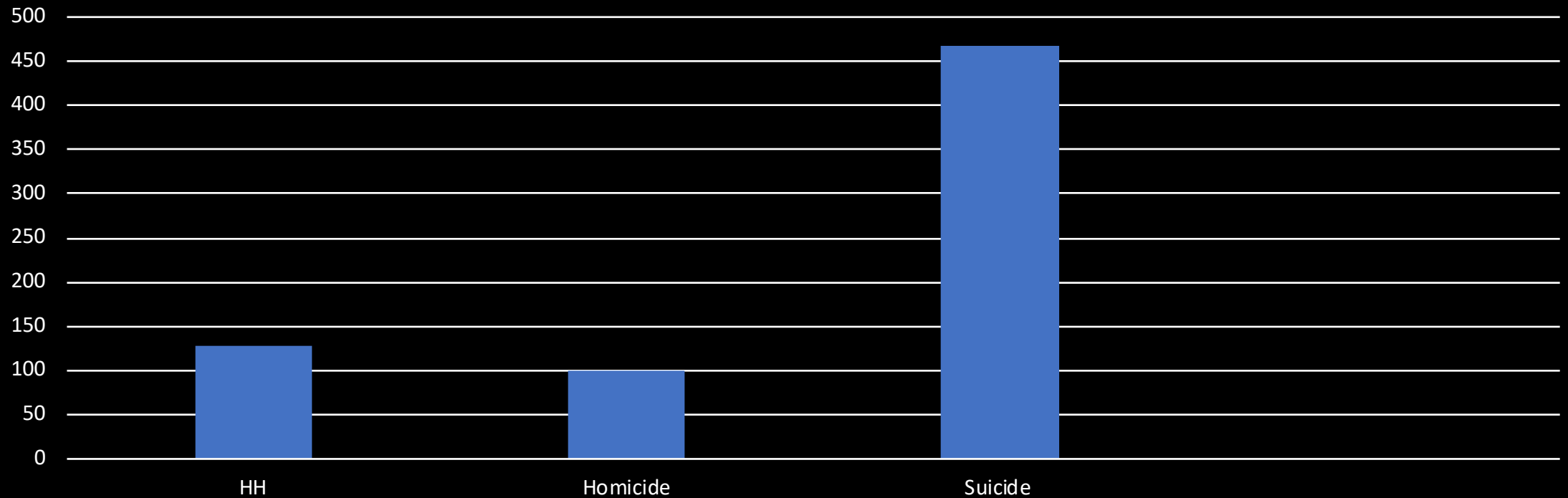


# Homicide timeline

Professor Jane Monckton Smith

# 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

---

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

# What we know

IPH is the most  
predictable form of  
homicide

Clusters of risk  
markers more  
important than lists

Motivation more  
important than  
actions

Patterns more  
important than  
incidents

Control predicts  
homicide and risk  
more effectively  
than violence alone

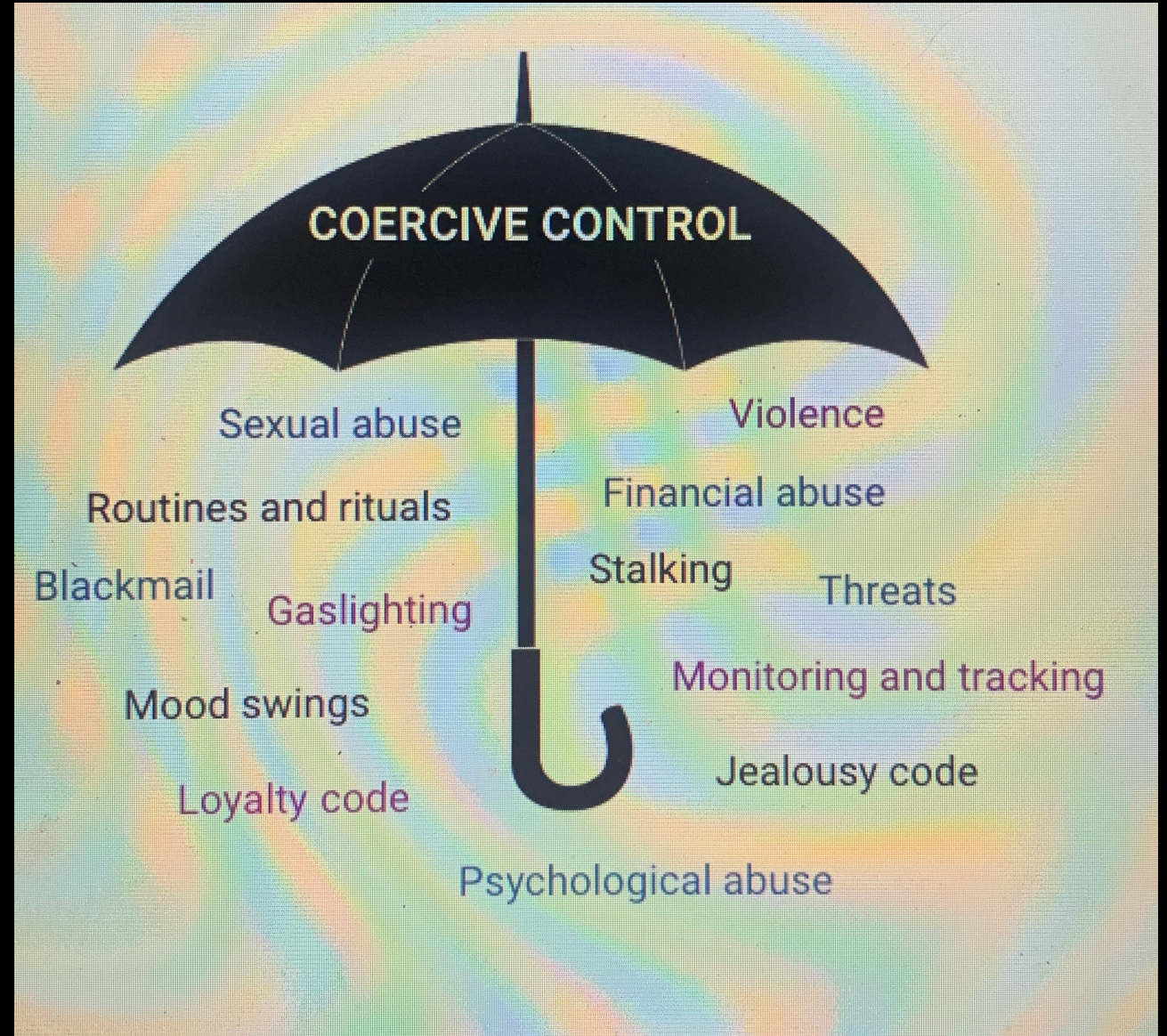
# What is Coercive Control?

- Traps people in relationships
- Creates a state of subjugation
- Creates what has been described as a kind of hostage situation
- Reduces choices and space for action
- Manipulates compliance
- Creates a relationship hierarchy



# Coercive control umbrella

- Coercive control is a pattern of abuse and a motivation or aim
- All abuse tactics work together to create the compliance, subjugation and entrapment
- There are consequences for any challenge – the most dangerous of which is separation



# Principles of the timeline: sequencing

- In homicide research temporal sequencing has an established presence
- The principle is that there are identifiable stages in an escalation to homicide, and that the later stages follow on from the earlier stages
- There are sequences for genocide, male confrontational homicide, serial killing and mass killing

# Identifying CC and stalking: three questions

---

Is this a *pattern* of behavior?

---

Is this making someone *change* their daily routines and activities?

---

Is this making someone *afraid*?





---

## Immediate Fear

- Fight or flight
- Crying
- Shaking
- Anger
- Calling emergency services



## Chronic Fear

---

- Avoiding consequences of upsetting the perpetrator
