

New Orleans Family Justice Center
Danger Assessment & Strangulation Assessment 2016-2017 data report
January 2019

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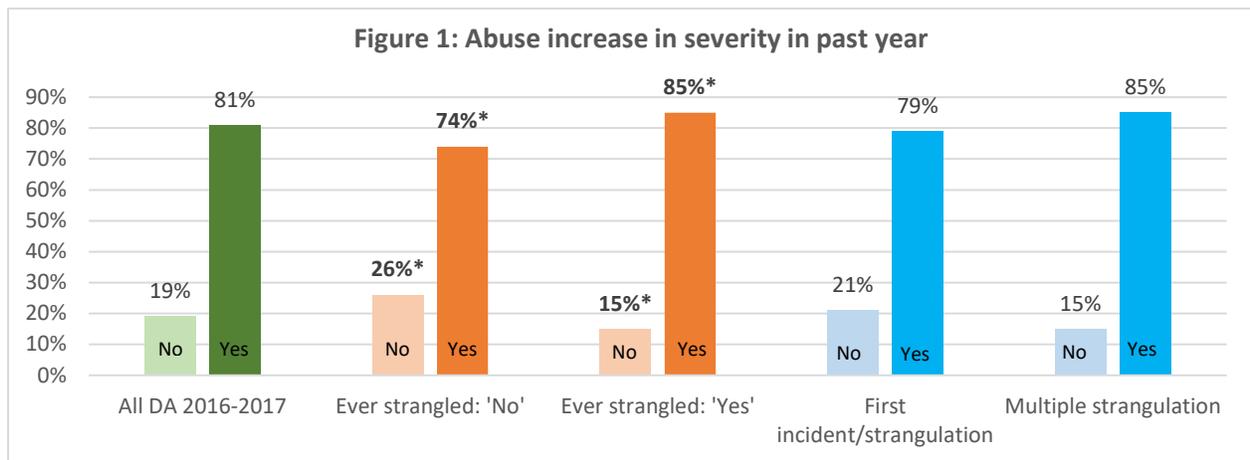
Key Findings:

- Approximately two thirds of survivors seen from 2016-2017 reported strangulation (64%, n=637).
 - For most of these survivors (65%), this was not the first time they had been strangled.
- Compared to survivors who had never been strangled, those that had been strangled:
 - Were almost twice as likely to report that he threatened to kill.
 - Were significantly more likely to report that the perpetrator has avoided arrest for domestic violence, controls all or most daily activities, is constantly jealous, has beaten her while pregnant, and has threatened suicide.
- There was no difference in gun ownership between survivors whose partner strangled compared to those who did not (approximately one third of partners owned a gun).
- Survivors reporting multiple strangulation incidents had higher total scores on the danger assessment compared to clients reporting first time strangulation.
- Having a controlling partner was not associated with seeking medical care for the strangulation incident (only about 18% of clients sought medical care whether or not they had a controlling partner). However, clients with a controlling partner were significantly less likely to report the incident to the police (45% v. 54%).
- Danger Assessment-5 (short form) scores were higher among survivors reporting multiple strangulation events compared to women reporting first time events, and higher among women reporting a controlling partner compared to clients without a controlling partner.

1) Danger Assessment and Strangulation Assessment Data

The following data was collected from January 2016 – December 2017 at the New Orleans Family Justice Center and Crescent House Domestic Violence Shelter. Danger Assessment was completed by a total of **1,018** clients and Strangulation Assessment survey was completed by 397 clients¹. Among the total sample of 996 clients who answered attempted strangulation question in the DA survey (“Does he ever try to choke you?”), **359 (36%)** said they have never been strangled and **637 (64%)** reported they have experienced strangulation by their intimate partners.

Figures 1-19 below present data on Danger Assessment questions broken down by the clients’ experiences of attempted strangulation and first incident of strangulation vs. multiple strangulation (questions in SA survey: “Is this the first incident of him or her strangling you?” and “If no how many previous strangulation incidents have occurred?”). Notes under the figures clarify if the differences between the groups of victims are statistically significant. For example, in Figure 1, women who reported attempted strangulation in their relationship also reported significantly higher numbers of increased severity of abuse in the past year compared to women who had not experienced attempted strangulation by their partners.



*Statistically significant difference ($p < .001$)

¹ The total numbers of responses differed on individual DA and SA questions as some women chose to skip certain questions.

Figure 2: Does he own gun?

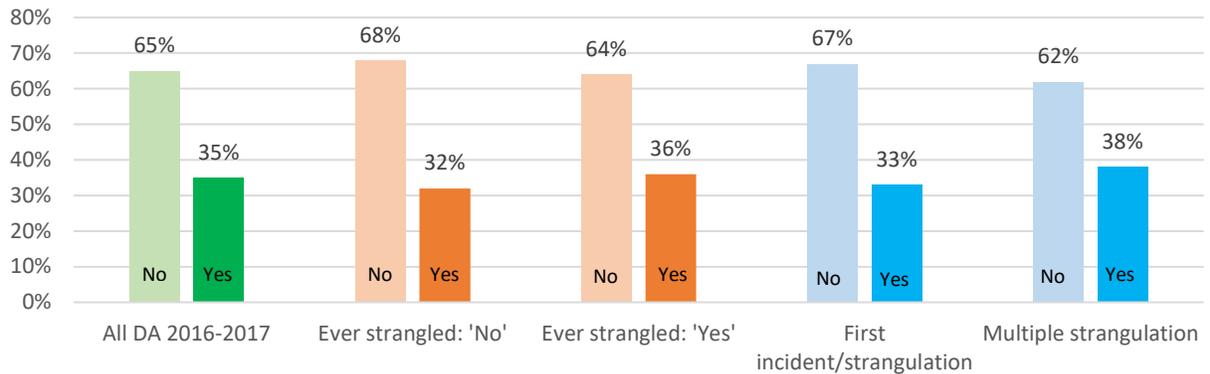
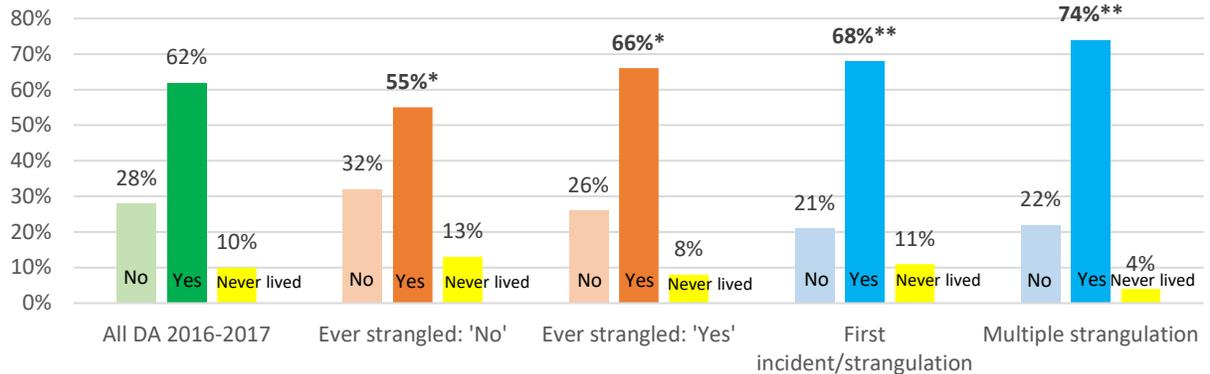


