



Shine safe@home – Changing a Crime Scene into a Home

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Impact

A measurable difference to the incidence of domestic abuse

Specific outcome we want to achieve

Make it possible for victims of domestic abuse, at high risk of serious injury or death, to remain living safely in their own homes.

Why are we targeting this group?

Domestic abuse is a **volume crime** with over 90 000 cases reported to Police in 2013. However, **1 in 5 victims experience nearly 60% of domestic abuse**. Offenders have easy access to their terrified victims in an ideal location - the privacy of the home. Therefore, by **targeting** those who are **repeatedly victimised** and eliminating easy opportunities to commit crime, there is potential to have **greater impact** on the overall problem.

How will we do this?

- **Safety planning and intensive support** at a time of enormous personal crisis for traumatised victims
- **Home security upgrade**, including a monitored personal alarm, gives victims time to get help
- **Proactive Police attention** to both victims and offender provides reassurance to both that further offending will not be tolerated
- **Fire Service safety advice and products**, so victims know what to do if there is a fire

How will we know if we have made a difference?

Be Safe

Reduction of serious assaults

Reduced re-victimisation and less serious victimisation

Feel Safe

Reduction in fear

Increased trust and confidence in Police and Courts

Move Forward

Stability

- remaining in home, maintaining contact with support networks

Wellbeing

- reduced anxiety and stress, better sleeping and self-confidence

Opportunity

- hopeful plans, for instance, changes in employment and study

Parenting

- improved ability to care for children

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“If I can’t have you, no one will.”

Domestic abuse is generally a secret, hidden by the privacy of the victim’s own home. Many victims feel isolated and terrified of repeat incidents. Some offenders cannot tolerate separation from their partner. They are very jealous and intimidate, assault and stalk them sometimes for years, obsessively tracking them if they move house. Homicides are often associated with a separation.

Many women attempt to flee by leaving their house and moving to a series of temporary housing, including refuges. They also leave behind friends and family, support networks, their employment and children’s schools. There is no point in trying to ‘get away’ from a known address, if the new home can be simply found by following the woman home from work, or the children from school. With every move, there are severe financial consequences which can lead to poverty.

Being a victim of domestic abuse involves considerable emotional grief. For many women, being able to stay in their home and feel that they are both safe and comforted by having some stability, a sense of control and belonging is very important. Leaving home is therefore a last resort.

Changing a crime scene into a home

Shine’s safe@home is for victims of domestic abuse at high risk of serious injury, who do not want to reconcile with the offender and makes it realistic for them to remain living safely in their homes.

The safe@home advocates provide intensive support to victims including upgrading their house security. The advocate arranges builders, electricians, glaziers and locksmiths etc to carry out necessary work. This may include replacing glass paneled front doors with solid wood doors, changing locks, installing safety glass, replacing broken windows, installing security bolts and sensor lights, cutting vegetation near the house etc. Women may also be offered mobile phones and a strong torch.

A NZ Fire Service fireman visits each woman to undertake a fire safety assessment. They install smoke detectors, offer fire extinguishers and teach all house occupants a fire escape plan if they need to get out of the house in the event of a fire.

Police work closely with advocates as part of a coordinated plan. Many clients receive a personal visit from an officer, who may organize regular patrols in their neighbourhood. Police also visit many of the offenders to warn them to keep away.

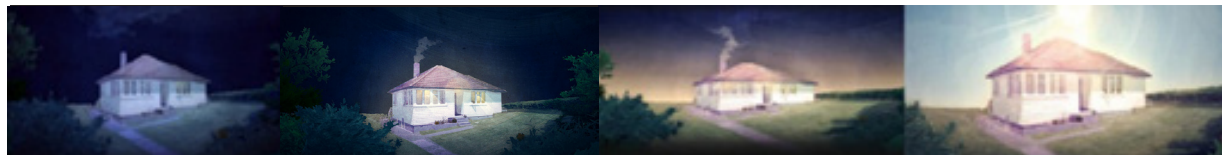
Women are offered a personal silent alarm, with a range extending from the house to the letter box.

