

MOSAIC FACT SHEET 1: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN KHAYELITSHA

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence (DV) affects many family members in households in all communities in South Africa. Research has shown that the abuse takes many forms and that it is particularly women and children who suffer from DV. The South African Government created a number of policies, strategies and legislation in place to counteract DV and other forms of violence against women and children. Most notably is the Domestic Violence Act, No 116 of 1998, the 365 Days National Action Plan to End Gender Violence, the Integrated Victim Empowerment Policy and the Service Charter for Victims of Crime with an implementation plan for the period 2007-2011.

Mosaic is a non-profit NGO based in Cape Town with the mission of enabling abused youth and adults to heal and empower themselves in dealing with domestic violence and abuse through implementing a number of objectives and activities in the documents mentioned above. Mosaic works in partnership with government and other service providers in communities in the Western Cape, and deliver a range of prevention and support services. This fact sheet describes and analyses the number of clients that used Mosaic's DV services within Khayelitsha and more specifically at the organisation's Domestic Violence Support Desk at the Khayelitsha Magistrate's Court. Although the fact sheet doesn't pretend to give the full picture on domestic violence in Khayelitsha, it shows the gravity of DV in the district and the significant numbers of people who needed, and still need, care and support from the entire criminal justice system (SAPS, Health, Social Development, Courts, NGOs).

CLIENT PROFILE

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Clients

	Court Support		Social Services	
	N	%	N	%
Gender of clients				
Female	2,119	81	502	75
Male	508	19	164	25
Age groups of clients in years				
7-19	77	3	27	4
20-39	1,579	60	360	54
40-59	864	32	249	37
60+	140	5	32	5
Employment status of clients				
Part time	163	6	61	9
Full	1,130	43	244	37
Self	128	5	66	10
Unemployed	1,208	46	288	44
Employment status of abusers				
Part time	119	5	43	7
Full	1,350	51	305	48
Self	101	4	48	8
Unemployed	1,059	40	236	37

	Court Support		Social Services	
	N	%	N	%
Marital status of clients				
Single	1,298	49	207	32
Married	1,040	40	376	57
Live together	5	0.2	7	1
Divorced	44	2	10	2
Separated	91	4	15	2
Widowed	147	6	43	6

Between March 2008 and February 2009 a total of 2,630 protection order applicants were assisted by Mosaic at the Khayelitsha Magistrate's Court. The data was obtained from data forms completed by Mosaic's Court Workers after each session with a client. An additional 668 counselling sessions were conducted outside the court context with people living in Khayelitsha through Mosaic's Social Services Programme (SSP).

Most of the clients were female in both programmes and mostly in the age group 20-39 years. Employment patterns (as reported by the applicant) were similar for applicants and abusers, with the clients (abused) showing higher figures for unemployment. Abusers had markedly higher figures for full employment (CP-51%, SS-48%). It was interesting that most (49%) of the clients who went to court defined themselves as single, while the SSP's highest figure (57%) was for married clients, possibly indicating that married clients initially seek other support services before going to court.

ABUSE PROFILE

Mosaic's clients are mostly counselled about DV issues but sometimes the problem can be something else. As expected, for the court clients the majority (99.9%) reported abuse as the problem. For SSP clients visiting Mosaic counsellors in the field five percent (5%) mentioned HIV/AIDS as the problem.

In both programmes intimate partner violence (IPV) rated the highest, but remarkable was the fact that IPV was present in just over half of the court cases as opposed to two thirds in the SSP programme. Arguably this again signifies that clients first try to settle their relationship problems out of court. 1 out of 4 (27%) protection orders was applied for against other people living in the same household who are not directly related to the applicant.

The son was mentioned as the abuser in 9% of the cases in the Court Project. Clients in the SS Programme also reported daughter as third most frequent abuser (5%). Looking closer at the son as abuser, similar patterns were observed in both programmes. Most of the sons were unemployed (CP-65%, SSP-72%) while most of the clients (parents) were female (CP-81%, SSP-97%) (in other words the mother) in the 40-59 years age group (CP-74%, SSP-66%) with half of them unemployed (CP-50%, SSP-50%).

An applicant could report more than one form of abuse during a session (Refer Table 2). Verbal abuse, with shouting, swearing, insulting and accusations, were most frequently (CP-100%, SSP-94%) reported. This was followed by psychological abuse (CP-99.6%, SS-94%), which mostly included threats to

harm and alcohol abuse. More than two thirds of clients in both programmes mentioned economic abuse (CP-77%, SSP-81%) while a massive two thirds of the court case clients reported some form of physical abuse. In both programmes 1 out of 4 cases involved sexual abuse with most clients indicating that the partner was the person who committed the forced sex/rape (CP-89, SSP-86%). A staggering 4,184 children have been reported to be affected by the domestic violence studied in these two programmes.