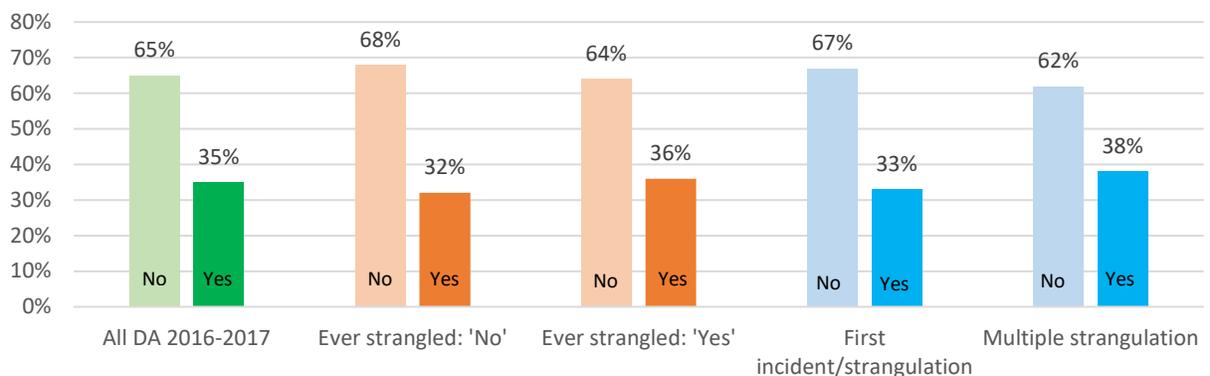
Figure 3: Have you left him after living together?

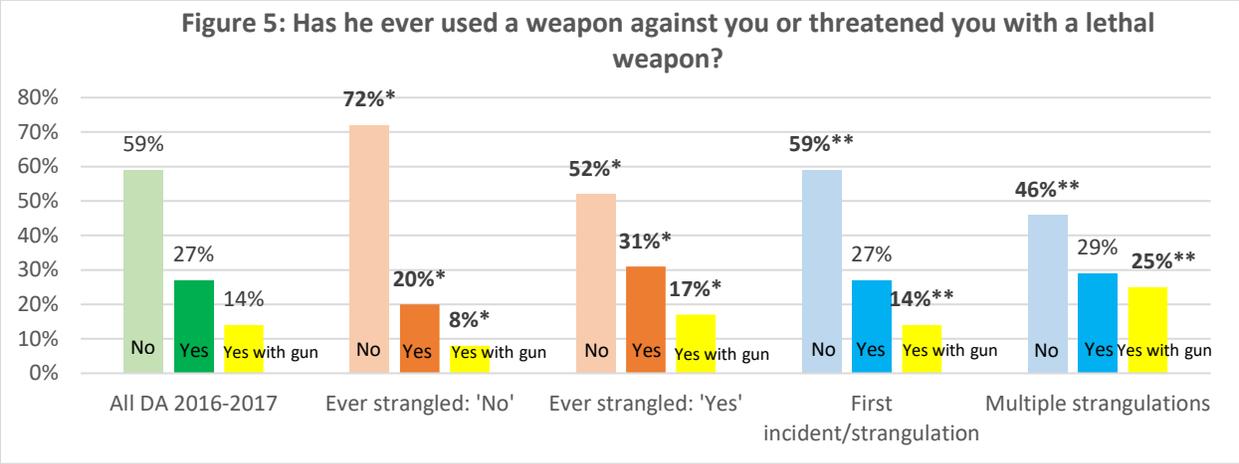


*Statistically significant difference (p<.01)

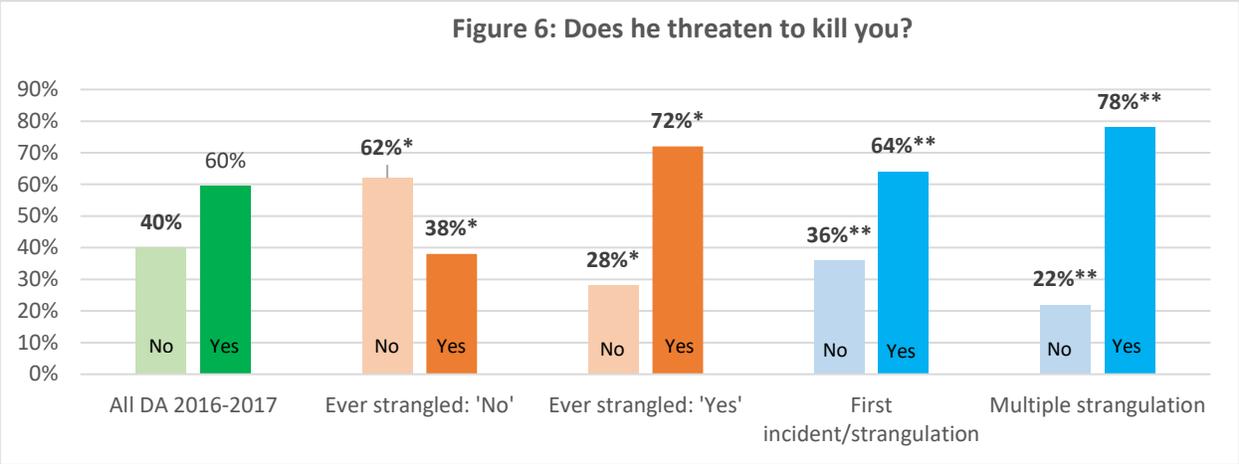
**Statistically significant difference (p<.05)

Figure 4: Is he unemployed?

