

Sub-Category D-vi: Context and Life Course

COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1993-2020

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Category D: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

vi. Context and Life Course

1998-WT-VX-0010:	Developmental Antecedents of Violence Against Women: A Longitudinal Approach
Amount:	\$99,740
PI:	Jacquelyn White
Status:	Completed

The proposed project will investigate the developmental antecedents of physical and sexual violence against young women, using a theoretically based model that includes characteristics of victim, perpetrator, and social context. The project will consider acquaintance violence at three stages: childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood. The data will be examined at each life stage, and developmentally, by assessing the influence of risk factors at a prior life stage on involvement in acquaintance violence at a later stage. The primary goal of the research is to test hypotheses related to: 1) the co-occurrence of multiple forms of acquaintance victimization and perpetration, both sexual and physical and 2) childhood victimization and perpetration as risk factors for further victimization. The data to be analyzed for this study will be drawn from an NIMH-funded, longitudinal study from 1990-95. The NIMH project investigated victimization and perpetration among college students. Analyses will consider factors in the young women's and men's lives that might shape and influence victimizations and perpetration.

Product: NCJ# 187770

Developmental Antecedents of Violence Against Women: A Longitudinal Approach (2001) – J. White, P. Smith

The research used a theoretically based multi-causal model that included characteristics related to the victim, the perpetrator, and the environment. The participants included more than 1,500 women and 800 men who were demographically representative of undergraduate women and men in State-supported universities and born in 1972 and 1973. The analysis focused on experiences with interpersonal violence at three stages in the life course. Results revealed a significant effect for the type of adolescent experience on the total number of sexual victimizations across the 4 years of college, as well as the total number of physical assaults. Women who had experienced both sexual and physical violence during adolescence and the first year of college remained at higher risk for further injury in the subsequent years of college relative to women who experienced no victimization or only sexual victimization. Women experiencing no victimization reported the lowest levels of psychological distress on measures of anxiety, depression, and loss of control. Victimization in the first year of college affected women's values, attitudes, and sense of self. In addition, men who had engaged in adolescent sexual assault were four times more likely to sexually assault during the first year of college than men without a prior self-reported history of sexual assault.

Additional NCJ Citations: 187775, 197019

1998-WT-VX-0018:	Beliefs and Perceptions About Domestic Violence: Effects of Individual, Contextual, and Community Factors
Amount:	\$196,494
PI:	Alissa Worden
Status:	Completed

The goals and objectives of the project are to: (1) gather descriptive information about attitudes, values, and perceptions regarding domestic violence to identify the degree of consensus or disagreement on these issues and thresholds of criminal domestic violence; (2) test hypotheses derived from deterrence and empowerment theory about the relationships between individual, contextual, and community variables and attitudes; and (3) examine theoretically derived hypotheses about the relationships between individual attitudes toward the acceptability of partner violence and perceptions about likely interventions and sanctions. The proposed research will utilize data from telephone interviews with a sample of about 1,200 respondents selected from six sites in New York State (Essex County, Oneida County, Lockport, Syracuse, Utica and Yonkers). Data will be analyzed using both exploratory and descriptive analyses.

Product: NCJ# 198319

Public Opinion About Domestic Violence (2001) – B. Carlson, A. Worden

A survey of 1,200 respondents in 6 communities was used to examine variations in beliefs and to test hypotheses about the influence of respondents' social background and experiences, as well as community context, on beliefs and opinions about domestic violence. The study found that a significant proportion of respondents held women responsible for violence against them, with beliefs that victims can and should end violence by exiting abusive relationships, that women's behavior provokes violence, and/or that women initiate physical conflicts. The intensity of victim-blaming was associated with beliefs about the appropriateness of victim-oriented interventions as well as legal actions directed against perpetrators. Further, findings suggest that people's views about what should be done in response to DV correlate with what they believe police actually do. Most people's preferences for effective interventions are not being implemented. Generally, the public is not resistant to the criminalization of many aggressive behaviors. The public apparently favors a more protective and interventionist role for the courts than they have historically adopted. Apparently, there is little need to convince the public that DV is a common, illegal problem that requires police intervention. The public may, however, be misinformed about the difficulties women face in exiting a violent relationship.

1998-WT-VX-0022: Does Community Crime Prevention Make a Difference Behind Closed Doors
Amount: \$135,567
PI: Carolyn Block
Status: Completed

The proposed research will examine whether community participation and efficiency translate into reduction of violence "behind closed doors;" and whether neighborly interest and concern about street crime reduce the risk that intimate violence will escalate over time into serious or life threatening injury. More specifically, the study will examine the contextual effect of neighborhood characteristics, in addition to informal and formal support systems, individual resources, and the women's particular situation, on the likelihood that an abused woman will attempt help-seeking, use various interventions, and that she will be able to extricate herself from further violent incidents. To investigate these issues, the proposed study will link two risk and unique datasets- the Women's Health Risk study and the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy Evaluation (CAPS). Analytic techniques to be used include stepwise multiple regression, logistic regression, and survival analysis.

