

Sub-Category D-ii: VAW and Welfare

COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1993-2020

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Category D: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

ii. VAW and Welfare

1998-WT-VX-0009:	Violence Against Women: The Role of Welfare Reform
Amount:	\$516,842
PI:	Sandra Goodwin
Status:	Completed

The proposed project will examine the relationship between domestic violence and employability within a welfare population, and the effectiveness of services provided. The goals are to determine: (1) the impact of domestic violence on the attainment of positive employment outcomes under welfare reform; (2) the impact of welfare reform requirements on women's experiences of domestic violence; and (3) the effects that the identification and provision of services to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients have on these two relationships. The proposed research will employ a longitudinal design. Cohorts of 400 TANF female recipients from each of 2 counties will be randomly selected at the time of their eligibility re-determination and enrollment in CalWORKs, California's welfare reform program. The subjects will participate in an assessment of domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse problems, and a structured interview. Follow-up interviews will be conducted at 12 and 24 months. Service data will be tracked to determine the effectiveness of each county's service delivery strategy in ameliorating identified problems and in achieving success for the women in meeting the welfare-to-work requirements.

Product: NCJ# 205791/205792

Violence Against Women: The Role of Welfare Reform (2003) – S. Goodwin, D. Chandler, J. Meisel

When welfare reform was implemented, Congress included the Family Violence Option that permits States to grant domestic violence exemptions regarding welfare-to-work provisions under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). At least 38 States have enacted such exemptions. The prevalence of domestic violence, mental health problems, and alcohol and other drug problems among welfare recipients have impacted welfare reform efforts. The current study surveyed representative samples of TANF recipients in two California counties beginning in the summer of 1999 and continuing at intervals of 1 year and 15 months. A comprehensive definition of domestic violence was adopted which incorporated the Conflict Tactics Scale. Definitions of mental health and alcohol and other drug problems were defined using the World Health Organization's CIDI instrument. The four main findings indicate high rates of domestic violence among the welfare reform population. In approximately 15% of the cases, severe abuse was reported; over the 3-year study period, a total of 37% of the women reported serious domestic violence. Serious mental health problems and/or alcohol or other drug problem co-occurred with domestic violence in a large proportion of the welfare reform population. Domestic violence impairs a woman's capacity to find employment; at the end of 1 year, 28% of women were working at least 26 hours a week if they did not experience domestic violence, while only 12% of the women who experienced domestic violence worked. Finally, the presence of domestic violence is associated with deleterious outcomes for children. Policy implications are discussed in the report and include the need for the Federal reauthorization of welfare legislation that would require TANF programs to screen and provide services for applicants experiencing domestic violence, mental health problems, and alcohol or other drug problems.

Additional NCJ Citations: 202457

1998-WT-VX-0020:	The Relationship Between Welfare, Domestic Violence, and Employment
Amount:	\$429,068
PI:	Martha Coulter
Status:	Completed

This 24-month project will employ a longitudinal design, using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Subjects will be a sample of approximately 600 welfare recipients, drawn from a statewide, geographically stratified, representative sample selected for a study of the needs of welfare recipients. The first component of the study will consist of a telephone survey to collect quantitative data on participation characteristics, experience of domestic violence, physical and mental health status, coping resources, child functioning, social support, and employment status. A follow-up study will be conducted nine months later to assess changes in status, functioning, and employment. Secondary analysis of Medicaid administrative data will compare the utilization rates for medical and mental health services of the participants. The second component of the study will consist of semi-structured

interviews with a sub-sample of the original sample. Participants will be interviewed four times over a 12 month period to monitor ongoing status with respect to mediating variables and employment status. The key components of the interview will be the intensive tracking of the participant's experience of domestic violence, changes in the experience and impact of mediating variables, and their work participation and experiences.

Product: NCJ# 205294

The Impact of Domestic Violence on the Employment Experiences of Women on Welfare (2003) – M. Coulter

The study involved 411 women who were, at the time of the study, on welfare or had been at a previous time. The women were ages 18-66, and 34 percent were White, 58 percent African-American, and 7 percent other. The study consisted of 2 quantitative telephone interviews (411 at time 1 and 109 at time 2). Two in-person qualitative interviews were also conducted (44 at time 1 and 21 at time 2). Results suggest that the three variables of social support, mental health and parenting stress are negatively related to domestic violence in both the past year and prior to that time. Being African American has a protective effect for women not currently in a relationship in regard to the impact of the mediating variables. Employment success is more likely if the respondent is in good physical health, has good caseworker support, social support, employer support, physical health, and a technical skill or education, and the identification of domestic violence experiences in both the past 12 months and before then.