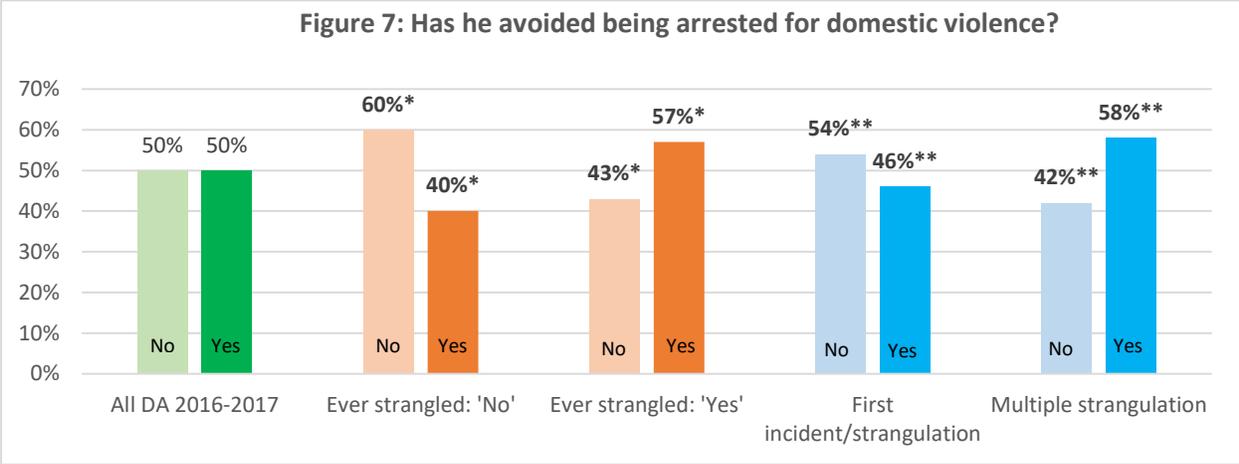




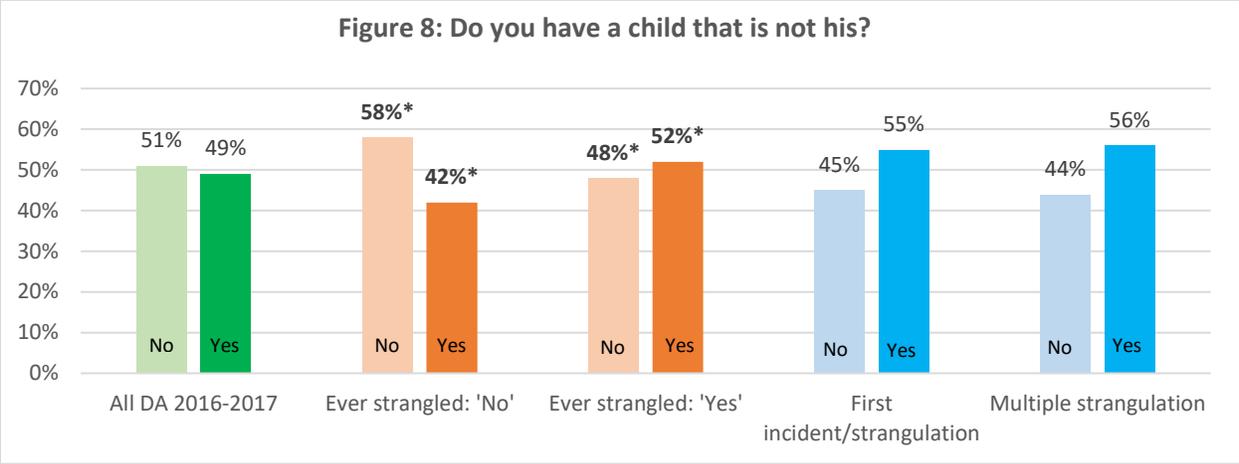
*Statistically significant difference (p<.001)
 **Statistically significant difference (p<.05)



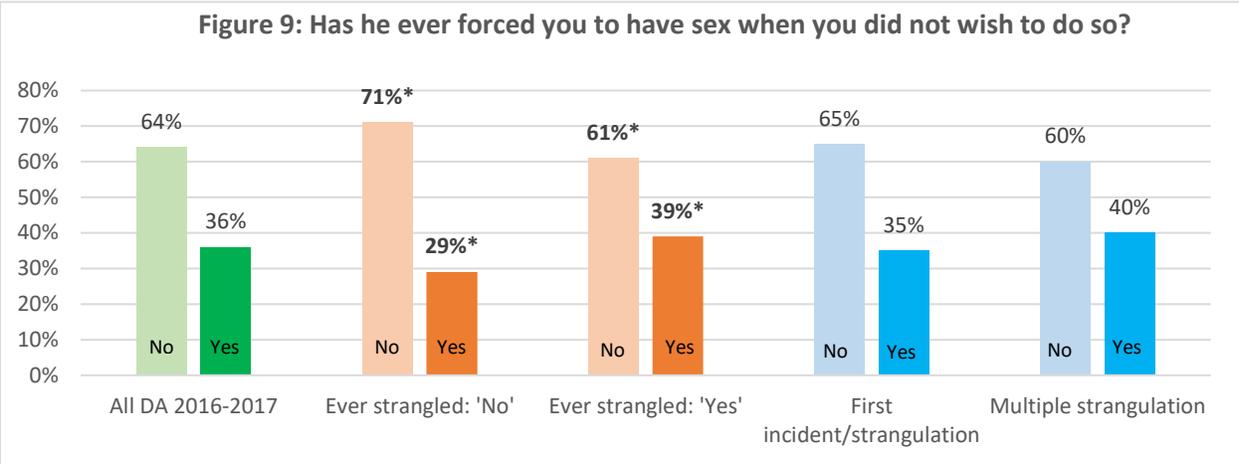
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 **Statistically significant difference (p<.05)



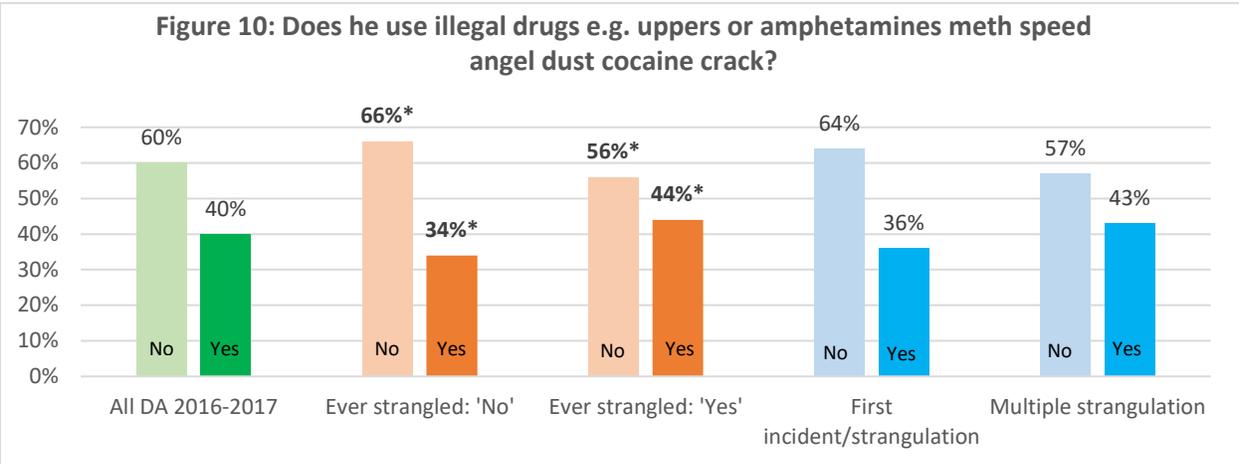
*Statistically significant difference (p<.001)
 **Statistically significant difference (p<.05)



