



FORENSIC
INNOVATION
CENTRE

Forensic Capability Network, Research Conference, Monday 6th – Friday 10th
September 2021

Impact of Digital Forensic Evidence on Sexual Assault Cases

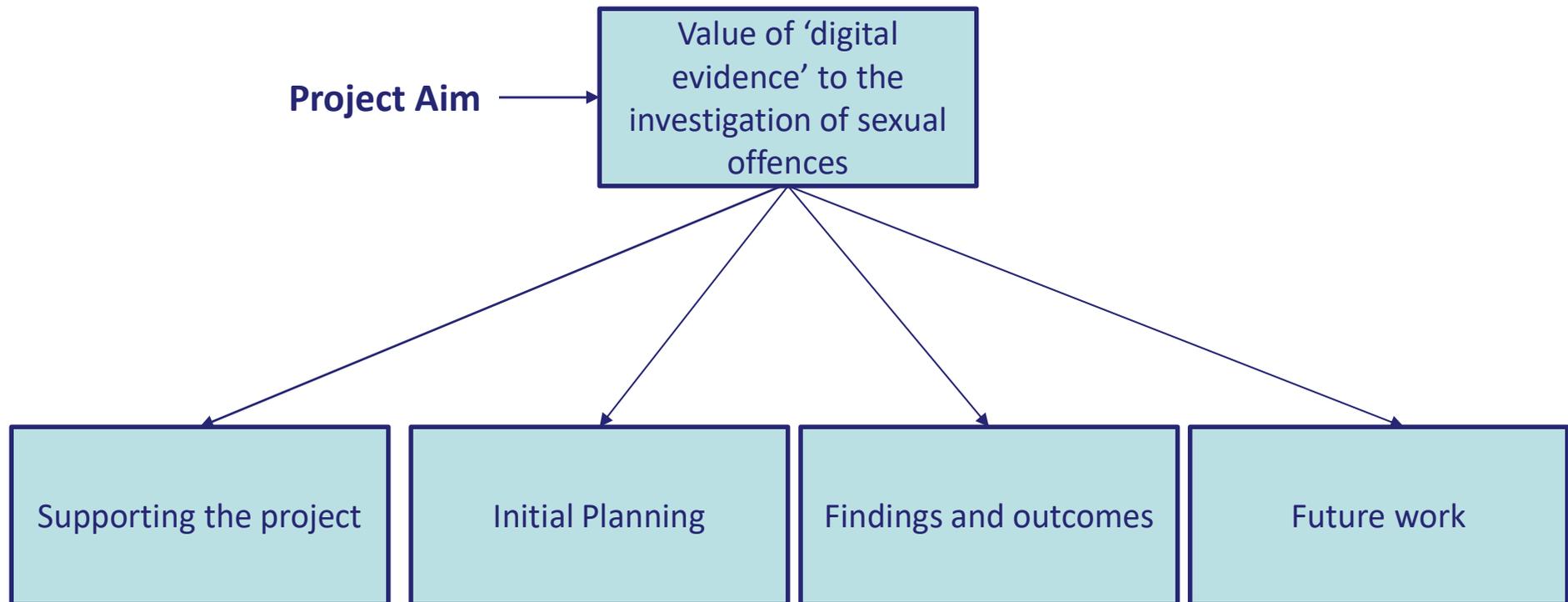
Dr Paul Smith; Marie Barrett; Jasdeep Varraich



