

CONTEXTUAL INFLUENCES ON HELP-SEEKING BEHAVIOR FOR VICTIMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

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Intimate Partner Violence

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression (including coercive tactics) by a current or former intimate partner (CDC, 2014)
- Lifelong consequences...
 - Injury
 - Death
 - Substance use
 - Decreased mental health (e.g., depression, anxiety, low self-esteem)
 - Chronic illnesses (e.g., gastrointestinal, migraines, heart conditions)
 - Employment instability

Help-seeking Behavior as a Public Health Decision

- A health behavior refers to an action (determinants and consequences) that improves coping skills and enhances the quality of life (Parkerson et al., 1993)
- Formal help-seeking for IPV as a health behavior
 - Reduction in the risk of repeat victimization (Xie & Lynch, 2017)
 - Psychological first aid (WHO, 2011)
 - Reduced symptomology

Understanding Help-seeking for IPV

- Health Belief Model
 - Perceived susceptibility, perceived severity, perceived threat, perceived benefits, perceived barriers, and cues to action
- Ecological perspectives on health behavior
 - 1) There are multiple levels of influence on health behaviors
 - 2) ***Environmental contexts are significant determinants of health behaviors***
 - 3) ***Influences on behaviors interact across levels***
 - 4) ***Models should be behavior specific***
 - 5) Multilevel interventions are most effective in changing behaviors

Community Resources

- Police per capita – increase benefits, reduce barriers, cue to action
 - Known differences across jurisdictions
 - More police-more extensive service (Xie et al., 2012)
 - specialized DV units
 - written operational procedures for personnel
 - victim advocates in department/on call
- Social service providers per capita – increase benefits, cue to action
 - Network of institutions to help victims (Eck & Maguire, 2006)
 - Goal is to reduce vulnerability to partner violence (NRC, 1996; VAWA, 1994)
 - Community support and educational outreach

Research Questions

- 1) What incident-level factors are related to formal help-seeking among victims of IPV?
 - *Affect perceived susceptibility and severity*
- 2) What individual-level factors are related to formal help-seeking among victims of IPV?
 - *Affect susceptibility, benefits, barriers and cues to action*
- 3) What community level factors are related to formal help-seeking among victims of IPV?
 - *Affect benefits, barriers and cues to action*
- 1) Does the relevance of community level resources on formal help-seeking among victims of IPV vary by...
 - 1) Incident-level factors?
 - 2) Individual-level factors?

Data



National Crime Victimization Survey 2006-2015

- IPV incidents
- Incident, individual, and interpersonal factors
- county identifier (restricted)

UCR – Crime in the US: Police Employee Data 2006-2015

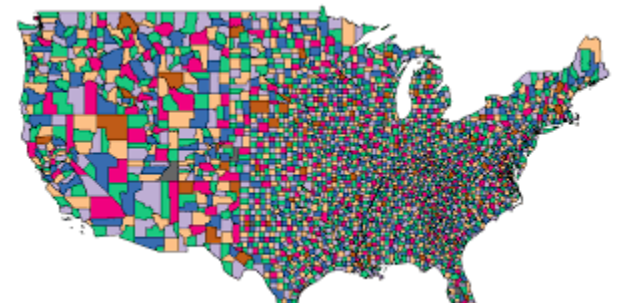
- number of police employees in each county in the US

US Census Bureau - County Business Patterns Data 2006-2015

- Health care and social assistance (code 62)
employees and establishments in each county in the US

US Census Bureau – County Population Estimates 2006-2015

- county demographics



Sample Identification and Dependent Variable(s)

- Identification of IPV Incidents
 - Incident of harassment, attempted or completed sexual contact, threats or completed acts of violence committed by spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend or ex-boyfriend/girlfriend
- Dependent Variable(s): Formal Help-seeking
 - Incident reported to the police (0=no, 1=yes)
 - Victim sought assistance from victim services (0=no, 1=yes)
 - Any formal help (0=no, 1=yes)

Independent Variables

- Incident Factors
 - Drugs/alcohol involved, weapon, injury, home location, series incident, first incident, previous help sought
- Individual/Interpersonal Factors
 - Victim - age, age-squared, race/ethnicity, female, marital status, children, education, education-squared, employment status
 - Interpersonal – victim-offender relationship (spouse)
- Contextual Factors (County Characteristics)
 - County police rate, social service employee rate, population, population-squared, % female, % Black, % Hispanic, % 18-34, unemployment rate, violent victimization rate

