

## **Sub-Category A-ix: Victim Services**

**CRIME, VIOLENCE & VICTIMIZATION RESEARCH DIVISION'S  
COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**1993-2015**

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## Category A: JUSTICE & RELATED SYSTEMS

### ix. Victim Services

<b>1994-IJ-CX-0050:</b>	<b>Corporate Sector Response to Domestic Violence</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$47,039</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Nancy Isaac</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Bernard Auchter</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

The purpose of this study is to explore the responsiveness of the corporate sector to domestic violence through a survey of individuals working in employee assistance programs (EAPs), interviews with EAP and other corporate professionals, and an in-depth case study. EAPs are the focal point for corporate response to the personal and work related problems of employees. They are also frequently involved in preventive health programs for employees such as stress management workshops and are therefore a logical target for a survey intended to describe the current corporate responsiveness to the issue of domestic violence as it affects the workforce. Depth and context will be added to the survey's development and findings through in-person interviews with approximately 60 corporate professionals from EAPs and other corporate departments.

**Product: NCJ# 166616/166617**

#### **Corporate Sector Response to Domestic Violence (1997) – N. Isaac**

The study used three broad strategies to examine this issue. This report presents highlights of findings from each of the study components. The survey of Employee Assistance Programs (EAP's) found that a large majority have dealt with specific partner abuse scenarios in the past year, including an employee with a restraining order, 83%, or an employee being stalked at work by a current or former partner, 71%. Although policies or guidelines on workplace violence apparently have increased, similar documents that address domestic violence and the workplace are rare. There is an increasing awareness that domestic violence is a problem employees may bring to the EAP. Suggested action steps of companies are to acknowledge the problem; provide educational outreach to employees; provide supervisors and managers with information on the warning signs of abuse and how to handle suspected cases; review current personnel policies and guidelines to determine how they can be applied to assist employees for whom abuse is an issue; and consider developing an ongoing alliance with a shelter or other domestic violence program.

<b>1995-WT-NX-0002:</b>	<b>An Exploration of the Experiences and Needs of Former Intimate Stalking Victims</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$74,625</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Mary Brewster</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Angela Moore Parmley</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

This research study will explore the experiences of “ordinary” (non-celebrity) former intimate stalking victims. Specifically, the research will identify the evolution and patterns of stalking behavior; the psychological, financial, physical, and behavioral effects of stalking on its victims; the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of legal mechanisms for protecting victims; the various needs of stalking victims; the factors related to subsequent violence in stalking cases; and other issues related to stalking and its victims. Interviews will be conducted with 200 female victims of stalking in southeastern Pennsylvania. The content of the interviews will be analyzed to identify patterns in the victims' experiences. In addition, comparisons of the experiences of victims from different social classes will be made.

**Product: NCJ# 175475**

#### **Exploration of the Experiences and Needs of Former Intimate Stalking Victims (1998) – M. Brewster**

This study was based on interviews with 187 women in southeastern Pennsylvania who had been stalking victims of former intimates during the previous five years. The final sample resulted in women aged, 18 to 74. The victims provided data on the nature of the stalking, the relationship between victim and stalker, victims' responses to the stalking, consequences of the stalking for the victims, the victims' needs and fulfillment of those needs in terms of victim services and the criminal justice system. The stalkers, on average, tended to be younger than the victims and the victim-stalker relationship varied between marriage, living together, and dating. The length of stalking ranged between 1 and 456 months, with a median of 12 months. The stalking proved to be a serious offense with great impact

on victims' lives. The study found that victims suffered as a result of leaving their partners and then as a consequence of the relatively scarce or ineffective assistance in discouraging the stalker and meeting the victim's needs. Stalkers used a wide variety of tactics, and many of them reportedly had drug or alcohol problems. This report includes ten policy recommendations for law enforcement agencies, courts, legislatures, and victim's services agencies, as well as, eight recommendations for future research.

**Additional NCJ Citations: 188347, 192489, 195837, 201979, 202564**

<b>1997-IJ-CX-0007:</b>	<b>Domestic Violence Shelter Population in San Diego</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$39,732</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Susan Pennell</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Angela Moore Parmley</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

The proposed study will develop a central repository to compile comprehensive profiles of domestic violence shelter clients in San Diego County. In order to adequately describe shelter clients, a standardized intake form called the C.O.R.E. (Compilation of Research and Evaluation) form will be developed by SANDAG. The C.O.R.E. form will be administered by shelter staff to all domestic violence shelter clients admitted over a 12-month period to the seven shelters in San Diego County. Data from the central repository will be analyzed to determine the number and characteristics of domestic violence shelter clients, including whether the incident was reported to the police, types of services needed, gaps in services provided, as well as assist in the development of recommendations for improving delivery of services to meet the client's needs.

