

#THISISABUSE

DOMESTIC ABUSE

is not always **PHYSICAL**

It can be
PSYCHOLOGICAL
SEXUAL
EMOTIONAL
ECONOMIC

Domestic Abuse and Harm:
Evaluating trends and
trajectories to inform practice

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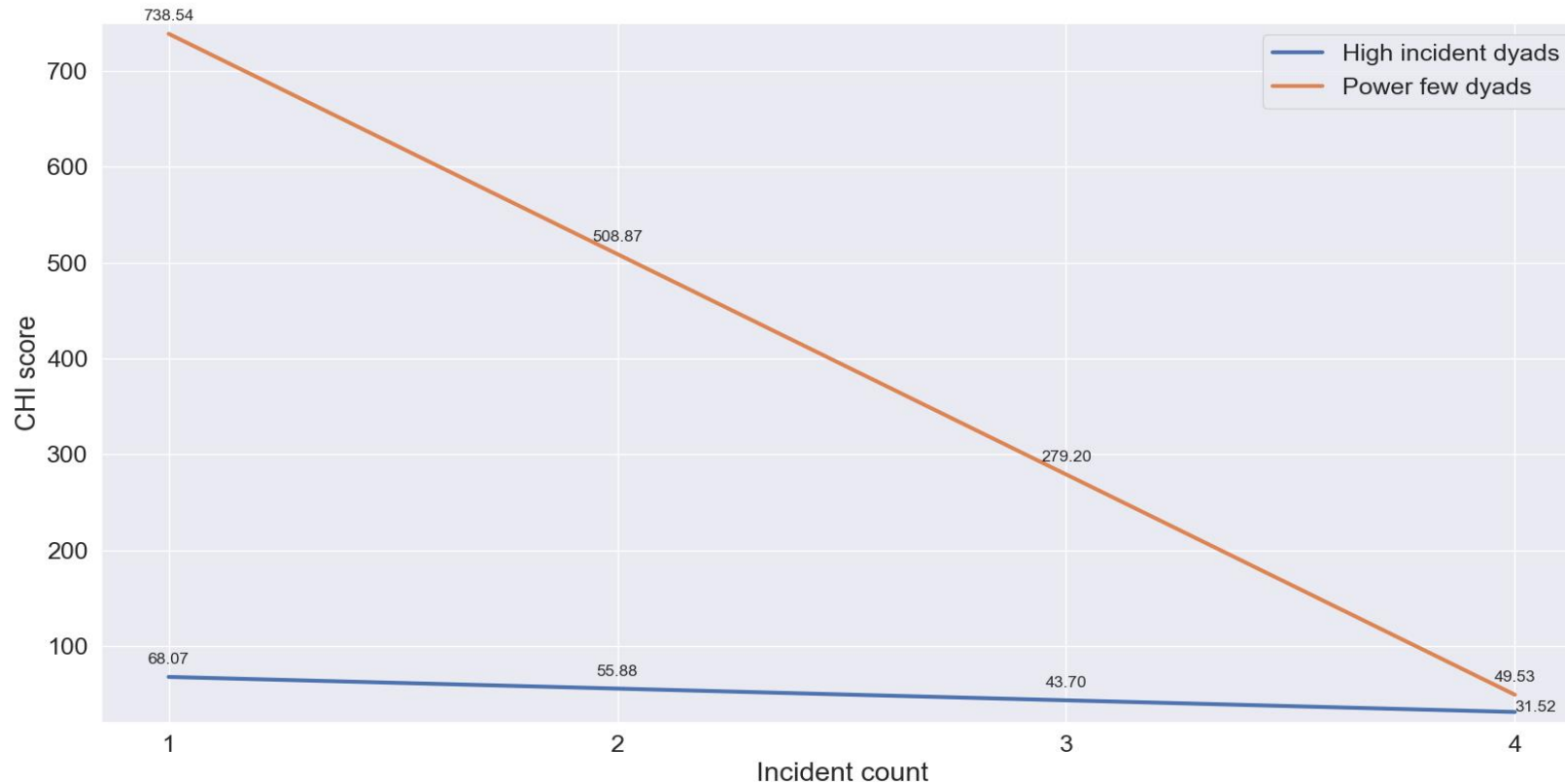
Domestic Abuse (DA)

