What Refuge Risk Data Tells **Us About the Spread of Family** Violence in Clients' Lives

Many clients may be at risk of suicide



Were encouraged by the perpetrator to hurt or kill themselves



Experience more severe violence from their **57%** perpetrators when they tried to seek safety

could kill them

55%

46%

58%

44%

Experience an escalation of physical violence in the four weeks before coming to Refuge

Believe their perpetrators

They experience high rates of severe and obsessive violence, such as:

55%

Were prevented from accessing health, counseling, or addiction services

Experience an escalation of intimidating behaviour in the four 60% weeks before coming to Refuge

> Are aware that their perpetrators had histories



Abuse can be perpetrated

anytime, even from a

45%

distance

The majority of

risk when they

come to Refuge

clients are at critical

46% Strangulation/ suffocation



51% Threats to kill



55% Holding them hostage

of violence towards others

Of those with a protection order say this has already been breached

58% Stalking



63% Destroying their belongings

The violence extends to

Many victims experienced constant:

Unwanted contact

Tracking and monitoring of their whereabouts

56%

The impacts of non-physical abuse tactics threaten

women's wellbeing and opportunities far into the future

Going through their private messages

women's children, and perpetrators use kids as weapons



Of clients who were mothers, the abuse also involved:



79% Of victims' children were made to feel afraid



Harming them in front of their children



Taking or threatening to take their children



84%

Were constantly accused of things 11%

Were forced to use substances



Were stopped from seeing or having relationships with whānau and friends



Were made to take out debt they didn't want



Were forced to get pregnant or continue/end a pregnancy



15%

Forced to stop using contraception



National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges Nga Whare Whakaruruhau o Aotearoa 2023