**Product: NCJ# 191838**

**Violence Against Women in San Diego (2000) – S. Pennell, C. Burke, D. Mulmat**

Nearly 4,000 reports of DV to San Diego County law enforcement in 1996 were examined using a standardized interview instrument method and interviews with shelter staff. The goal of was to compile and analyze data about incidents of DV in order to enhance understanding of the nature and scope of violence against women. One out of four of the 599 clients was Hispanic and 33% were Caucasian, and 19% were African American. More than one-half had come to the shelter from some place other than their own residence, and nearly one-quarter had been to some shelter prior to the most recent incident, suggesting that abuse had been occurring prior to the incident that led them to the shelter. Nearly three-quarters of the clients came to the shelter with their children. Regarding types of abuse, 97% had experienced verbal abuse, 95% physical abuse, 93% mental or emotional abuse, and 50% sexual abuse. There was an association between abuse and the abuser having been abused in childhood. A substantial proportion of shelter clients have experienced legal involvement; specifically, having the police come to their households due to abuse.

**Additional NCJ Citations: 202564**

<b>1998-WT-VX-0013:</b>	<b>Using a Longitudinal Data Set to Further Our Understanding of the Trajectory of Intimate Violence Over Time</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$99,117</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Cris Sullivan</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Shelly Jackson</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

The proposed project will analyze the results of a 10-week intervention program for women leaving a domestic violence shelter. The proposed secondary data analyses will answer the following six research questions: 1) do the promising intervention effects continue to the 36 month time point; 2) what are the mediation processes by which the advocacy intervention affected reduction in victimization; 3) what other antecedents account for the differences in victimization of women in some types of situations than for others; 5) were some interventions more effective than others, and if so, what were the components of a “successful” intervention; and 6) what factors explain differences in repeated victimization over time. Analytical strategies will include doubly-multivariate measures of covariance, repeated measures of MANCOVA's individual variables, calculation of multivariate confidence intervals, and hierarchical linear modeling.

**Product: NCJ# 185728**

**Using a Longitudinal Dataset to Further Our Understanding of the Trajectory of Intimate Violence Over Time (2000) – C. Sullivan, D. Bybee**

Data collected during 1989-96 from 278 women who had been residents of a shelter for battered women formed the basis of this analysis of several aspects of domestic assault, with emphasis on the impacts of access to victim services on further abuse and on the duration of positive outcomes. The study focused on the factors that explained victimization over time and differences in victimization by former partners over time. The data came from interviews conducted immediately upon the women’s exit from the shelter; at 10 weeks later; 6, 12, 18, 24, and 36 months after. The 10-week post-shelter intervention involved randomly assigning trained advocates to work one-on-one with women, helping generate and mobilize community resources they needed to reduce their risk of repeated victimization. Results supported the hypothesis that increased social support and access to community resources improved the quality of life of women with abusive partners and protected them from further victimization over time. Furthermore, women who received the free services of a community-based, strengths-based intervention were more likely than others to report increased social support and less difficulty obtaining access to community resources; these factors led to higher quality of life and reduced risk of future victimization over time.

**Additional NCJ Citations: 185938, 199727, 202564**

**Additional Publications: Bybee, D.I., & Sullivan, C.M. (2002). The process through which an advocacy intervention resulted in positive change for battered women over time. *American Journal of Community Psychology, 30*, 103-132.**

**Sullivan, C.M. (2003). Using the ESID model to reduce intimate male violence against women. *American Journal of Community Psychology, 32*, 295-303.**

<b>1999-WT-VX-0004:</b>	<b>Treatment of Incarcerated Women With Substance Abuse and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$75,251</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Caron Zlotnick</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Katherine Darke</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

The goals of this research are to evaluate the efficacy, feasibility, and acceptance of a treatment known as Seeking Safety (SS) among a sample of incarcerated women with co-morbid post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse disorder (SUD). Study participants will be drawn from the substance abuse treatment program in the minimum security arm of a women's prison facility. The study will have two phases. Phase I will consist of an open feasibility trial of the treatment with six women with PTSD and SUD. Measures of feasibility will include attrition from treatment, attrition at various follow-up intervals, and reasons for attrition. Based on the results and feedback from various sources, the researchers will then refine and modify the treatment manual. In Phase II, 24 women who attend a substance abuse treatment program in prison and who report substance abuse prior to incarceration as well as current PTSD will be randomly assigned to either Seeking Safety group therapy or standard treatment in the prison. Measures of efficacy will include a number of substance abuse days, degree of PTSD symptoms, and severity of legal problems. The study will assess these outcomes prior to treatment, following treatment, six weeks after release from prison, and three months after release.

