aged 13-19 years)."

---

**The People**

**Dr Rachel Condry**
(Principal Investigator)

**Dr Caroline Miles**
(Research Officer)

---

For further information please see:
Practical issues. Necessity to remove perpetrators from the home to protect victims in high risk cases clashes with parents’ responsibility for providing a home to their children. Often no alternative but returning the adolescent to their home address.

Obstacles to prosecution. Parents’ reluctance to report and potentially criminalize their child, parents reporting and later refusing to make a statement or making a statement and later withdrawing it. Difficulties in pursuing an unsupported prosecution and to go against the parents’ wishes.

What are Police forces’ main challenges?

Practical issues. Necessity to remove perpetrators from the home to protect victims in high risk cases clashes with parents’ responsibility for providing a home to their children. Often no alternative but returning the adolescent to their home address.

Obstacles to prosecution. Parents’ reluctance to report and potentially criminalize their child, parents reporting and later refusing to make a statement or making a statement and later withdrawing it. Difficulties in pursuing an unsupported prosecution and to go against the parents’ wishes.

Potential contexts of violence

- Where the perpetrator and/or the victim have heavily abused of alcohol and drugs.
- Where the perpetrator has mental health or learning problems, most commonly Asperger’s Syndrome and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.
- Where the perpetrator has previously been the victim of physical and sexual abuse or has witnessed domestic violence as a child.
- Where the perpetrator has a history of previous offending, even outside the home.

What issues arise in police responses to reported incidents?

- Discretionary powers. Due to the lack of official recognition and policy surrounding adolescent to parent violence, there are high levels of police discretion in responding to reported incidents.
- Tensions. Positive intervention policies often clash with youth diversionary policies and with the aim to respect the wishes of victims.
- Alternative options. To deal with cases informally, work in partnership with social services or use “Youth Restorative Disposals” to deal with juveniles responsible for minor offences.

What are Police forces’ main challenges?

It is crucial that APV is formally recognised, allowing the police to deal with it in a more consistent and appropriate manner and to facilitate training, policy and practice in this complex and sensitive form of family violence.

Contacts

Dr Rachel Condry
rachel.condry@crim.ox.ac.uk
www.law.ox.ac.uk/profile/rachel.condry

Dr Caroline Miles
caroline.miles@manchester.ac.uk
http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/caroline.miles/

www.apv.crim.ox.ac.uk