



Costs of violence against Women

Estimation based on
Danish data sources

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The Danish national data base on Violence against Women, VAW – established 2004 by the National Council of Women in cooperation with University of Copenhagen, budget by Ministry of Social Affairs/Gender Equality and regularly updated.

It presents comprehensive possibilities for exact calculations of the costs of violence

The overall objective of the data base:

- **To develop a tool to measure the development of gender based violence over time – and to identify preventable risk factors for violence exposure**
- **To provide validated data for estimation of both psycho-social consequences and also societal, judicial/police and health service expenditures due to violence in and outside intimate relationships**

Perspectives:

- **By presenting current, comprehensive data on costs of VAW to
 - ◇ **maintaining political awareness on the social and economic consequences of VAW, and hence the need for national action plans to strengthening the prevention of gender based violence****



The Danish national action plans to eliminate domestic violence – 2002....

State budget allocated:

- ◆ Support for maintenance of shelters for battered women
- ◆ Pre- and postgraduate training of health care personnel, staff at social services, police, and senior officers in the municipalities
- ◆ Offender programs
- ◆ Research: Data collections to describe and monitor trends in violence against women



Estimations of the costs of violence against women:

Purpose:

- Maintain political awareness on the problem of violence in intimate partnerships
 - ◆ Other serious violence problems may dominate the public debate
- Cost benefit analyses may promote further prevention
 - ◆ Early parent-education programs
 - ◆ School based programs
 - ◆ Measures to prevent the possible sequels of exposure to violence

However, the magnitude of public costs should never be the primary reason for prevention of intimate violence



Costs of victims of violence:

Health services:

Emergency wards: lesions and mental problems as direct consequences of violence exposure
Contacts to due to various chronic disabilities

Personal 'costs'

Reduced quality of life
Reduced healthy life
Higher mortality

Judicial system:

Police, correctional services, courts

Shelters for battered women

Labour Market:

Productivity losses

National Action Plans



Which costs can be estimated?

1. Health care

Emergency department

Attributable health care costs

2. Societal: Labour market

Loss of income

Reduction in productivity

3. Judicial System: Police, Courts correctional services

4. State compensation for victims of violence

5. Shelters for battered women

6. Budget of the National action plans

Personal costs

Health-related quality of
life

Loss of healthy years of
life

High mortality



Calculations to estimate the 'Costs of Violence against women'

1. Costs directly associated to exposure to violence

- ◆ Health services: Contacts to emergency departments and inpatients by specific expenditure
- ◆ Judicials: extent of police investigations, prosecutors, defense, court procedures, correctional services
- ◆ Shelters: housing and counselling
- ◆ National action plans; allocated budget

2. Attributable costs

- 'Case-control studies: Analyses based on comparisons of costs in a well-defined population of victims of violence to the costs in a population of non-victims

All analyses adjusted by socio-demography, e.g. age, educational level..



First step: Identification of victims of violence and non-victims, the study population and the reference population

Study population 1:

16-64-year-old women exposed to violence and identified by register data:

Data sources:

- National patient register
- Criminal statistics: Register of Victims
- Cause of Deaths Register
- (+statistics of shelters)

Reference population 1:

All other 16-64-year-old women in the Danish population

Study population 2:

16-64-olds 'Victims of violence', identified by self-reported data: having answered 'YES' to question on exposure to violence during last 12 months in National Health Interview Survey

Reference population 2: Answered 'NO, to question on violence exposure

National representative health interview surveys



Size of study and reference populations

Register-based

A total of 20,842 female victims aged 16-64 , during a five years period (2002-2005)

Annually 7,500 (different) victims of violence

Referencepopulation:
2,106,588 non-victims: all 16-64 year-old women, not exposed to violence

Survey-based

Self-reported victims of violence, having answered 'YES' to question on physical violence exposure in 2000 and/or 2005

A total of 323 different women

Referencepopulation:
6,951 kvinder, who answered 'No'



Victims of *intimate partner* violence

Registerdata:

Estimate: about 1/3 of the yearly number of about 7.500 women aged 16-64, identified by contacts due to violence exposure are victims of partner violence = **2.500**

About 1,900 women are each year housed in shelters: No personal identification data, **but** most are included in Registerdata due to their contacts to emergency departments or police reporting