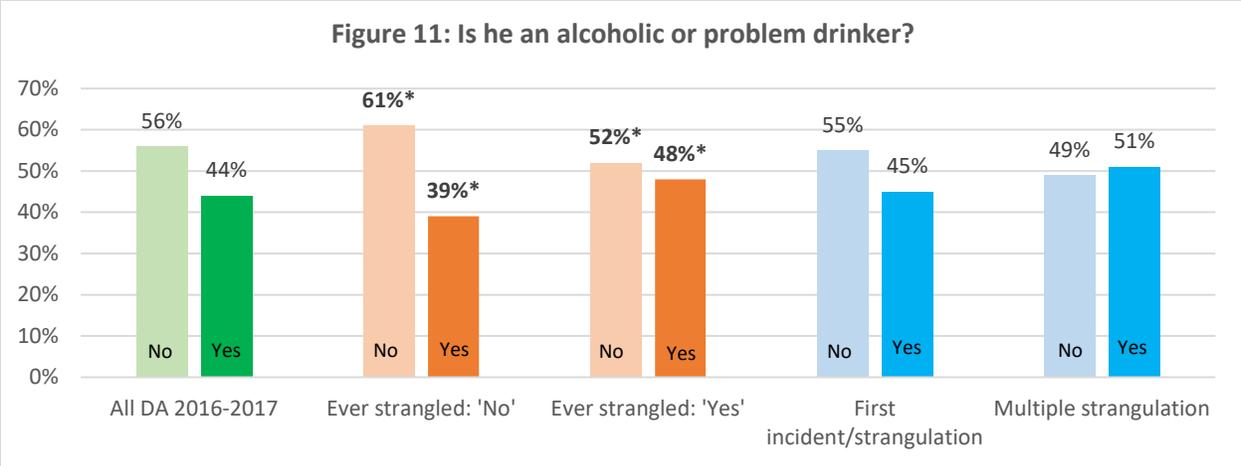
*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)



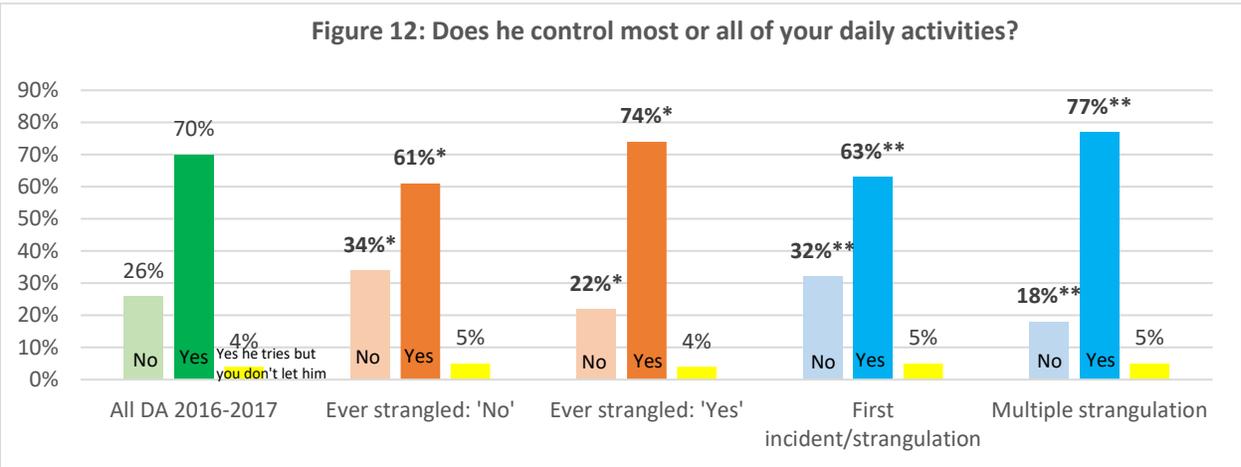
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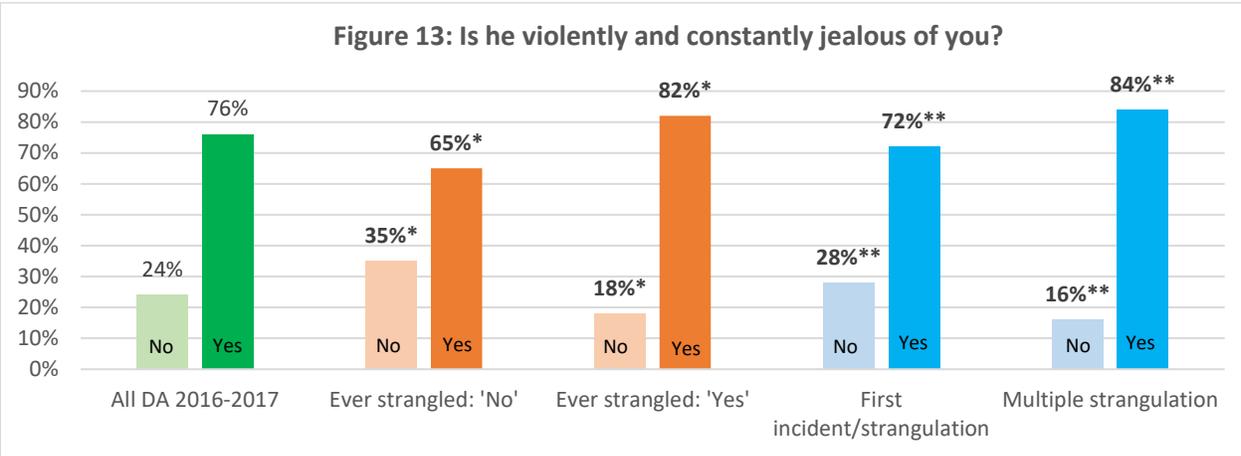


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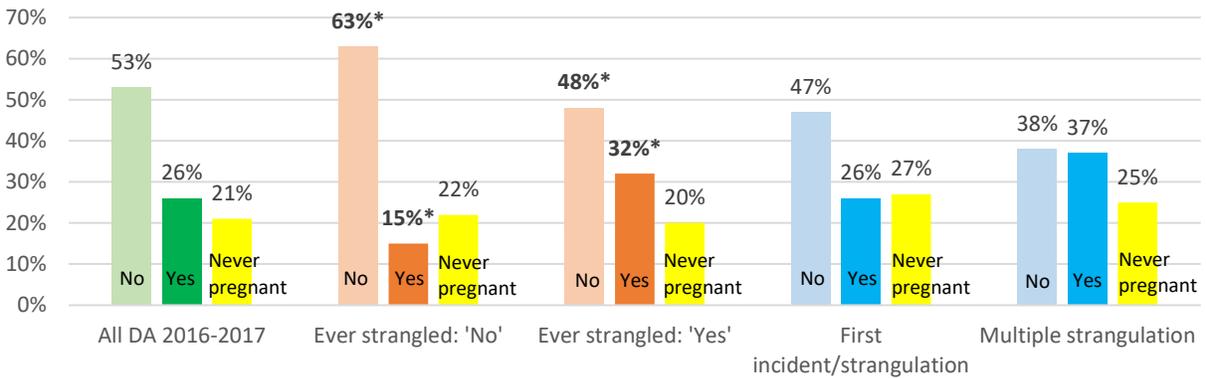
**Statistically significant difference (p<.05)



*Statistically significant difference (p<.001)

