



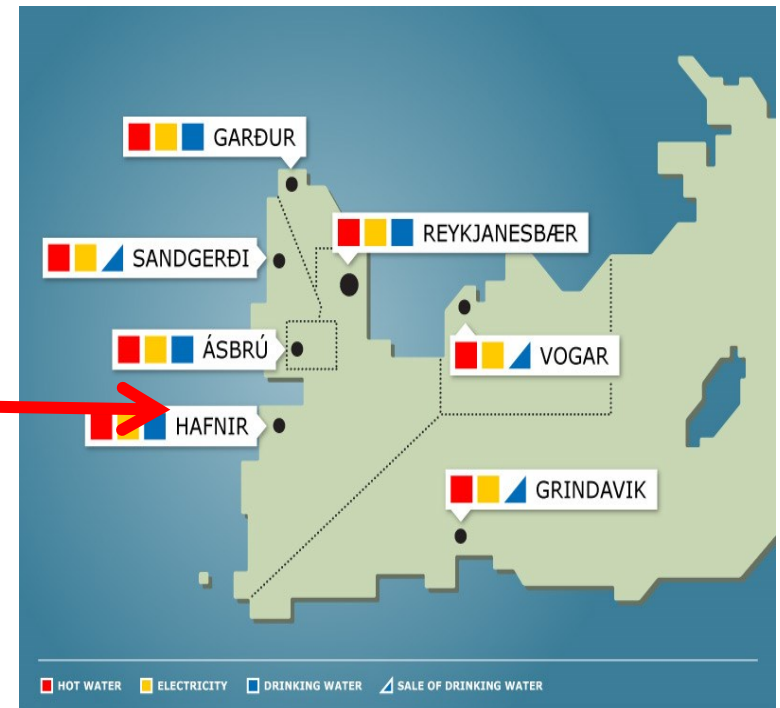
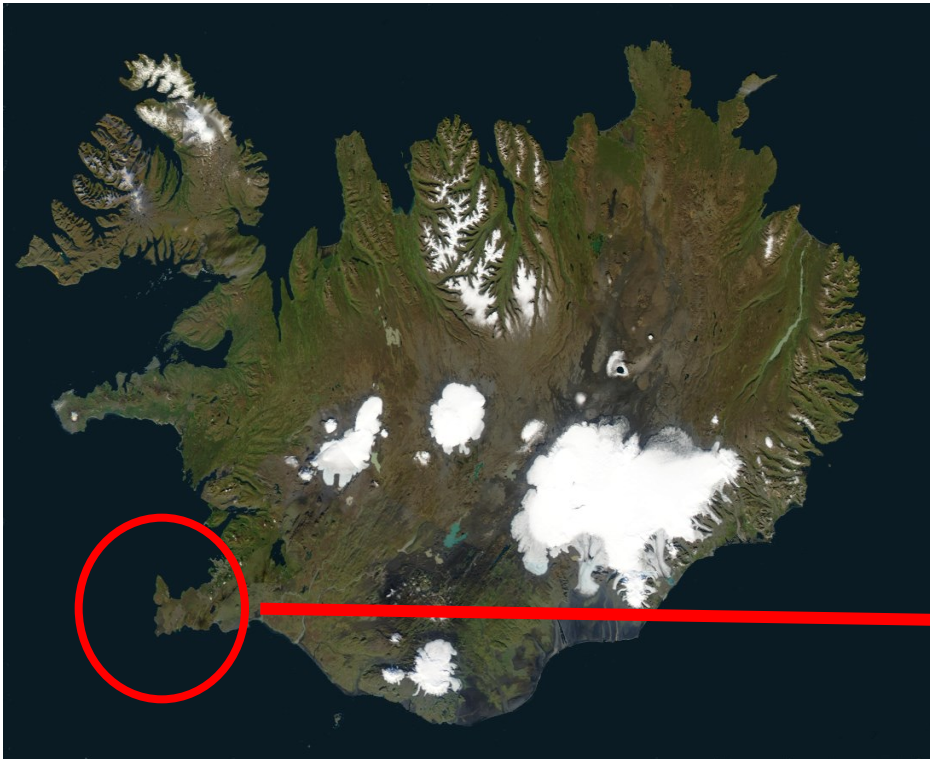
Awareness-Raising: action against domestic violence in Reykjanesbæ, Iceland

María Gunnarsdóttir

Director of child protection in Reykjanesbæ



Sudurnes Police District





Population

*	Inhabitants:		
All of Iceland	326.340		
Reykjanesbær	14.610		
Grindavík	2.888		
Sandgerði	1.630		
Garður	1.410		
Vogar	1.140		
The district	21.678		



* Inhabitants 31.03.2014.



