

BJARKARHLID FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

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Team leader



BJARKARHLÍÐ

HOW IT ALL STARTED

- A visit to the Family Justice Center in New York City inspired the former Minister of Social Affairs, Chief of the Reykjavik Metropolitan Area Police and a Counselor from the City of Reykjavík to launch a similar project in Reykjavík.
- They brought together the leading organizations who fight against violence and started to work on the establishment of Bjarkarhlíð, which opened 9 months later.



BJARKARHLÍÐ

KEYPOINTS

- The center was formally opened March 2, 2017.
- Pilot project.
- Interdisciplinary cooperation.
- All services in Bjarkarhlíð are free of charge.
- All services under one roof. One stop shop approach.
- For survivors of violence of all genders, 18 years old and older
- Iceland was the 8th country in Europe to be a member of the EFJCA *European Family Justice Center Alliance*
- The aims of the alliance is to develop and support local Family Justice Centers all over Europe that help survivors and their children find all services they need in ONE PLACE.



BJARKARHLÍÐ IS A JOINT PROJECT OF GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

THE PARTNERS ARE:

- City of Reykjavík.
- Ministry of Welfare.
- Ministry of Justice.
- Metropolitan Area Police.
- Stígamót (a center for survivors of sexual violence).
- The Women Shelter.
- Women's counseling.



HOW DOES OUR FJC OPPURATE?

- Coordination of multiple local providers to establish support and justice services in one physical location.
- Providing „one stop shop“ for survivors in need of services.
- First the client meet with a counsellor
- Assessment of the need for service
- Matching the client need to the support that is offered
- Bjarkarhlíð is a center for victims of violence. The aim is to provide support, advice and education about the nature and consequences of violence.
- Bjarkarhlíð offers support and information for victims of violence of all genders, aged 18 and older
- Free of charge.



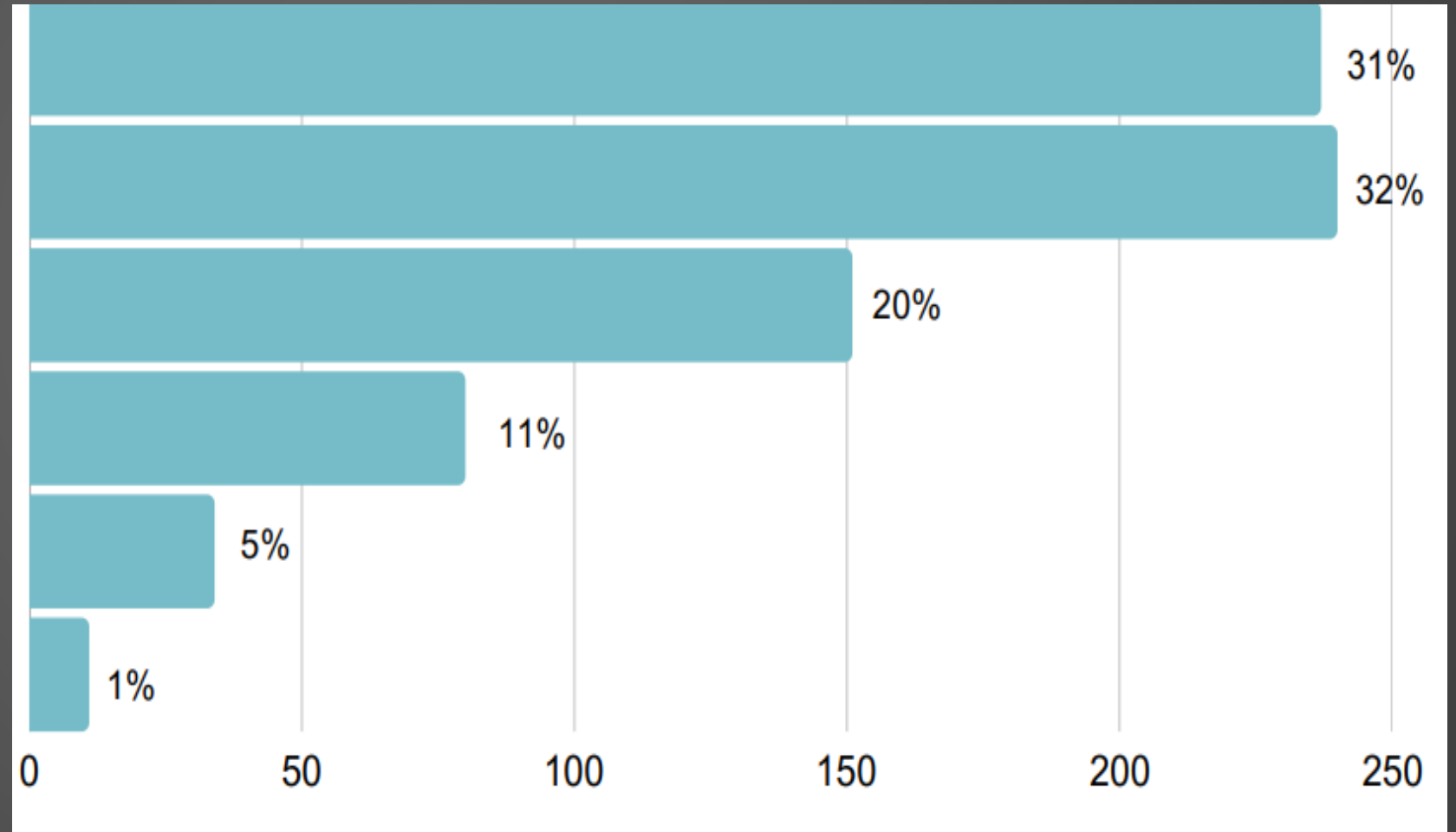
HOW DOES OUR FJC OPPURATE?