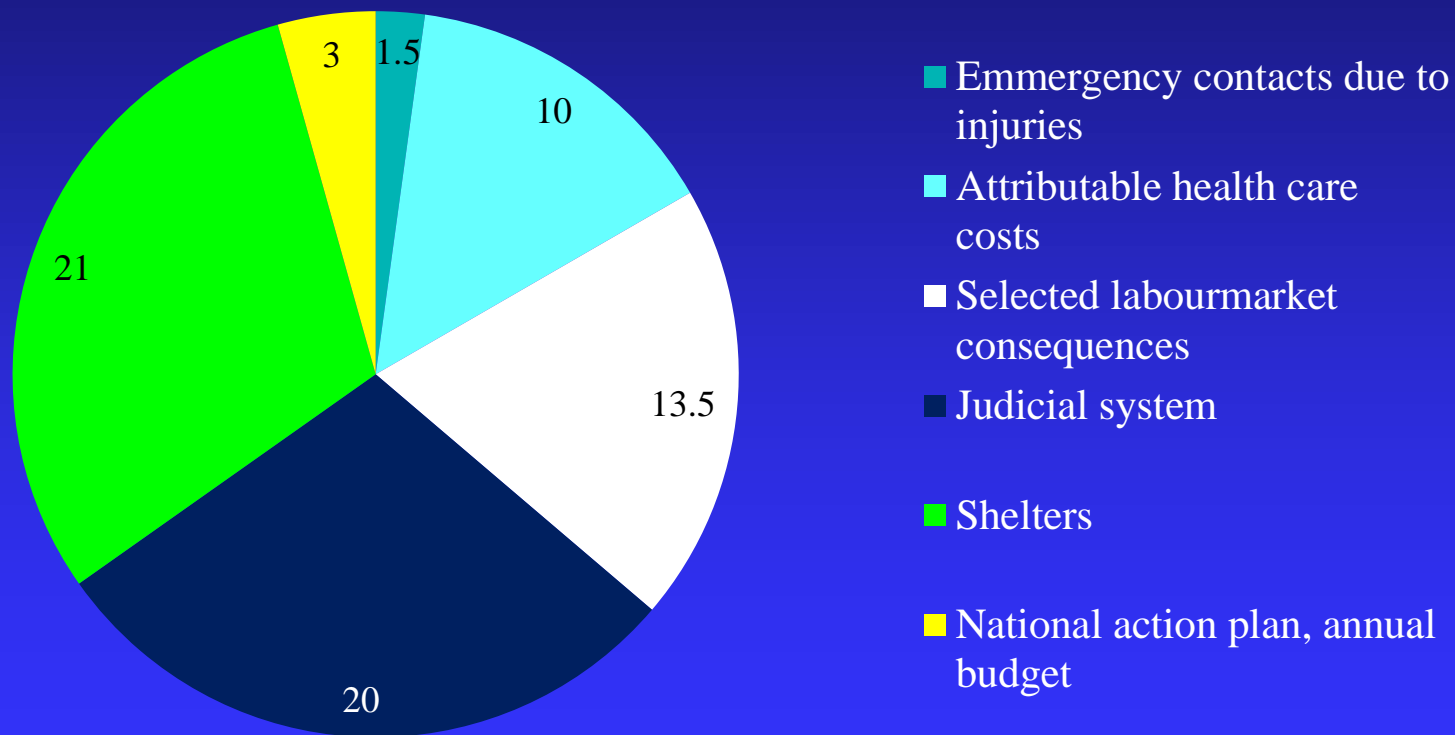
Self-reported violence exposure:


4 pct. of all respondents in the recent national health surveys report exposure to violence during the last year, and thus are identified as victims of physical violence – giving a total of about 70,000 women in the Denmark, yearly exposed to phsycial violence