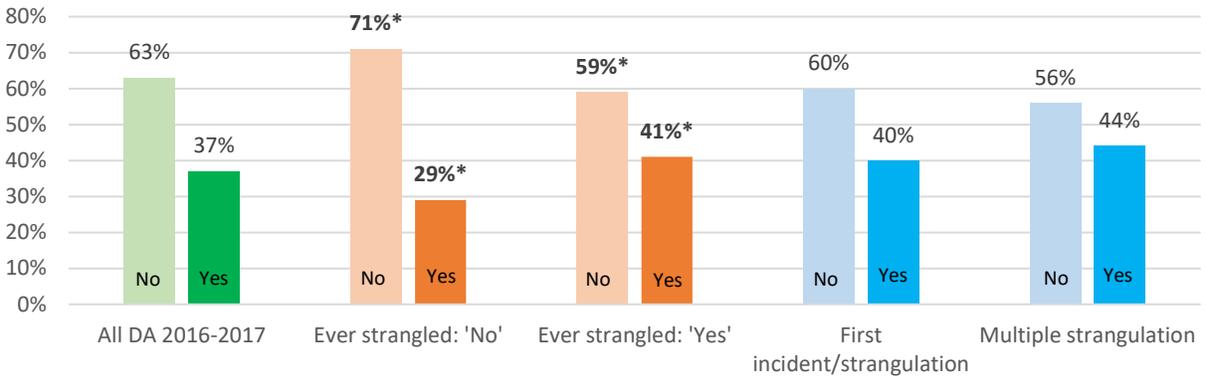
**Statistically significant difference (p<.01)

Figure 14: Have you ever been beaten by him while you were pregnant?



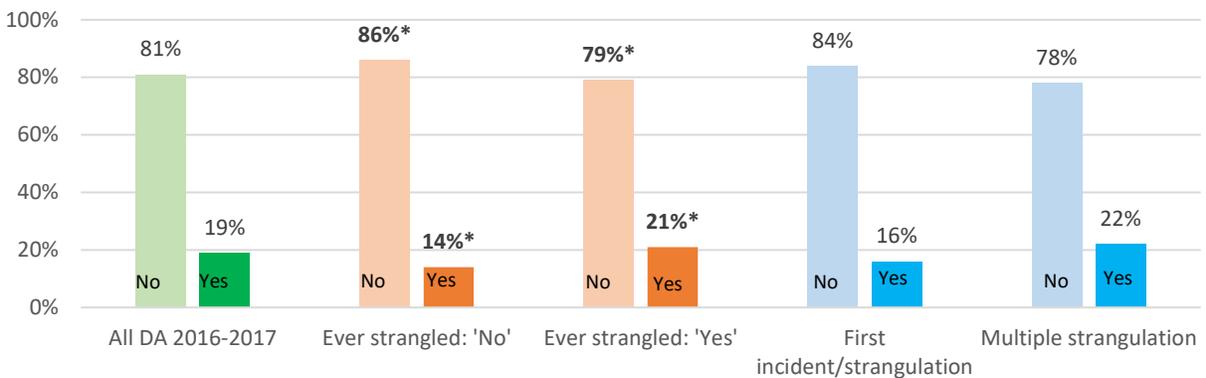
*Statistically significant difference (p<.001)

Figure 15: Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?

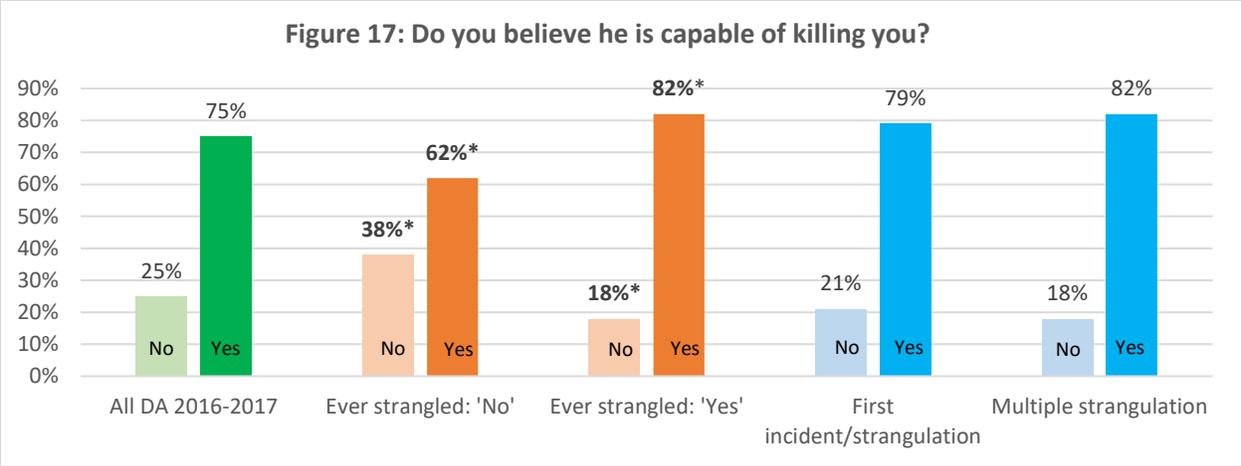


*Statistically significant difference (p<.001)

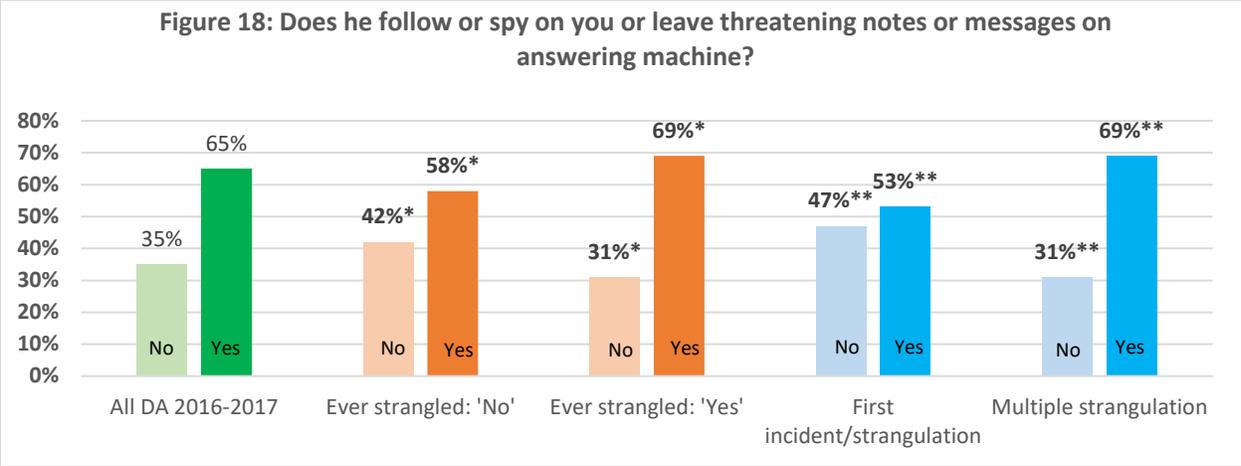
Figure 16: Does he threaten to harm your children?