Product: NCJ# 194711
Do Collective Efficacy and Community Capacity Make a Difference “Behind Closed Doors” (2001) – C. Block, W. Skogan

The study combined longitudinal data on a sample of 210 abused women from the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study and community-context data for each woman's residential neighborhood from the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) evaluation. The unit of analysis for the study was the individual abused woman. After placing each woman in her residential neighborhood, defined as the Chicago Police Beat, researchers sought to determine whether the neighborhood's collective efficacy and capacity to solve problems, measured by indicators of informal social control, organizational involvement, and downtown connections, had an effect on the kind of help she sought and whether she escaped future intimate partner violence. The study found that abused women living in organized neighborhoods where collective efficacy was high were no more likely to escape further intimate partner violence and seek various kinds of help than women living in other neighborhoods, other factors being equal. This finding has implications for both research and practice. Most community-level research studies have focused on street violence and ignored violence within the family. The findings of this study indicate that researchers have thus ignored a significant category of violence in neighborhoods.

1998-WT-VX-0023/2001-WT-BX-0001: Ecological Model of Battered Women’s Experience Over Time
Amount: \$569,586
PI: Mary Ann Dutton
Status: Completed

The goals of the study are to: 1) describe and predict longitudinal patterns of battered women's experiences over time, and specifically the maintenance, escalation and diminution of levels of physical, sexual and psychological abuse and battered women's subjective appraisal of current risks and 2) test a model for predicting average level and change in physical, sexual and psychological abuse, and battered women's subjective appraisal of current risks from a set of factors that are relevant for interventions. Secondly, longitudinal patterns of battered women's help-seeking and their risk reduction strategies, social support and emotional well-being will also be examined. The proposed study

uses a convenience sample of 400 battered women recruited from a battered women's shelter, a domestic violence criminal court, and civil protection order intake office, to examine their violence-related experiences over time. Trained interviewers will recruit and conduct initial interviews at the time prospective participants contact one of the three study sites for help. Follow-up phone interviews will be completed at 3-month intervals over a 12-month period for a total of five data collection waves.

Product: NCJ# 185887

Ecological Model of Battered Women’s Experience Over Time (2000) – M. Dutton

The research focused on the patterns of violence and abuse in women’s lives over time, their appraisals of their risk of further abuse, and the strategies they used to deal with the violence. Initial interviews took place onsite at the shelters and courts, with four follow-up interviews over the course of a year. The analysis presented the findings from the first interviews, with additional material from the second interviews. Results revealed that the participants were mainly black women and that they were diverse in age, income, education, reliance on public assistance, and relationship status. The violence they experienced was severe; however, the current incident was not the worst incident for almost half of the participants. Participants commonly used seven strategies that were helpful. Strategies commonly used but not helpful including talking to the perpetrator and fighting back. Participants who used the criminal courts considered protection order remedies and child support remedies to be important. Results also revealed that many participants expected to have continued contact with the perpetrator. Perceived future risks from the perpetrator included violation of the protection order, causing financial problems, and property destruction. The analysis concluded that most participants had experienced severe violence and abuse over the preceding year and that no single strategy was effective.

Additional NCJ Citations: 200046, 209006, 212060, 213713

1998-WT-VX-0028:	Risk Factors for Violent Victimization of Women: A Prospective Study
Amount:	\$67,035
PI:	Jane Siegel
Status:	Completed

The goal of the proposed project is to identify risk factors for both physical and sexual victimization of women, including developmental/family antecedents and situational factors that might make women more vulnerable. The proposed project will investigate whether women with a documented history of child sexual abuse have a greater risk of subsequent sexual or physical victimization than women with no such history. The project will also investigate whether such situational factors as alcohol abuse and numerous sexual partners, or a women’s own violent behavior, puts her at greater risk. The secondary analysis will utilize data from a prospective study of the consequences of child sexual abuse. The sample consists of (a) 206 women with documented cases of child abuse that occurred in 1973–75 who were part of an NIMH-funded study of the short-term consequences of sexual victimization, and (b) a matched comparison group of 205 women with no documented history of abuse.

Product: NCJ# 189160/189161

Risk Factors for Violent Victimization of Women: A Prospective Study (2001) – J. Siegel, L. Williams

Data came from a prospective study of 206 urban, mainly low-income Black women who experienced child sexual abuse before they turned 13 in the early 1970’s and were followed for a year after their victimization. Follow-up interviews took place in 1990 with 136 of the women, and in 1996–97 with 87 of the survivors of child sexual abuse and 87 women from a matched comparison group. In contrast to prior research generally concluding that a history of child sexual abuse (CSA) is a risk factor for later sexual victimization, our research found that CSA before the age of 13 was not by itself a risk factor for adult victimization, but that CSA victims who were also victimized as adolescents between 13 and 17 were at much greater risk of adult sexual victimization than any other women. Additional risk factors of adult victimization included measures of a woman’s sexual behavior, which indicated that risk increases for those with multiple sexual partners and those with problematic beliefs about sexual conduct. Results indicate that girls who ran away from home and whose family backgrounds include mothers who were arrested, are at significantly increased risk of adolescent victimization relative to other victims of CSA.

Additional NCJ Citations: 197019, 201580

1999-WT-VX-0007:	Women’s Experience With Violence: A Collaborative Research Initiative for the Center for Research on Women and the Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center
Amount:	\$325,725
PI:	Phyllis Betts

Status:	Completed
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The proposed project will: (1) examine risk factors for sexual violence against women and the relationship between sexual violence and other forms of victimization; (2) draw conclusions regarding the effectiveness of the Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center (MSARC) strategies; and (3) recommend interventions to increase convictions and decrease revictimization through MSARC and community intervention programs. This project will construct an SPSS database of the most recent year of quantitative data documenting MSARC clients' experience with counseling and advocacy. Clients are women aged 18 and over ($n = 400$) and girls and young women from 13 to 17 ($n = 200$). Data will include demographics, victim-offender relationship, and clients' experience with MSARC and the criminal justice system. A content analysis of qualitative data using ethnography will be added to the database. Offender and case disposition data from the police and courts will be added. GIS mapping will identify neighborhoods with higher and lower incidences of sexual assault, and neighborhood profiles will be constructed. Two sets of interviews, nine months apart, with a stratified sample of clients ($n = 100$) will supplement the database. Interviews will document women's experience with violence and other victimization as well as the social ecology of their lives. Multivariate analysis of factors associated with re-victimization will be conducted.

