



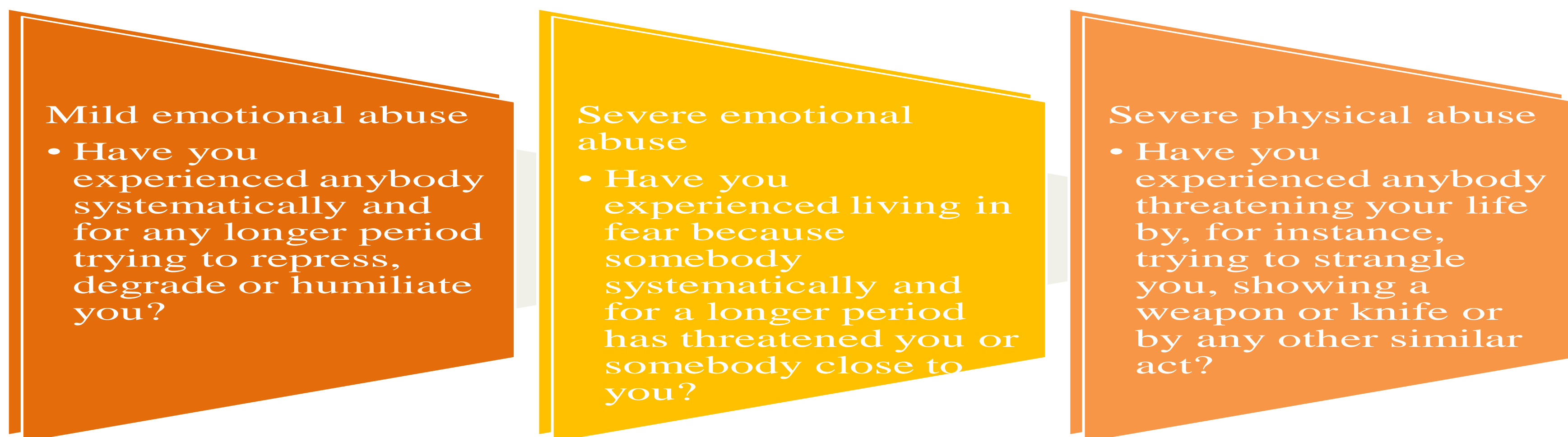
The life-time experience of abuse and suicidal behavior among abused women in a general psychiatric context

Örmon K, Sunnqvist C, Bahtsevani C, Torstensson-Levander M*

Faculty of Health and Society, Department of Care Science

* Department of Criminology

Malmö University, Sweden



Conclusion: Suicidal behavior is associated with emotional & physical abuse, in female psychiatric patients.

Introduction and aim: International research show that at least one out of three women have been subjected to abuse during their life time and suicidal behavior could be a consequence of the abuse. Predisposing events, e.g. childhood trauma, including sexual, emotional, and physical abuse have also been associated with attempted suicide.

The aim of the study was to describe abused women’s experiences of emotional, physical, sexual abuse and suicidal behavior experienced by women in general psychiatric care.

Method: Women attending general psychiatric in-and outpatient care in an urban area of southern Sweden were asked to participate using the NorVold abuse questionnaire (NorAQ) during September – October 2010, and 77 abused women participated.

Results: Reports of emotional abuse were associated with attempted suicide, deliberate self-harm and thoughts of suicide. Physical abuse were associated with attempted suicide (see Table 1). The results also revealed that the women rarely confide to personnel about experiencing abuse.

Table 1

	Emotional abuse			P-value (Chi-square test)
	Severe	Mild	No Severe or Mild	
Ever attempted suicide	82 % (14 of 17)		18 % (3 of 17)	p = 0.04
Ever deliberately self-harm		86 % (24 of 28)	14 % (4 of 28)	p = 0.02
Ever thoughts of suicide	71 % (35 of 49)		29 % (14 of 49)	p = 0.01
Ever thoughts of suicide		80 % (39 of 49)	20 % (10 of 49)	p = 0.02
	Physical abuse			P-value (Chi-square test)
	Severe	Mild	No Severe	
Ever attempted suicide	74 % (14 of 19)		26 % (5 of 19)	p = 0.03



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