About 40 pct. of those victims are exposed to partner violence = 28,000 per year



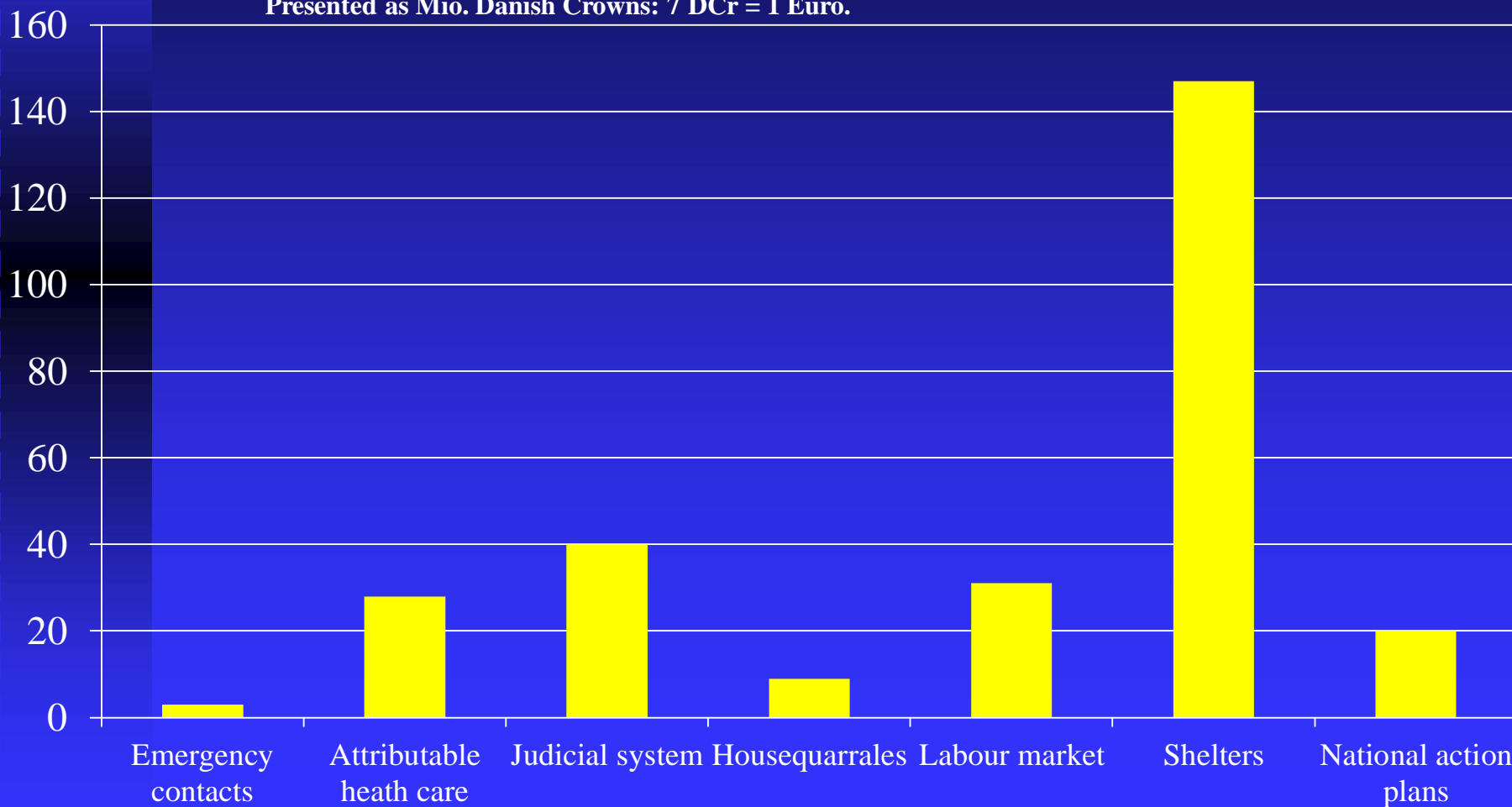
Annual costs ½ billion Danish Crowns = about 75 Mio Euro
- the distribution of costs, percentage and costs





Estimated costs of partner violence, minimum 50 mio. Euro per year

Presented as Mio. Danish Crowns: 7 DCr = 1 Euro.





