



Promoting improvements
in policing to make
everyone safer

Police response to domestic abuse

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Improvements since 2014

- **Leadership:** Greater priority, significant activity designed to improve service, increased focus and scrutiny
- **Training:** Better quality face-to-face training exploring complex issues
- **Understanding:** Improved understanding amongst frontline officers, better assessment of risk and initial response, some evidence of improved attitudes
- **Investigation:** Greater investment in specialist investigative resources
- **Partnerships:** Focus on preventing domestic abuse and protecting victims



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Protecting vulnerable people

Inadequate	Requires Improvement	Good	Outstanding	Declined	Improved
5 (4)	16 (27)	22 (12)	0 (0)	6	14

Main findings

- Strong improvement in performance this year
- Commendable commitment from police leaders and staff
- Some practices artificially suppressing demand, putting victims at risk which is serious concern
- Variation in activity, use of powers and criminal justice outcomes often unexplained and unacceptable



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Still a long way to go

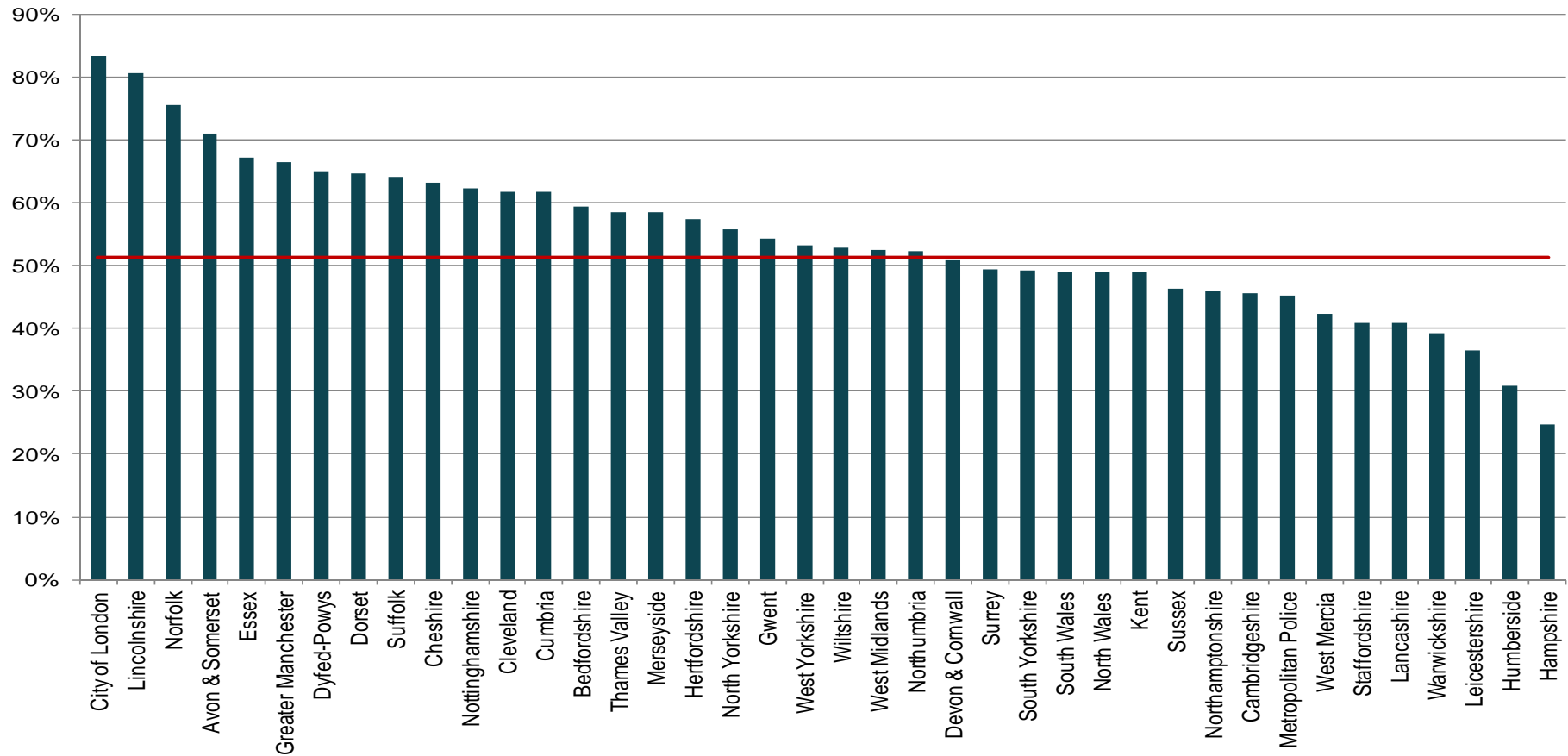
- **First point of contact:** Demand suppression subverting the 'risk based' approach and masking unmet demand
- **High risk victims:** some evidence of rationing of MARAC
- **Specialist investigations:** Significant increase in domestic abuse with specialist units often understrength and overwhelmed
- **Arrest:** Unacceptable variations due to misplaced understanding of officer discretion & victim centred approach
- **Use of powers and pursuit of criminal justice outcomes:** wide variations that forces cannot explain