- Living in a perpetual state of consequence management
- Being responsible for other people's behavior
- Being responsible for keeping the perpetrator happy and stable
- Walking on eggshells



# HOMICIDE TIMELINE

## Pre-relationship history

Criminal record or allegations from former partners of control, domestic abuse or stalking. Victims often aware but do not always believe reports.

1

## Early relationship

Relationship sped up with early declarations of love, possessiveness and jealousy.

2

## Relationship

Relationship dominated by coercive control, usually with some of the high risk markers.

3

## Trigger/s

An event occurs which threatens the control of the perpetrator. Usually separation or its potential. May be a physical or mental illness or financial problems.

4

## Escalation

An increase in frequency or severity of control tactics, like suicide threats, begging, violence and stalking. Attempts to reinstate control.

5

## Change in thinking

Feelings of revenge, injustice or humiliation may drive a decision to resolve issues, through either moving on, revenge, or potentially homicide.

6

## Planning

May include buying weapons, seeking opportunities to get victim alone, stalking and threats.

7

## Homicide

May involve extreme violence, suicide, suspicious death, missing person, multiple victims (including children).

8

# Eight stages graphic

- 1. History
- 2. Early relationship
- 3. Relationship
- 4. Trigger
- 5. Escalation
- 6. Change in thinking
- 7. Planning
- 8. Homicide



For more information about the timeline please contact Dr Jane Monckton Smith:

T: 07525 132292 E: [jmoncktonsmith@glos.ac.uk](mailto:jmoncktonsmith@glos.ac.uk)

If you feel like your life is in danger please contact the police by dialling 999.