These are supplied by BUPA Care Services and are monitored 24 hours a day by Tunstall. In an emergency, they just need to press a button on the alarm and be confident that Police will be alerted, responding rapidly.

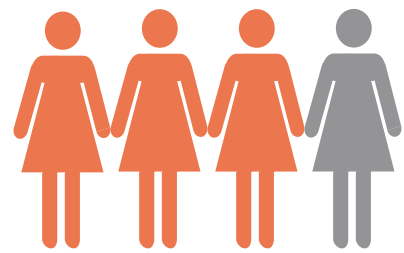
Shine safe@home gives women valuable time to obtain help – time which could save her life.

Shine, in collaboration with the Police Auckland City District, created safe@home by adapting some UK crime prevention ideas. In 2009, the Ministry of Social Development funded a pilot in part of the Auckland City District. Later it was offered across the District and to Auckland’s North Shore.

Impressed by the results achieved, the National Party made funding the programme’s expansion part of their 2011 election promise. Shine safe@home is part of the Justice Sector’s strategy contributing to achieving the Government’s Ten Results for New Zealand. The Ministry of Justice is funding its establishment in South Auckland, Tauranga and Christchurch (delivered by Aviva Family Services - formerly Christchurch Women’s Refuge).



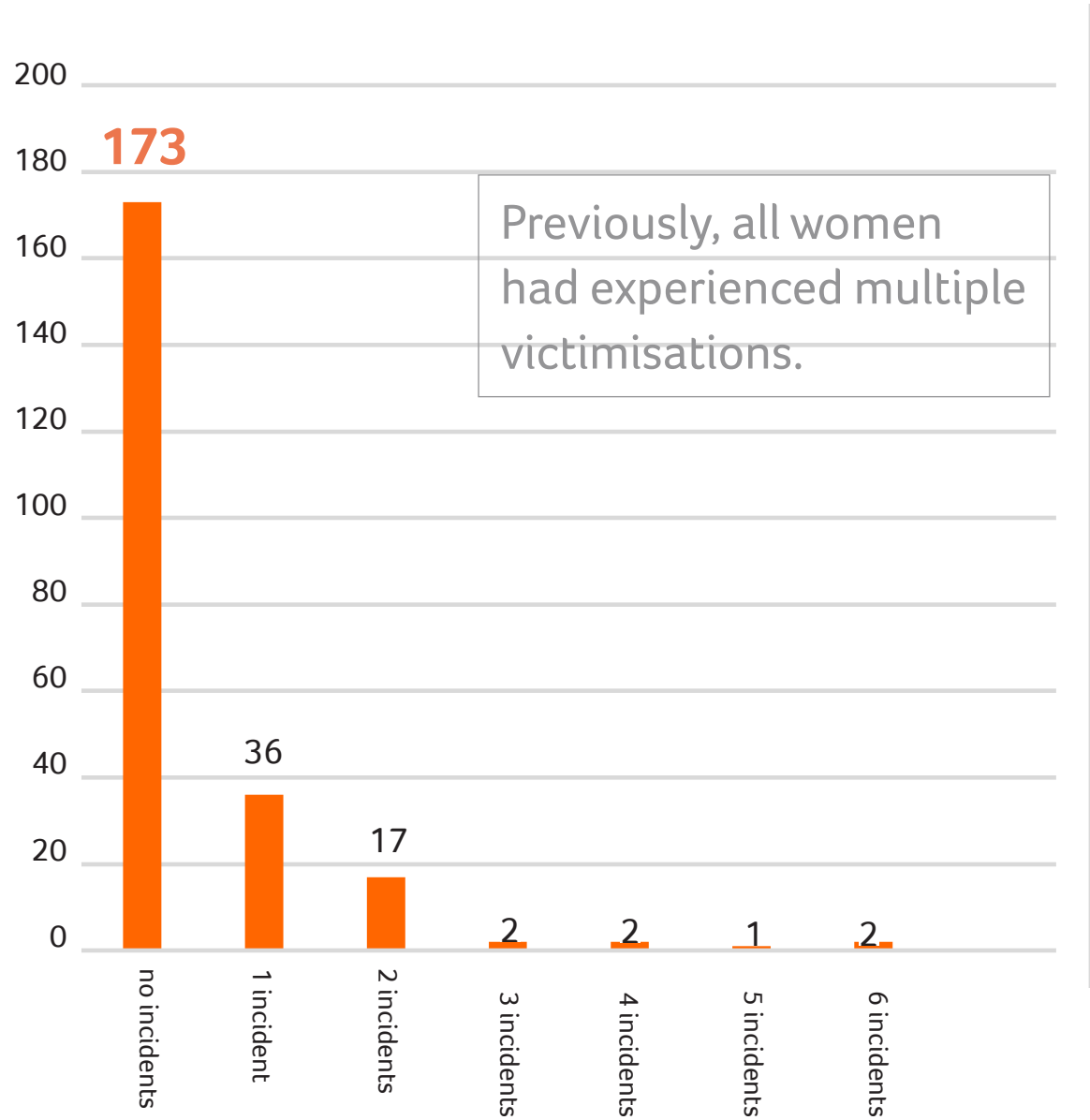
100% successful at stopping further assaults in the house when following safety plan and using the security equipment installed



