

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PART 1 OF THE DOMESTIC ABUSE AND CIVIL PROCEEDINGS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2021

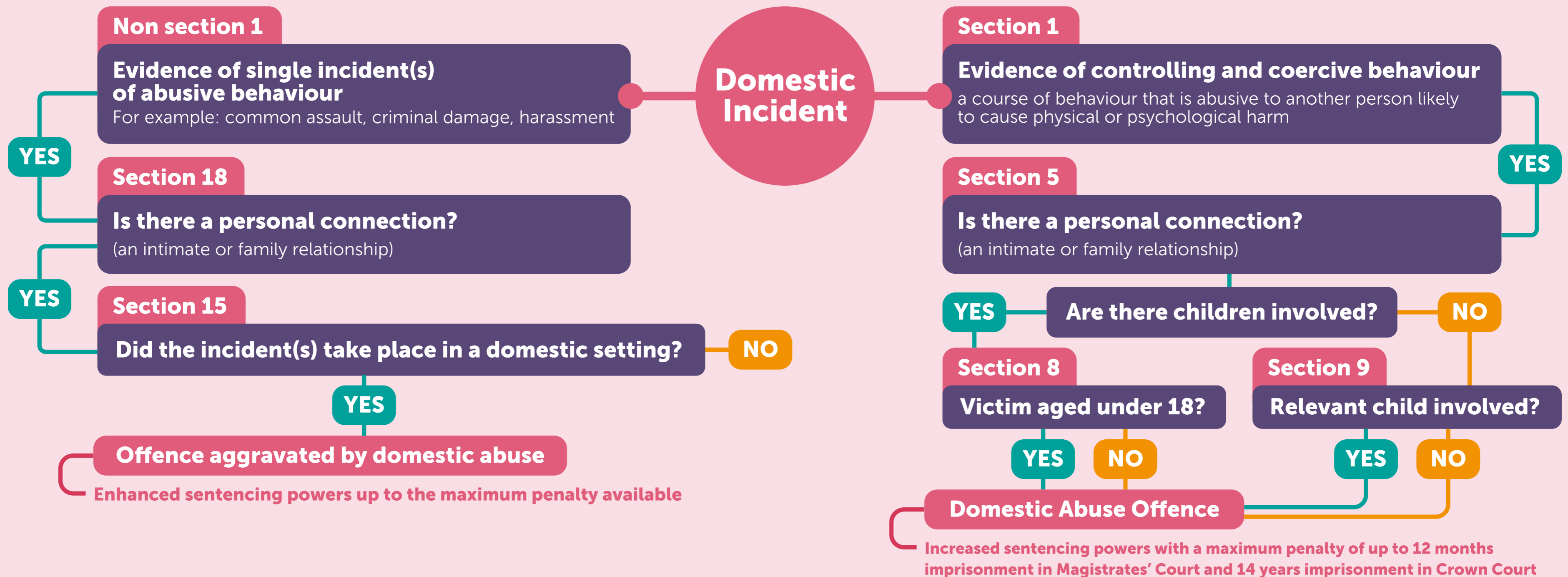
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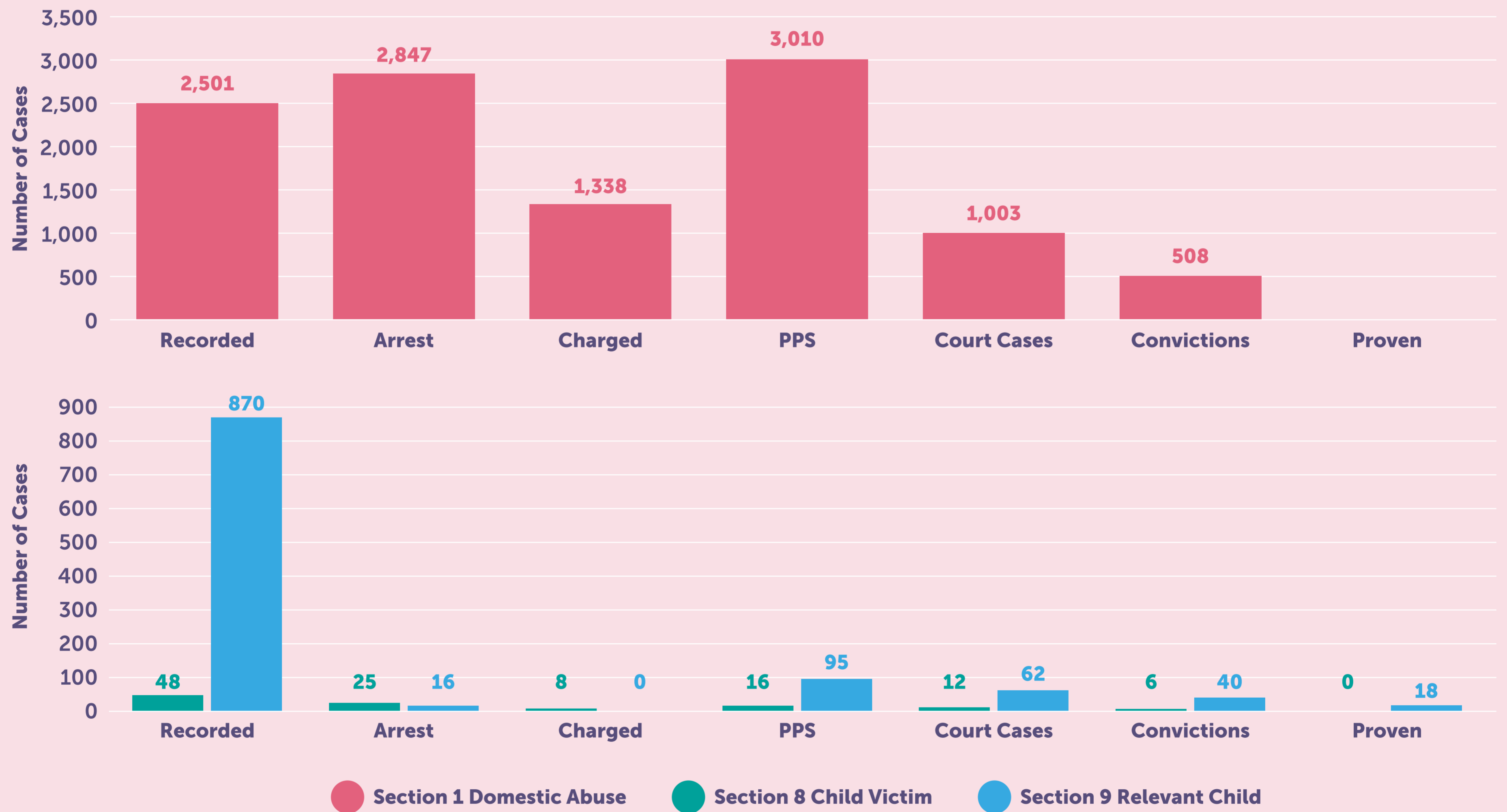
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SECTIONS 1, 8 AND 9 THROUGH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (FROM FEBRUARY 2022 TO END MARCH 2025)