Home Office



Presentation Aims

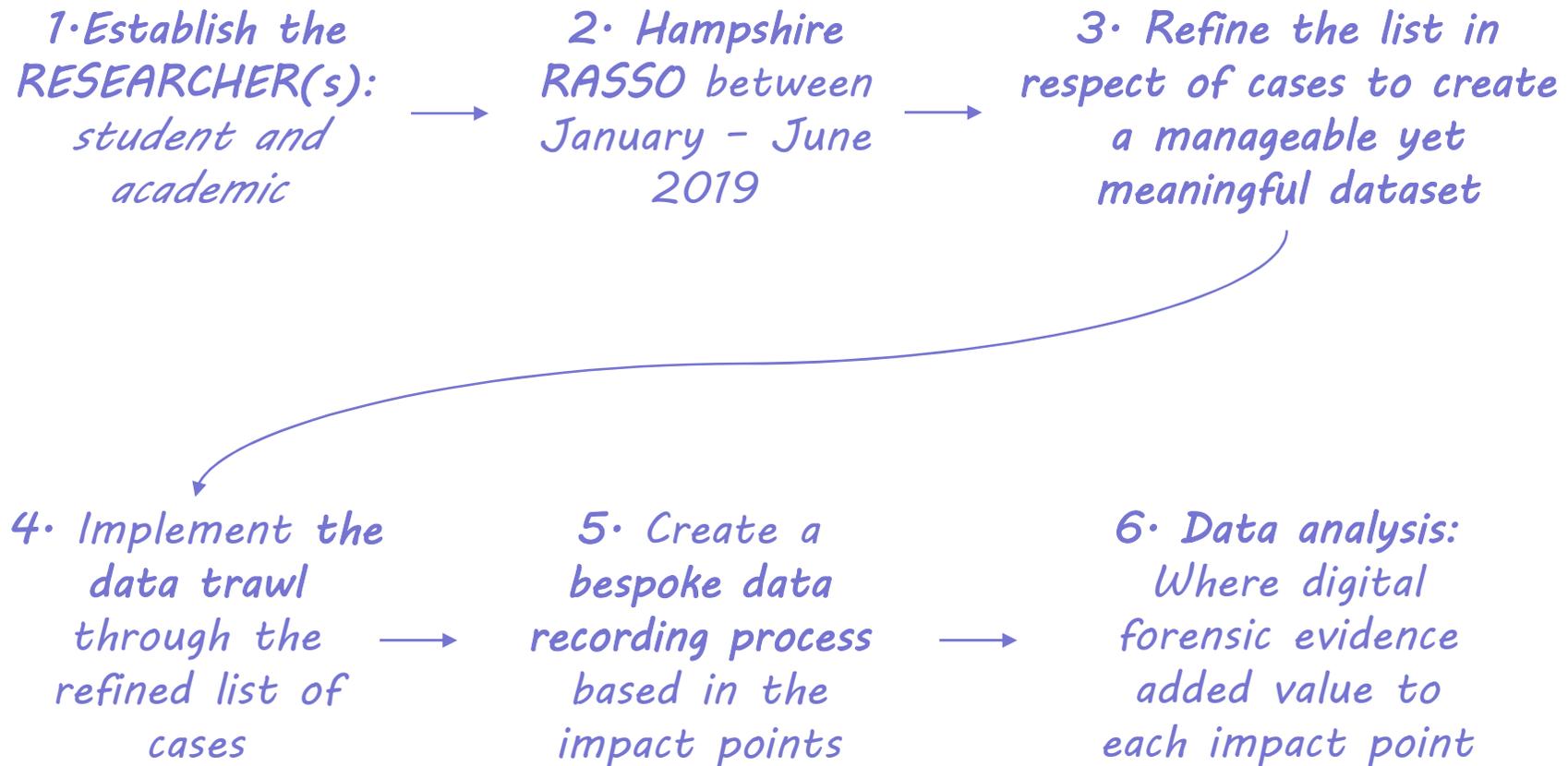


Initial Discussions and Planning

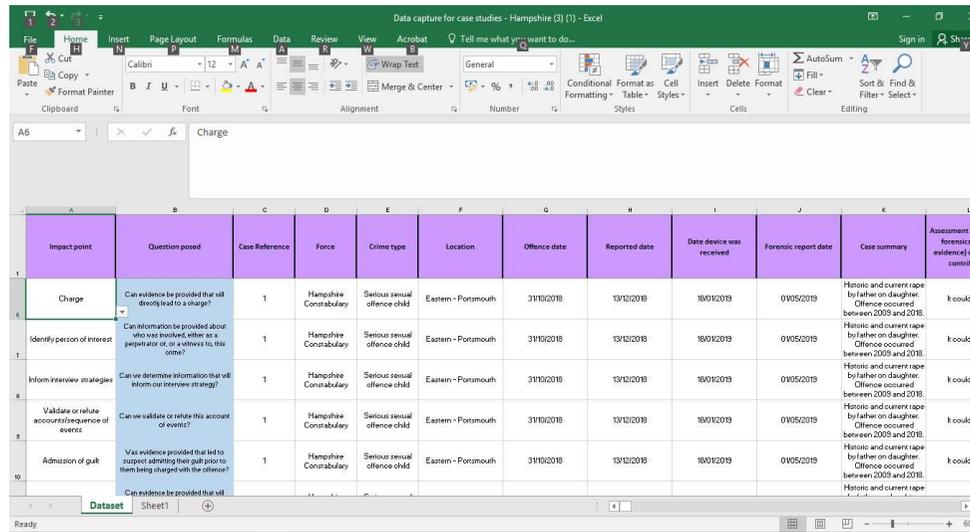
- **Collaborative Partnerships:**
'quid pro quo'
- **Hampshire Digital Forensics Groups (DFG):** *Mobile Phone; High Tech Crime; Forensic Imaging*
- **Focus on Priorities:** Rape and Serious Sexual Offence (RASSO); Digital Forensic Evidence



The Initial Plan



The Spreadsheet



Impact point	Question posed	Case Reference	Force	Crime type	Location	Offence date	Reported date	Date device was received	Forensic report date	Case summary	Assessment of forensic evidence to assist
Charge	Can evidence be provided that will directly lead to a charge?	1	Hampshire Constabulary	Serious sexual offence child	Eastern - Portsmouth	31/10/2018	13/12/2018	18/01/2019	01/05/2019	Historic and current rape by father on daughter. Offence occurred between 2009 and 2018.	It could
Identify person of interest	Can information be provided about who was involved, either as a perpetrator or a witness to, the crime?	1	Hampshire Constabulary	Serious sexual offence child	Eastern - Portsmouth	31/10/2018	13/12/2018	18/01/2019	01/05/2019	Historic and current rape by father on daughter. Offence occurred between 2009 and 2018.	It could
Inform interview strategies	Can we determine information that will inform our interview strategy?	1	Hampshire Constabulary	Serious sexual offence child	Eastern - Portsmouth	31/10/2018	13/12/2018	18/01/2019	01/05/2019	Historic and current rape by father on daughter. Offence occurred between 2009 and 2018.	It could
Validate or refute accounts/sequence of events	Can we validate or refute this account or events?	1	Hampshire Constabulary	Serious sexual offence child	Eastern - Portsmouth	31/10/2018	13/12/2018	18/01/2019	01/05/2019	Historic and current rape by father on daughter. Offence occurred between 2009 and 2018.	It could
Admission of guilt	Was evidence provided that led to suspect admitting their guilt prior to them being charged with the offence?	1	Hampshire Constabulary	Serious sexual offence child	Eastern - Portsmouth	31/10/2018	13/12/2018	18/01/2019	01/05/2019	Historic and current rape by father on daughter. Offence occurred between 2009 and 2018.	It could
	Can evidence be provided that will									Historic and current rape	