*Statistically significant difference (p<.01)

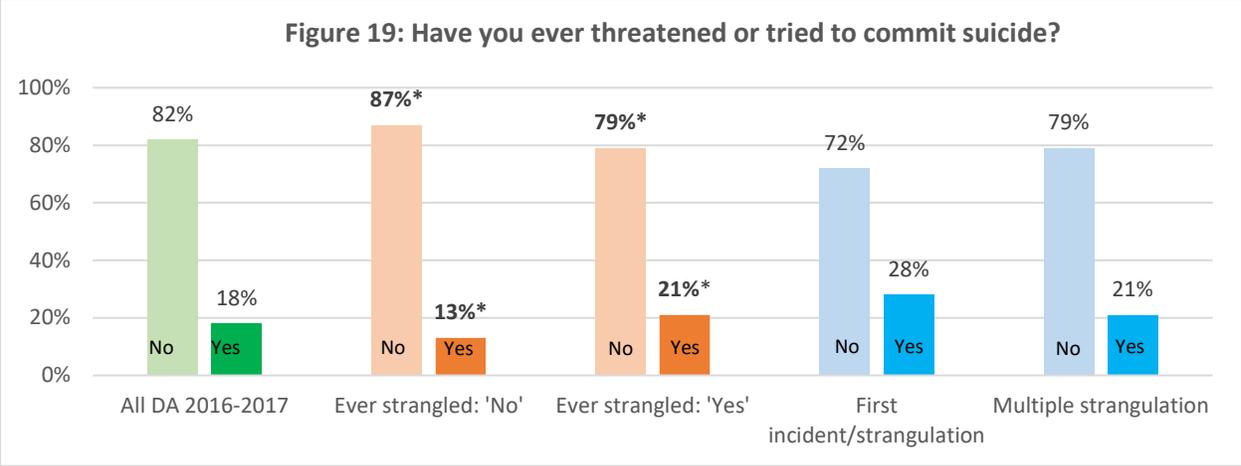


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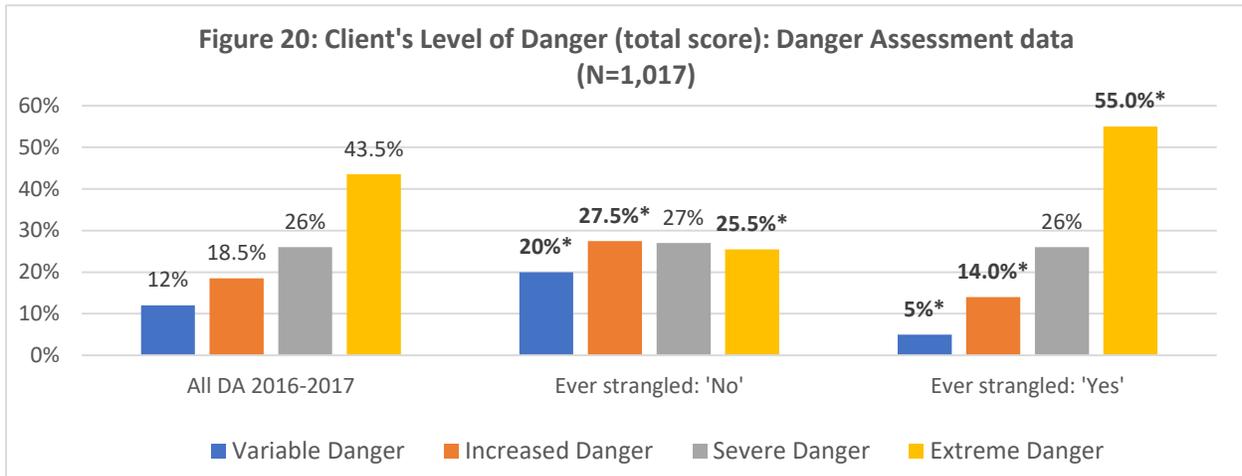
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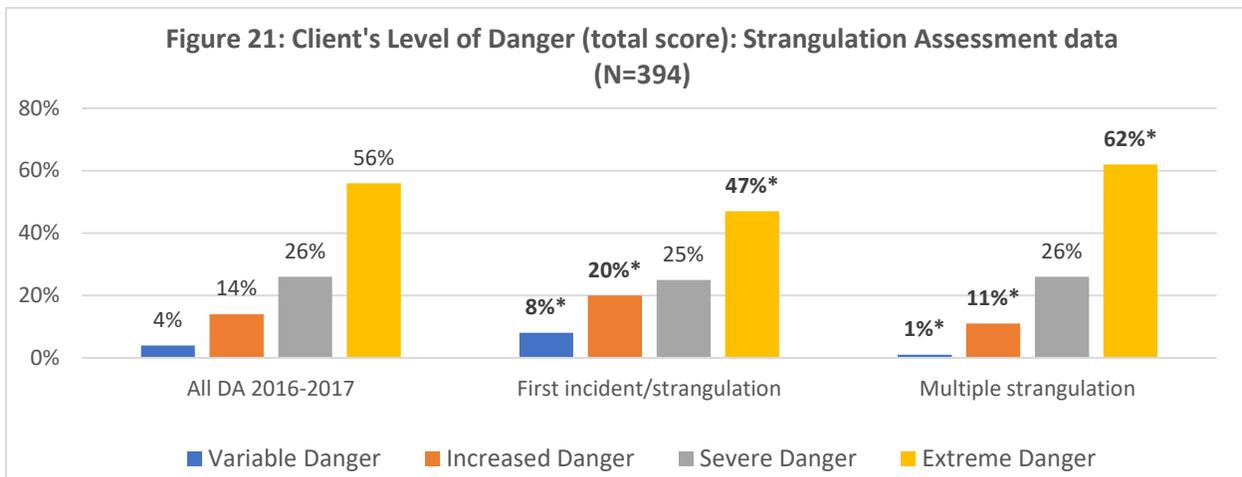
*Statistically significant difference (p<.01)

2) Client's Level of Danger

The total scores of the 20 risk factors are calculated by summing the answers to the DA instrument questions and yielding the total danger scores that range from -3 to 37. The levels of danger and DA scores are then classified into four categories that reflect the risk of life-threatening violence: < 7 = variable danger, 8 to 13 = increased danger, 14 to 17 = severe danger, and >18 = extreme danger (see Figure 20).