- No further victimisation - 173 women (74%)
- Further victimisation- 60 women (26%)

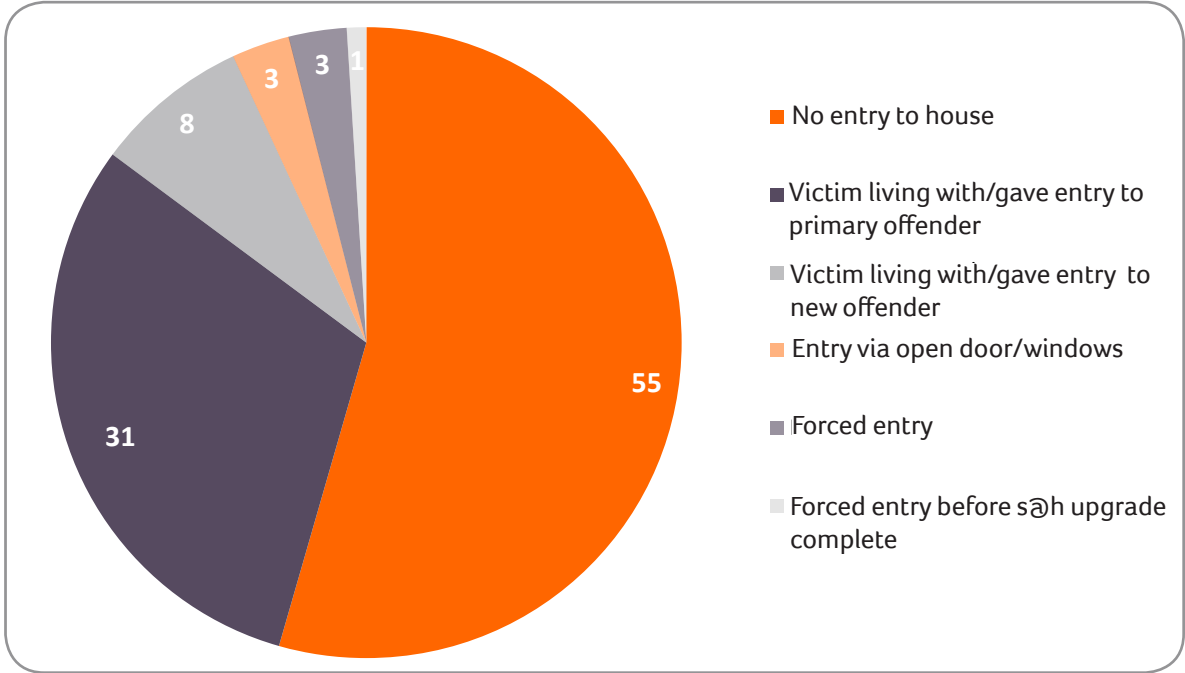
January 2009 - May 2013
N = 233

Reduced Re-victimisation



Previously, all women had experienced multiple victimisations.

Frequency of revictimisation for 60 victims in s@h experiencing further offences.