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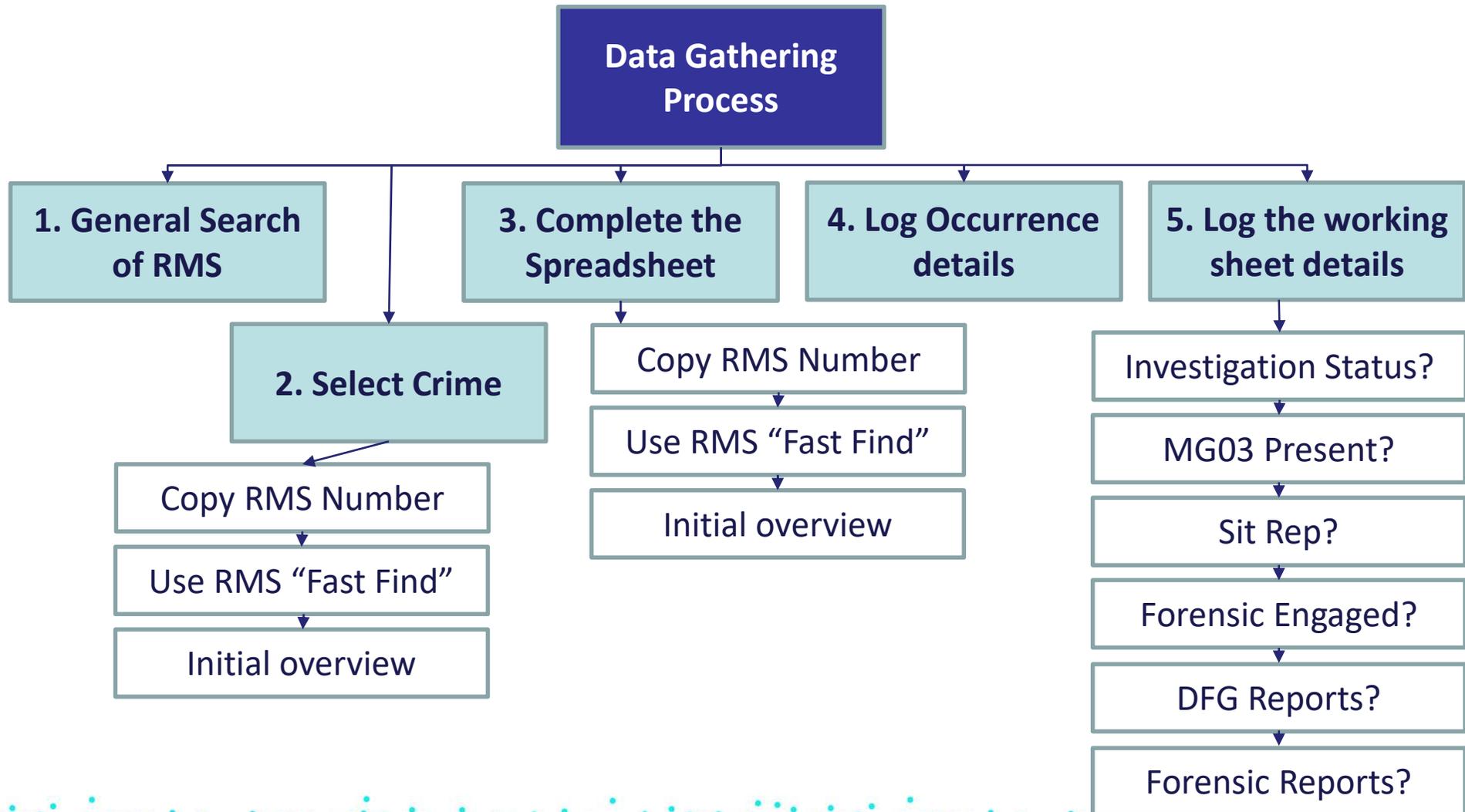
- reference code;
- the crime type;
- Location;
- offence date;
- reported date;
- the date the device was received;
- forensic report date;
- case summary;
- the outcome, was a forensic approach used and did it contribute, also;
- did a non-forensic approach contribute.



