

“HUMANS DON'T DO THAT TO PEOPLE”

A qualitative study of the experience of paramedics providing care to a patient who has just allegedly committed a violent crime



Abby McCormick ^{1,2}
James Pearce ^{1,2}
Hila Dafny ¹

¹ Flinders University
² SA Ambulance Service

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abby.mccormick@flinders.edu.au

Background

- On occasion, paramedics must provide care to patients who have just allegedly committed violent crimes.
- Very little is known about what exactly a paramedic experiences in these situations.
- How do they manage their moral and emotional conflicts whilst on these cases? Are they prepared? How do they cope?¹

Results

- Participants shared a range of experiences regarding patients who had just allegedly committed violent crimes.
- Some included homicide, sexual assault, domestic violence, drink driving, etc.
- Four main themes, and 10 corresponding subthemes were conceptualised.

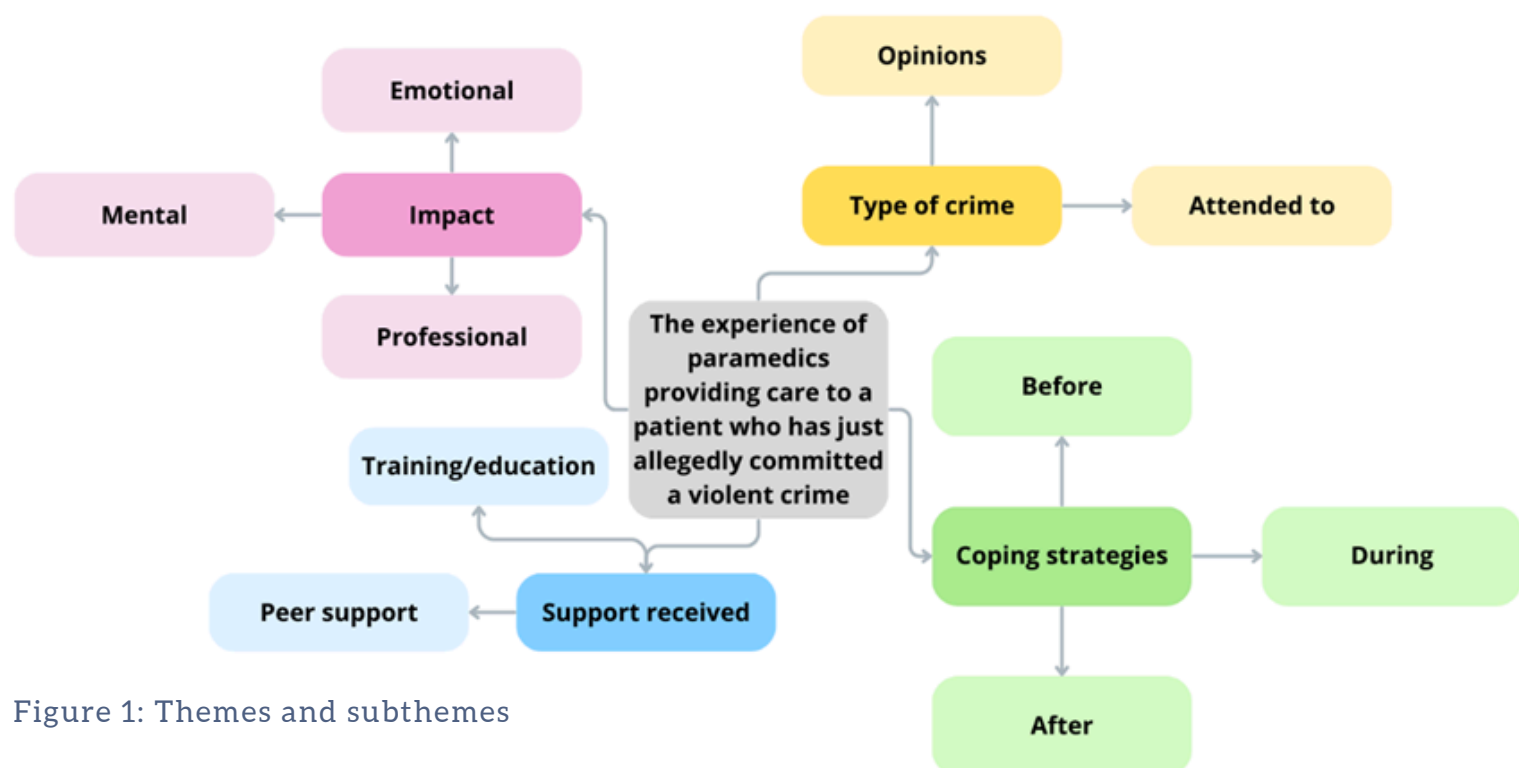


Figure 1: Themes and subthemes

Conclusion

- Participants highlighted the effect these cases had on their mental, emotional, and professional well-being.
- A lack of training regarding these case types was expressed, as well as a lack of flagging or calls from peer support.
- Paramedics call to action an increased level of preparation and support for these jobs.

Methodology

- Exploratory qualitative methodology following an interpretivist philosophical paradigm.
- Twelve semi-structured interviews were conducted with paramedics across Australia.
- Reflexive thematic analysis was used to interpret results².

Participant Quotes

Type of Crime

“He had allegedly stabbed his mum 30 times in her sleep.” (P7)

Coping Strategies

“...you don’t see a person. You see an injury, or you see an illness...you need to treat.” (P3)

Impact

“I’ve resented trying to save the life of someone who I had perceived to have done something so horrific.” (P9)

Support

“It’s just you and what you learn out on the road or what your mentors teach you. There’s no training at all.” (P5)

References:

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2. Braun V, Clarke V. *Thematic analysis : a practical guide*. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications Ltd; 2022.

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