2002-WG-BX-0004:	Sexual Assault During and After Separation/Divorce: An Exploratory Study
Amount:	\$104,832
PI:	Walter DeKeseredy
Status:	Completed

A growing body of research shows that many North American women who end intimate relationships through legal separation, divorce, or other means are at great risk of being physically assaulted or killed, especially if they lived with violent spouses or cohabitating partners. Still, to date, there is a shortage of empirical work on male-to female sexual assaults during the process of terminating the marital/cohabiting relationship and after separation/divorce. This project explores the following questions: (1) are survivors of estrangement sexual assault also victims of physical and psychological assault, or is such sexual victimization the only type of abuse they experience; (2) do survivors of estrangement sexual assault experience different types of forced sexual activity; (3) based on the survivors' point of view, what are the major characteristics of men who sexually assault their estranged female partners; and (4) based on the survivors' perspectives, what types of social support and intervention are the most effective. This exploratory study involves conducting semi-structured interviews with 150 women in rural and urban settings in Ohio.

Product: NCJ# 207197

Separation/Divorce Sexual Assault: The Current State of Social Scientific Knowledge (2004) –

W. DeKeseredy, M. Rogness, M. Schwartz

This article reviews the current state of empirical and theoretical work on separation/divorce sexual assault. This review found that the study of separation/divorce sexual assault is in the beginning stages and that more attention needs to be paid to the issue of defining both sexual assault and separation/divorce. Based on the limited amount of research reviewed for this article, the researchers concluded the following: (1) the risks of non-lethal violence and intimate femicide are highest when women seek freedom from their abusive spouses or other cohabitating partners; (2) the prevalence rates of separation/divorce sexual assault may be low for some studies because data on these assaults have come primarily from women who were spouses; (3) the narrow definitions used in this area of research needs to be broadened to include other groups of men and women, such as immigrants, those living in public housing, or persons with mental disabilities; (4) a broader definition of sexual assault needs to include a wider range of experiences; and (5) there is a major need for small- and large-scale representative sample surveys in future empirical and theoretical work.

Additional NCJ Citations: 213266

2002-WG-BX-0009:	Rape Prevention Through Bystander Education
Amount:	\$283,038
PI:	Elizabeth Plante
Status:	Completed

The primary objective of this project is the evaluation of a sexual assault prevention program on a college campus. The program emphasizes a relatively new area of prevention, bystander behavior, in an attempt to find new ways to engage both men and women. The program focuses on training and supporting prosocial bystander behaviors—

helping students become more sensitive to issues of sexual assault and teaching them skills to intervene to prevent assaults from occurring and support survivors who may disclose to them. Research participants are being drawn from among enrolled undergraduate students and will be divided into a control group who will receive no special programming, students who will receive a one-session dose of programming, and students who will receive a three-session dose of programming. Participants will complete pre, posttest and follow-up measures at two and four months of knowledge and attitudes related to sexual assault and bystander behavior. A subsample will also participate in a 12-month follow-up and in focus groups to discuss strengths and limits of the program.

Product: NCJ# 208701

Rape Prevention Through Bystander Education: Bringing a Broader Community Perspective to Sexual Violence Prevention (2005) – V. Baynard, E. Plante, M. Moynihan

The sexual violence prevention program evaluated in this study uses a community of responsibility model to teach women and men how to intervene safely and effectively in cases of sexual violence before, during, and after incidents with strangers, acquaintances, or friends. The program varies from other prevention programs in that it does not address men as potential perpetrators or women as potential victims. Rather, it approaches both women and men as potential bystanders or witnesses to behaviors related to sexual violence. The program is grounded in recent research on social and community psychology which focuses on bystander intervention and community-focused solutions. The program draws upon findings from research on community change and prevention as well as more individually focused studies of rape prevention programs and bystander behavior in emergency and crime situations. Three hundred and eighty-nine undergraduates participated and were randomly assigned to one of two treatment groups or to a control group. Results from the research reveal that up to 2 months after participating in either a one- or three-session version of the program, participants in the treatment conditions showed improvements across measures of attitudes, knowledge, and behavior while the control group did not. Most program effects persisted at 4- and 12-month follow-ups. The program appeared to benefit women and men equally.

2003-WG-BX-1001:	Sexual Violence: Longitudinal, Multigenerational Evidence
Amount:	\$292,783
PI:	Jennifer Grotmeter
Status:	Completed

This research will use the National Youth Survey to achieve the following objectives, to: (1) study developmental patterns of initiation, continuity, and suspension of engagement in sexually assaultive behaviors in the original respondents and (2) study sequencing of initiation and suspension of sexual assault relative to other interpersonal violence, other delinquent and criminal behaviors, and potential risk factors for initiation and suspension, in the original respondent generation. Additionally, this research will study (3) the prevalence of sexual assault and the comorbidity of sexual assault with other problem behaviors, including other interpersonal violence, (a) developmentally, across the life course, for the focal respondents, (b) inter-generationally, comparing patterns of co-morbidity in adolescence and young adulthood, for the original respondents and their children, and (c) including comparisons of co-morbidity developmentally and intergenerationally across sociodemographic subpopulations. Finally, this research will (4) study the long-term trajectories of adolescent and young adult sexual assaulters as they age into middle adulthood for the original respondents and (5) examine the contexts in which the reported sexual assaults (both perpetration and victimization) occurred, including how often the perpetrators were under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and the relationship of the perpetrators to their victims. All analyses will be examined, comparing results across sociodemographic subpopulations.