The Impact Points

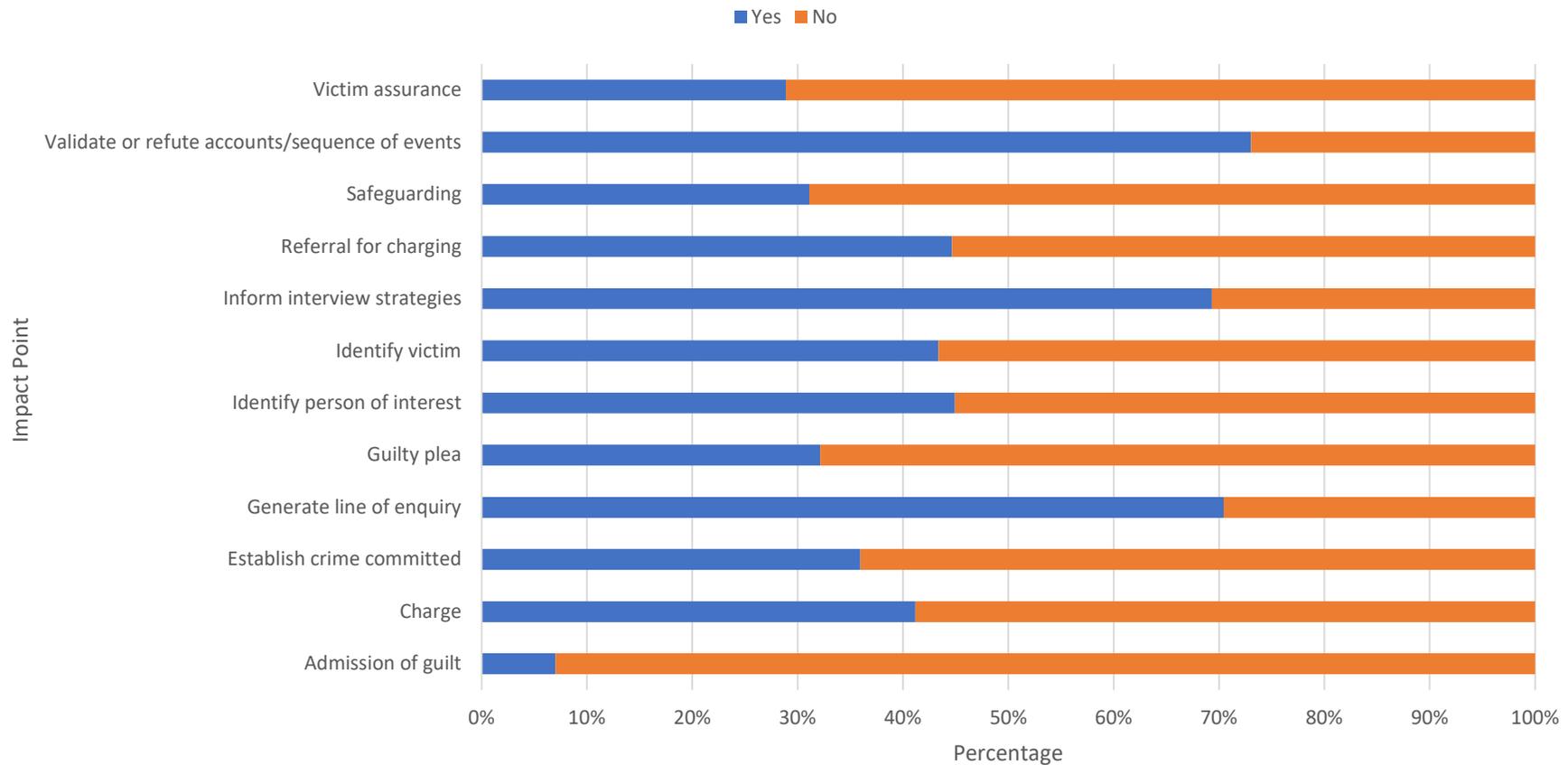


Methods and Process