- For individuals that have for example, suffered from domestic violence, sexual violence, violence against the elderly, or human trafficking - get comprehensive services that focus on their needs.
- Coordinated services and professional consultation and counseling.
- Individual interviews for survivors of violence.
- Support groups
- Legal consultation.
- The police provides information about the justice system and criminal charge process.
- Assistance from the police in assuring safety for survivors and risk assessment.
- Bjarkarhlíð offers lectures and courses about the different manifestations of violence.



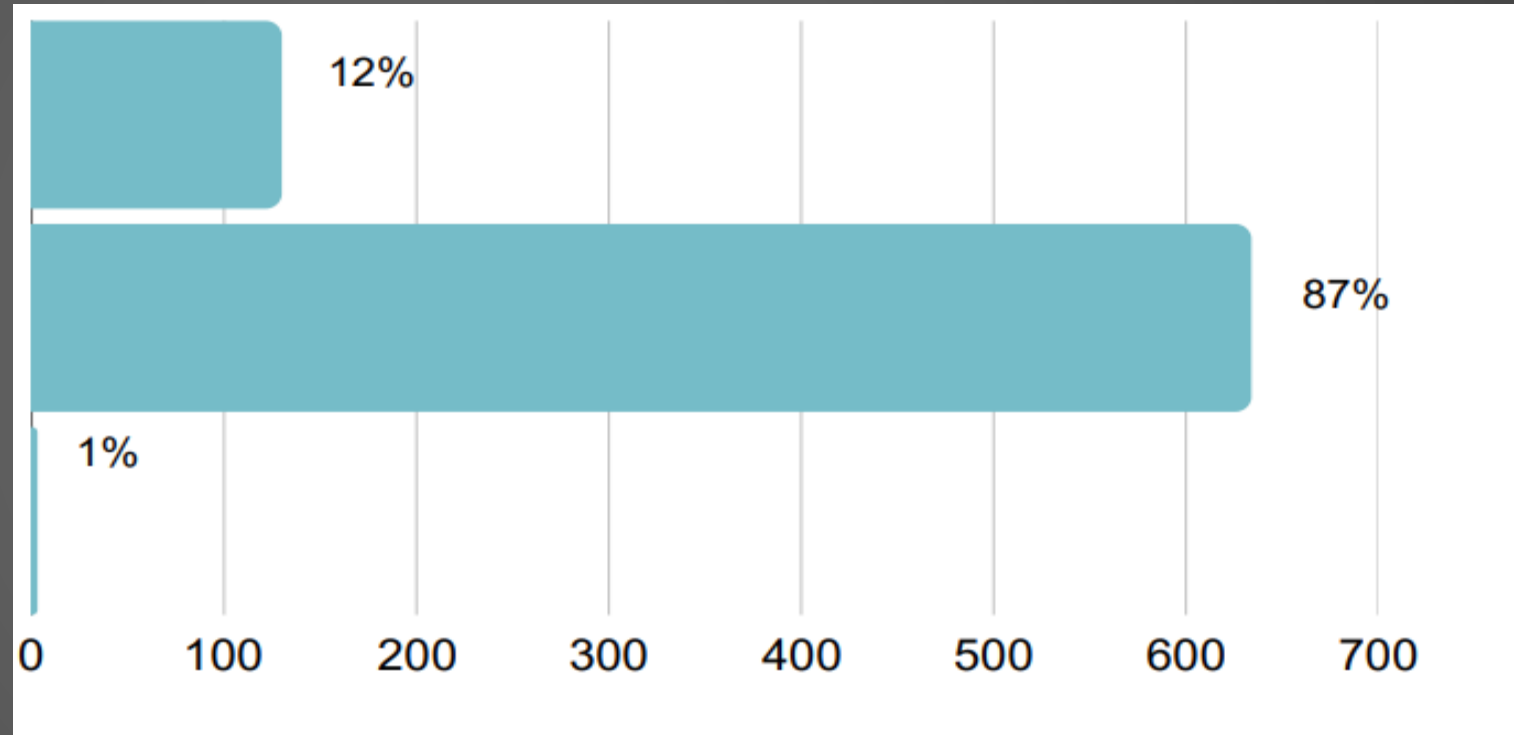
IN 2023, 785 NEW PERSONS SOUGHT SERVICE IN BJARKARHLÍÐ