Product: NCJ# 223284

Sexual Violence: Longitudinal, Multigenerational Evidence From the National Youth Survey (2008) – J. Grotmeter, S. Menard, D. Gianola, M. O’Neal

The study used the National Youth Survey Family Study (NYSFS) to answer questions related to developmental patterns, sequencing, comorbidity, long-term trajectories, and contexts of sexual assault perpetration and victimization over the life course. The authors found that age of a perpetrator’s first sexual assault (onset) began at 11 and peaked at 16. From that point, rate of first assaults decreased until the last onset point of 25. By age 20, 88 percent of those who were going to perpetrate sexual assault had already done so. In all, 5.7 percent of the sample reported ever committing a sexual assault, and 2.4 percent were categorized as serious sexual assaulters. Sexual assault was generally initiated last after felony assault, felony theft, minor delinquency, and marijuana use. Exposure to delinquent friends was the one major, statistically significant predictor of sexual assault over the life course, particularly for

males. For the sample, adolescent sexual assault, felony theft, and normlessness in the family context predicted perpetrating sexual assault in young adulthood. Of the respondents who reported perpetrating a sexual assault, 61% reported drinking alcohol before committing a sexual assault. Only one fourth reported using drugs but, notably, they were also drinking. The most common specified means of forcing sexual assault were verbal persuasion/threats (44 percent) and hit/slapped/mild roughness (25 percent). Seven percent of the study population reported getting their victim drunk or drugging their victim to facilitate the attack. Of original respondents, 77 percent who reported being sexually attacked or raped did not report the incident to the police. Their reasons for not reporting were that the police cannot or will not help (37 percent) and that it was a private/personal matter (32 percent).

2004-IJ-CX-0013:	Offender Characteristics, Offense Mix, and Escalation in Domestic Violence
Amount:	\$24,856
PI:	Alex Piquero
Status:	Completed

This project proposes to use pooled data from the Spouse Abuse Replication Project (SARP) to build upon the limitations of the criminal career paradigm of specialization and escalation as it applies to domestic violence. Upon documenting the offense mix associated with offenders, the investigators will estimate escalation coefficients in order to examine whether offenses among the offenders increase in severity over time. The project asks three questions: (1) To what extent do offenders exhibit different kinds of offending behavior on subsequent offending occasions? (2) To what extent do offenders exhibit escalation of offense seriousness over time? and (3) Do escalation patterns vary across different groups of offenders defined by demographic characteristics and the mix of prior offending activity? To document an offender's prior offense mix, a latent class model will be used. This model will categorize offenders as heterogeneous or specialist. The project will collect similar information from data files on subsequent incidents in order to determine the escalation in severity of future offenses against the same victim. A forward specialization coefficient (FSC) will be used to analyze the offense specialization. This project will then determine if escalation patterns vary across groups of offenders by examining demographic characteristics and offense mixes.

Product: NCJ# 212298

Assessing the Offending Activity of Criminal Domestic Violence Suspects: Offense Specialization, Escalation, and De-Escalation Evidence From the Spouse Assault Replication Program (2005) – A. Piquero, R. Brame, J. Fagan, T. Moffitt

Using data from the Spouse Abuse Replication Program (SARP), this study examined the extent to which domestic violence offenders exhibited a specialized proclivity to violence, as well as their tendencies to escalate or de-escalate the severity of their attacks against the same victim. The SARP was designed to replicate the Minneapolis domestic violence experiments (Sherman and Berk, 1984), which found that arresting domestic violence suspects contributed to a lower risk for repeat domestic violence. In order to examine the external validity of this result, NIJ funded the SARP to replicate the Minneapolis study in six other cities in geographically diverse regions of the country. The SARP data were selected for the current study because they facilitated an analysis of whether domestic violence offenders exhibited specialization in violence. The data provided information from victim interviews on the nature of the violence in both the presenting incident and in subsequent victimization incidents, which permitted an analysis of the extent to which the severity of offenders' attacks against the same victim increased, decreased, or stayed about the same. The present study found that the majority of domestic violence offenders with prior official criminal records had been involved in nonviolent criminal behavior in addition to domestic violence. Regarding variations in the seriousness of domestic violence over time, three SARP sites manifested a heterogeneous mix of offenders who escalated and de-escalated the severity of their attacks over the relatively short follow-up periods; however, one other site showed pronounced tendencies for offenders to escalate the severity of their attacks when the presenting case involved minor injury. There was no tendency at this site for offenders to de-escalate the severity of their attacks when the presenting incident involved serious injuries.

2004-WG-BX-0010:	The Prevalence, Reporting, and Context of Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault on University Campuses
Amount:	\$419,339
PI:	Don Enichen
Status:	Completed

This project will collect data from samples of undergraduate men and women using a Web-based survey on the prevalence, context, and reporting of drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) at the Universities of Arizona and North Carolina. The project will distinguish between two forms of DFSA, defined, for purposes of this research, as sexual assault occurring after a victim (1) has been given a substance without her knowledge or (2) has knowingly ingested a substance (voluntarily or through coercion) that incapacitated her or made it difficult for her to refuse sexual activity. The project will examine perpetration of drug-facilitated sexual assault as well as victimization. The project's goals are to (1) educate potential victims, as well as past and potential perpetrators, about DFSA; (2) inform the development of campus sexual assault prevention programs and of criminal justice responses to sexual assault; (3) reduce the incidence of DFSA; and (4) develop a methodology (including a Web-based survey) that is useful to other universities.