## 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
- Routine 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 influence of family and friends
- Enforces routines on victim or family
- Threats to pets or children
- 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 at Stage Five is concerning
- The stalker is not accepting the end of the relationship
- Resentful and rejected
- Post relationship abuse
- All stalking and post relationship abuse is an escalation in risk



# Tracking and Monitoring

- Stalking (monitoring and tracking) very common
- Occurs before and after a relationship
- Cyber monitoring and tracking
- Physical tracking



# rejected stalker

- Most common group
- Most likely to commit serious harm
- Over 50% will carry out threats
- (compared to an average of 10% in other groups)

## Stage six: Homicidal ideation

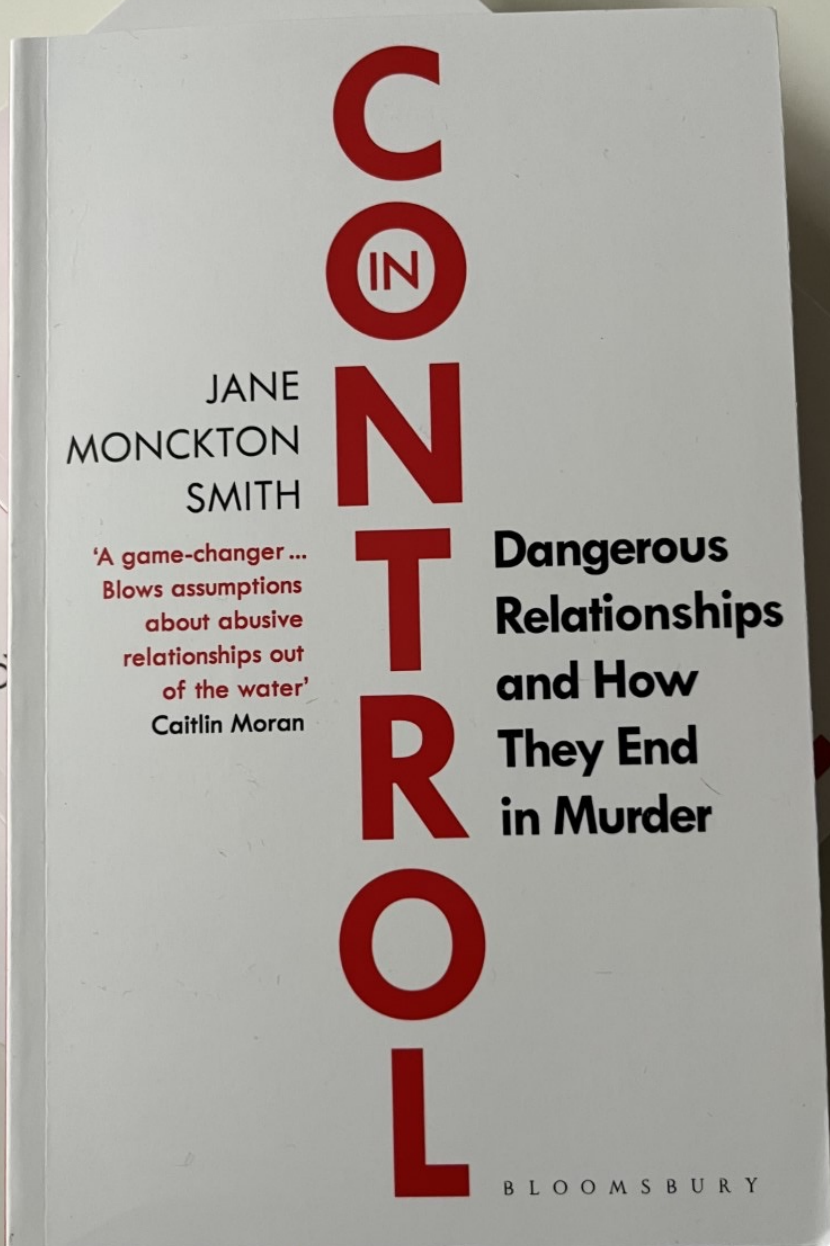
- Situation is irreversible or irretrievable
- Last chance thinking
- Last attempts at reconciliation
- Stalking – intelligence gathering
- Victim may be concerned about a change in behaviour or approach
- Threats may be more specific
- Things may calm
- Things may intensify

# 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



# Book that sets out the stages with case examples

---

- Published by Bloomsbury
- Available on audible audio books
- Kindle
- Paperback
- Hardback
- From Amazon and all major booksellers