- 16-18 years
- 19-30 years
- 31-40 years
- 41-50 years
- 51- 60 years
- 61-70 years
- 71+



GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICE RECIPIENTS IN 2023

- Male
- Female
- Other



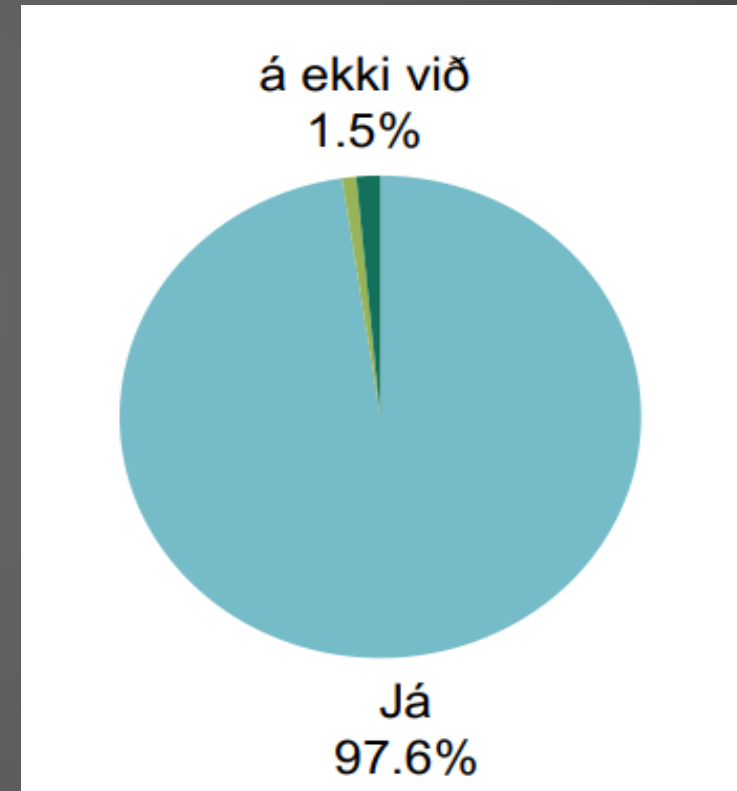
MANIFESTATIONS OF VIOLENCE SURVIVERS FACE

- Domestic violence
- Sexual abuse
- Physical abuse
- Digital violence
- Psychological abuse
- Financial abuse
- Hate crimes
- Human trafficking



“DO YOU FACE CONSEQUENCES BECAUSE OF THE VIOLENCE”?

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Difficulty sleeping
- Symptoms of post-traumatic stress
- Physical pain
- Addiction
- Suicidal thoughts
- Other self-injurious behaviors
- Suicide attempts



NATIONALITY OF CLIENTS IN BJARKARHLÍÐ

Uppruni	Fjöldi	Hlutfall
Erlend/ur/t - innan EES	47	6,5%
Erlend/ur/t - utan EES	111	15%
Íslensk/ur/t	547	75,5%
Ekki vitað/ kom ekki fram	19	3%

SYSTEMATIC RISK ASSESSMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYSTEMATIC ASSESSED:

Using the domestic violence enquiry and assessment form

- as part of all social and health services
- as part of the general assessment of the client's situation
- as a part of ensuring the safety of the victim in a police investigation

DR. JANE MONCTON SMITH “HOMICIDE TIMELINE”