Product: NCJ# 221153

Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study, Final Report (2007) – C.P. Krebs, C.H. Lindquist, T.D. Warner, B.S. Fisher, S.L. Martin

Data highlights indicate that (1) 13.7 percent of undergraduate women had been victims of at least one completed sexual assault since entering college, and 4.7 percent were victims of physically forced sexual assault; (2) 7.8 percent of women were sexually assaulted when they were incapacitated after voluntarily consuming drugs and/or alcohol; and (3) 0.6 percent were sexually assaulted when they were incapacitated after having been given a drug without their knowledge. Detailed data were collected on the context, reporting, and consequences of sexual assault. Self-reported rates of sexual assault victimization and perpetration among males were very low. The primary implications of the Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study are the relative rarity of cases of drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) and the need to incorporate alcohol and drug messages into sexual assault prevention and risk reduction programming. Sexual assault is a public health and public safety problem with far-reaching implications. Although a substantial body of research on sexual assault exists, additional data are needed to help document the current magnitude of the problem, the extent to which certain subpopulations are impacted, the consequences and reporting (or non-reporting) of victimization incidents, and strategies for preventing and reducing the risk of sexual assault, and effectively responding to victims. RTI International received funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), to conduct the CSA Study. The objective was to document the prevalence of distinct types of sexual assault among university women as well as the context, consequences, and reporting of distinct types of sexual assault among a large sample of undergraduate women from two large universities.

Additional NCJ Citation: 223718

2005-WG-BX-0002:	In and Out of Harm’s Way: Intimate Partner Violence Among Women Over the Life Course
Amount:	\$20,000
PI:	Kristin Carbone Lopez
Status:	Completed

The objective of this study is to map out violent victimization within and between women's adult intimate relationships, as well as identify risk factors for various patterns of victimization and the proximal antecedents of violent interactions between partners. Two sources will be used. The first is the National Violence Against Women Survey (NVAWS), a nationally representative sample of women. The second is data collected from women incarcerated at the Plymouth jail, located in Hennepin County, Minnesota. Analysis will unfold in two steps. First, latent class analysis will be applied to data from the NVAWS to explore whether and how violence is patterned within women's intimate relationships. Characteristics of and risk factors for different patterns of violence will be identified using multinomial logistic regression analyses. Second, data from the Minnesota sample will be used for a more detailed examination of the antecedents and dynamics of intimate partner violence. Using event structure analysis, the causal structure of violent interactions, including necessary and sufficient conditions for intimate partner violence both within and across relationships, will be defined.

Product: NCJ# 240918

In, Out, and In Again? A Life Course Understanding of Women's Violent Relationships (2006) – Kristin Carmela Carbone-Lopez

One objective is to examine the patterns of IPV among adult females to determine whether women who experience different patterns of violence differ from one another on certain characteristics. Currently, little is known about what might link violent experiences within and across relationships. Another objective of the research is to examine the nature of the IPV women report, that is, the situations and interactions in which IPV occurs. The first chapter suggests

that a focus on the consequences of IPV for women’s intimate relationships is necessary in achieving a broader understanding of the effects of IPV. The second chapter discusses the major theories of IPV. These can be described in offender-based theories, including intra-individual, social-psychological, and socio-cultural explanations as well as victim-based theories. The third chapter provides detailed information on the two data sets used in this research. The first is the National Violence Against Women Survey (NVAWS) and data collected from women incarcerated at the Women’s Workhouse in Hennepin County, Minnesota. Detailed information is provided on the women’s violent encounters 3 years prior to incarceration. The fourth chapter presents results from the quantitative analyses of the NVAWS. This is followed by a chapter that presents results from a qualitative analysis of the jail sample. The sixth and final chapter discusses and draws conclusions about the central research issues, the main findings, and their implications for both research and policy.

2005-WG-BX-0012:	Elder Abuse: How Protective Behaviors and Risk Factors Affect the Course of Abuse Over Time
Amount:	\$438,054
PI:	Rob Davis
Status:	Completed

A 2003 National Research Council report decried the lack of scientifically rigorous research in the field of elder abuse. The report called for more information on how interventions affect the course of abuse and studies that use prospective designs to minimize victim forgetting and other problems inherent in retrospective designs. To respond to these concerns, the Police Foundation and the National Center for Victims of Crime propose a study that will utilize a prospective longitudinal design to examine the course of abuse in both a community sample and a sample of persons who have used elder abuse services in Dane County, Wisconsin. The project team will conduct two sets of interviews with respondents six months apart to determine: (1) the proportion of cases in which abuse escalates, maintains, or desists; (2) which risk factors are associated with the onset of abuse and with its persistence over time; (3) which victims of elder abuse receive assistance from law enforcement and community service programs, which do not, and why; and (4) how reporting abuse to the police, criminal justice actions, and other protective measures taken by victims affect the course of abuse. The results of the work will give police, criminal justice officials, and community service providers a better idea of which victims are at risk of continued abuse so they can better target services to those most in need. Results will also provide a better understanding of the reasons why elder abuse victims do not come forward to report abuse or seek help, and provide insights into how to reach these victims.