Awareness-Raising

- In 2008 RBF did a study on violence against women, 18-80 years old in Iceland.
 - 22% of women had experienced partner violence at some time in their lives, and 1-2% in the past 12 months or about 1200-2300 women.
 - Violence against women in intimate relationships was the highest in the Sudurnes area in comparison with other areas in Iceland.



Awareness-Raising

- In the wake of the financial crisis in 2008, professionals in Sudurnes decided to start a partnership between institutions and municipalities.
- Seminars for professionals in Sudurnes were held in 2012. The goal was to educate professionals on issues related to violence against women.



In 2013 a booklet of resources for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, was published and distributed to all houses in Sudurnes.





Sudurnes Police

On February 1, 2013 a Police Pilot project began on Domestic Violence. The project is a cooperation between the Sudurnes Police district and the Social Services in the area.

„Keeping the window open“





The aim of the project

- For the Police, the main target is to focus on first response when domestic violence occurs and for them to perform better investigations:
 - Preventing repeated violations
 - Prosecution
 - Option of restraining order and the perpetrators expulsion of home
 - Assistance to victims and perpetrators



Practices in domestic violence cases in Reykjanesbæ

- Sudurnes Police has contacted the Social Services when notification of domestic violence is received.
- A Social Worker from the Social Services comes to the victims home.
 - According to the Icelandic Child Protection laws Social Workers don't need permission to enter the home where children are living if there is suspicion of danger.
- The perpetrator is removed from the home before the Social Worker arrives.



Social worker on the Scene

- Provides the victim and children first aid.
 - Support for victims and children at home.
 - Get the victim to a doctor if needed.
 - Contact a family support network.
 - Take the family to a safe place if needed.
- The Social Worker is a witness in the case and has sometimes more information about the family.
 - Assist the perpetrator to get help.
 - Help him to find a place to stay if needed.



The follow up

- A Social worker contacts the victim within three days of incident.
- Police Detective and Social Worker visit the home within a week of the event
- A Social Worker contacts the perpetrator to offer him assistance.