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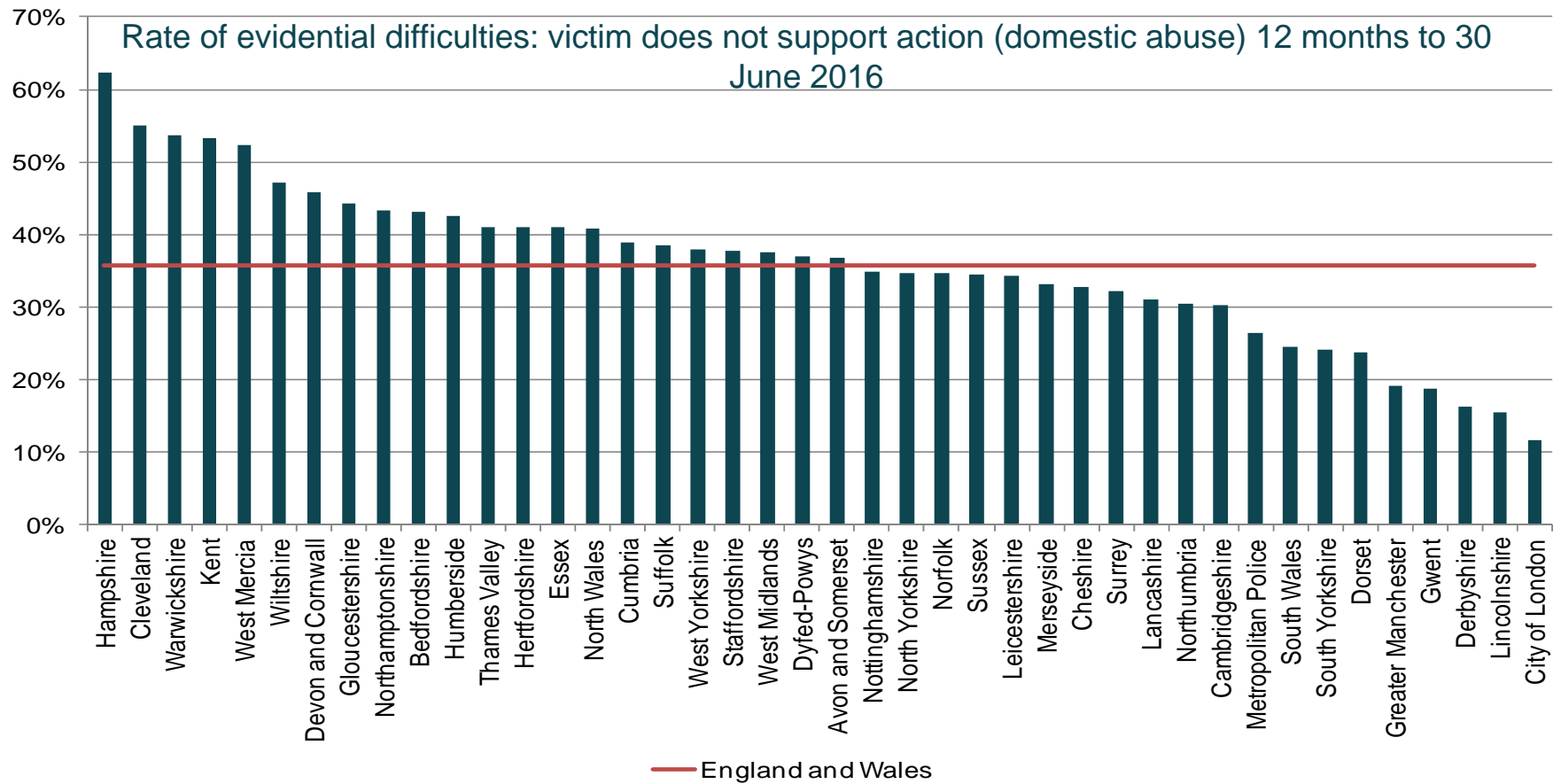
Variation in rate of domestic abuse arrests

Rate of domestic abuse arrests (12 months to 30 June 2016)



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Victim does not support police action



Please note: This is based on 'non-tracked outcomes'. The rate is calculated using the number of domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2016 and the number of victim does not support action outcomes recorded for DA offences in the 12 months to 30 June 2016.

Areas for improvement 2017

- **Effective risk assessment:** getting the basics right
- **Removal of demand suppression ‘pinch points’:** understanding where this is occurring and addressing it
- **Consistent levels of service:** acceptable standards of operational practice reinforced eg Body worn video
- **Perpetrator programmes:** improved understanding of what works and availability
- **Victim engagement:** better understanding of quality of service by talking to victims
- **Consistent oversight:** supporting PCCs in their role



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