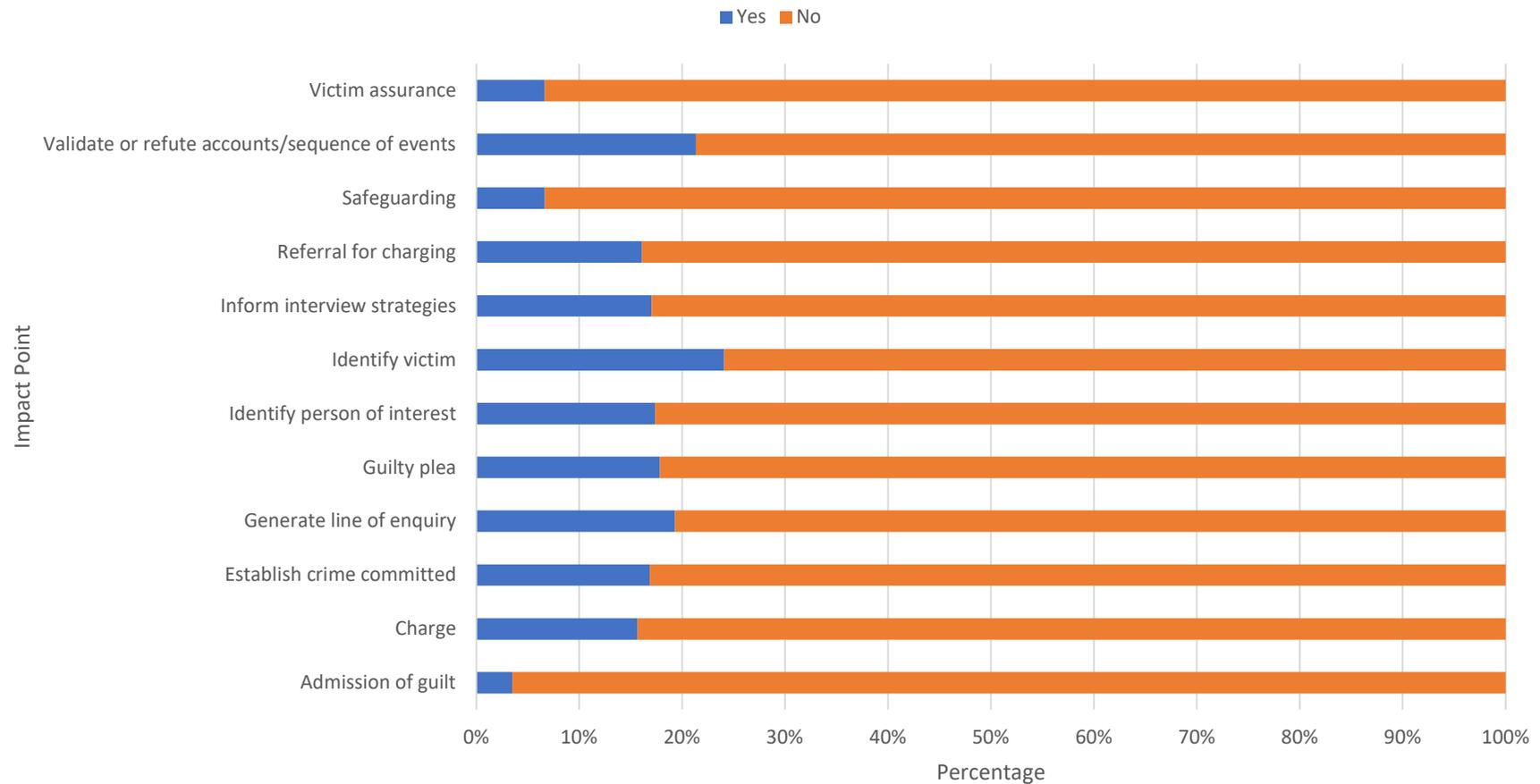
Findings (Figure 1)

Did Forensics Contribute Overall (Percentage)?