Product: NCJ# 232623

Course of Domestic Abuse Among Chicago's Elderly: Risk Factors, Protective Behaviors, and Police Intervention (2010) – K.L. Amendola, M.G. Slipka, E.E. Hamilton, J.L. Whitman

The examination of the course of abuse found that victims from the police sample (elderly victims who had been visited by trained domestic violence/senior citizen victimization officers in the Chicago Police Department) were more likely to have at least one incident of subsequent abuse compared with those from the community sample (elderly victims who experienced no police intervention); however, for those in the police sample, the number of forms of abuse that occurred repeatedly decreased. In addition, those in the police sample were more likely to have engaged in protective behaviors or service-seeking than those in the community sample. These findings suggest that intervention by officers trained to assist elder abuse victims can lead to increased engagement in protective behaviors and ultimately reduction in the number of frequently occurring forms of abuse. The sample consisted of 1,795 elderly residents for whom researchers could identify victimization status. In-depth interviews were conducted with 328 elderly residents from three sample groups: 159 community nonvictims, 121 community victims, and 48 victims who received police intervention. All participants were current residents of Chicago, ages 60 and older. Researchers conducted phone interviews with a survey instrument designed to assess victimization. The survey included questions about various characteristics and risk factors associated with both victims and perpetrators of abuse and/or neglect, specific types of abuse, and victims’ protective behaviors. Victimization was examined twice over a 10-month period in order to assess the course of abuse over time. The effects of police intervention were also examined.

Additional NCJ Citations: 232625, 234143

2007-WG-BX-0002:	The Effectiveness of Coordinated Outreach in IPV Cases: A Randomized Longitudinal Design
Amount:	\$499,880
PI:	Anne De Prince

Status:	Completed
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This study tested the prediction that early coordinated victim outreach will improve criminal justice outcomes by increasing victim participation in official action. Further, outreach will increase victim safety and empowerment. In collaboration with research, criminal justice, and community-based partners, this project uses a randomized control design to evaluate an innovative outreach program for IPV victims whose cases have come to the attention of the criminal justice system. Participants were randomly assigned to receive outreach or treatment-as-usual and then interviewed at three time points: baseline (case inception) and at 6 and 12 months. The study addressed three primary goals. First, the study evaluated the effectiveness of a coordinated, community-based outreach program in improving criminal justice and victim safety and empowerment outcomes for IPV victims, using a longitudinal, randomized control design. Second, victim and case characteristics that mediate and moderate program effects on victim support for official action were identified. Finally, the impact of geospatial characteristics on outreach effectiveness was examined. In addition to conventional statistical analyses, geospatial analyses were also used to assess the contribution of spatial variables (such as distance to and time/effort required to access services) to victims' participation in official action and service utilization.

Product: NCJ# 238480

Effectiveness of Coordinated Outreach in Intimate Partner Violence Cases: A Randomized, Longitudinal Design (2011) -- A. DePrince, J. Belknap, A. Gover, S. Buckingham, J. Labus, M. Combs, C. Hebenstreit, R. Matlow, C. Mitchell, A. Pineda

This project used a randomized control design in evaluating an innovative outreach program for racially and ethnically diverse victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) whose cases involved contact with the criminal justice system. The study found that victim-focused outreach decreased women's reluctance to work with prosecutors and increased their likelihood of participating in the prosecution of their abusers. In addition, findings indicated that outreach was particularly important for IPV survivors marginalized by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and those survivors still living with their abusers. Further, compared with IPV survivors who did not receive outreach services, women who received outreach reported decreased severity of the symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and fear, one year after the abuse. Although there were no effects of outreach on revictimization or social support levels, women randomly assigned to outreach services reported greater readiness to leave the abuser compared with women who did not receive outreach services. The outreach program was coordinated by an interdisciplinary victim service team, which identified a specific community-based agency to initiate phone outreach to each victim based on the victim's unique needs. This offered the women a confidential means of learning about and accessing support and service from an agency that could provide relevant services without requiring the women to initiate a search for appropriate agencies. For the referral condition, a criminal justice system-based advocate from the prosecuting attorney's office or police department contacted women IPV survivors to make referrals to a community-based agency with which women could make contact if they chose to do so. The evaluation used an independent research team to assess multiple outcome measures as soon as possible after the abuse and then 6 and 12 months later. Participants were a diverse group of 236 women who placed IPV calls to police.

2011-WG-BX-0013:	Thirty-Year Follow-Up of the Cycle of Violence
Amount:	\$311,967
PI:	Cathy Widom
Status:	Completed

The purpose of this basic research project is to conduct a 30-year follow-up of criminal histories for the large sample of abused and/or neglected children and matched controls that were part of an original NIJ-funded study in an attempt to further understand the life-course of criminal behavior in these individuals who have now reached middle adulthood. Criminal history information (arrests) for these individuals was last collected in 1994 when these people were approximately 32 years old. In 2012, the mean age of the sample will be 49.1 ($SD = 3.6$). There are four major goals: (1) To determine whether individuals with documented histories of child abuse and/or neglect are more likely to be arrested for partner (or domestic) violence, compared with matched controls; (2) To determine whether individuals with histories of child abuse and/or neglect are more likely to be arrested for crimes against children (e.g., physical abuse, sexual abuse, unlawful imprisonment, and threats of physical harm) compared with matched controls; (3) To determine whether individuals with documented histories of childhood sexual abuse are more likely to be arrested for sex crimes when followed up to middle adulthood, compared with matched controls; and (4) To determine whether individuals with documented histories of child abuse and/or neglect are more likely to offend and to continue offending

in adulthood, compared with matched controls. This research project uses a cohort design in which 908 physically and sexually abused and neglected children (ages 0-11 between 1967 and 1971, males and females, 2/3 whites, 1/3 African Americans) were matched with 667 non-abused and non-neglected children and followed prospectively. The current study will conduct a criminal history search, using the FBI National Crime Information Service to obtain arrest and conviction data on partner violence and child abuse, and will obtain information on sex offenses from public sex offender websites. This study's findings will have clear implications for developing programs to break the cycle of violence based on empirical evidence and will be used by policymakers and economists to calculate long-term costs associated with the consequences of childhood maltreatment.