**Product: NCJ# 195165/195166  
Treatment of Incarcerated Women With Substance Abuse and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (2002) – C. Zlotnick**

The study conducted an open feasibility trial of SS treatment in a sample of six incarcerated women with SUD and PTSD and performed a randomized controlled pilot study to evaluate the initial efficacy, feasibility, and acceptability of the proposed treatment as an adjunct to treatment as usual (TAU). The researchers compared this experimental group to a TAU control group in a sample of 22 incarcerated women with co-morbid PTSD and SUD. Patient satisfaction with treatment and therapists' assessments were also determined. In the open trial of women who received SS treatment as an adjunct to TAU, there were significant improvements in PTSD symptoms from pretreatment to post-treatment, and this was maintained through 3 months after release. At 6 weeks post-release, there were significant decreases in severity of substance use and degree of legal problems. Only 35 percent of the women had used an illegal substance within 3 months after release. The study found no differences between the group that received SS treatment as an adjunct to TAU and the TAU group on any of the indexes of interest. One explanation is that the small sample size in the control group made it difficult to detect differences between the treatment and the control groups. An expansion of SS treatment to the post-release period may substantially improve the long-term impact of the prison-based treatment.

**Additional NCJ Citations: 208703**

<b>2002-WG-BX-0003:</b>	<b>Sexual Assault Among Intimates: Frequency, Consequences, and Treatments</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$254,322</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Judith McFarlane</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Catherine McNamee</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

The project will: (1) describe the frequency and consequences of sexual assault within intimate relationships specific to ethnicity and immigrant status to compare these findings to a similar group of women who have not experience intimate partner sexual assault and 2) recommend treatments for intimate partner sexual assault. Objectives include a description of the type and extent of intimate partner sexual assault, the proximal and distal consequences of sexual assault on women, children, and family functioning; individual woman and family risk and protective factors for sexual assault; the temporal sequencing of sexual assault within the context of intimate partner violence; and treatments used by women of intimate partner sexual assault. A mixed-model analysis plan will test for significant between-group differences for women reporting sexual abuse compared to women not reporting sexual abuse, as well as within-group differences of racial/ethnic identification and immigrant status. These results will describe the extent and consequences of intimate partner sexual abuse among an urban population that comes to the District Attorney for assistance. This information can be used to design training programs for providers of justice services, as well as assistance and prevention programs for sexually abused women.

**Product: NCJ# 211678**

**Sexual Assault Among Intimates: Frequency, Consequences, & Treatments (2005) – J. McFarlane, A. Malecha**

Intimate partner sexual assault is common, outnumbering both stranger and acquaintance sexual assault with 14-25% of women reporting sexual assault by their intimate partners at some time during their relationship. Although much information exists on the health and emotional effects of intimate partner physical abuse, little to no information is available on intimate partner sexual assault. In order to describe the frequency and consequences of sexual assault within relationships, the present study used a longitudinal cohort design by sampling sexually assaulted and not-sexually assaulted women derived from a prior NIJ study on protection orders. Among the 150 women participating in the protection order study, 148 were living two years later and structured interviews and scored instruments were administered to the 148 women to gather: a) a description of the type and frequency of sexual assault; b) consequences of sexual assault on women’s health and their children’s functioning; and c) treatments used by women to end sexual assault. The study found the following: (1) 68% of physically abused women also reported sexual assault; (2) 79% of sexually assaulted women reported repeated episodes of forced sex, with the frequency of sexual assault highest among white women; (3) justice contact, either with the police or through a protection order, was associated with up to a 70% reduction in the risk of re-assault; (4) not contacting the police after the first sexual assault doubled a woman’s risk of re-assault and not applying for a protection order tripled her re-assault risk; and (5) 88% of the children were exposed to the violence against their mothers, with 64% of the children witnessing the abuse by age 3—only 30% of the children received counseling. Following the results, the author’s recommendation that justice, health, and social service professionals assisting abused women should routinely receive training about the frequency, health and safety consequences of intimate partner sexual assault as well as routinely assess for the type and frequency of sexual assault