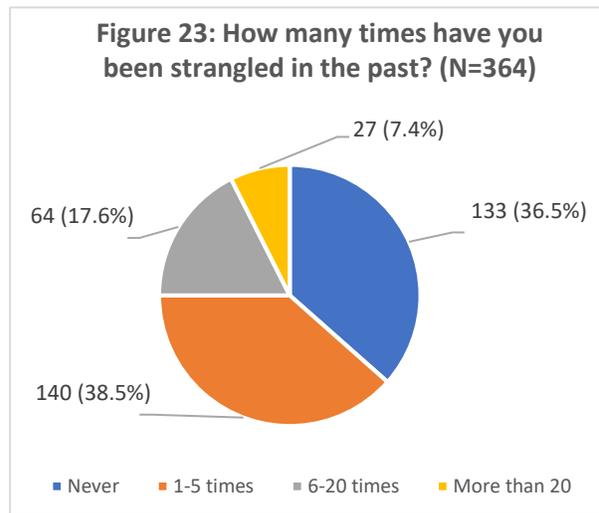
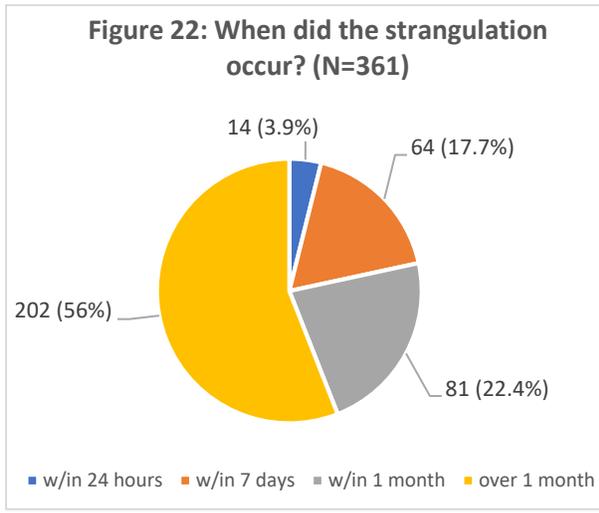
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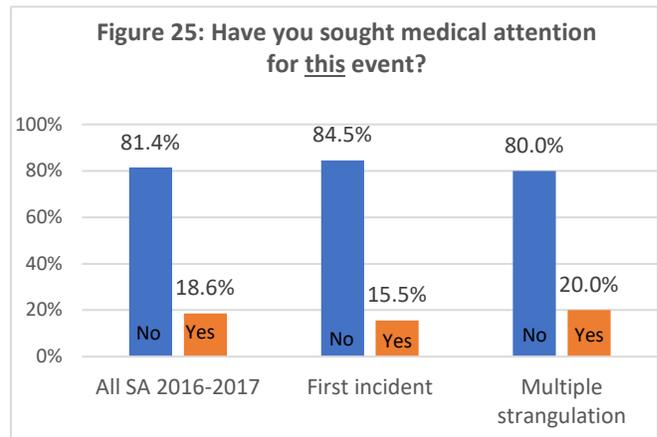
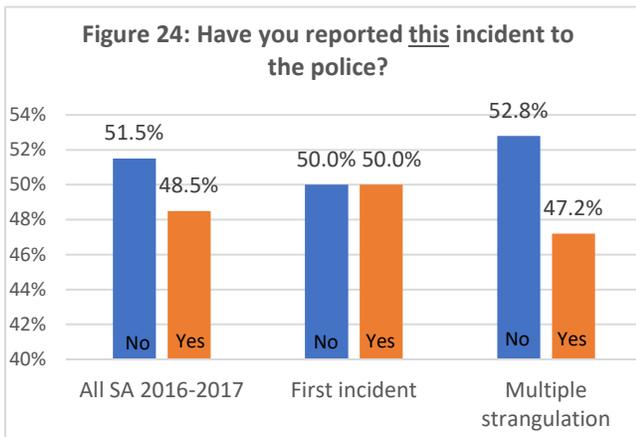
*Statistically significant difference (p<.001)

3) Strangulation data: Frequency, reporting to the police and seeking medical attention

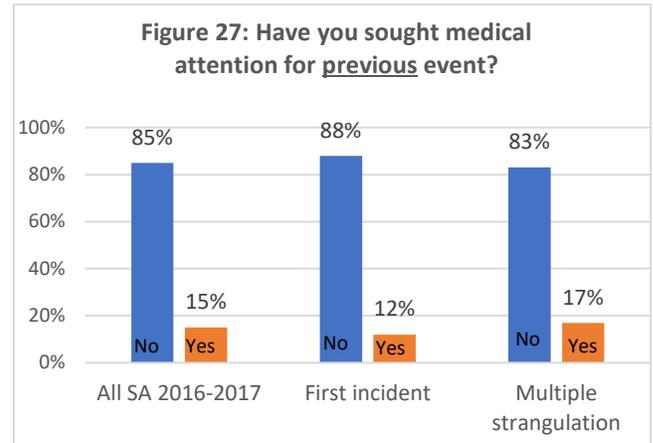
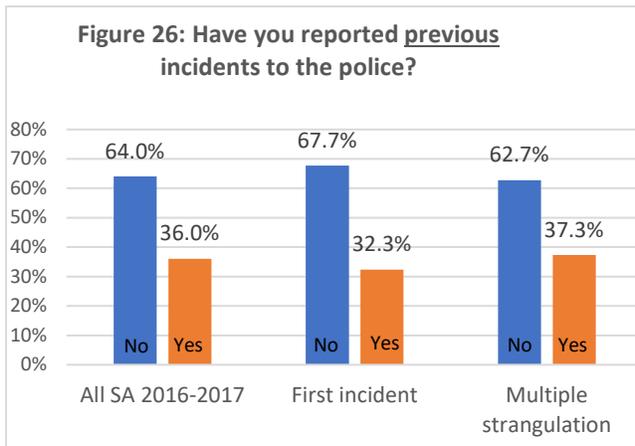
A total of 397 women completed strangulation assessment and 361 of them reported the time when the strangulation occurred (see Figure 22). In addition, 381 of clients indicated whether it was the first incident (N=133 or 35%) or not (N=248 or 65%). Figure 23 below details the number of strangulation attacks experienced by women in the past.



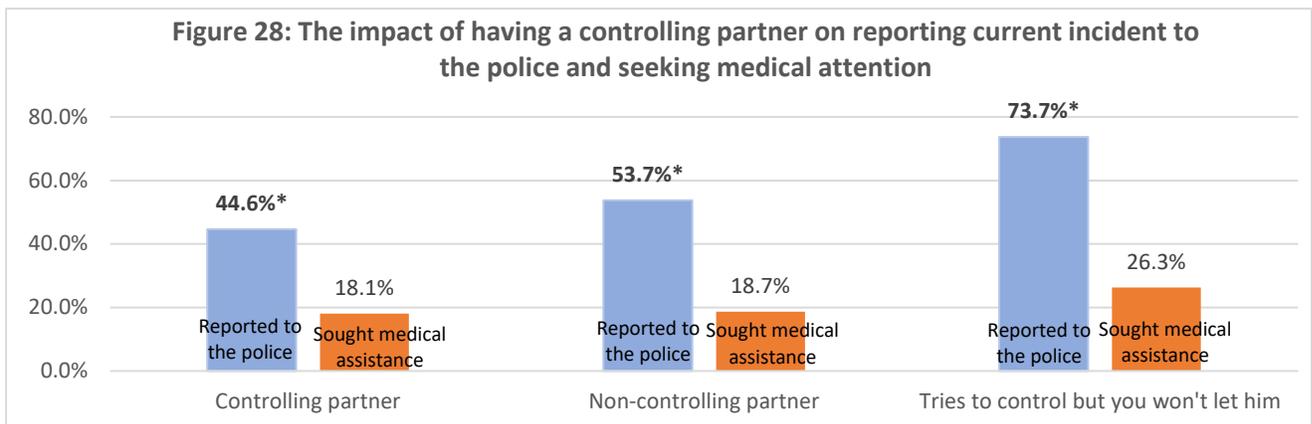
Reporting to the police and seeking medical aid: current incident