Judicial costs

Identified by data in the Danish National Victim Register

Included in the calculations are all police reported cases of violence , domestic disputes and injunctions, by number of cases per year:

- 3,350 cases of physical violence against women
- 1,300 cases of serious threats of violence

Representing an annual number of offences against women, that were reported to the police – resulting in 2,530 charges/year

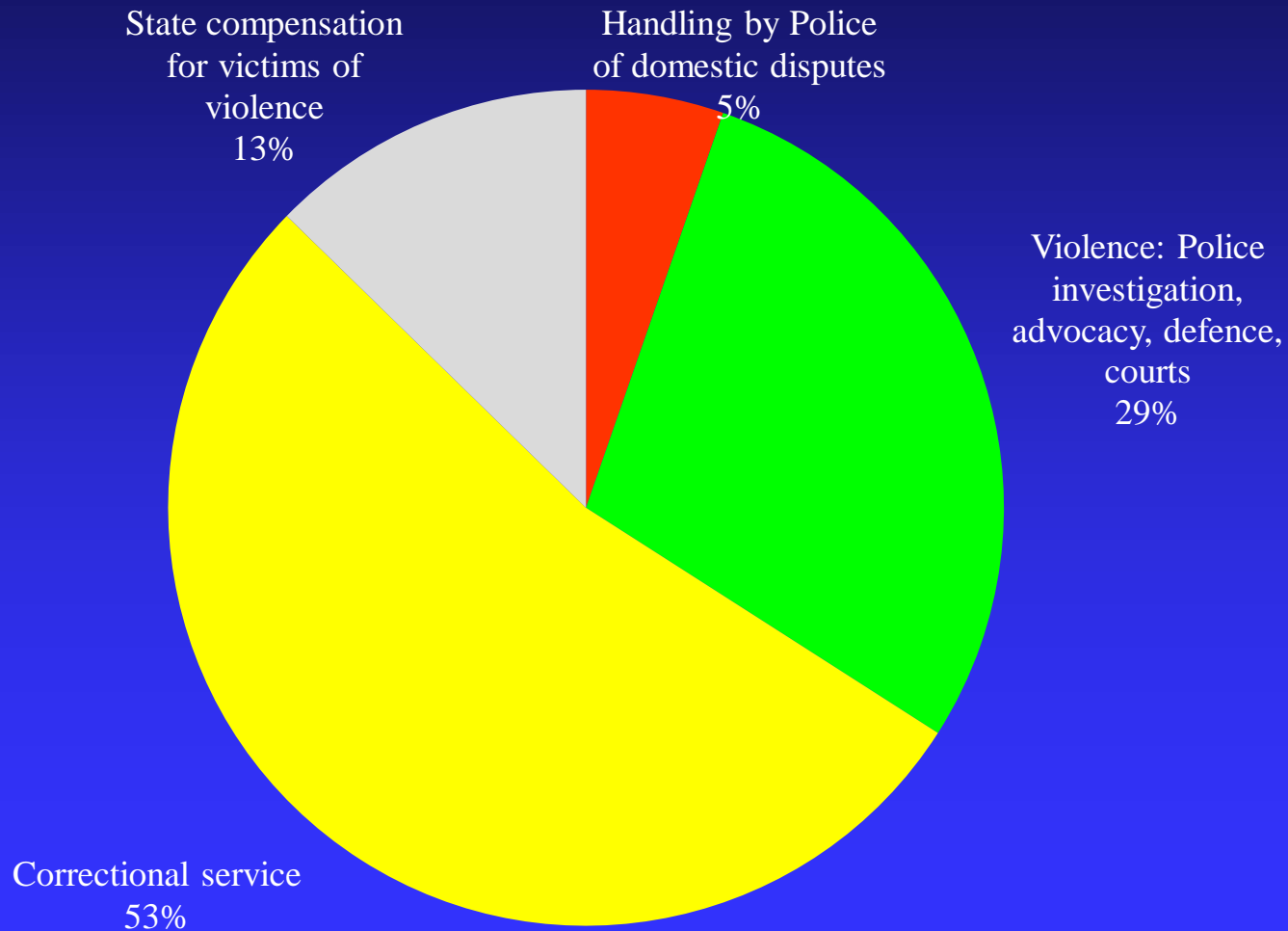
And 1,350 Court procedures/year


Magnitude of sentences to imprisonment: 22,680 jaildays/year – mostly in 'open wards'; costs about 180 Euro per day –

Costs of stay in high security prisons about 250 Euro per day



Judicial system, distribution of costs, %





Main results: Violence against women is a economic burden to the state – and a heavy personal burden to the victim