- **Recorded:** Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) recorded crime statistics (victim-based crime)
- **Arrest:** PSNI custody records where a person has been arrested

- **Charged:** Number of custody records where a person has been arrested and subsequently charged
- **PPS:** Number of files received by the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPS) from the PSNI

- **Court cases:** Cases dealt with at Court
- **Convictions:** Cases dealt with at Court and resulting in a Conviction
- **Proven:** Cases dealt with at Court where the aggravator was proven

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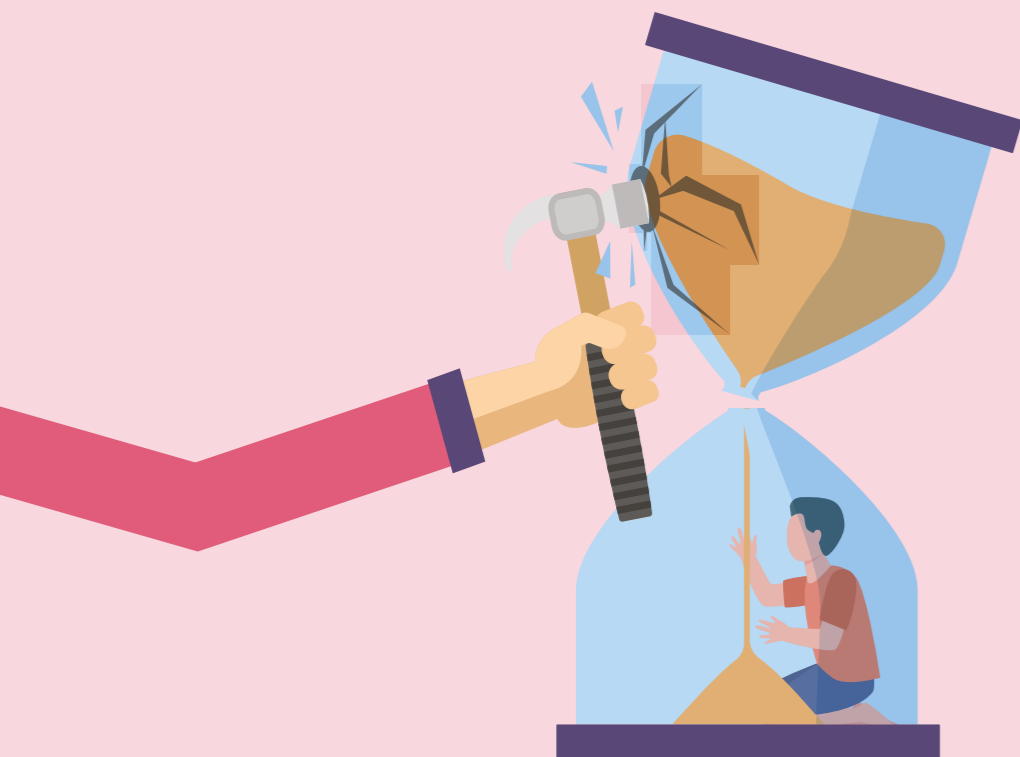
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Data from the PSNI, *Operation Encompass* referrals and Department of Justice of prosecutions dealt with at Court in 2024-25 showed:



Section 1 domestic abuse arrests and charges increased slightly, but child aggravators (Section 8 Child Victim or Section 9 Relevant Child) were applied in only 1% or less of cases.



There were 16,025 *Operation Encompass* referrals, indicating far more children were affected by domestic abuse than were reflected in criminal justice outcomes.



The number of child aggravators proven in Court remained extremely low.

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WHAT REQUIRES FURTHER IMPROVEMENT?



Training across the criminal justice system to improve how domestic abuse cases are dealt with and to ensure quality and consistency to meet the requirements of the Act.



A child-centred approach to investigations and prosecutions to ensure children's voices are properly heard and represented as intended by the Act.



The accurate, complete and consistent recording of when aggravators are applied and Domestic Abuse sentences are enhanced or not enhanced at Court.



The use of out of Court disposals for domestic abuse offences in exceptional circumstances only when prosecuting domestic abuse cases.



Data collection by the PSNI, the PPS for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service to identify patterns and emerging issues.