<b>2002-WG-BX-0006:</b>	<b>An Evidence-Based Review of Rape and Sexual Assault Preventive Intervention Programs</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$230,358</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Shannon Morrison</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Nicole Gaskin-Laniyan</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

The purpose of this study is to communicate what is known and to make recommendations on promising, efficacious and effective rape and sexual preventive interventions by conducting a systematic, evidence-based review of current results of evaluated sexual assault prevention programs. Little known about the effectiveness of rape and sexual assault preventive interventions and their deterrence of future sexual violence as evaluating preventive intervention programs has continually proved to be a challenge and results are often weak and contradictory in nature. To bring forth more systematic and well-informed studies, it is essential for researchers to know which sexual assault preventive

intervention programs have been evaluated and the results of these evaluations. This requires conducting a rigorous, systematic review of the effectiveness and applicability of evaluated and unevaluated preventive intervention programs; and, developing a comprehensive compendium of effective sexual assault preventive intervention programs. Therefore, the objectives of this study are to conduct a systematic, evidence-based review of current results of evaluated sexual assault preventive intervention programs and provide several documents for dissemination to a broad audience that includes stakeholders at the national, state, and local levels.

**Product: NCJ# 207262**

**An Evidence-Based Review of Rape and Sexual Assault Preventive Intervention Programs (2004) –**

**S. Morrison, J. Hardison, A. Mathew, J. O’Neil**

The project sought to bring forth a more systematic and well-informed study of sexual violence by evaluating the effectiveness of sexual assault preventive interventions (SAPIs) in deterring future sexual violence. Researchers conducted an evidence based review of SAPIs, documented what is known about SAPI evaluation research, identified significant gaps, and provided recommendations for future sexual assault prevention practice and research. The systematic, comprehensive literature review of English-language articles evaluating SAPIs generated study-specific descriptions as well as summary information on a variety of study characteristics. Researchers followed rigorous methodology developed by three organizations recognized internationally for facilitating evidence-based reviews. A total of 59 studies were reviewed for this report, including 9 studies that reported evaluation results of SAPIs focusing on individuals with disabilities. The data provided summary descriptions of the SAPI studies highlight the methodological diversity across the studies, which precluded a rigorous meta-analysis of the finding. Although, the results of the analytic strategy indicate that 14% of the studies reported positive intervention effects at post-test or follow-up and 80% reported mixed results. The methodological limitations evident in the field of SAPI research should be kept in mind, along with other sources of bias; however, these findings suggest that the majority of SAPIs produce some positive attitudinal and behavioral change among program participants and that very few of the programs appear to adversely affect these outcomes.

<b>2002-WG-BX-0008:</b>	<b>Reducing Repeat Sexual Assault Victimization: Design and Testing of a Risk Reduction Program in an Urban Sample</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$299,990</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Rob Davis</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Catherine McNamee</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

The Vera Institute of Justice in partnership with Safe Horizon and the Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress at the University of Washington’s Harborview Medical Center are developing an intervention to help sexual assault survivors reduce the risk of further assault. In the exploratory phase, in-depth interviews will be conducted with survivors of multiple sexual assaults in New York and Seattle, in order to identify factors surrounding re-victimization in an urban community sample. The intervention uses a harm reduction/psycho-educational approach, intended not to heal the psychological wounds, which many require an extensive course of therapy, but to keep the survivor safe while recovering from the assaults. In the second phase, the intervention will be field-tested on another sample of survivors of multiple sexual assaults currently receiving counseling services. Follow-up measures will be collected on the field test sample and on a control group of survivors of multiple assaults who have not received the intervention. Follow-up measures will assess the program’s short-term impact on: (1) risky behaviors; (2) cognitions about control and self-blame; and (3) revictimization. The goal is to develop an approach that will assist rape counselors in helping vulnerable survivors reduce the risk of re-assault while in counseling and afterwards.

**Product: NCJ# 216002**

**Reducing Sexual Revictimization: A Field Test With an Urban Sample (2006) – R. Davis, P. Guthrie, T. Ross, C. O’Sullivan**

Results indicated that in comparison to a matched control group that did not receive the workshop intervention, the workshop intervention was not effective in reducing sexual revictimization among participants over a 6-month follow-up period. Specifically, the workshop did not raise awareness of risky situations or reduce self-blame for prior victimization. On the other hand, women in the intervention group did improve on measures of post-traumatic stress from the baseline to the 6-month follow-up assessment as well as on the measure of confidence in their ability to handle potentially dangerous situations. Participants were 84 previously sexually victimized women who were randomly assigned to participate in the intervention workshop or to a control condition with no intervention training.

