

# The Homicide Timeline

Professor Jane Monckton  
Smith

**METROPOLITAN POLICE** Working together for a safer London

**WE ARE APPEALING FOR WITNESSES  
CAN YOU HELP US?**

**MURDER**

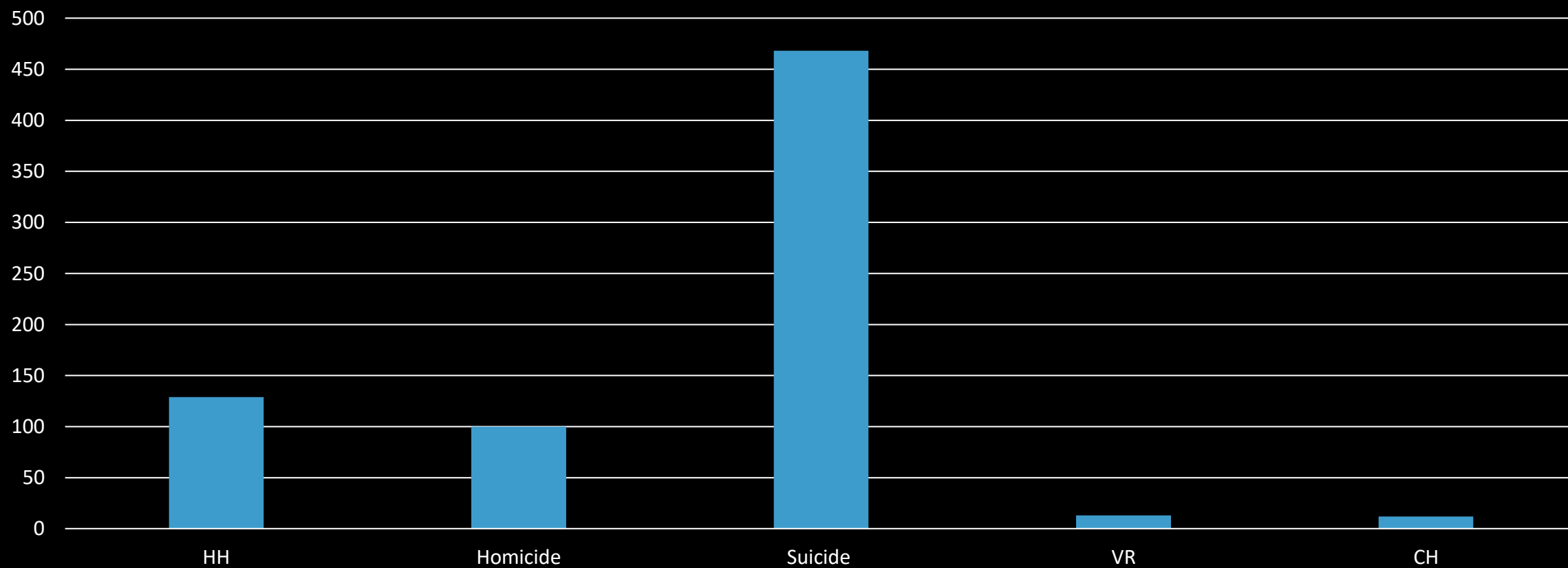
ON FRI 3rd AUG 07 AT ABOUT 10.15pm  
A YOUNG MALE WAS SHOT DEAD IN  
MARCUS GARVEY WAY. THE GUNMAN  
ESCAPED ON A MOPED.

In strictest confidence, please phone  
**020 8247 4554**

**DID YOU SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING?  
PLEASE CALL US**

On the number above or at your local police  
or ring CRIMESTOPPERS

# Annual estimates DA related sudden deaths



# Context

---

A UK Home Office consultation in 2012 concluded that coercive control was the best framework for understanding domestic abuse. It is patterns of control that links all of the categories

---

Coercive control was criminalized as a result in England and Wales (Serious Crimes Act 2015), Scotland (Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018); Ireland (Domestic Violence Act 2018 (Ireland))

---

Although the legislation is new, the research surrounding coercive control as the most dangerous and damaging form of IPA is not

---

Coercive Control is also considered to be the most significant high risk marker for serious harm and potential homicide

# High Risk

- A particular cluster of three risk markers can be very dangerous
- Controlling patterns
- Violence
- Separation
- **Raises possibility of homicide by 900%**
- This single risk marker is highly dangerous
- Non-fatal Strangulation
- **Raises possibility of homicide by 750-800%**

