

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Targeting Domestic Abuse	1
	References	4
2	Domestic Abuse in England and Wales	7
2.1	How Domestic Abuse Is Defined	7
2.2	Characteristics and Terms Used	8
2.3	The Main Problems Facing Responders	9
2.4	Police Responses to Domestic Abuse	11
2.4.1	Initial Response: Mandatory Police Attendance	11
2.4.2	Arrest Policy	12
2.4.3	Alternatives to Prosecution	13
2.4.4	Risk Assessment	15
2.4.5	Advocates	16
2.4.6	Multi-agency Meetings	16
2.4.7	Perpetrator Management	17
2.5	A Summary	17
	References	18
3	Key Questions That Police Data Might Help Us Answer	23
3.1	About Police Data	23
3.2	Victim Surveys	24
3.3	Police Records	25
3.4	What Problems to Measure?	27
3.5	Summary	32
	References	32
4	The Existing Evidence	35
4.1	Introduction	35
4.2	Evidence on Repeat Domestic Abuse	36
4.3	Evidence on Escalation	37
4.4	Evidence on the Concentration of Harm	39

4.5	Evidence on Serial Domestic Abuse	39
4.5.1	Typologies of Domestic Batterers	40
4.5.2	Serial Perpetrators	42
4.5.3	Prevalence of Serial Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse	43
4.6	Evidence on Forecasting Domestic Abuse	44
4.6.1	Actuarial Instruments in Criminal Justice Forecasts	44
4.6.2	Machine Learning Techniques	48
4.6.3	Previous Use of Random Forests for Criminal Justice Forecasting	50
4.6.4	Criticisms and Problems	54
4.7	A Summary of the Evidence	56
	References	57
5	Measuring Harm	63
5.1	What Is Harm and How Is It Measured?	63
5.1.1	Review of Harm Measurement Tools	65
5.1.2	Assessing Which Tool to Use	72
5.2	Summary	77
	References	79
6	Repeat Domestic Abuse, Escalation and Concentration of Harm	83
6.1	Important Questions on Repeat Abuse	83
6.1.1	Important Questions on Escalation	84
6.1.2	Important Questions on the Concentration of Harm	85
6.1.3	What Data Did We Have and How Did We Analyse It?	85
6.1.4	Findings	88
6.1.5	Theoretical Implications	97
6.1.6	Research Implications	98
6.1.7	Policy Implications	99
	References	100
7	Serial Domestic Abuse	103
7.1	Important Questions on Serial Abuse	103
7.2	What Data Did We Have and How Did We Analyse It?	103
7.2.1	Procedure: Serial Abuse	106
7.3	Findings	107
7.3.1	Prevalence	107
7.3.2	Types of Abuse	108
7.3.3	Harm	109
7.3.4	Other Crimes	112
7.3.5	Subclassifications of Cohorts	114
7.4	Theoretical Implications	115
7.5	Research Implications	117
7.6	Policy Implications	119
	References	122

8 Forecasting Risk	125
8.1 Important Questions on Forecasting Risk	125
8.2 What Data Did We Have and How Did We Analyse It?	126
8.3 Procedure: Forecasting	129
8.3.1 How Random Forest Algorithms Work	130
8.3.2 Model Parameters	133
8.4 Findings	136
8.4.1 What Proportion of All Arrestees Go on to Commit Domestic Abuse?	136
8.4.2 What Proportion of Domestic Abuse Arrestees Have Prior Domestic Records?	137
8.4.3 Can Antecedent Inputs Predict Future Domestic Abuse Cases to a High Degree of Accuracy?	139
8.5 Which Predictors Have the Greatest Impact on Accuracy?	141
8.5.1 Age First Arrested for Domestic Abuse	143
8.5.2 Years Since Last Arrest for Domestic Abuse	145
8.5.3 Presenting Offence Was Domestic Abuse	145
8.5.4 Number of Prior Domestic Arrests	145
8.5.5 Age at First Arrest for a Sexual Offence	146
8.6 Theoretical Implications	146
8.7 Research Implications	148
8.7.1 Using Targeting Research Alongside Testing	151
8.7.2 Integrating Harm Measurement Tools	152
8.8 Policy Implications	153
8.8.1 Political Implications	153
8.8.2 Practical Implications: The Need for More Information	154
8.8.3 A Working Model for Prediction	154
8.8.4 Building Police Forecasting Capabilities	156
References	157
9 Conclusions: Integrating Research into Practice	161
9.1 What We Set Out to Analyse	161
9.2 More Data Are Needed in This Fight	163
9.3 How to Improve Our Analysis	165
9.3.1 Police Records Are Not the Whole Story	165
9.4 Final Conclusions	168
A Appendices	168
Appendix I: Technical Information Relating to Random Forest Modelling	168
Appendix II: Cambridge Crime Harm Index – Selected Values	174
References	176
Index	179