Both groups completed a series of questionnaires both prior to the workshop and again 6 months after the workshop. Questionnaires focused on knowledge of sexual assault risk factors, confidence in handling risky situations, attributes for past victimizations, post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, behavior in dating situations, and sexual victimization. Data were analyzed using analysis of variance (ANOVA) tests. The discussion considers reasons why the intervention workshop showed no effect on revictimization risk, including measurement problems, a small sample, and a lengthy follow-up period. The findings suggest many avenues for future research, such as exploring adult learning principles more thoroughly and developing better measures of sexual assault attitudes.

<b>2006-WG-BX-0008:</b>	<b>Testing a Model of Domestic Abuse Against Older Women and Barriers to Help Seeking</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$469,590</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Fred Newman</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Carrie Mulford</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

This research focuses on how older women in the community experience and internalize domestic abuse, and tests a Barriers to Help-Seeking (BHS) model based on results of the earlier study and two existing models, i.e., the Theoretical Model of Elder Mistreatment (National Research Council, 2003) and the Grigsby and Hartman Model (1997). Data from 450 older women representing race/ethnicities of Hispanic, African American non-Hispanic and White non-Hispanic will undergo a series of structural equation and regression analyses. Face-to-face interviews will be used to clarify relationships identified between abuser behaviors and help-seeking barriers. Interview data will be analyzed using ATLAS qualitative data analysis software. Specific aims for the project are: Aim 1: Using a model derived from the DVAOW study that describes the relationships of an abuser’s behaviors to an elder victim’s internal and external perception of barriers to help-seeking, determine which indicators, and in what arrangement with the underlying factors, will provide the best fit of an overarching Barriers to Help-Seeking model. Aim 2: Describe the relationships between barriers to help-seeking and abusive behaviors. Aim 3: Determine the goodness of fit of the model or models to each of three race/ethnicity subgroups: Hispanic, African American non-Hispanic, White non-Hispanic. Aim 4: Describe the extent to which the proposed model(s) has the best fit with key variables (1) type of abuser and (2) type of abuse. Aim 5: Use the resulting best fitting model(s) for each ethnic group and identified predictive values of type of abuser and type of abuse plan.

**Product: NCJ# 231095**

**Testing a Model of Domestic Abuse Against Elder Women and Perceived Barriers to Help-Seeking: Comparing Victim and Non-Victim Responses (2009) – F.L. Newman, L. Seff, R. Beaulaurier**

Analyses of the empirical model used in the study found that perceived barriers to help-seeking involve six factors that are present in distinctive ways, based on the severity of abuse, race-ethnicity, relationship with the abuser, gender of the abuser, and age. The six factors are self-blame, secrecy, abuser behaviors, emotional gridlock (hopelessness, powerlessness, protection of family members, and image), informal external responses, and formal system responses. Victims had a unique, less complex pattern of bivariate correlations/coefficients among these six factors compared with nonvictims. Also, significantly more victims of minor abuse indicated they “did nothing” (74.1 percent) compared with victims of severe abuse (55.4 percent). Of the total sample, 18.7 percent reported severe abuse. Many of the agencies that would be key stakeholders in a local, coordinated community response to domestic abuse of older individuals expressed strong interest in working toward the development of an initial draft plan for a coordinated community response to this category of domestic abuse. This study built on research previously conducted by the same research team, i.e., Domestic Violence Against Older Women. In that study, data were collected from 134 women in 21 focus groups. The current study designed the Perceived Barriers to Help-Seeking (PBHS) model that was empirically tested. Both studies were conducted in Miami-Dade County, FL, where ethnic diversity permitted testing the model’s applicability to Hispanic, Black, and White non-Hispanic subsamples.