Product: NCJ# 249070

Prospective Examination of Whether Childhood Sexual Abuse Predicts Subsequent Sexual Offending (2015) – Cathy Spatz Widom, Christina Massey. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 169.

Childhood sexual abuse has been assumed to increase the risk for sexual offending; however, despite methodological limitations of prior research, public policies and clinical practice have been based on this assumption. The current study found that individuals with histories of childhood abuse and neglect were at increased risk for being arrested for a sex crime compared with control individuals (adjusted odds ratio [AOR] = 2.17; 95 percent CI = 1.38–3.40), controlling for age, sex, and race/ethnicity. Specifically, individuals with histories of physical abuse (AOR = 2.06; 95 percent CI = 1.02–4.16) and neglect (AOR = 2.21; 95 percent CI = 1.39–3.51) were at significantly increased risk for arrest for sex offenses; whereas, for sexual abuse, the AOR (2.13; 95 percent CI = 0.83–5.47) did not reach significance. Physically abused and neglected males (not females) were at increased risk, and physically abused males also had a higher mean number of sex crime arrests compared with control individuals. The results did not provide support for sex crime specialization. Thus, the widespread belief that sexually abused children are uniquely at risk to become sex offenders was not supported by prospective empirical evidence. These new findings suggest that early intervention programs should target children with histories of physical abuse and neglect. They also indicate that existing policies and practices specifically directed at future risk for sex offending for sexually abused children may warrant re-evaluation. This prospective cohort study and archival records check included cases and control individuals originally from a metropolitan county in the Midwest. Children with substantiated cases of physical and sexual abuse and neglect (ages 0–11 years) were matched with children without such histories on the basis of age, sex, race/ethnicity, and approximate family social class (908 cases and 667 control individuals). Both groups were followed up into adulthood (mean age = 51 years). The court cases were from 1967 to 1971; the follow-up extended to 2013. Criminal history information was collected from federal and state law enforcement agency records at three points in time and from states' sex offender registries.

2013-MU-CX-0038:	Ethnocultural Influences on Women's Experiences of and Responses to Intimate Partner Abuse
Amount:	\$925,190
PI:	Mindy Mechanic
Status:	Completed

Research about ethnocultural influences on women's experience of and response to intimate partner violence is scarce, contributing to culturally incongruent processes that may deter some survivors from engaging with community systems. To fill this gap in the literature, this study will employ a mixed method study to examine the ways that cultural beliefs and contexts serve as a lens through which European-American, Hispanic-American, and Asian-American women experience and respond to intimate partner violence in their lives. Four specific research aims guide this study: (1) To understand how ethnocultural beliefs affect the nature and interpretation of co-occurring violence in women's lives. (2) To understand how ethnocultural beliefs affect abuse-related mental and physical health. (3) To understand how ethnocultural contexts influence strategic responses to violence. (4) To understand the linkages between women's experiences of violence, health outcomes, and willingness to engage with the criminal justice system. To achieve these aims, 300 adult, female participants will be recruited from a local coalition of Community Health Center member clinics. Women who respond affirmatively to screening questions regarding coercive control, physical violence, sexual violence, or stalking in intimate relationships will be invited to participate in a survey on "the impact of relationships on health." A random sample of 25 women from each cultural group will complete a qualitative interview in addition to the survey. Quantitative data analysis will include: (1) cluster analysis to uncover co-occurring patterns of abuse, consequences, and coping; (2) Analysis of variance to examine differences in both frequency and clustering of abuse, consequences, and strategic responses; and (3) a moderated-mediation regression to understand ethnic differences in the linkages between these variables. A grounded theory approach will be used to

analyze all qualitative data. Specific techniques such as triangulation, interrater reliability, and negative case analysis will be used to increase the credibility of these analyses.

Product: NCJ# 252626

Ethnocultural Influences on Women's Experience of and Responses to Intimate Partner Violence (2019) – Mindy Mechanic, Courtney Ahrens

Overall, the findings showed few ethnic differences in women's experiences of abuse or mental health outcomes linked with abuse. Vietnamese-American survivors were less likely to be represented in the "Widespread Violence" group and were less likely to describe physical violence in the qualitative interviews; however, caution should be used in interpreting this finding due to the low sample size and convenience sampling method of recruitment. It is possible that the Vietnamese-American survivors in the sample were less likely to disclose to the criminal justice system and cited more barriers to leaving because the abuse they were experiencing was less severe, not because of Vietnamese cultural values. Future research with Vietnamese-American survivors who are experiencing a wider range of abusive experiences is needed before final conclusions about ethnic differences can be made. Future research that uses more rigorous sampling techniques is needed before true ethnic comparisons of abuse prevalence can be made. In the current study, community-based recruitment procedures were used to recruit women from the four target ethnicities. Screening required that respondents were afraid of their partners or had experienced physical or sexual abuse from an intimate partner in the past 5 years. Other recruitment procedures invited women to participate in an online survey about relationship conflicts. A \$20 gift certificate was provided for participation. A total of 123 participants completed an interview. Service providers who interact with IPV survivors in their work were also recruited to participate in focus groups about barriers and solutions for working with survivors from each of the ethnic groups.