By a conservative estimation: Costs to the Danish society is at least 75 MIOEuro per year in a population of 5 mio. inhabitants, It corresponds to 40 Euro/individual woman aged 16-64 in Denmark

And to about 9,000 Euro per identified victim of violence

These costs only include those victims of violence that can be identified through register data: National Patient Register, including all contacts to hospitals due to violence exposure - and/or identified in the National Criminal Register, including all police reported incidents of physical violence

The large number of women that may be victims of violence each year (about 70,000 in Denmark) *but who do not contact hospitals or report the incident to the police* are not costly to the society – *and they are not included in our estimation of the costs of violence* – BUT they may well have great personal 'costs'

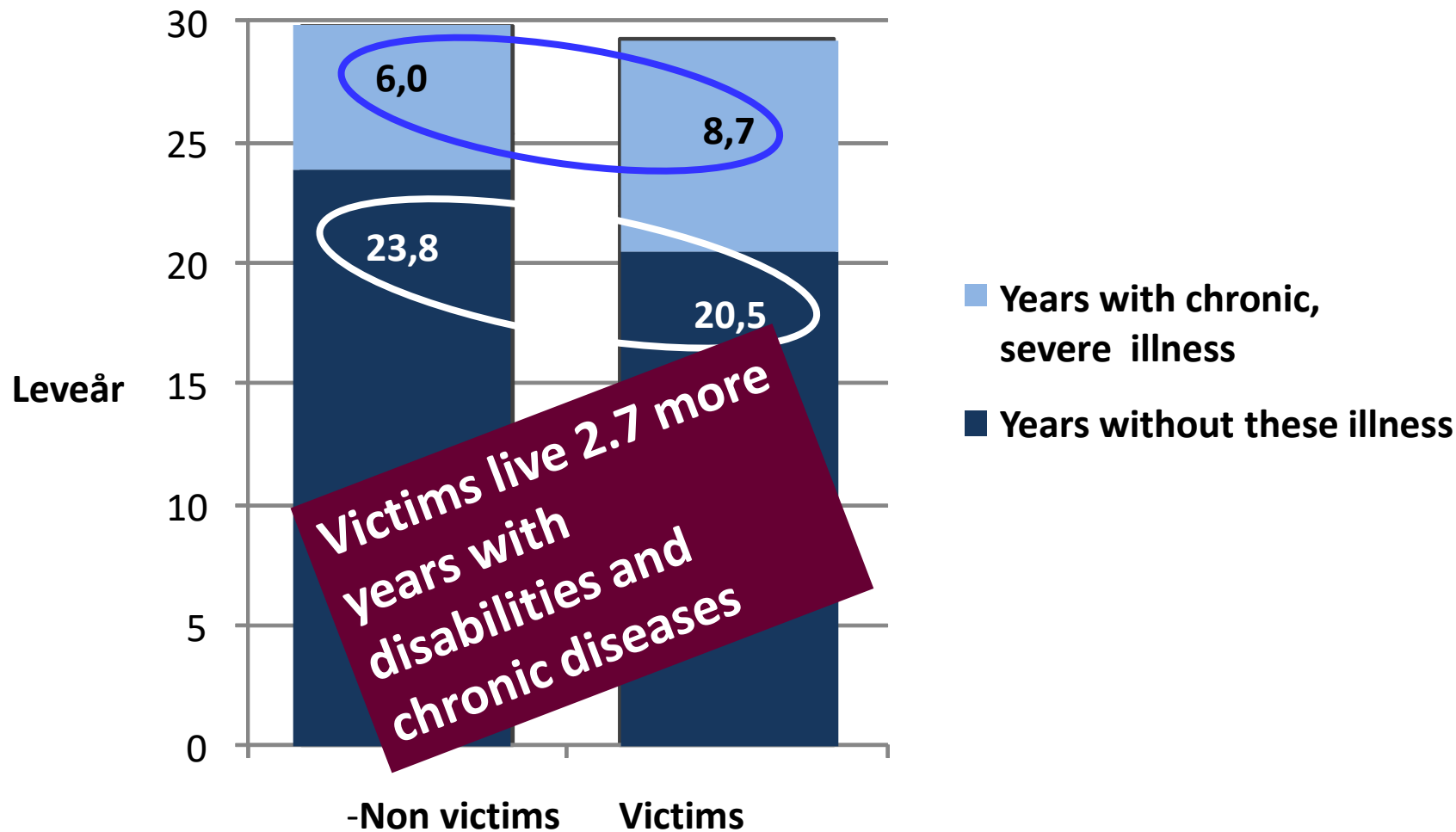



The vulnerable victims of violence

Women exposed to violence are social and personal vulnerable

- Low education
- Low job influence – high work demand
- Stress
- Few social contacts – often single
- Misuse of alcohol and tobacco and often of drugs
- Often mental problems – cause of violence ? – or consequences of violence exposure?
- Factors in childhood and adolescence that increase the risk of violence exposure ?

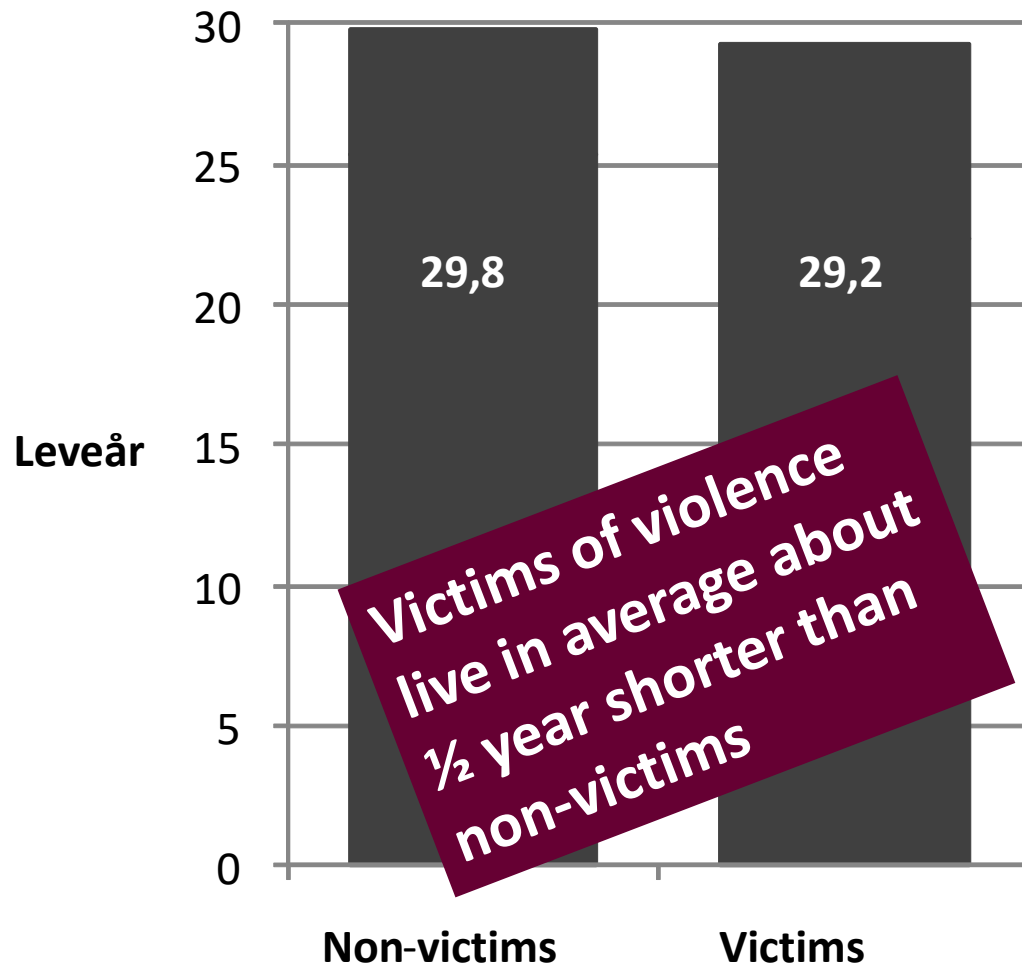
Estimated rest life expectancy and loss of health years between age 20-50