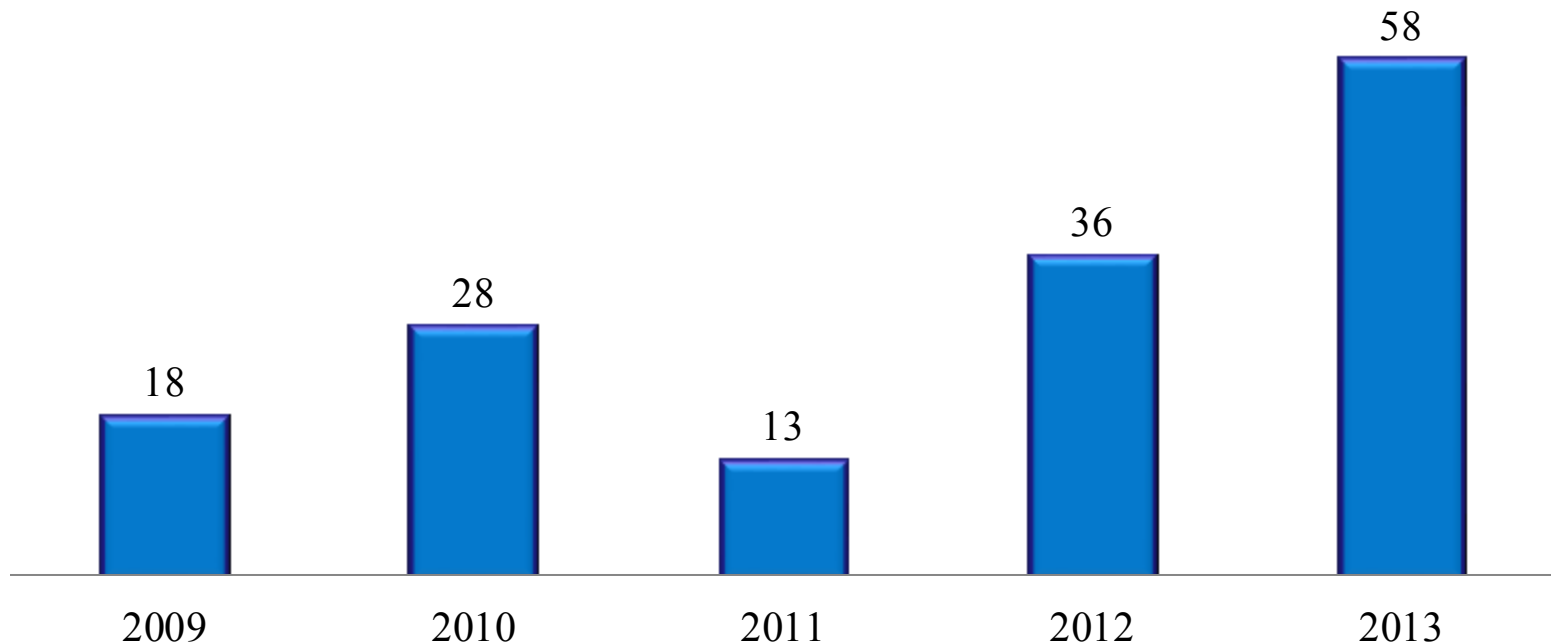


Risk analysis by the Police

- Sudurnes Police have done a risk analysis of the cases.
 - What are the chances of a more serious incident?
 - What are the chances of repeated violations?
- MARAC risk analysis system



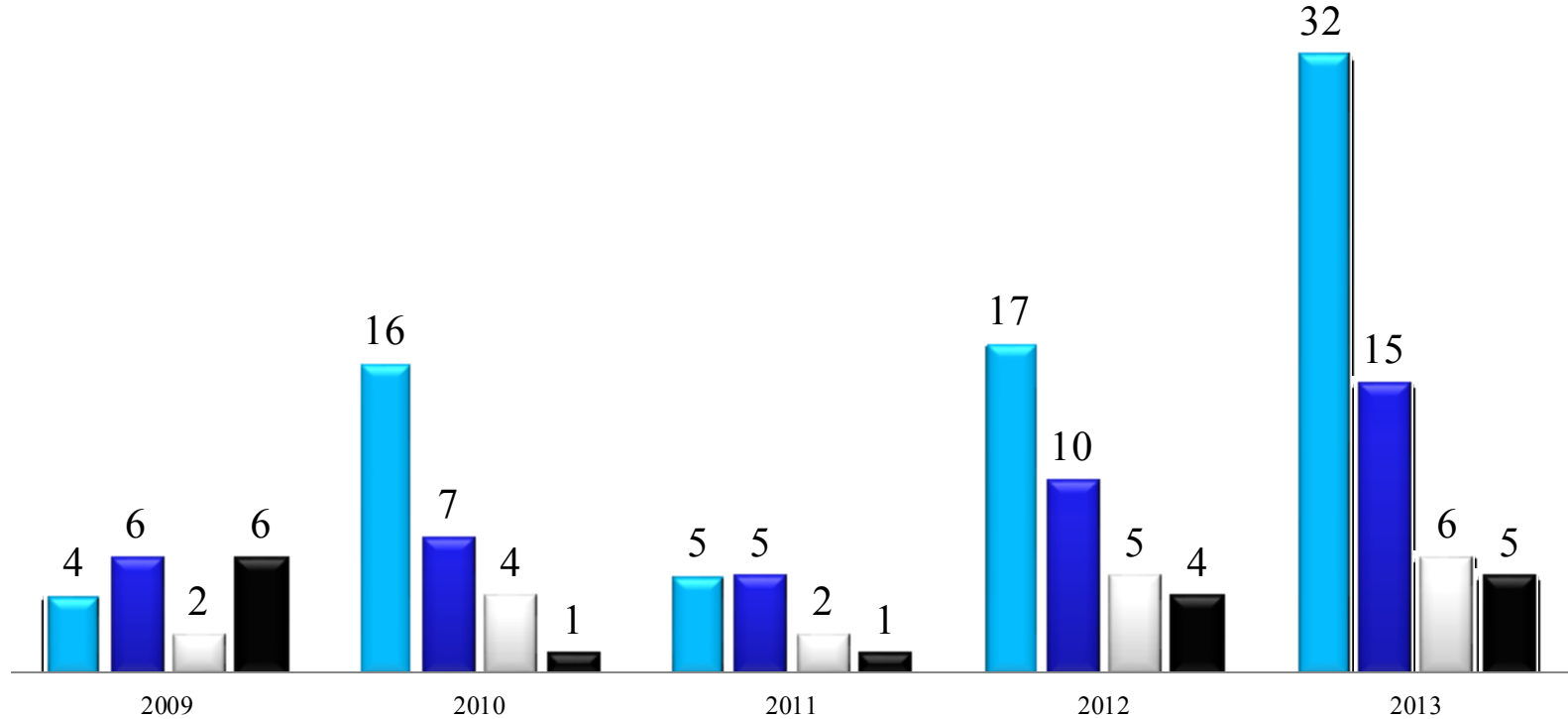
Child protection notifications of domestic violence in Reykjanesbær