# What is Coercive Control?



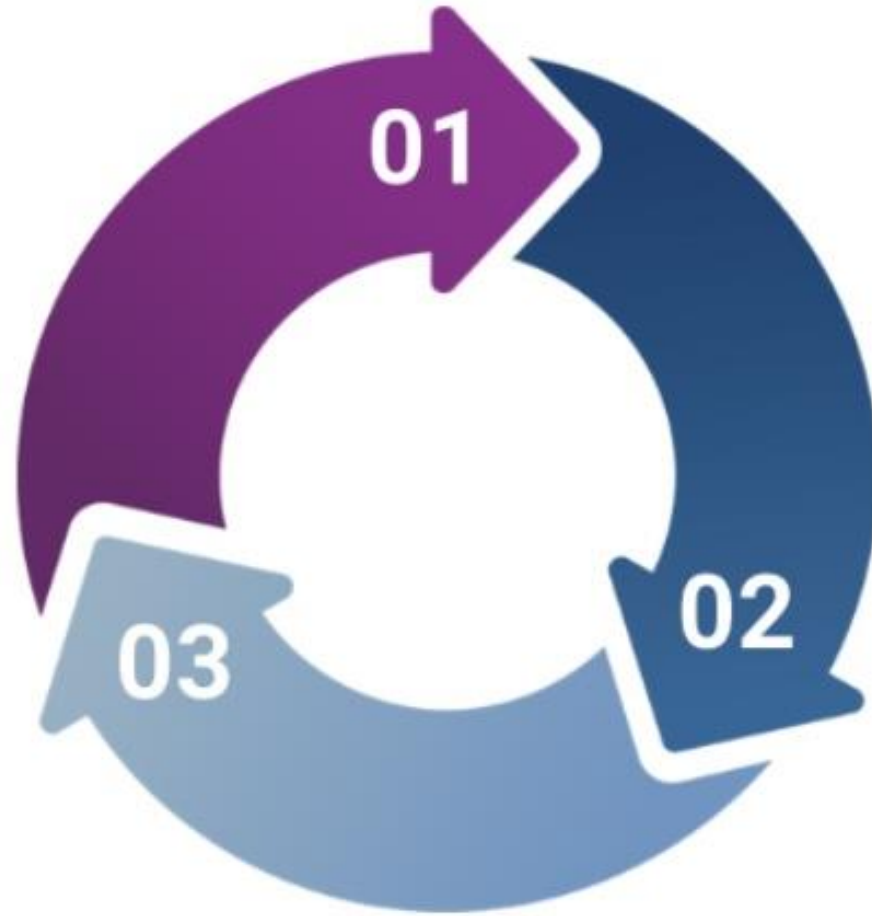
- A pattern of behaviour designed to trap people in a relationship
- It can Create what has been described as a kind of hostage situation
- It is designed to subjugate a person to the will of another
- It manipulates compliance
- It reduces the victim's choices and space for action

Coercive control is an umbrella term for many forms of abusive behaviour including:



The Three Cs allow us to start to understand what is happening in Coercive Control.

**Control:**  
Often enforced through a series of unwritten rules.



**Challenge:**  
Occurs when a rule is broken or resisted

**Consequences:**

Fear doesn't always look the way we expect. There are two types of fear that are relevant in cases of Coercive Control.

Immediate Fear



Types of  
Fear



Chronic Fear



# How to identify CC patterns



- **Control**
- What are the rules of this relationship?
- **Challenge**
- What are the reasons for a police call?
- What are arguments about?
- **Consequences**
- What would happen if...questions
- What has happened?

# Stage One: History

- The person has a history of stalking
- The person has a history of controlling patterns
- The person has previous arrests for violence, stalking, or domestic abuse
- History of stalking (with or without arrest or prosecution)
- Criminal history
- Patterns of jealousy and possessiveness
- Inability to accept challenge
- Thin skinned & confrontational

# Stage Two: Early Relationship

- Early cohabitation
- Early pregnancy
- Early declarations of love using possessive language (you're mine, together forever etc)
- Pushes for early commitment
- Possessive ay early stage
- Jealous at early stage
- Resist attempts to slow down or end the relationship

## Stage Three: Relationship

- Coercive control
- Stalking
- Violence (even low level pushing and shoving)
- Sexual aggression
- Possessiveness
- Jealousy
- Threats to suicide or kill
- Isolation of victim from family and friends
- Enforces routines on victim or family
- Threats to pets or children
- Quick temper and thin skin
- Drug or alcohol problems (not causal but can exacerbate)
- Depression (not causal but can exacerbate)