- Domestic Abuse (DA) is a high volume crime
- >62,100 DA incidents in 883 days
- 39,000+ dyads
- Crime Harm Index score: range 0.1-5475

>70 DA incidents per day



Trajectory of harm across repeat DA incidents

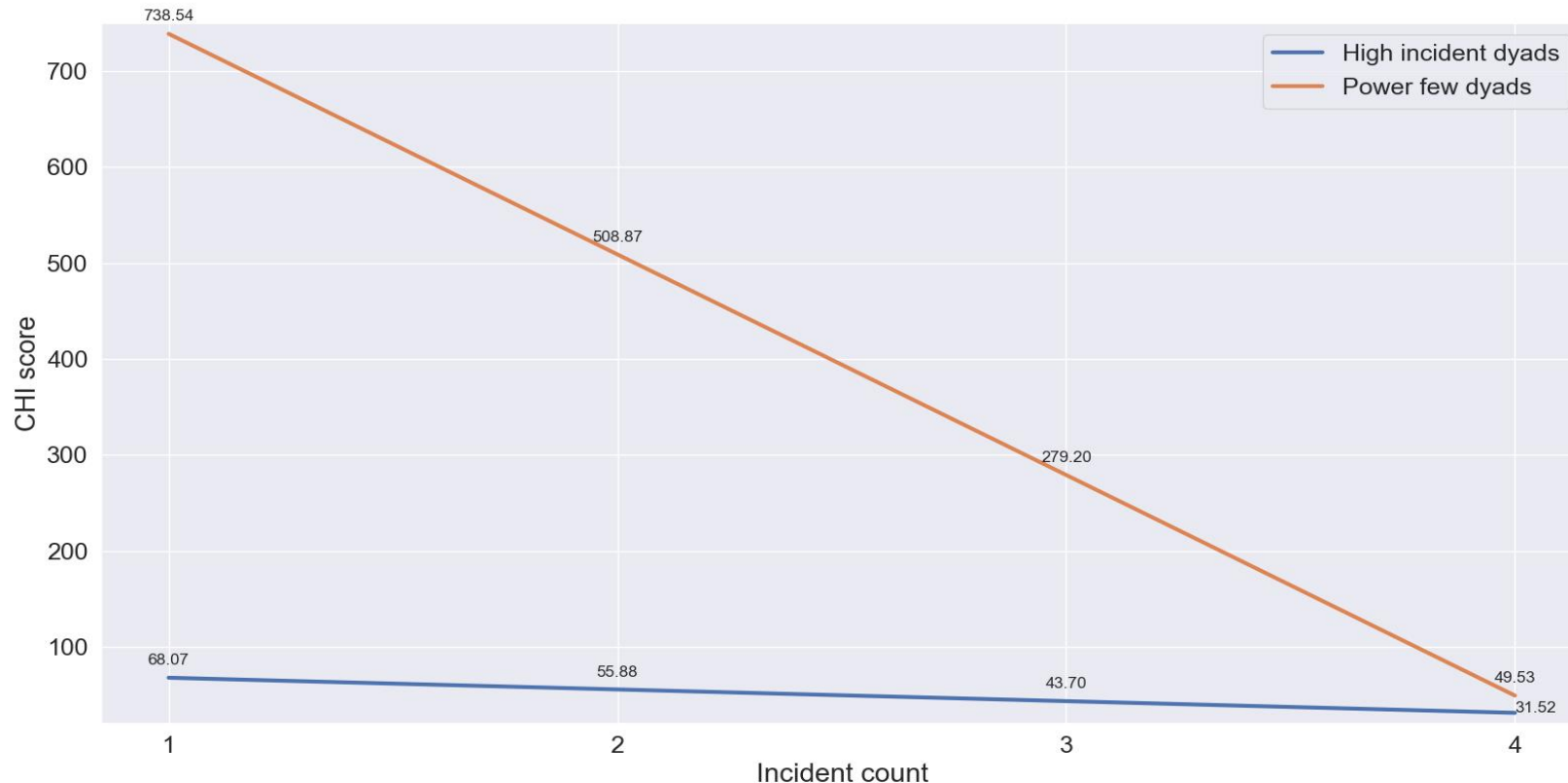


Assumptions of escalation in DA harm