<b>2007-IJ-CX-K022:</b>	<b>Domestic Violence Shelter Study</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$253,000</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Eleanor Lyons</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Angela Moore</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

This study describes the experiences of a sample of 3,000 residents of domestic violence shelter programs in up to eight states. States will be selected to maximize the diversity of programs and survivors; they will include programs with a broad range of survivor racial/ethnic/cultural diversity, staff size, capacity, and specialization, as well as including all major national geographic regions and types of local economies. Shelter residents will be asked to complete two brief surveys—one at the time of admission (“Shelter 1”) and a different one as close as possible to shelter exit (“Shelter 2”). The two surveys are based on instruments developed and piloted as part of the “Documenting Our Work” project. They cover such issues as, for Shelter 1, the survivors’ shelter entry experiences, and the types of help they want (from a list of 36 items); and for Shelter 2, the degree to which they received the listed services, as well as nine short-term outcomes for themselves and three for their children. Shelter 2 also contains items regarding respectful treatment by shelter staff and special areas of service, in addition to questions about shelter rules and other issues or concerns. Both surveys also include demographic information (race/ethnicity, age, number of children and number with her in shelter, sexual orientation, and completed education). Programs will also complete a brief survey that will include questions about the number of shelter staff, the services provided to residents, the shelter capacity, staff language capacity, the maximum length of stay, the population and demographic characteristics of the city/town in which the shelter is located, and any specialization the shelter may have. Analysis will focus on descriptions of survivors and their needs, their experiences in shelter (the extent to which they obtained the services they wanted, their perceptions of treatment and issues they encountered), and immediate outcomes. Analysis will also examine the ways in which survivors’ demographic characteristics and local program and community variables may be related to service receipt, perceived treatment, and outcomes.

**Product: NCJ# 225025**

**Domestic Violence Shelters: Survivors Experiences (2008) – E. Lyon, S. Lane, A. Menard**

Using data collected over a six month period from 3,410 residents of 215 domestic violence shelters in eight states, researchers obtained information to make meaningful comparisons of services, immediate outcomes, and experiences of domestic violence survivors. Detailed findings showed specific differences in particular needs across race/ethnicity, age, education, presence of children, and language in which surveys were completed. The study shows that domestic violence shelters address compelling needs that survivors cannot meet elsewhere. Shelter programs provide a complex array of services to victims of abuse and their children; most prominent are safety, information, help with children and help with emotional distress. Most needs are met for most residents, and most problems are resolved. Implications for policy and programming are discussed, and include expanding diversity of shelter staff, expanding conflict resolution training for staff (and perhaps offering it to residents), re-consideration of time limits and eligibility requirements for shelters that have them, and further research on the full array of services (including nonshelter services) provided by domestic violence programs.

**Product: NCJ# 226046**

**Meeting Survivors’ Needs: A Multi-State Study of Domestic Violence Shelter Experiences, Summary of Findings (2009) – E. Lyon, S. Lane, A. Menard**

This study is designed to help fill gaps in current knowledge about the range of services that domestic violence shelters provide, the needs and experiences of survivors who turn to shelters for help, and the types of help they receive at shelter programs. Data were collected from October 2007 to March 2008 through surveys completed by 3,410 residents of 215 domestic violence shelters — 81 percent of the shelters in eight states. Nearly three-quarters of survivors (74 percent) rated the assistance they received as very helpful and another 18 percent said it was helpful. The results make clear that domestic violence shelters serve a critical need for people who have experienced abuse, which many survivors described as lifesaving. Respondents reported that if the shelter did not exist, the consequences for them would be dire: homelessness, serious losses including loss of their children, actions taken in desperation, or continued abuse or death. The researchers found that the services provided to residents (as well as nonresidential program clients) have become complex and comprehensive.

<b>2009-VN-CX-K102:</b>	<b>Evaluation of the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) Program</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$1,498,409</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Heather Clawson</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Bethany Backes</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

A 36-month mixed-method, quasi-experimental tiered evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) programs nationwide will be conducted with the purpose of developing a promising practices toolkit to assist in the ongoing development and enhancement of victim notification programs. The proposed design will not only answer the core question of how to most effectively implement a notification program, but also what components or enhancements of a program work best, what the program outcomes produce, how programs are most likely to sustain their efforts, and how to most effectively allocate costs. To answer these questions and to deconstruct key elements of these programs, the research team will use a three-tiered design: (1) an Implementation and Process Study, which will provide key background information for the other study components, as well as a typology of SAVIN programs, (2) an Outcome Evaluation, which will involve the collection of data from numerous SAVIN stakeholders—and most importantly, crime victims/survivors, and (3) a Cost Effectiveness and Sustainability Study, which will result in the identification of best practices, and also the best practices for the price.