The seven women experiencing three or more re-victimisations had resumed contact with the offender. Advocates understand the feelings of ambivalence and huge pressure that women are under trying to establish a life without the offender. The situation is carefully assessed by the advocate to ensure that women are determined to remain separated, but it is expected that a small percentage may decide to reunite with their former partner. If they do make this choice, the alarms are removed, but they remain at high risk and will continue to receive support from the community. Security improvements made to the house are not removed. There is also a strong possibility (which has proved to be the case) that some women will finally cease the relationship in the future after a brief reconciliation, at which time a more secure house will be essential and alarm returned.

Less Serious Victimisation

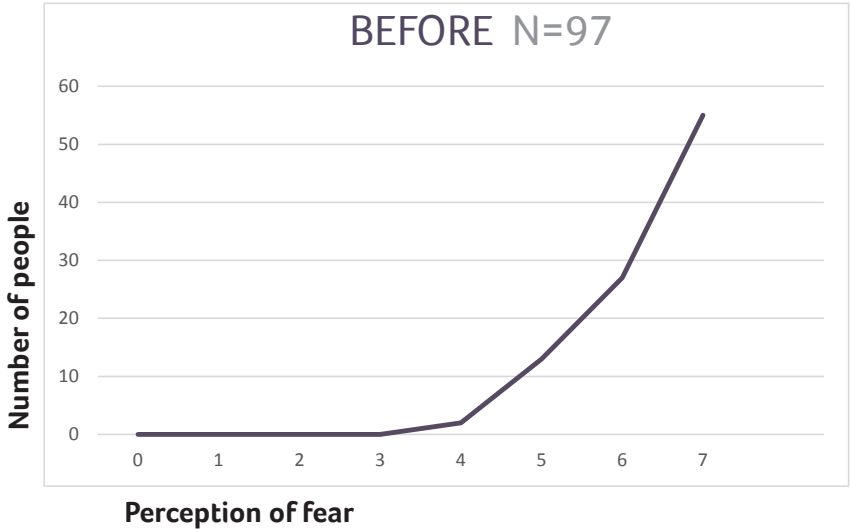
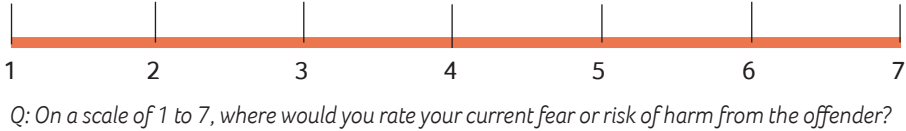
Almost all of the 101 recorded offences have been minor in comparison to what had previously occurred (e.g. breaching Protection Orders by texting, or yelling outside the property). There have been three more serious non-assault incidents. Two involved the offender breaking into the property when the woman was not present. The third case was a terrifying experience. As the offender struggled to get in one night, finally jimmying the back door, the woman woke her young children and fled through another door to the next door neighbour’s house where they all hid under the house. She used her alarm and Police arrived rapidly, arresting the offender.

Reduction of Serious Assaults

There have been eighteen assaults, none of which occurred in circumstances when the safe@home programme was being implemented. These ranged from extremely minor to very serious, including three in which the victim was strangled. Unfortunately, it is probable that these assaults could have been avoided, as they occurred when the offender was allowed to visit the house, or had resumed living there, the property had not been secured (e.g. front door unlocked), the assault occurred in a car or another property.

It is essential for clients to understand that after the security upgrades their house is not Fort Knox. The security measures either act as an impediment to the offender, discouraging him from continuing to offend, or to buy the victim valuable time in which to get help. In either case, they are totally valueless if the offender is invited into the house, or if victims are not consistent about using them and her safety plan.