1999-WT-VX-0003:	The Effects of Welfare Reciprocity on Domestic Violence
Amount:	\$119,450
PI:	Samuel Myers
Status:	Completed

The proposed project will examine the possible relationship between welfare reciprocity and domestic violence observed at a time prior to welfare reform. The goal of the project is to test the underlying premise that welfare reciprocity is related to domestic violence. The objectives of the research are to: (1) explore the direct effects of welfare reciprocity on measures of domestic violence and (2) examine the indirect effects of welfare reciprocity on abuse via the impact of welfare and/or alternative economic resources on the ability of the woman to leave an abusive relationship. The proposed research will examine two different national data sets: the National Survey of Families and Households, Waves I and II (1987-88 and 1992-94) and the National Youth Survey, Wave VII (1987). Using these data sets, alternative specifications of the linkage between domestic violence and welfare will be estimated. One specification will examine the direct impacts of welfare on the probability of being in an abusive relationship. This second is an economic model to capture possible links between welfare reciprocity and domestic violence.

Product: NCJ# 204008

Effects of Welfare on Domestic Violence (2003) – S. Ards, S. Myers

The study hypothesized that welfare reciprocity would contribute to a reduction in domestic violence (DV) by providing women with the financial means to leave an abusive relationship; whereas, policies designed to limit welfare reciprocity could contribute to an increase in DV. A second model was tested to determine if more welfare recipients would leave abusive relationships. A probability sample of 13,017 respondents in 100 communities were interviewed which included 9,643 households and a double sampling of African-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Mexican-Americans, single-parent families, families with stepchildren, cohabiting couples, and recently married persons. The findings indicate that welfare recipients were more likely than similarly situated non-welfare recipients to experience DV; however, persons receiving welfare did not leave abusive relationships at rates different from those in non-abusive relationships. There were significant differences between Blacks and Whites regarding welfare reciprocity, DV, and exits from intimate partnerships. Although Blacks were more likely than Whites to receive welfare and to be victims or perpetrators of DV, there was no significant indication that Blacks who received welfare were more or less likely to be victims of DV than Blacks who did not receive welfare.

2000-WT-VX-0009:	Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women: Battering, Work, and Welfare
Amount:	\$234,905
PI:	Lisa Brush
Status:	Completed

The proposed study will evaluate the effects of battering on the efforts of poor women to achieve autonomy in the welfare-to-work transition, economic health, and relationships. Its objectives are to: (1) elicit and analyze poor women's autobiographical accounts of the interplay between battering and work, family, welfare, and poverty; and (2)

develop a 10-week community literacy project using select participants to analyze autobiographical data and test hypotheses about the effects and timing of battering. Study subjects will be recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) subsidies, recruited through the Pittsburgh Partnership, which is the central agency for welfare-to-work programs in the area. Longitudinal research data will be collected through repeated, in-depth retrospective and prospective interviews and individual-level narratives from the community literacy project. Retrospective data will first be gathered from structured and unstructured interviews of the study's sample of 40 battered women in transition. Subsequent prospective interviews with the group will be undertaken at three quarterly intervals. The community literacy project will employ a sample of 12 women, and will use a control group for comparison.

Product: NCJ# 205021

Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women: Battering, Work, and Welfare (2003) – L. Brush, L. Higgins

The study sought to measure control, sabotage, and physical abuse welfare recipients experience at the hands of their intimate partners; track the timing and costs of abuse through the transition from welfare to work; and understand from the perspectives of welfare recipients the obstacles women face. During May-June 2001, 40 women in Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) were interviewed regarding their transition from welfare to work. All were non-pregnant women, at least 18 years old, and in their first days of program enrollment. Eighty-three percent were self-identified as Black. Analyses included descriptive statistics, correlations, and limited statistical modeling of the effects of subject characteristics and experiences on outcomes. The findings indicated that using measures of physical violence alone results in contradictory and sometimes counterintuitive research findings. Recommendations are including measures of emotional abuse and work-related control as well as physical violence; differentiating between abuse and its consequences; and asking specifically about the relationship women observe between their going to work and their being abused or suffering from trauma symptoms. It was also found that physically battered women earn less than other welfare recipients. Battering aggravates women’s experiences of the hardships associated with poverty. Abused women experience more hardships of poverty even if their work experiences are similar to those of other welfare recipients.