**Product: NCJ #243839**

**Evaluation of the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Program, Final Report (2013) – S. Irazola, E. Williamson, E. Niedzwiecki, S. Debus-Sherill, J. Stricker**

This report presents the findings and methodology of an evaluation of the federally funded automated victim notification (AVN) system, which intends to provide crime victims timely and accurate information on court events and status changes in the course of their case processing. To date, 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico operate some form of AVN system. Evaluation findings suggest that states have implemented AVN systems under a diverse set of structural designs. Underlying these structural differences are issues related to program operation, program administration, stakeholder participation and target population. In developing and implementing AVN, the evaluation advises that states must decide whether they want a vendor-based or in-house system, as well as whether AVN services will be available to all public users or closed/restricted to a subpopulation (e.g., victims, criminal justice professionals). The evaluation identified benefits and limitations for each type of system, and determined that administrative structure and stakeholder “buy-in” are critical to AVN success. Generally, states are advised to limit the number of individuals responsible for the financial and operational management of an AVN system and develop a system to reduce turnover. In addition, states should provide comprehensive AVN services in all facilities that have contact with offenders. There should be one system that allows for seamless registration and, when applicable, under one vendor contract. In addition, victims should be informed about what services are provided through the AVN system and what are not provided. Although this evaluation was not designed to examine the extent to which AVN provided victim notification in a legally sufficient manner, evaluation findings suggest the need for additional research to determine whether legal mandates are met through AVN systems.

**Additional NCJ Citations: 243840, 243841, 243842, 243843**

<b>2010-WG-BX-0009:</b>	<b>The Long-Term Effects of Civil Legal Services on Battered Women</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$823,822</b>
<b>PIs:</b>	<b>Carolyn Copps Hartley &amp; Lynette M. Renner</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Karen Stern</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

The goal of this 3-year research study is to contribute to understanding the role of civil legal services as an intervention response to the crime of domestic violence. Project objectives include: (1) conducting a 2-year, longitudinal outcome study of women receiving civil legal services; (2) testing a conceptual model that looks at both the direct effects of civil legal services on safety, psychological well-being and economic self-sufficiency outcomes; as well as the mediating effects of the quality of the attorney client relationship on women's sense of empowerment and study outcomes; (3) examining the total costs of services in relation to the severity of abuse and outcomes; and (4) disseminating study findings to practitioners and policy makers working to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic violence on victims. The four primary research questions driving this study are: (1) What is the direct relationship between civil legal services and safety (re-victimization by her former or a new partner), psychological well-being, and economic self-sufficiency for battered women over time? (2) Does the quality of the attorney-client relationship mediate the relationship between civil legal services and women's sense of empowerment over time? (3) What is the indirect effect of civil legal services on the study outcomes mediated through women's sense of empowerment? (4) Are there differences in the relationship between civil legal services received and the above mentioned outcomes for women in urban versus rural communities? A longitudinal panel study design will be used to examine outcomes related to receiving civil legal services for battered women. The research team will recruit 300

women (150 urban and 150 rural) who self-identify as victims of domestic violence and who contact Iowa Legal Aid for Civil Legal Services. Recruitment of women will occur in three waves. The team will conduct an initial assessment interview and four follow-up interviews at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months. The research team will also collect data on the type, amount and length of civil legal services these women receive. Descriptive analysis, bivariate analysis and hierarchical linear modeling will be done to address the various research questions.

<b>2010M-10065:</b>	<b>Practical Implications of Current Intimate Partner Violence Research for Victim Advocates and Service Providers</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Barbara Hart</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Bethany Backes</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed</b>

The purpose of this work is to describe to victim advocates and service providers what the research tells us about domestic violence, including perpetrators and victims; the impact of current responses to domestic violence; and, more particularly, the implications of research for day to day real world responses to domestic violence by service providers.

**Product: NCJ #244348**

**Practical Implications of Current Intimate Partner Violence Research for Victim Advocates and Service Providers (2013)—B. J. Hart, A. R. Klein**

This report uses a question-and-answer format to inform victim advocates and service providers of the findings of published research on intimate partner violence (IPV) and their relevance for practice. The first of 13 sections of the guide poses and answers 11 questions regarding what constitutes IPV, including various behaviors and circumstances. Other issues considered in this section are whether men and women are equally likely to be victims or perpetrators of IPV and whether women’s use of IPV is different from men’s. The second major section poses and answers questions related to IPV victimization rates. Some of the issues addressed are populations at increased risk for IPV, with attention to whether the risk for IPV is greater for women who are separated or divorced, pregnant, disabled, elderly, LGBT or military. The guide’s third section poses and answers 19 questions related to the impact of IPV on victims. The fourth section poses and answers 20 questions related to the characteristics of persons who perpetrate IPV. Other sections of the guide pose and answer questions related to victim characteristics that predict IPV victimization whether IPV victims seek assistance and services, protective factors and coping skills that mitigate the adverse impact of IPV, the services that are typically available to IPV victims, whether victim services work, health care providers’ role in responding to IPV, what victim advocates and service providers need to know about the legal system, the features of IPV victim advocacy, and the performance measures advocates should adopt in evaluating the criminal justice response to IPV.