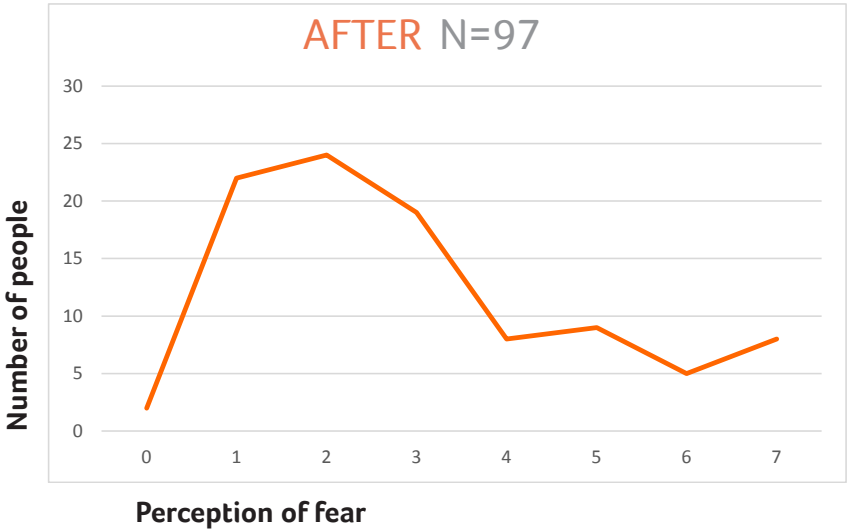
shine*safe@home - Feel Safe



Reduction in Fear

Average score before is 6.4

Average score after is 3.0



BEFORE

7/7 “I can’t sleep at night ... check windows if I hear noises ... feel constantly tired. I am scared that he will come and stab me. I couldn’t breastfeed my baby because of the stress.”

AFTER

2/7 “I feel safe inside ... I’m sleeping well at night. The doors have made the difference as now he can’t turn up and come inside.”

BEFORE

7/7 “He is so unpredictable, I don’t feel safe ... I’m too scared to go outside. I wake up hearing noises at night. I keep all three children in one room so I can get to them quickly.”

AFTER

3/7 “I feel safer and not as vulnerable. I’m sleeping better with the alarm and he has stopped coming around now.”

BEFORE

6/7 “Think he could kill me. I’ve seen him go really crazy...has tried to run me over...put me in the boot of the car, after knocking me out. When I was pregnant, I kept a knife under the bed.”

AFTER

1/7 “I felt safe having the alarm. He turned up and I told him I had an alarm and he left. Before I used to have lots of problems sleeping, now I can. I rang the police so he knows that I will do that. I will keep doing that. Has made a huge difference, I am now working and have made friends at work. My life has really changed, it’s really improved. Thank you so much, especially for the alarm.”

BEFORE

6/7 “I don’t feel safe.” She was scared of him “coming and raping me again... scared of him choking me - I feel anxious all the time. I don’t sleep so feel constantly tired. The fear is crippling. I will only feel free the day that man dies.”

AFTER

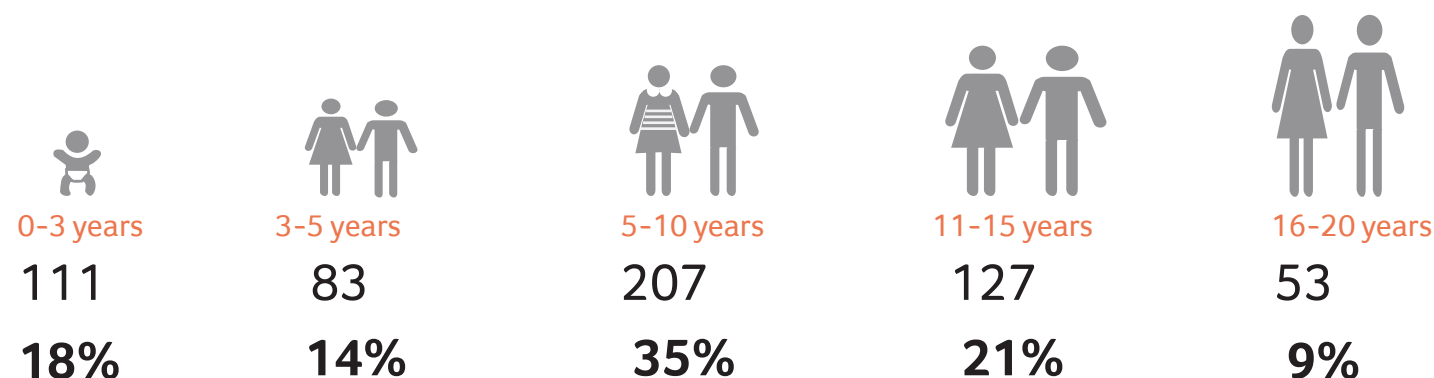
1/7 “Only a little residual fear - which you just don’t know; I’m the safest I’ve ever felt, ever since the locks have been changed. I’m now sleeping through the night. I walk freely without fear and I’m not looking over my shoulder”. The children can see a huge change in their mother who is now smiling, playing music whereas before she was irritable and unapproachable. Everything is happening so fast – like a fairy story. He knows there is a whole lot of support for me and he can’t do it anymore.”