2014-VA-CX-0012:	Adaptation and Evaluation of Video Game to Reduce Sexual Violence on Campus
Amount:	\$579,301
PI:	Sharyn Potter
Status:	Completed

This project adapts an established and evidence-based sexual violence prevention bystander intervention in-person program and social marketing campaign to create a digital Interactive Simulation Video Game (ISVG) for use on mobile devices and the Web. Like the standard interventions, the in-person program and the social marketing campaign, students who play the ISVG will learn and practice active bystander skills that can be used to end sexual violence. This research will examine whether an ISVG can provide players with the type of knowledge conveyed through a bystander in-person program in a comprehensive and cost-effective manner. An ISVG Advisory Board will be established during the research that will include professionals from the behavioral sciences, victim services, prevention, public health, criminal justice, and game design fields. Undergraduate students will be included in all aspects of the ISVG prototype development and will be offered academic credit for their participation in the development phase of the ISVG. The proposed research will take place in two phases. In the first phase, in partnership with Dartmouth's Tiltfactor laboratory, content previously developed and evaluated for the Bringing in the Bystander® In-Person Prevention Program and the Know Your Power® Bystander Social Marketing Campaign will be adapted into an ISVG prototype. In the second phase of the proposed research, a two-phase pilot evaluation of the ISVG will be administered to 480 participants at two institutions to gather quantitative and qualitative feedback. The feedback will be used to modify the ISVG prototype to ensure that it is an effective mechanism for engaging students and reducing sexual violence in campus communities. Game design is an iterative process, and data always informs 'tweaks' to improve both the experience of the game through the design and the results of the intervention regarding its efficacy. Thus, we will identify the design elements that yield the most promising data, and highlight their prominence. The iterative process helps us ensure that the target audience members will relate to the ISVG and internalize the messages from the ISVG. We expect that by delivering a prevention strategy to men in an online application — a format that they use daily — male participants will report increased attention to the message.

Product: NCJ# 251937

Adaptation and Evaluation of Video Games To Reduce Sexual Violence on Campus (2018) – S.J. Potter

The project consisted of four phases. In Phase I, two game prototypes were designed through an ongoing collaboration between a workgroup of nine students at a mid-sized public university (the project's home institution in New England) and video game developers. A trivia game prototype and an adventure game prototype were designed and then evaluated by four focus group sessions of college students unfamiliar with the project. Phase II consisted of 13 focus groups with 120 college students, unaffiliated with the project, who evaluated and improved the adventure game

prototype. In Phase III, 305 first-year college students at the project's home institution participated in 20 game-testing sessions in a pilot study to test both prototypes. Phase IV involved testing revised versions of the game prototypes at both a public and private institution in New England. Pilot testing has identified several possibilities for improving game playability and quality. Project personnel will continue to make improvements and assess which aspects of the games are the most effective. In the future, they hope to share new and improved versions of these games with similar institutions across the United States as a means of reducing the prevalence of sexual violence among U.S. college students.

2016-MU-MU-K074:	Longitudinal Cohort Study of Interpersonal Violence Among College-Aged Women and Men: Planning Phase
Amount:	\$999,698
PI:	Susan Chibnall
Status:	Ongoing

The extent and consequences of various forms of interpersonal violence (IV) among college-aged persons has been well-documented. To better understand the risks for, experiences with, and consequences of IV among young adults, NIJ has requested proposals to plan a 6-year longitudinal study of a nationally representative sample of college-age individuals, including students attending 4-year residential colleges and universities (schools) and individuals not attending school. During the 24-month planning project, Westat, in partnership with colleagues at University of Cincinnati and New York University and with input from an Advisory Group developed for this effort, proposes to address these key elements: (1) measurement of IV, including risk factors associated with and responses to experiences of IV; (2) sample design; (3) respondent recruitment and retention methods; (4) mode of survey administration; (5) data weighting and estimation; and (6) analysis, reporting, and dissemination. Our proposed design involves recruiting college students and young adults via targeted lists maintained by vendors, a strategy that has been used in other national surveys of this age group. Although targeted lists may offer the most efficient approach, we also plan to evaluate three alternative recruitment designs: a two-stage household screening design; recruitment of enrolled students after sampling schools; and pre-recruited web panels. To facilitate the collection of information about colleges and in-person follow-up with nonrespondents, we propose to cluster the sample geographically. Westat will also undertake a power analysis to determine the sample sizes required to meet the analytic objectives of the larger study. We plan to conduct a pilot study to test planned measures and procedures. Data collected via the pilot study will be analyzed by examining the quality of contact information, reactions to advance materials, overall response rate, and performance of questionnaire items (e.g., missing data, frequencies, ranges; timing information, consistency of responses); we will debrief a sample of respondents on their experience of completing the survey. For the larger study, we expect that analysis goals will involve aggregate cross-sectional statistics (and estimates of change over time); individual-level trajectories; and longitudinal analyses using prior wave data as covariates. The planning effort will result in a comprehensive plan to implement the longitudinal study, which will be detailed in a final report and submitted to NIJ. The longitudinal study will produce information that can be used to inform prevention and intervention strategies and policies targeted at the causal factors of IV perpetration and victimization.

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