Growth Curve Analysis with dyads that had 4+ incidents

Subsample: Power Few dyads

Trajectory of harm across repeat DA incidents



Results: High incident dyad results (N = 2,610 dyads):

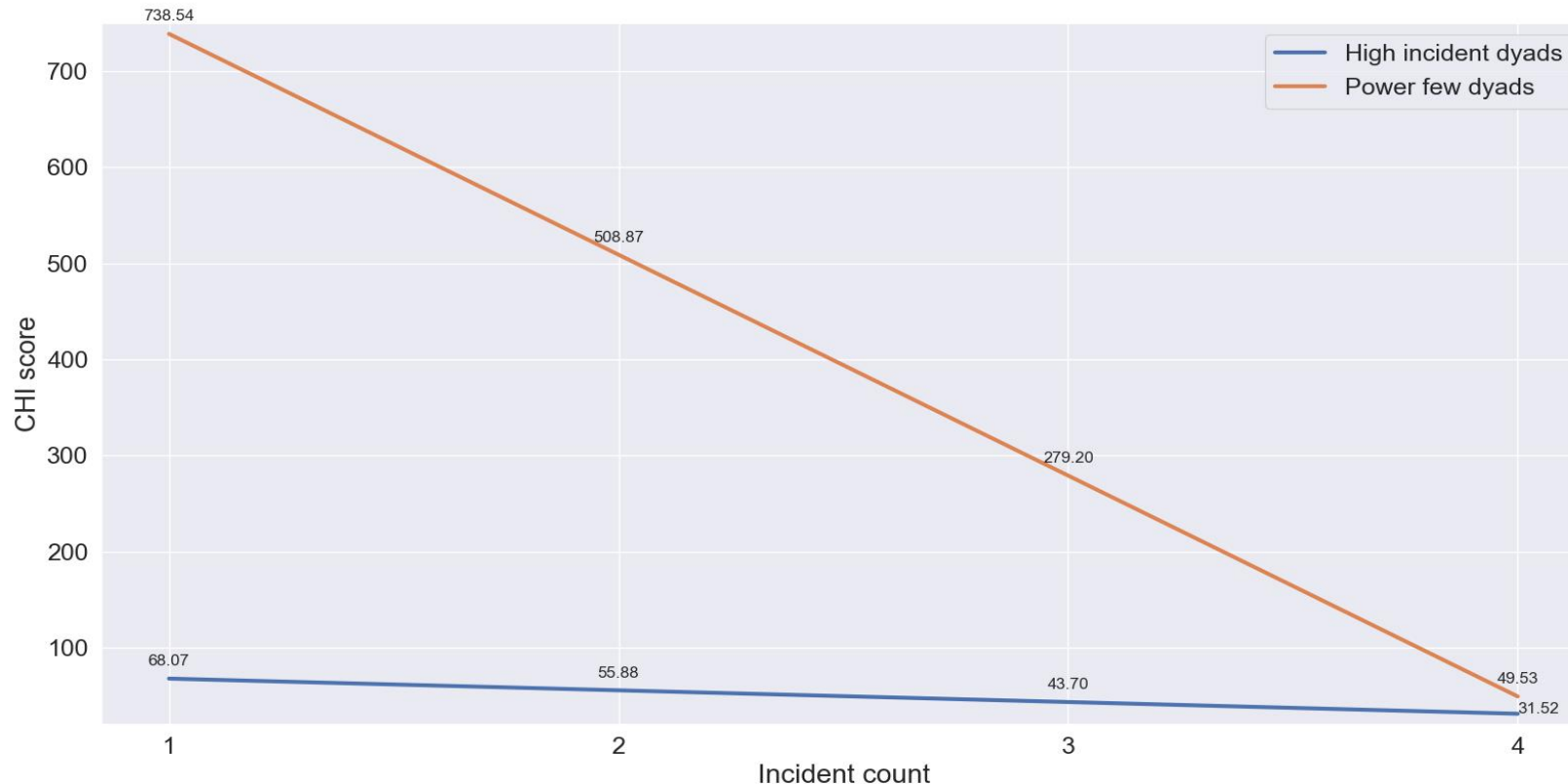
Associated with greater harm:

- Risk level of incident, Offender is DA Specialist, Number of non-DA victimisations for victim

Associated with less harm:

- Incident count, child present in incident, total number of incidents for dyad, and the greater percentage of DA offending for the non-DA Specialist

Trajectory of harm across repeat DA incidents



Results: Power Few dyad results (N = 133 dyads):

Associated with greater harm:

- Risk level of incident, Offender is DA Specialist

Associated with less harm:

- Incident count, Number of days between incidents

Victim- Offender Overlap in Co- abusive Relationships

- Disagreement on gender symmetry in co-abusive (CA) relationships
- Comparison of DA harm and frequency between males and females in CA relationships

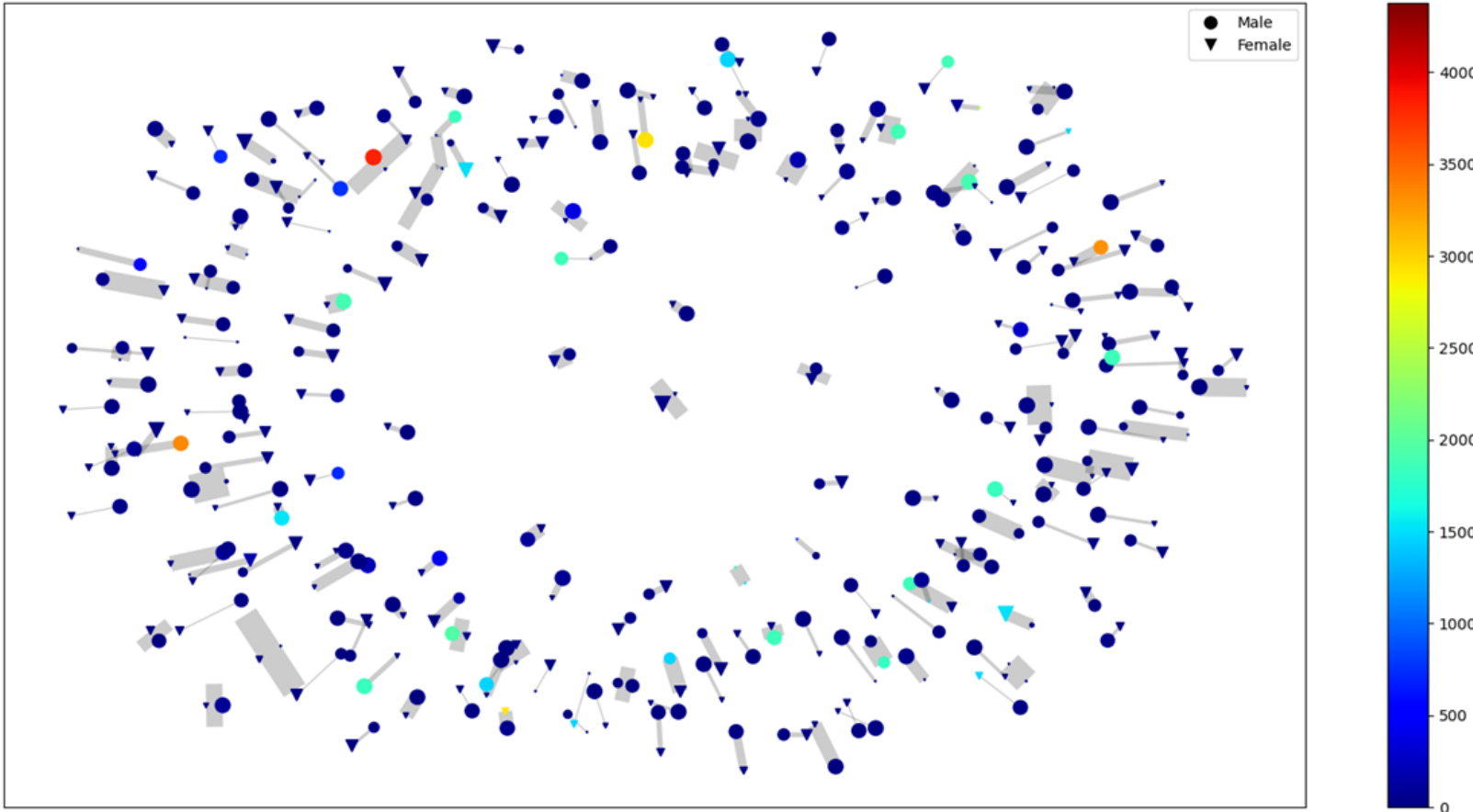


Figure 1. Co-abusive dyads who have committed 11 or more incidents in the timeframe. Size of node indicates the proportion of incidents between the two individuals (larger node, greater proportion of the co-abusive DA was perpetrated by that node). Colour of node represents the CHI score as per the colour bar. Width of edge between nodes represents the number of incidents by both partners (wider, more incidents).

Social Network Analysis

- Sample of CA dyads (196 dyads, 3 triads)
- Low CHI scores
- Gender disparity in harm and frequency
- Frequency does not correspond to harm

Gender differences in CA relationships

Males were responsible for:

- ~65% of the total DA harm
- >60% of the incidents

Analysis to predict the gender of the individual in the CA dyad

- Results:
 - Greater harm and more incidents perpetrated predict male
 - Greater harm and more incidents victimised predict female
 - Multiple CA relationships predicts female
 - Same sex CA dyad predictor of female



Serial DA Offenders and Harm

- Limited research on serial DA offenders
- Social Network Analysis and Regression Analysis to address research questions about serial DA offenders and harm.

Social Network Analysis

- Sample of serial offenders (N = 112) and their victims (545 victims)
- Inconsistency across multiple victims
- CA relationships and non-CA relationships
- Subnetworks