300 adults + 599 children = 899 people safer

Proportion of adults with children:



AGE OF CHILDREN*:
N = 599



The Violence Doesn't Just Happen to Their Mothers

Bruising, broken bones and injuries requiring medical treatment

Strangled

One child punched, the other stabbed

Chased with a hammer

Broken nose

Child thrown across the room

Pulled by hair

Whacked around the head

Punched

Baby poked with a stick until she cried

What Children Say

" He gets over mum like a **scary monster**, she's tiny and he's **like a giant**."

" Sometimes mum forgets something and **dad gets very, very angry**."

" Dad, he gets angry at me and gets an **angry face** and says mean things to me, then he **smacks me**."

" I hide under the table, but **I can still see** even if my eyes don't want to look."

" Well, sometimes at night time and I try and go to sleep and (12 year old sister) comes in and helps me go to sleep 'cos I **cry when they fight**."

" Do you know what ... when my **dad kicked my mum**, that's when **I got really scared**."



33 ADULTS



68 CHILDREN

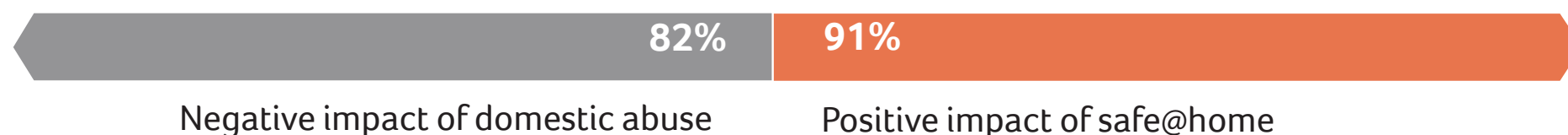
SAMPLE*

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Outcomes for children

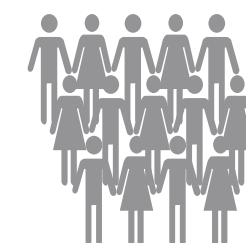
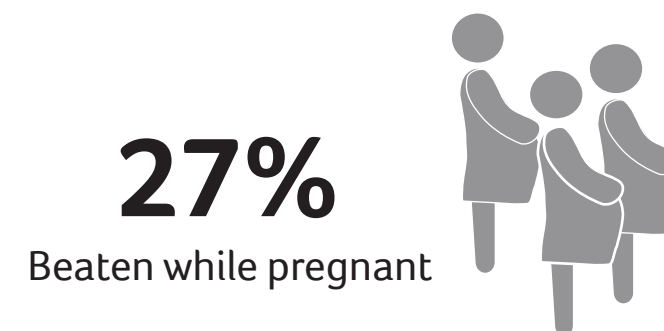


IMPACT ON PARENTING



42%

Assaulted holding children

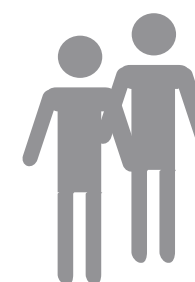


69%

children witnessed the assault

32%

children hurt



18%

Threaten to hurt children

* A major review of the safe@home data collection forms was done recently and now far more comprehensive information is collected, some of which is shown. These forms have been used with less than a quarter of the 300 clients to gather 'Before' information. Of these, only 33 adults (with children) have been interviewed for 'After' feedback, as this is done at least four months later. Obviously, over time, the sample size that outcomes may be reported on will grow substantially.