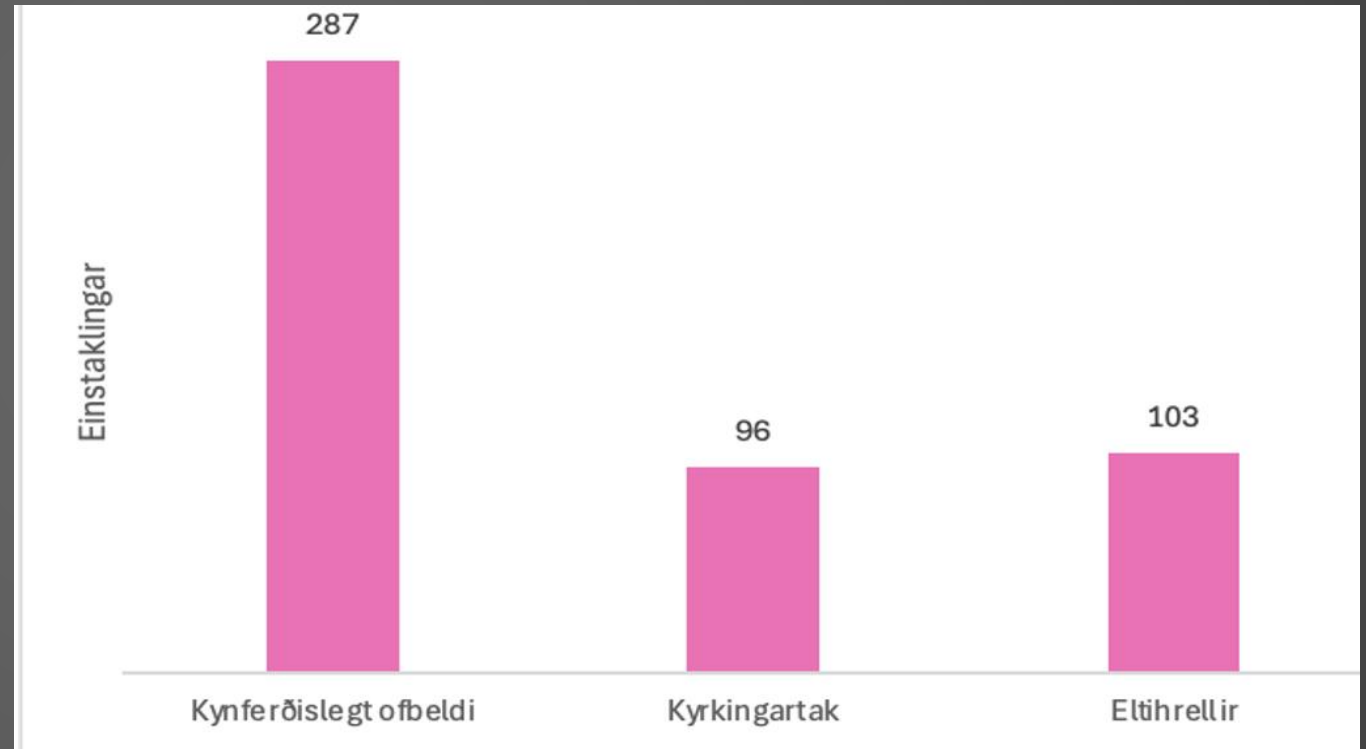
Intimate Partner Homicide Timeline:



- “In Control”

HIGH RISK SURVIOURS ACCORDING TO DR. JANE MONCTON SMITH “HOMICIDE TIMELINE

- 36 women were in high risk
- 30 women were victim of domestic violence
- 26 of them had child/children



WHAT HAVE CHANGED IN RECENT YEARS?

The best way to prevent violence is to talk about it

- **The things you don't talk about do not exist.** Shame or fear often prevent both the survivor and the abuser from approaching the subject of violence.
- **Call violence by its proper name.** Do not call violence a family dispute or an interaction problem. Calling violence by its proper name helps both adults and children from violent homes to break the cycle of intergenerational violence.
- **Talking about violence helps in processing the experience.** It helps to understand that the real responsibility for the violent acts always lies with the abuser. Children often blame themselves for violence in their homes.



SYSTEMATIC RISK ASSESSMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

It is recommended that risks of domestic violence are assessed systematically by using the Domestic violence enquiry and assessment form

- as part of all social and health services
- as part of the general assessment of the client's situation
- as a part of ensuring the safety of the victim in a police investigation



WHY DO WE ASK ABOUT VIOLENCE?

- ***Violence is a public health problem.*** Violence leads to health and social problems. The effects of violence may be very long-lasting as well as serious, even life-threatening.
- ***Violence is usually hidden,*** especially violence at home and in intimate relationships. It is less stigmatising if you ask everyone about violence.
- ***Risk groups*** include pregnant women, new mothers, and any one with mental health or substance abuse problems.

OUR VOICES

“To find that there are people who treat you with respect and really want to help you”.

- “This was my first meeting, for me it was a very difficult step to come but I felt it was helping a lot. I received a very warm and kind welcome”.
- “wonderful and professional service and approach. I received a lot of help from you. I recommend contacting you <3”