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A Systematic Literature Review of Intimate Partner Violence Victims' Experiences

1. Introduction

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a subject which has received increasing attention in recent years (Randle & Graham, 2011), however much of the research exploring victimisation around IPV has focused on female victims (Ard & Makadon, 2011). Research into male or transgender victims or victims in same-sex relationships is particularly limited and there is little known about the characteristics of IPV in these relationships (Stanley et al., 2006). Support services for IPV tend to be focussed on female victims, while services aimed at other victim groups are in short supply. In particular, support services for IPV in the LGBT community have recently struggled to gain funding (The Guardian, 2016).



2. The Current Study

The main aim of this systematic review was to investigate the victimisation experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV), with a view to informing further research into this area. This will initially be done by looking at the number of search hits for each victim group. Additionally, themes emerging from the search will be noted below.

3. Method

A systematic literature review was conducted on IPV victim's experiences. All victim groups were included within this review regardless of gender or relationship type. This was to synthesise the information already available in order to inform further research. See below for a flowchart of the search process:

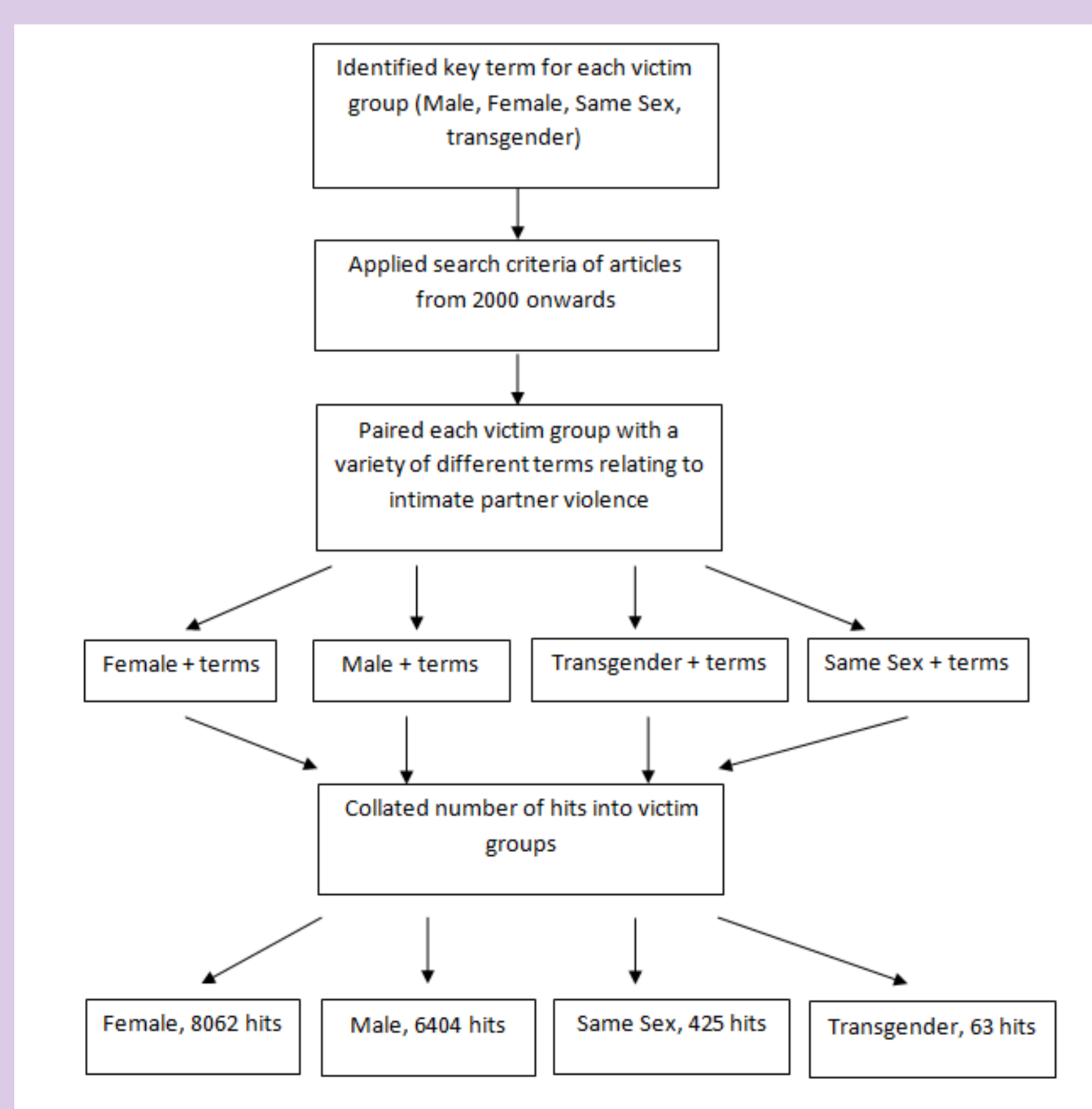
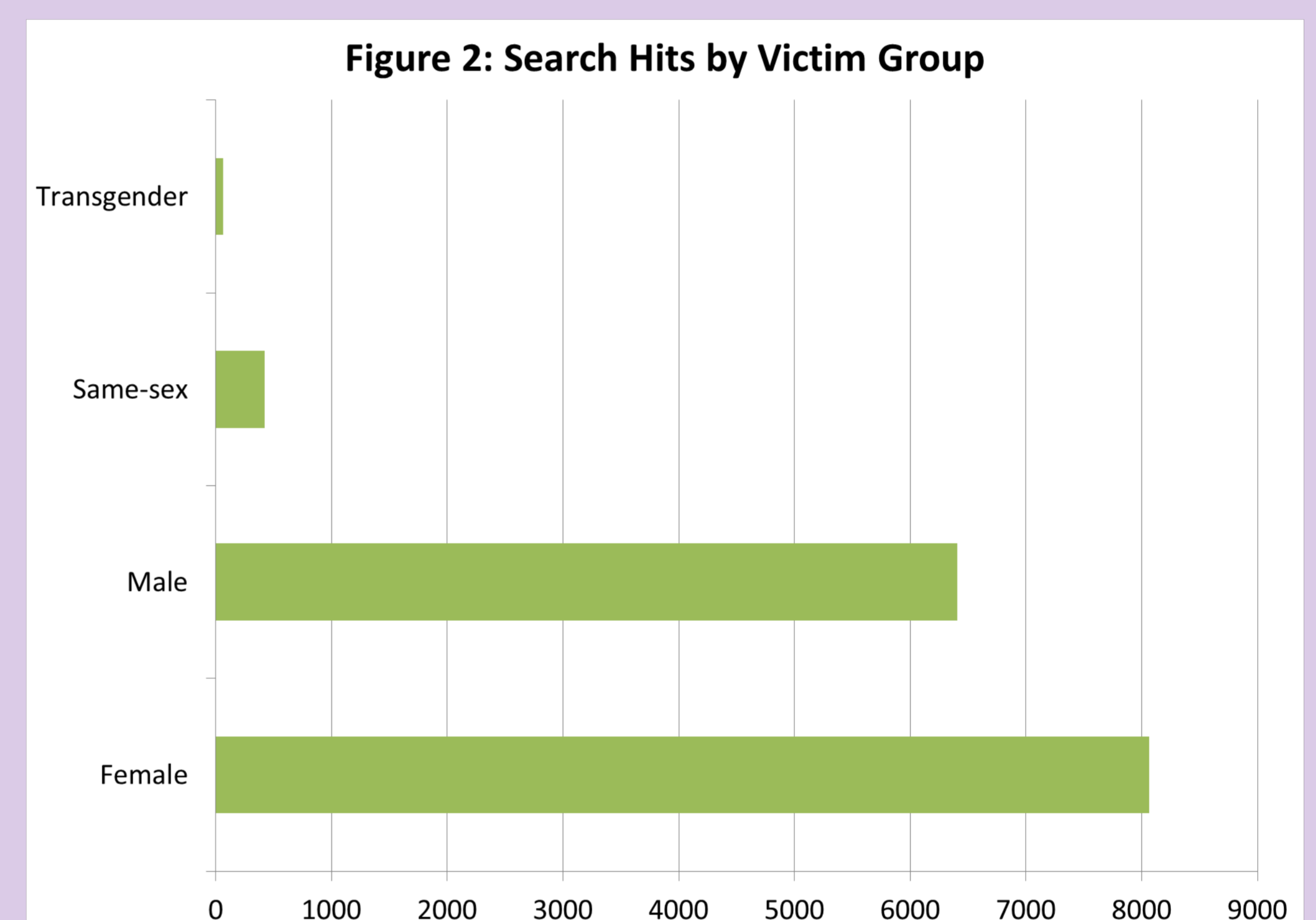


Figure 1: Flowchart of Search Process

4. Results

The initial results of the systematic review revealed that studies concerning female victims of IPV were more prevalent than research about any other victim group. While there were less studies about male victims of IPV, the noticeable lack of studies was seen when investigating the same sex and transgender victim groups.



5. Themes

The main themes that emerged from the preliminary systematic review are as follows:

- The large majority of studies investigate female victims of IPV
- Within research looking at male victimisation, most were comparing men to women
- Studies looking at male victims, tend to be qualitative in nature
- Within the same-sex search, most single gender studies investigate men
- Most research into transgender and same sex IPV tend to be combined into "LGBT"
- Transgender victims of IPV tend to be investigated in relation to other types of trauma

6. Conclusion

These preliminary findings would suggest that there is a large disparity in the types of IPV victim groups that are studied. Female victims receive the large majority of attention within research. This is not only in number, but the amount of studies that are solely dedicated to investigating their experiences. Male victims are often compared to female victims, IPV in female same sex relationships are underrepresented, and transgender victims of IPV appear to have very little research dedicated to them. This research will be expanded upon to ascertain the individual factors involved in IPV for each victim group.

7. References

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