Additional NCJ Citations: 202458

2001-WT-BX-0002:	The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Women’s Labor Force Participation
Amount:	\$299,407
PI:	Stephanie Riger
Status:	Completed

This project will study the impact of intimate partner violence on labor force participation of current and former welfare recipients, and it will determine whether change in welfare status affects violence levels. This project will embed a study of the impact of intimate partner violence on women’s economic self-sufficiency into a six year panel study of welfare recipients in Illinois. The inclusion of a component on intimate violence in the six year study will permit examination of these issues: (a) With a large (1,400 women) geographically and ethnically diverse statewide representative sample of women on welfare; (b) Over six years (and thus extend beyond time limits on welfare receipt and across fluctuations in the economy); and (c) With interview and administrative data on these women and their children. Interviews at one-year intervals will assess employment and violence levels, and variables related to employment and violence such as mental and physical health and availability of child care and transportation. Administrative data will assess employment, earnings and types of jobs, as well as contact with other social services, income supports (such as food stamps, Medicaid, and child care assistance), and whether welfare sanctions or time limits were invoked.

Product: NCJ# 207143

Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Women’s Labor Force Participation (2004) – S. Riger, S. Staggs

Recent but not long-past violence is linked to unstable employment over a three-year period. Women who are victims of recent abuse worked fewer months than those not abused or those who suffered abuse only in the past. Women who reported at Wave 1 that they had been abused rated their health a year later as poorer and reported a greater need for mental health treatment than non-abused women. Abused women report having more chronic health problems than non-abused women (although this difference did not reach statistical significance). Moreover, abused women reported different types of problems. Women with abusive partners reported more emotional problems and more stress-related health concerns, such as headaches, ulcers and back problems, than did nonabused women. Over time, chronic intimate partner violence is associated with poor health, and recent intimate partner violence is associated with unstable

employment. Health mediates the relationship between abuse and economic outcomes over time. The findings suggest that abuse manifests as stress-related mental and physical health problems as long as a year after the abuse has occurred. These health problems then decrease women's ability to maintain stable employment even as long as two years after the abuse has occurred.

Additional NCJ Citations: 206847

2006-WG-BX-0011:	Poly-Victimization History Among Girls Adjudicated Delinquent
Amount:	\$297,888
PI:	Dana DeHart
Status:	Completed

This study has several aims: (1) To examine range, diversity, and co-occurrence of different types of violence over the course of these girls' lives. (2) To examine independent, relative, and cumulative trajectories of risk for different types of victimization over the lifespan. (3) For each type of violence exposure, to examine ecological factors that may inform mechanisms of risk or protective factors that mitigate impact of violence. (4) To examine the relationship of different patterns of victimization and service use to severity and chronicity of offending. This study incorporates combined quantitative-qualitative interviews with 120 girls adjudicated delinquent as well as paper-and-pencil surveys administered to a primary caregiver for each girl. Interview and survey data on family history, violence exposure, and delinquent or criminal history will be supplemented with archival records documenting each girl's involvement with the justice system, financial assistance, child welfare, educational programs, and health services. Timelines showing sequence and co-occurrence of events will be mapped using the Life History Calendar method, and analyses will include qualitative and quantitative approaches guided by grounded theoretical, ecological, and event-history models.

Product: NCJ# 228620

Poly-Victimization Among Girls in the Juvenile Justice System: Manifestations and Associations to Delinquency (2009) – D.D. DeHart

The risk trajectories identified from the data show the girls' susceptibility to caregiver violence and the witnessing of violence prior to reaching school age. A second peak in risk occurred during adolescence. Although sexual violence was a risk for girls throughout their lives, it was particularly prevalent during adolescence. The risk for gang or group attacks increased just before pubescence, and the risk for dating violence escalated after pubescence. Caregiver violence showed the greatest stability in predicting the girls' substance use, followed by sexual violence and witnessing violence. The girls' qualitative accounts indicated that the use of alcohol and drugs was a means of coping with various victimizations. This coping mechanism was often modeled for the girls by parents or adult sexual partners. The findings show that delinquent girls need education and services that address alcohol and drug use that stems from traumatic victimization. They also need to develop skills for constructive coping mechanisms that address violence, loss, and other stressors in their lives. The findings have theoretical implications for the range and consequences of violence exposure for at-risk girls as well as on the design and objectives of service interventions, justice interventions, and efforts to prevent the victimization of girls through work with families and communities.

For an index of all grants, go to ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh241/files/archives/ncjrs/223572-grants-index.pdf.