## Stage Four: Trigger

- Separation
- Threat of separation
- Imagines a separation (constant accusations of an affair for example)
- Bankruptcy or financial ruin
- Physical health deteriorates in offender or victim
- Mental health deteriorates in offender or victim
- Redundancy, retirement
- Event which prompts retaliation or revenge on victim

## Stage Five: Escalation

- Concerning behaviours become more frequent
- Concerning behaviours become more serious or severe
- Stalking (even low level) (begins or continues)
- Threats to kill or suicide
- Exerts more control
- Anger or desperation evident
- Uses language like 'I won't let you leave', 'I cant live without you', 'if I can't have you no-one can'

# Stalking

Stalking is a pattern of repeated, unwanted behaviour that causes the victim to feel distressed or scared.

This pattern is characterised by the mnemonic FOUR:

**F**IXED

**O**BSESSED

**U**NWANTED

**R**EPEATED







**The Rejected Stalker responds to the breakdown of a close relationship.**

The initial motivation of a Rejected Stalker is either attempting to reconcile the relationship or exacting revenge for a perceived rejection.

The most common form of stalking, the Rejected Stalker, makes up over 50% of all stalking cases.

The Rejected Stalker is the most dangerous and likely to seriously harm or kill the victim. Over 50% of rejected stalkers will carry out their threats (compared to an average of 10% in other groups).

Most forms of stalking will have both covert and overt behaviours.



**Covert behaviours** are hidden and may include both cyber and physical stalking.



**Overt behaviours** may be seen and identified. They may make the victim very afraid.

It is likely that BOTH will be present in The Rejected Stalker.

# Breaches

## Stage Six: Homicidal Ideation

- Situation is irreversible or irretrievable
- Last chance thinking
- Last attempts at reconciliation
- Stalking – intelligence gathering
- Victim may be concerned about a change in behaviour or approach
- Talking about death
- Threats may be more specific
- Things may calm
- Things may intensify

# Stage Seven: Planning

- Stalking
- Change in usual behaviour
- Opportunity creation
- Increased menace
- May tell people of plans, or may continue to make threats
- Internet searches
- Gathering of weapons or other tools to incapacitate the victim, or dispose of them
- Suicide threats
- Isolate children

## Stage Eight: Homicide

- Clear homicide with confession
- Homicide with suicide of offender
- Homicide made to look like suicide
- Homicide made to look like 'mercy killing'
- Homicide made to look like accident
- Homicide made to look like misadventure or natural causes
- Stage missing person
- Children targeted for homicide
- Children collateral damage
- Children witness homicide
- Victim blaming – claiming self defence or provocation

# Final Comments

- Travel through all of the stages is not inevitable – the pattern can be disrupted
- Coercive control is a pattern that is constantly operating
- Breaches should be responded to irrespective of the nature of the breach
- The ‘what would happen if’ questions can give a lot of information about the consequences and nature of the patterns
- Stalking motivation can develop (control-revenge-reconnaissance)
- Most Perpetrators do not reach stage 8



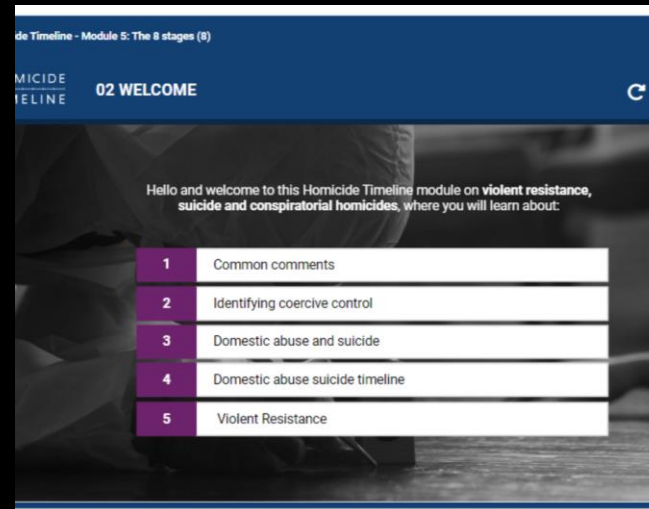


# CONTROL

JANE  
MONCKTON  
SMITH

'A game-changer ...  
Blows assumptions  
about abusive  
relationships out  
of the water'  
Caitlin Moran

**Dangerous  
Relationships  
and How  
They End  
in Murder**



## Resources

- [www.homicidetimeline.co.uk](http://www.homicidetimeline.co.uk)
- Online training
- Book
- Training film
- Homicide Timeline App
- In person training
- Advanced training