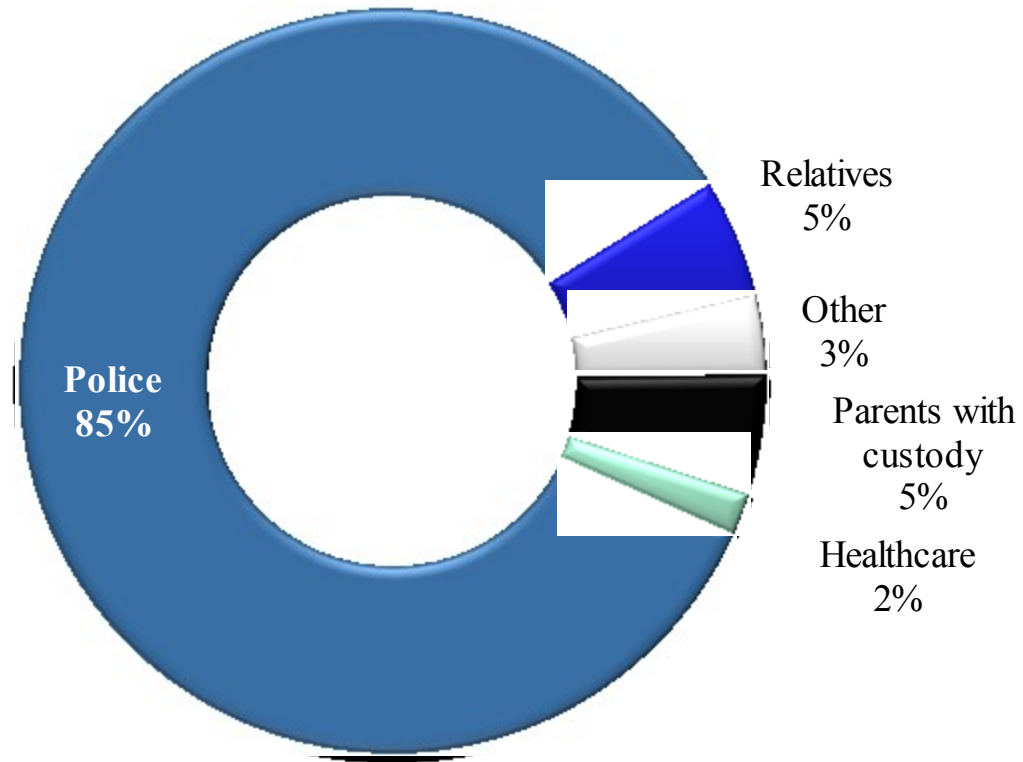
Notifications of domestic violence

■ 0-5 years old ■ 6-10 years old ■ 11-14 years old ■ 15-17 years old





Notifiers





Consultants Department

- The Consultants Department of the Social Services works with the cases where there are no children living in the home.
- In 2013 the Consultants Department took care of 9 domestic violence cases.
- They found out that it was difficult to support the victims and the perpetrators, in most cases they were not willing to get consultation and therefore their cases were closed.



Social Service in Reykjanesbær

Social Workers have also been training teachers and other staff members in Kindergartens and Primary Schools. They talk about the symptoms of domestic violence and how to respond when children disclose abuse in the school system.





Benefits of this project

- Early intervention:
 - Social workers are involved in the beginning, get information at first hand and have a good reason to start processing the case
 - Get more information that helps the processing of the case
- More support and follow up with the victim.





Benefits

- Domestic violence issues will be more visible within the Social Services and the Police, preschools and primary schools.
- More cooperation between the Police and the Social Services.
- Community awareness increases with further training and discussion.



Future

- Promote professional standards in domestic violence cases, for workers in the Social Services.
 - Improve education and support
 - Social Workers and other professionals
 - Support employees who work with the family at their home
 - Using a questionnaire on violence in interviews



Future

- Promote cooperation between the Social Services and the professionals that provide support for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence:
 - The Safe Shelter for women
 - Stígamót
 - Men to Take Responsibility
- Promote cooperation with Sudurnes Hospital.



Future

- Improve the support to the perpetrators and meet them at the beginning of the case.
- Providing children more services:
 - Two specialists to go on scene in each case
 - Using Trapp-program to support children
 - Education for children of domestic violence so they know where to turn too if they need.



Thanks

