

EXPLAINING THE HELP-SEEKING BEHAVIORS OF VICTIMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE USING THE RESTRICTED NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY AVAILABLE AT FEDERAL STATISTICAL RESEARCH DATA CENTERS

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Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Census Bureau. All results have been reviewed to ensure that no confidential information is disclosed.

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Presentation Overview

- Theoretical Background of Project
 - What has been done
 - What needs to be done
- Project Description
 - Research Questions
 - Data
 - Sample
 - Variables
 - Analytical Plan
 - Results of Preliminary Models
- Project Implications and Next Steps

What is Intimate Partner Violence and How Does it Affect People?

- 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
 - Homelessness

Who Seeks Help?: Framing 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 and weakens consequences

Prior Quantitative Research and Missing Links

- Incident-Level Factors Affecting IPV Help Seeking Behavior
 - Severity of Incident (+)
 - Use of Weapon (+)
- Individual-Level Factors Affecting Intimate Partner Violence Help Seeking Behavior
 - Education Level (+)
 - Unemployed (-)
 - Middle Class (+)
 - Age (+)
- Missing Link
 - Need to explore community-level factors, like community resources, but public data does not provide geocodes
 - Important because politicians can't change individual and incident level factors, but they can influence community resources

Taking an Ecological Approach to Explaining Why People Seek Help for Intimate Partner Violence

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

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

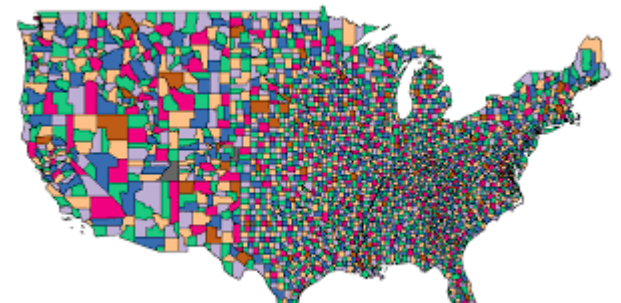
US Census Bureau - County Business Patterns Data 2006-2015

- Health Care and Social Assistance, Individual and Family Services (NAICS code 624190) establishments



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
 - N~1800
- 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, did not previously seek help
 - Interpersonal – victim-offender relationship (spouse)
- Individual Factors
 - Victim - age, age-squared, race/ethnicity, female, marital status, children, education, education-squared, employment status
- Contextual Factors (County Characteristics)^{***}
 - County police rate, social service employee rate, population, population-squared, % Black, % Hispanic, % Other, violent victimization rate
- Interaction Affects^{**}
 - County police rate X victim race
 - Social service employee rate X victim race

Analytic Plan

- Logistic regression models
 - Clustered standard errors at the individual AND county level
 - Not enough variation at level 2 (individual) to warrant hierarchical modeling – avg. <2
 - Not enough variation at level 3 (county) to warrant hierarchical modeling – avg. <2
 - Control for year of data collection
 - Use weighted data
 - Models run for each help-seeking outcome separately
 - Model 1- Sought Help from Police
 - Model 2- Sought Help from Victim Support Agency
 - Model 3- Sought Any Type of Help
 - 2 step analytic plan
 - 1. determine main effects
 - 2. include cross-level interactions to examine conditional effects

Model 1 and 2 Results, Part 1- Incident Level Factors

Incident Factors	Model 1: Police (Odds Ratios)	Model 2: Victim Services (Odds Ratios)
Substance Use	1.584**	0.953
Weapon	1.738**	1.044
Serious Injury	1.265	2.499**
Home Location	1.224	1.422
Series Victimization	0.490**	1.664*
First Incident	1.547**	1.218
No Previous Help	0.506**	0.432**
Offender Spouse	1.181	1.292
Sought Other Help	3.327**	3.370**

*p < .05, **p<.01

Model 1 and 2 Results, Part 2- Individual Factors

Individual Factors	Model 1: Police (Odds Ratios)	Model 2: Victim Service (Odds Ratios)
Female	4.874	3.762**
Age	5.686**	1.074
Age-squared	0.999**	0.999
Married	1.290	1.094
Separated/Divorced	0.993	1.416
Children	1.751**	1.054
Black	1.853	0.550
Hispanic	1.251	1.018
Other	1.186	0.652
Education	0.803	1.068
Education-squared	1.027	1.024
Employed	1.249	0.802
Household Income	0.912	0.981

*p < .05, **p<01

Model 1 and 2 Results, Part 3- Community Factors and Interactions

Community Factors	Model 1: Police (Odds Ratios)	Model 2: Victim Service (Odds Ratios)
Police per capita	1.365*	0.904
Social Services per capita	1.024	0.342
Population	1.429	0.443
Population-squared	0.985	1.031
% Black	3.294	0.945
% Hispanic	0.680	1.806
Violent Victimization Rate	1.000	1.000
Police per capita X Black Victim	0.565*	0.749

*p < .05, **p<01

Summary of Findings

- Reporting incident to the police is more likely to occur when...
 - Drugs and/or alcohol involved, weapon is used, first incident of IPV, victim diminishing effect of age, victim has children, victim sought help from victim agency, AND police per capita increases
 - BUT the effect of police per capita is significantly lower for black victims
- Reporting incident to the police is less likely to occur when...
 - Series victimization, victim did not seek help previously
- Contacting victim service agency is more likely to occur when...
 - Serious injury, occurred in home location, it is a repeated incident, and the victim is female
- Contacting victim service agency is less likely to occur when...
 - Victim did not previously seek any help in the past

Additional Analyses

- Does the effect of community resources indirectly affect help-seeking through other types of help sought?
 - Significant indirect effect ($p < .01$)
 - Police rate -> seeking help from police -> seeking help from social service agency
 - No significant indirect effect
 - Social service rate -> seeking help from victim agency -> seeking help from police

Discussion

- Results support Health Belief Model in interpretation
 - Severity – weapon, injury
 - Susceptibility – female victims
 - Advantages – previous help-seeking experience, children in home
 - Cues to action – resources available (+)
- Importance of ecological models for help-seeking for IPV
 - Community resources can matter!
 - Invest in police resources to help victims of IPV
 - Are victims even aware of social services?
 - Effects of police resources vary across individual race
 - Is it distrust among blacks? Fear of the police? Or beliefs that police will not help?

Limitations and Next Steps

- NCVS limitations
 - Limited information about incidents
 - Telescoping
- No information on actual perceptions per the Health Behavior Model
- Next Steps...
 - Do police resources affect consequences of IPV?
 - Improved health/emotional/social outcomes?
 - Do police resources reduce likelihood of IPV?
 - ↑ Police resources -> ↑ Seeking help from police -> ↓ Revictimization
 - Benefit from more refined information about community resources
 - Information on perceptions of community resources in terms of helpfulness
 - Cues to action or inaction?

Thank You!

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