The personal costs of exposure to violence

Estimated (partial) rest life expectancy between age 20 and 50





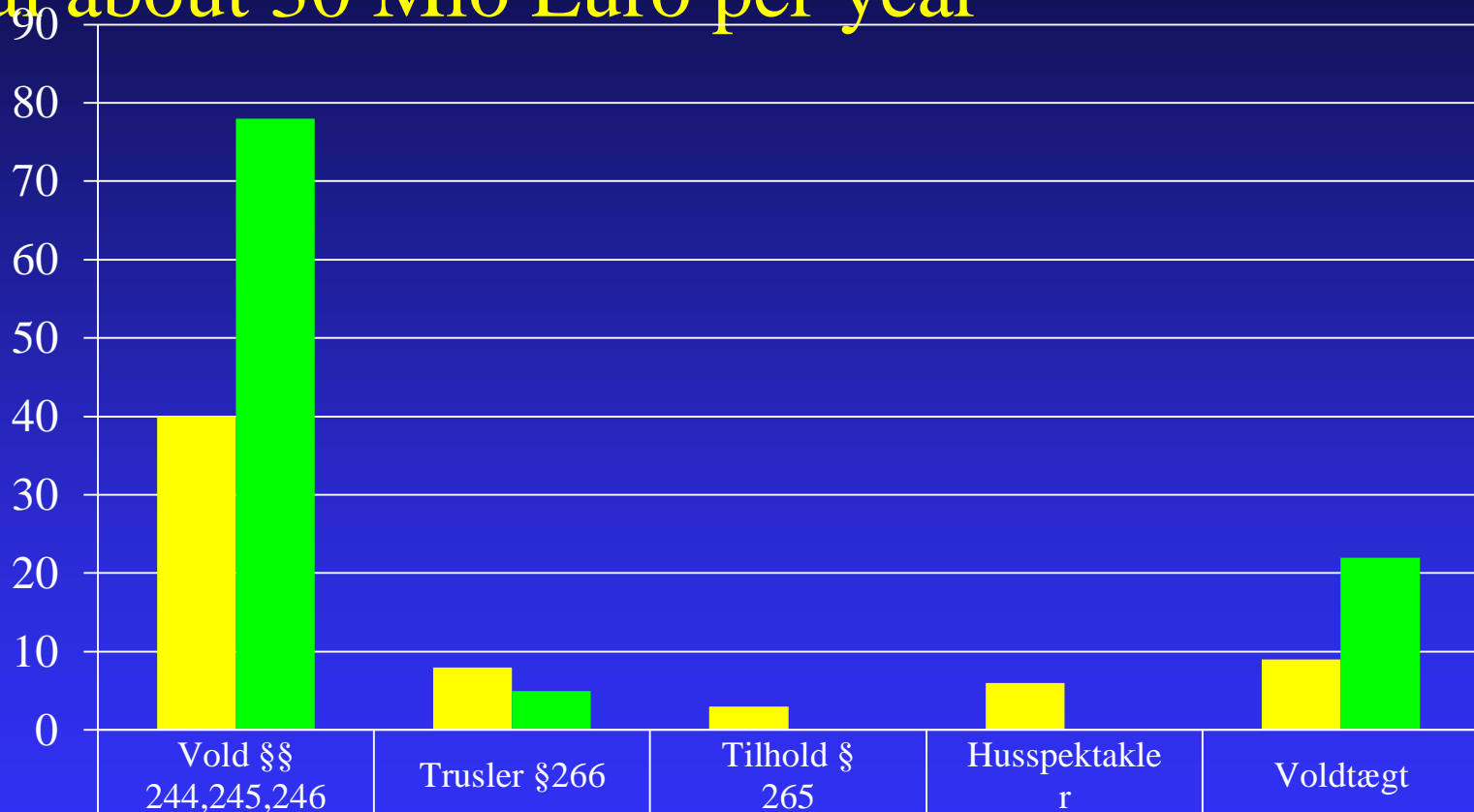
THANK YOU very much for having the
chance to be present here and to present
our study



Judicial expenditures, court procedures

Total about 30 Mio Euro per year

Mio. kr./år



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|----------------------------|----|---|---|---|----|
| Politi, anklager, domstole | 40 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| Kriminalforsorg | 78 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 22 |