Although very low percentages overall were shown with regard to access to a gun, altogether 55 clients were at risk of further abuse with a firearm (CP-47, SSP-17).

Table 2: Reported Problems, Abuser & Referrals

	Court Support		Social Services	
	N	%	N	%
Problems (can be more than one)				
Abuse	2,629	99.9	649	92
Loss	0	0	15	2
HIV/AIDS	2	0.1	33	5
TOP	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	8	1
Abuse perpetrated by:				
	Protection order applied against the		Abuser mentioned as	
Partner	1,114	42	400	61
Ex-partner	315	12	37	6
Father	20	1	12	2
Mother	13	0.5	24	4
Brother	91	3	8	1
Sister	22	1	15	2
Son	230	9	32	5
Daughter	81	3	35	5
In-laws	46	2	15	2
Other	699	27	82	12

Figure 1: Distribution by Types of Abuse

Social Services		Court Desk
94%	Verbal	99%
89%	Psychological	96%
56%	Economic	55%
47%	Physical	68%
24%	Sexual	24%

REFERRAL PATTERNS

Table 3 shows who referred the client to the Mosaic desk at the court or to the Mosaic counsellor in the field. The police referred the majority (59%) of applicants to the court while 12% decided to go on their own and 10% were referred by their family members. Most referrals to the SS Programme came internally from one of Mosaic's other programmes, then self (21%), a court (17%) and police (12%).

Looking at referrals to other resources from the two programmes, indications were that the CP referred 4 out of 5 clients, mainly (72%) to an NGO. Inversely, the SSP workers referred clients mainly (71%) to a court or attorney.

Table 3: Clients referred by for CP & SSP

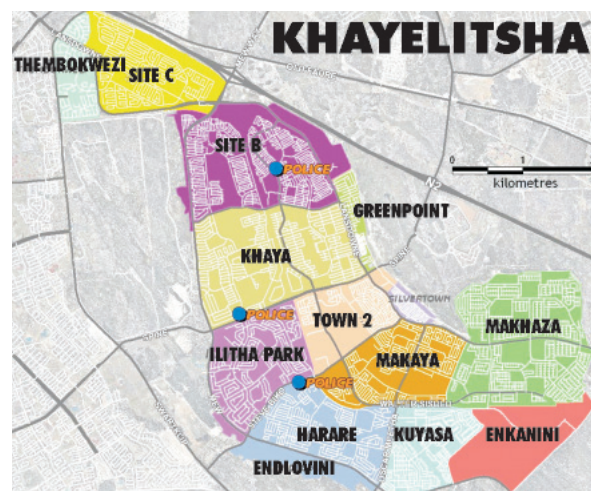
	Court Support		Social Services	
	N	%	N	%
Referred by				
Mosaic	76	3	235	35
Self	322	12	141	21
Police	1,549	59	79	12
Professional	53	2	8	1
Family	274	10	36	5
NGO	21	1	8	1
Friend	213	8	20	3
Court	37	1	114	17
Other	85	3	26	4

AREA PROFILE

Table 4 reflects the distribution of Mosaic clients across the ten main sites of Khayelitsha at the time of service delivery. It does not take into account the size of the population of the site. The largest proportion for both programmes was from Site B, which might be because it has the largest population. 26% of Mosaic SSP clients came from the VPUU safe node areas of Site C, Harare and Kuyasa.

Table 4: Sites in Khayelitsha where Clients lived

	Court Support		Social Services	
	N	%	N	%
Site B	623	24	137	21
Enkanini	351	13	37	6
Khaya	336	13	59	9
Makaza	300	11	85	13
Site C	292	11	80	12
Town 2	152	6	34	5
Makaya	152	6	18	3
Harare	148	6	59	9
Ilitha Park	132	5	41	6
Kuyasa	144	5	36	5
Other	-	-	75	11
TOTAL	2,630	100	586	100



MOSAIC TRAINING, SERVICE AND HEALING CENTRE FOR WOMEN

66 Ottery Rd, Wynberg 7800. PO Box 18460 Wynberg 7824, Cape Town, South Africa.
Tel: +27 -21 761 7585, Fax: 086 651 8662. E-mail: admin@mosaic.org.za. www.mosaic.org.za
NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS, 1997 REGISTRATION NUMBER: 006-411 NPO