<b>2012-VF-GX-0001:</b>	<b>Evaluation of the Office for Victims of Crime Wraparound Victim Legal Assistance Network Demonstration Project</b>
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	<b>\$598,720.00</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Seri Irazola</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Bethany Backes</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

Victims of crime experience a wide range of legal needs, from asserting their rights in criminal proceedings to a number of additional civil legal issues related to the victimization, such as employment, housing, immigration, and custody concerns. Often, victims are required to navigate multiple, disparate organizations to meet these diverse needs. The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) has created a new demonstration grant program, the OVC Wraparound Victim Legal Assistance Network Demonstration Project (OVC WVLAN), to address these legal needs using a holistic, wraparound approach. ICF proposes to perform a 15-month study to assess the initial phase of this new demonstration project and lay the groundwork for future evaluation activities. The evaluation team will (a) document the development and any initial implementation of wraparound legal network models, (b) design a comprehensive and rigorous research method conducive to both a baseline study and a future process and impact evaluation, (c) perform the initial baseline study, and (d) continuously advise grantees and local research partners. The baseline study will depend on the recommended outcome evaluation methods and each site’s models and data capabilities. However, a flexible approach would likely include (1) collecting and coding stakeholder interview data, (2) collecting and analyzing victim survey

data, (3) collecting and analyzing legal network survey data, and (4) collecting and analyzing a variety of administrative data from sources such as legal services databases, quarterly reports, court records, and case files. ICF will produce a report for NIJ detailing baseline study findings and recommendations for future evaluation activities, including a series of instruments and protocols that can be used for a future process, outcome, and cost-effectiveness study. In addition, ICF will conduct a series of webinars that will be useful to grantees and for other communities engaging in replication efforts. In all activities and dissemination efforts, the evaluation team will use a research-to-practice framework that will increase opportunities for the OVC WVLAN programs to have greater program fidelity and long-term sustainability. A full-scale evaluation of the OVC WVLAN demonstration project will assist policymakers in understanding whether Federal funds supporting legal networks can assist victims and whether this is a cost-effective approach. It will also provide important information to the field on victims' legal needs and how these needs are (or are not) currently being met.

<b>2014-IJ-CX-0032:</b>	<b>Use of Research Evidence within Domestic Violence-Serving Organizations</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	<b>\$78,602</b>
<b>PI:</b>	<b>Taryn Lindhorst</b>
<b>Program Officer:</b>	<b>Dara Blachman-Demner</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

Millions of dollars are spent every year on research that has implications for criminal justice policy and practice. Unfortunately, little of this research focuses directly on the question of how research is used by policymakers and practitioners. While communities of practice have been studied in single sectors (notably education and medicine), understanding how communities of practice that cross service sectors utilize research is of particular importance in the development of scholarship on research use.. One such cross-sector community of practice is the set of agencies and organizations that serve victims and perpetrators of domestic violence (DV). The purpose of this study is to investigate how research is defined, acquired, interpreted and used to change policy and practice within criminal justice and community organizations serving DV victims and perpetrators. Our goal is to undertake Phase 1 of a longer-term two-part mixed method study of research use among organizational leaders and mid-level program managers that will identify characteristics of research and users; social network connections; organizational structure, capacity and culture; and cross-sector collaboration issues that affect the use of research in diverse, sometimes conflictual, organizations serving persons affected by DV. Through key informant interviews, document reviews and focus groups with leaders in three primary systems involved in DV work (advocacy, police and courts), we will advance understanding of the use of research evidence within and across these systems. Understanding the factors that contribute to research use will help inform policies on research dissemination, contribute to the development of training in processes to increase the use of research evidence (including helping researchers to increase the responsiveness and accessibility of their research to DV organizations), and increase understanding of how leaders across the DV-serving community can better collaborate to use research evidence in their work. More generally, findings from this study will hold implications for understanding the use of research in cross-sector communities of practice that intersect with the criminal justice system, such as services to address mental health and chemical dependency concerns.

For an index of all grants, go to <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223572/223572-grants-index.pdf>.