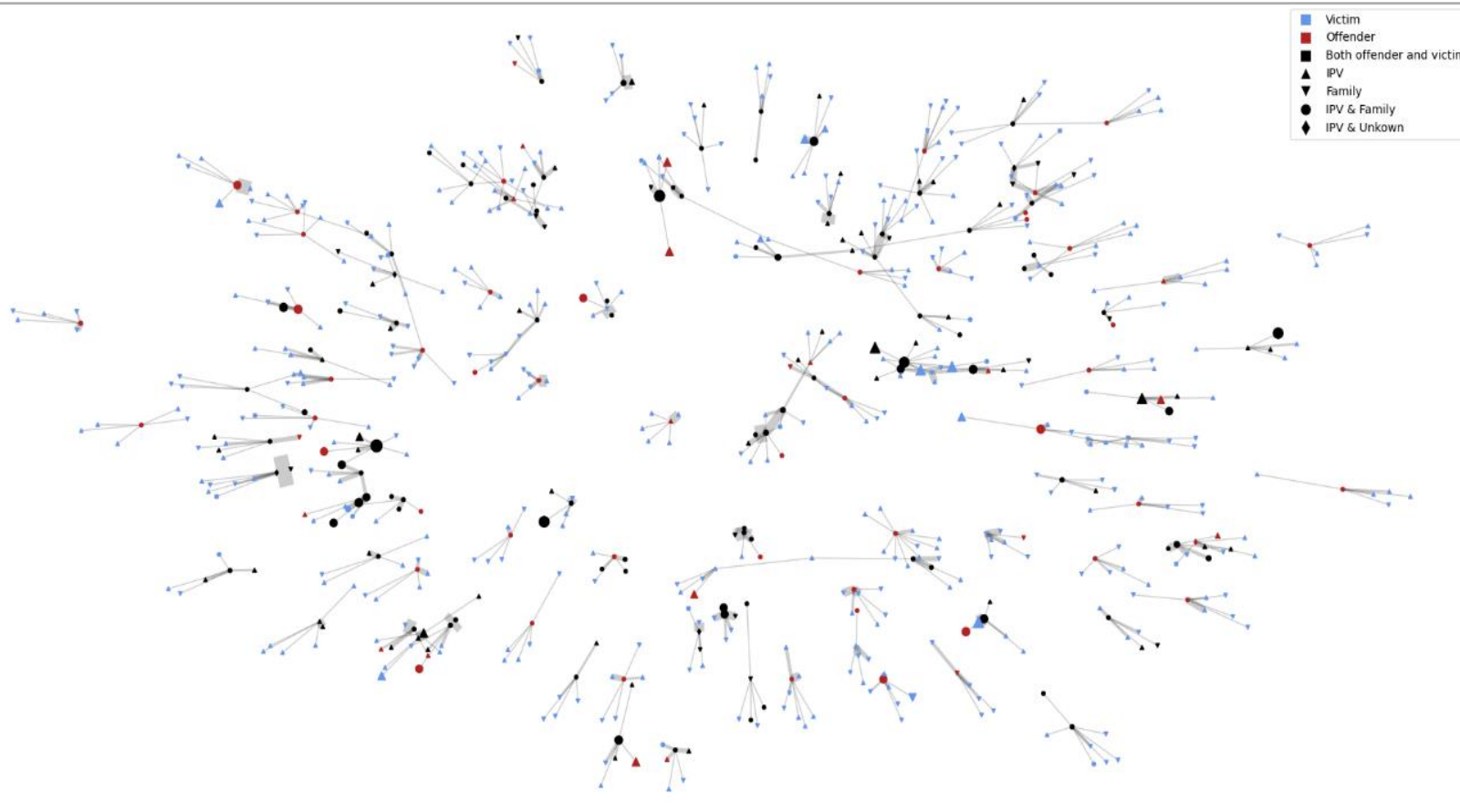


Figure 2. DA offenders (red) with more than one victim (blue) and the top 2% degree centrality score. The size of the node indicates the amount of harm perpetrated by offenders or experienced by victims (larger node, higher CHI score). The black nodes indicate co-abusive relationships. The shape of the victim node indicates the type of relationship with the corresponding offender (Intimate Partner, familial, both). The width of the edge connecting the nodes represents the number of incidents between those two parties (wider, more incidents).

Social Network Analysis

Cluster Analysis

- Both IP and familial DA relationships
- Number of incidents differ across victims
- CA partners
- Harm is not evenly distributed
- Harm in CA relationships