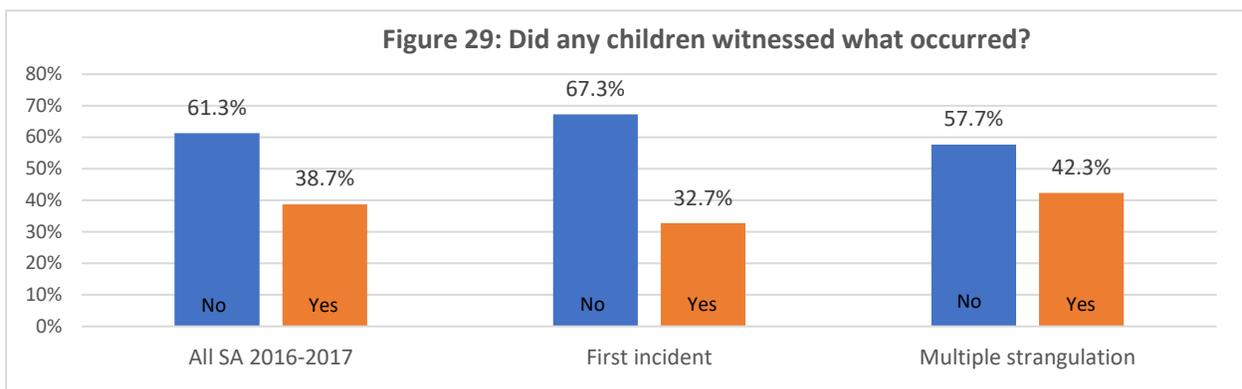
Reporting to the police and seeking medical attention: previous incidents



Having a controlling partner (DA instrument question: "Does he control most or all of your daily activities?") was associated with lower police reporting but had no association with seeking medical assistance (see Figure 28).

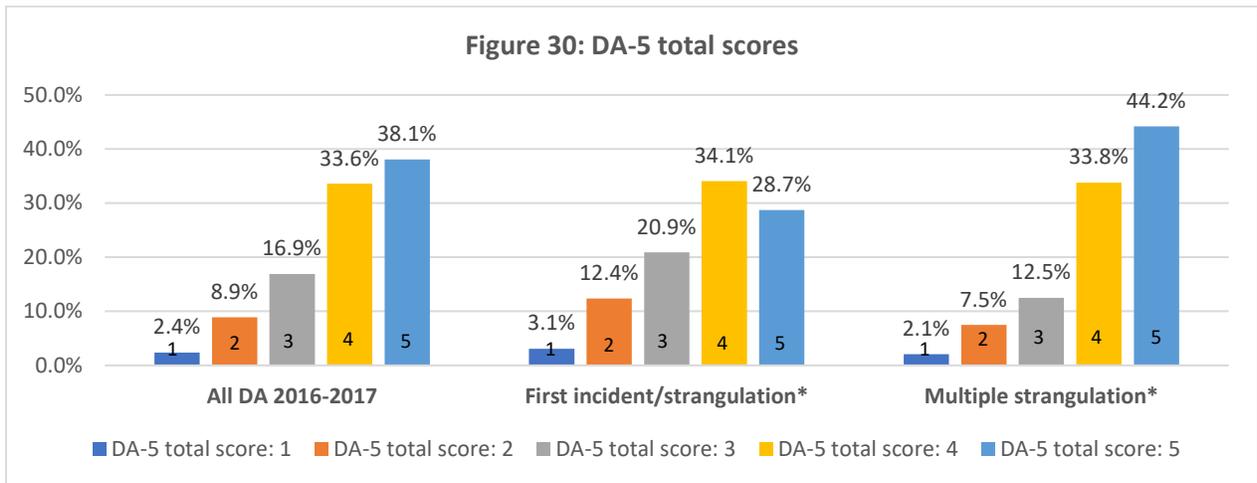


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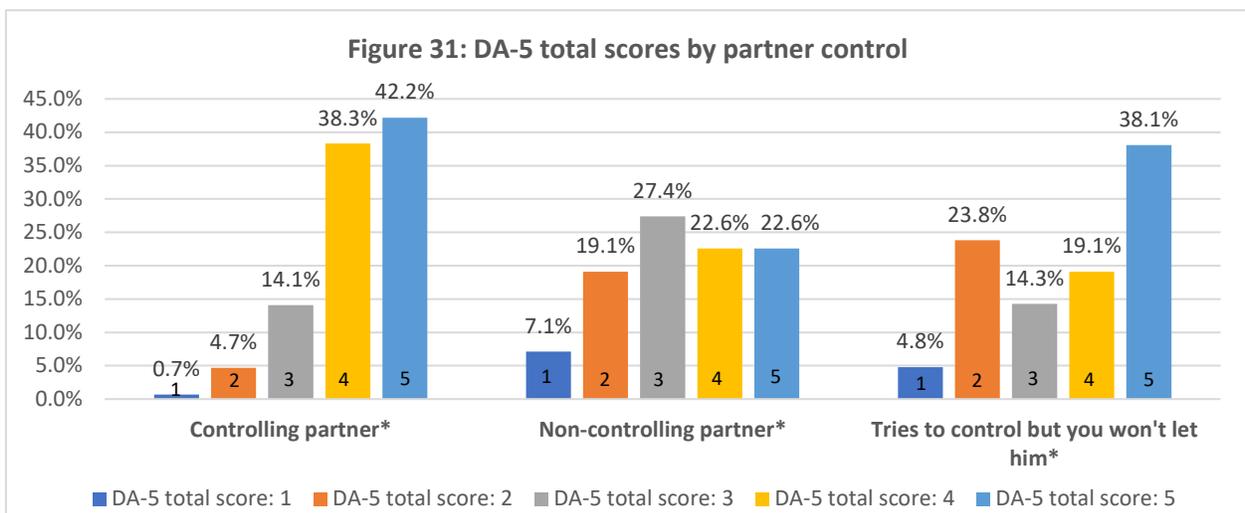


4) Danger Assessment 5 (DA-5)

DA-5 is a brief risk assessment tool that helps to identify women who are at high risk for homicide or severe injury by an intimate partner. It is compiled of 5 questions: “Has the physical violence increased in frequency or over the past year?”; “Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?”; “Do you believe he is capable of killing you?”; “Does he ever try to choke you?”; and “Is he violently and constantly jealous of you?”. Figure 30 presents summed DA-5 scores (ranging from 1 to 5) for the total DA sample, women who experienced first strangulation incident and those who reported multiple strangulation attacks.



*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)



*Statistically significant difference (p<.001)