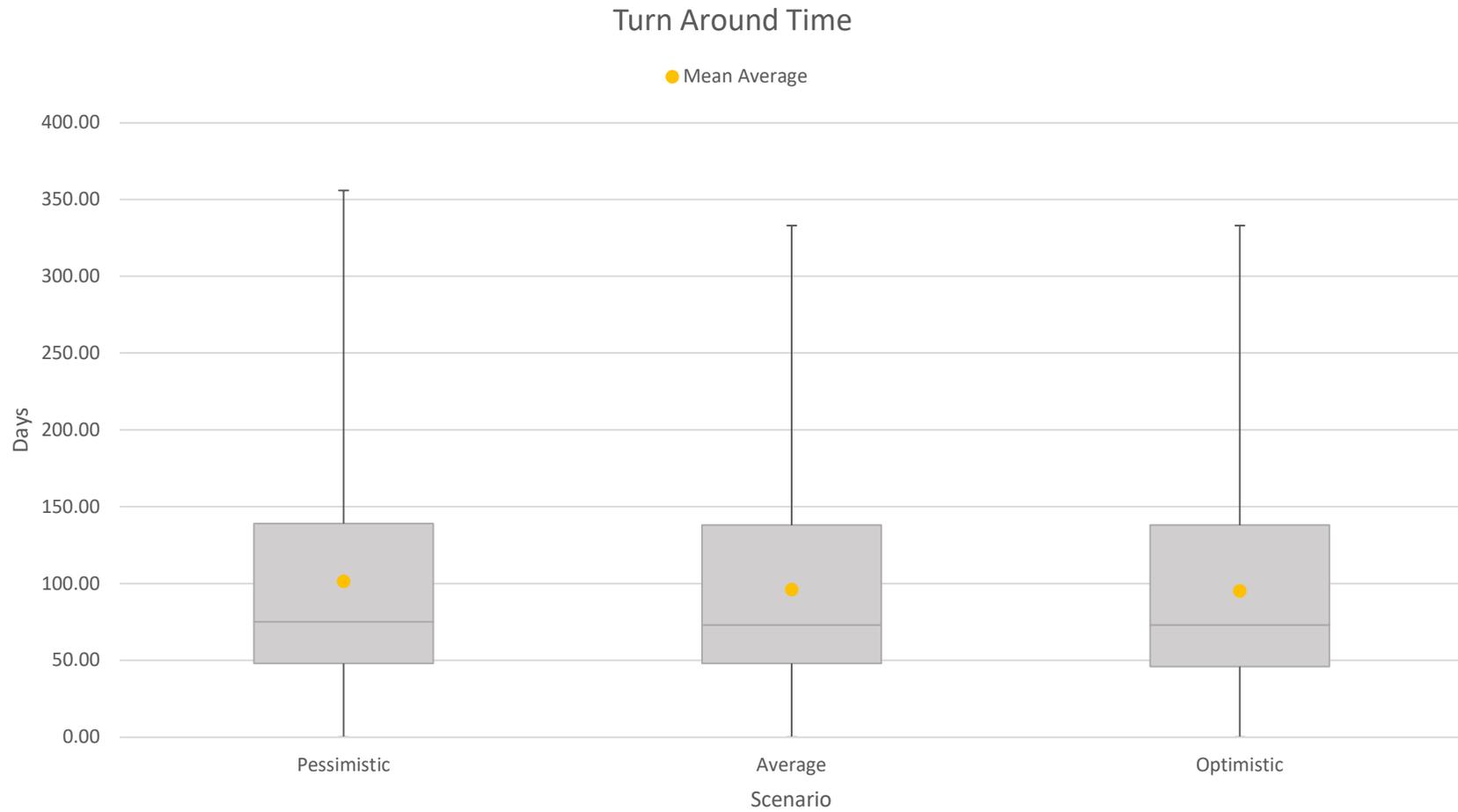


Findings (Figure 2)

Did Forensics Contribute Exclusively (Percentage)?



Findings (Figure 3)



Discussion points and future work

- The process provided a more **nuanced illustration of forensic value**, based on digital evidence and its use in **RASSO**
- **Digital forensic evidence has value to the RASSO investigation** across all impact points, but is more pronounced in some, this **‘value’ is often ‘hidden’**
- **The issue of timeliness** raises questions around how soon the ‘value’ is fed into the investigation
- The **process is painful**, But worth it!
- Improve and recognise **‘forensic value’** to meet the **needs of RASSO victims**



Thank you – Any Questions

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