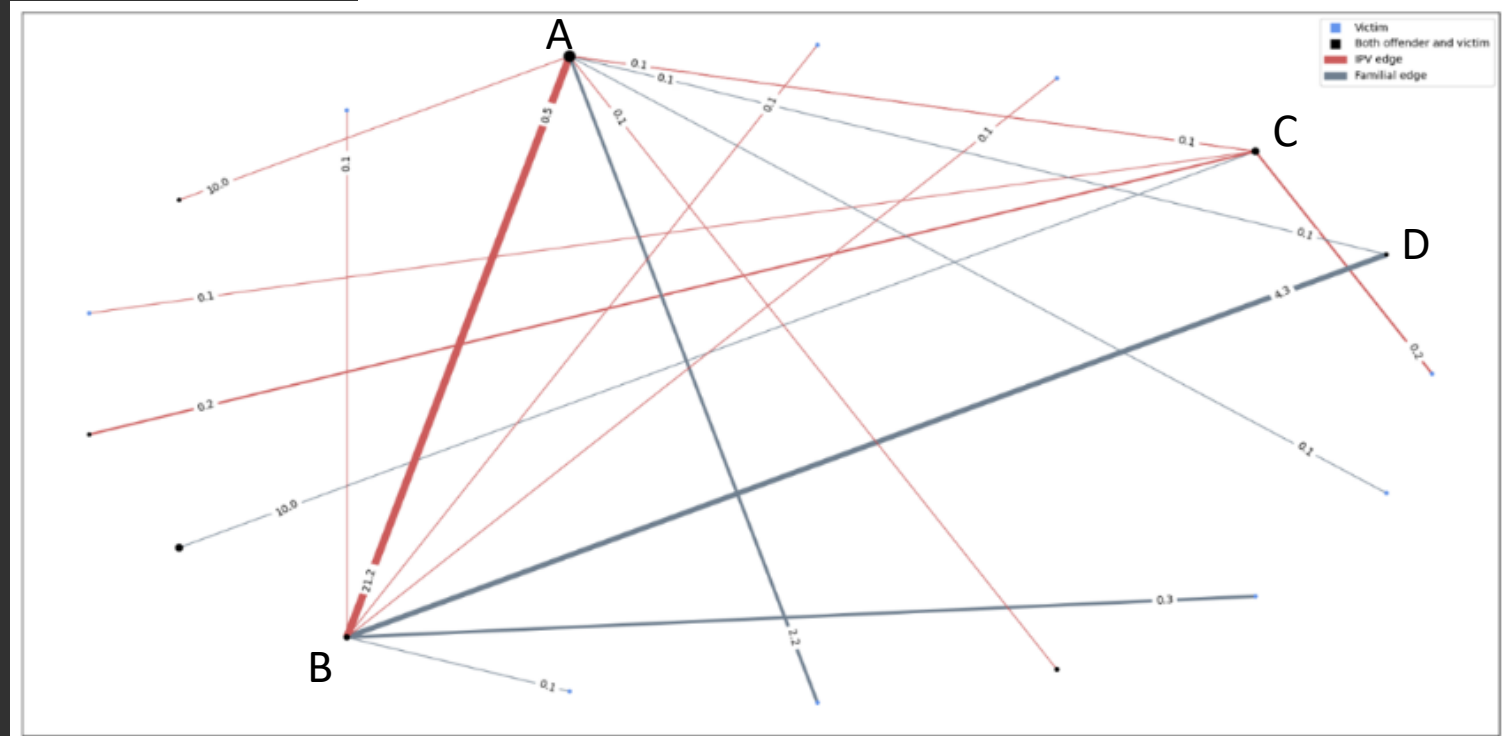


Figure 3. A select group of serial offenders and corresponding victims. The size of the node indicates the amount of harm perpetrated by offenders or experienced by victims (larger node, higher CHI score). The black nodes indicate co-abusive relationships. The colour of the edge between the nodes indicates the type of relationship (Intimate Partner, familial). The width of the edge connecting the nodes represents the number of incidents between those two parties (wider, more incidents). The CHI score is written on the edge by the individual who experienced that much harm from the node at the other end of the edge.

Serial DA Offenders: Prediction of harm

Results

- Associated with greater cumulative harm:
 - Offenders with more victims
 - Greater proportion Intimate Partner
 - Serial offender male
 - Primary victim
 - Greater connectivity in the network
- Associated with less cumulative harm:
 - Greater proportion of female victims

Limitations of this DA research

****Interpret with caution****

- 4+ incidents are a minority
- DA is underreported
- Studies rely on incidents reported to and recorded by the police
- Limited timeframe
- Certain types of abuse may be more difficult to identify

Implications for Police

- DA Specialist prioritisation
- Total number of incidents is inversely related to the cumulative harm
- Harm de-escalation results should not suggest a reduction in efforts to support victims

Implications for Police

- Do not equate partners that are both abusive
- Flag DA perpetrators with multiple victims
- Flag serial DA offenders with a primary victim
- Prioritise 'communities' of DA
- Flag serial offenders who have male victims

Questions?

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