Cross-level Interactions

- Incident Characteristics X Police per Capita/Social Service per Capita
 - Offender is spouse
 - Serious injury
 - Weapon
- Victim Characteristics X Police per Capita/Social Service per Capita
 - Victim is black
 - Victim is Hispanic
 - Victim is female
 - Victim is employed

Analytic Plan

- Logistic regression models
 - Cluster standard errors at the county level
 - Not enough variation at level 2 to warrant hierarchical modeling
 - Control for year of data collection
 - Models run for each help-seeking outcome separately
- 2 step analytic plan
 - 1. without cross-level interactions to determine main effects
 - 2. with cross-level interactions to examine conditional effects

Results: Incident Level Factors

Incident Factors	Model 1: Police	Model 2: Victim Service	Model 3: Any Formal Help
Substance Use	+*	-	+
Weapon	+*	+	+
Serious Injury	+	+*	+
Home Location	+	+	+*
Series Victimization	-*	+	-*
First Incident	+*	+*	+*
Previous Help	+*	+*	+*
* p < .05			

Results: Individual Factors

Individual Factors	Model 1: Police	Model 2: Victim Service	Model 3: Any Formal Help
Female	+*	+*	+*
Age	+*	+	+*
Age-squared	-*	-	-*
Married	+	-	+
Separated/Divorced	-	+	-
Children	+*	+	+*
Black	+	-	+
Hispanic	+	+	+
Other	-	-	-
Education	-	+	-
Education-squared	+	+	+
Employed	-	-	-
Spouse	+	+	+

p < .05

Results: Community Factors

Community Factors	Model 1: Police	Model 2: Victim Service	Model 3: Any Formal Help
Police per capita	+*	-	+*
Social Service per capita	-	-	-
Population	-	-	+
Population-squared	+	+	-
% Female	+*	+	+
% Black	+	+	+
% Hispanic	+	+	+
% Young adults	+	-	+
Unemployment rate	-	-	—
Violent victimization rate	-*	-	—

p < .05

Summary of Main Effects

- Reporting incident to the police is more likely to occur when...
 - Drugs and/or alcohol involved, weapon is used, first incident of IPV, victim previously sought help, victim is female, diminishing effect of age, victim has children, police per capita increases, and percent female in county increases
- Reporting incident to the police is less likely to occur when...
 - Series victimization
- Contacting victim service agency is more likely to occur when...
 - Serious injury, first incident, previously sought help, and victim is female
- Any formal help-seeking is more likely to occur when...
 - Incident occurred at home, first incident, previously sought help, diminishing effect of age, victim is female, victim has children and police per capita increases
- Formal help-seeking is likely likely to occur when...
 - Series victimization

Results: Conditional Effects of Community Resources by Incident Characteristics

Interactions	Model 1: Police	Model 2: Victim Service	Model 3: Any Formal Help
Injury X Police per capita	+*		+*
Weapon X Police per capita	+		+
Spouse X Police per capita	-		-
Injury X SS per capita		-	-
Weapon X SS per capita		+	+
Spouse X SS per capita		-*	-*

p < .05

Results: Conditional Effects of Community Resources by Victim Characteristics

Interactions	Model 1: Police	Model 2: Victim Service	Model 3: Any Formal Help
Black X Police per capita	-		+
Hispanic X Police per capita	+		-
Female X Police per capita	-		-
Unemployed X Police per capita	+		+
Black X SS per capita		+	+
Hispanic X SS per capita		+	-
Female X SS per capita		-	+*
Unemployed X SS per capita		+	+

p < .05

Summary of Conditional Effects

- Victim injury enhances the positive effect of police per capita on reporting the incident to the police and seeking any formal help
- Social service resources increase the likelihood of seeking help from victim agency among female victims
- Victimization by one's spouse weakens the effect of social service resources on seeking help from social service agency and any formal help

Discussion

- Results support Health Belief Model with interpretation
 - Severity – weapon, injury
 - Susceptibility – female victims
 - Advantages – previous help-seeking, children in home
 - Cues to action – resources available (+), female empowerment (+), violent victimization rate (-)
- Importance of ecological models for help-seeking for IPV
 - Community resources matter!
 - Invest in police resources to help victims of IPV
 - Effects of resources vary across incident level factors
 - Convey resources available to all victims

Limitations and Next Steps

- **NCVS limitations**
 - Limited information about incidents
 - Telescoping
 - Weight data for representativeness
- No information on actual perceptions per the Health Behavior Model
- More refined information about community resources
 - Information on perceptions of community resources in terms of helpfulness
- Effects of community policies
 - Cues to action or inaction?

Thank You!

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