

**Sub-Category C-iv: Risk Factors for
Homicide and Serious Injury**

COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1993-2020

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Category C: EPIDEMIOLOGY

iv. Risk Factors for Homicide and Serious Injury

1996-IJ-CX-0020:	Risk of Serious Injury or Death in Intimate Violence
Amount:	\$292,668
PI:	Carolyn Block
Status:	Completed

This 24-month project seeks to identify factors that place battered women in danger of life-threatening injury or death, and to develop high-risk intimate violence profiles for women and men killed through intimate violence. The study includes proxy interviews with relatives and friends of approximately 100 men and women killed by a partner during the sample year, and racially diverse samples of 500 abused women and 100 non-abused women from emergency rooms and neighborhood health settings. Data from the interviews, and examination of official public health and police records, will be analyzed to determine the link to a lethal or life-threatening outcome of stalking, harassment and controlling behaviors; attempts to leave the relationship; arrest and other interventions; and other circumstances such as pregnancy and gun availability. Under the guidance of an expert Advisory Panel, the profiles will be developed with the goal of assisting field-level personnel to develop collaborative strategies to identify and intervene in potentially life-threatening intimate violence situations.

Product: NCJ# 184511

Chicago Women’s Health Risk Study: Risk of Serious Injury or Death in Intimate Violence (2000) – C. Block

This study identified factors that place battered women in danger of life-threatening injury or death, and included proxy interviews with relatives and friends of 87 men and women killed by a partner during the sample year, and racially diverse samples of 497 abused women and 205 non-abused women from emergency rooms and neighborhood health settings. The researchers found that half of the women who had experienced a severe incident and who had left or tried to end the relationship did not experience any incident on follow-up. For 40% of the incidents in which a woman was killed, an immediate precipitating factor of the fatal incident was the woman leaving or trying to end the relationship. Compared to women homicide victims and to clinic/hospital women, abused women homicide offenders had many fewer resources, on average (more likely to be unemployed, less likely to have a high school education, more likely to be in poor health). In addition, fatal incidents were much more likely to involve the woman being choked.

Additional NCJ Citations: 180332, 183128, 187781, 196545, 199701, 199732, 209005

1997-WT-VX-0004:	Impact of Legal Advocacy on Intimate Partner Homicide
Amount:	\$190,311
PI:	Daniel Nagin
Status:	Completed

The purpose of this 24-month project is to evaluate the impact of law, local policy, and resources committed to legal advocacy on differences in the rate of intimate partner homicide across jurisdictions and over time. As part of this research, the impact on lethal violence among intimates will be examined for two additional social services: (1) domestic violence hotlines and shelter availability and (2) participation rates and benefit levels in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. The analysis will be based on a panel data set for the 50 largest U.S. cities over the period 1976 to 1995, and will include controls for changes in marriage and divorce rates, women's economic status, etc. The Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh will compile data on state statutes and will coordinate the collection of information on local police and prosecution policies and infrastructures, legal advocacy, and other domestic violence services. The dependent variable in the analysis is the male and female intimate partner homicide victimization rate per 100,000 city population, calculated separately for married and unmarried partners. A statistical model will be constructed with controls for time and place fixed effects and three specific time-varying variables: sex-specific gun suicide rate to control for the differential availability of guns, racial composition of city population, and non-intimate partner adult homicide rate to control for factors associated with overall change in adult homicide.

Product: NCJ# 186193/186194

Exposure Reduction or Backlash? The Effects of Domestic Violence Resources on Intimate Partner Homicide (2000) – L. Dugan, D. Nagin, R. Rosenfeld

The analysis was based on a panel data set of 48 of the 50 largest U.S. cities, 1976-1996. The researchers estimated separate panel models for eight possible combinations of victim sex, race, and marital relationship. Researchers incorporated 11 indicators of the state and local DV resources, including four measures of state statutes, five measures of local police and prosecution policy, and two measures of the strength of legal advocacy programs and prevalence of hotlines in the city. The study provided mixed support for the general exposure reduction hypotheses. A little more than half of the findings support the predictions of exposure reduction, and others show that DV resources are associated with more killings for some victim types. This backlash effect was especially pronounced for unmarried partners. The adoption of a warrantless arrest law was associated with fewer killings of white women and black unmarried men. Increases in the willingness of prosecutors' offices to take cases of protection order violation were associated with increases in the homicide of white married intimates, black unmarried intimates, and white unmarried females. An untoward consequence of cutting Aid for Families With Dependent Children payment levels has been increased homicide victimization of black married men, black unmarried partners, and white unmarried females.

Additional NCJ Citations: 196853, 196854, 199701, 199711

1998-WT-VX-0016:	A Population-Based Comparison of Assaultive Injury Patterns Among Hospitalized Pregnant Women Compared to All Women of Reproductive Age
Amount:	\$184,720
PI:	Harold Weiss
Status:	Completed

The proposed project will examine the patterns of assault-related injury among pregnant hospitalized women and compare the rate of violence-related hospitalization to all women of reproductive age. The project's objectives are to: (1) test the hypothesis that the hospitalized injury rate for assault will be significantly greater among pregnant women than among all women of reproductive age; (2) quantify the incidence of assaults in a large population-based sample of hospitalized pregnant women; (3) compare and contrast the patterns of injury mechanisms, severity, demographics, and cost among pregnant and all injured hospitalized women of reproductive age; and (4) examine serious violence against pregnant women. The proposed research will involve collection, filtering, and analysis of selected state hospital data sets. The project will obtain E-coded (cause of injury) hospital discharge data from 7-9 state hospital discharge databases. The following variables can be calculated from these databases: (1) socioeconomic status and race/ethnicity; (2) disposition; (3) injury diagnoses and severity; (4) length of stay; and (5) charges and cost estimates. All women ages 15-44, who were discharged with both a pregnancy and an injury-related diagnosis, will be identified for descriptive and comparative analyses.

Product: NCJ# 199442

Pregnancy-Associated Assault Hospitalizations, Selected U.S. States, 1997: Exploring the Incidence and Risk for Hospitalized Assaults Against Women During Pregnancy (2003) – H. Weiss

This study was the first to ascertain the prevalence and risk of pregnancy-associated hospitalized injury for assaults in a multi-state population. The study population comprised over one half of the U.S. population in 1997. The study examined whether “the hospitalization rate for assault is higher among pregnant women than all women of reproductive age, ages 15-49, once controlling for age, race, and severity of injuries.” Overall, after age and severity adjustment, there was no significantly elevated rate ratio; however, moderate increases remained among the youngest women (15-19 years of age) and for firearm-related assaults. The study also demonstrated that both age and race-specific rate ratios were markedly reduced once they were adjusted for injury severity. Pregnancy is associated with higher rates of hospitalized assaults because assaults are highest among young women and because pregnancy lowers the hospital admission threshold for traumatic injuries including assault. Overall, the findings can be applied to better prioritize and target effective injury prevention efforts aimed toward young women for the benefit of both the mother and fetus.

Additional NCJ Citations: 199701, 199706

2000-IJ-CX-0013:	Investigating Intimate Partner Violence Using NIBRS Data
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Amount: \$34,996
PI: Colin Loftin
Status: Completed

This project will be the first to use the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data to examine the correlates and causes of intimate partner homicides and aggravated assaults across several states and to make comparisons of the patterns of intimate partner violence among communities. There are five primary goals, to : (1) create a NIBRS intimate partner violence data set; (2) classify homicides and aggravated assaults as involving intimate partners or not, and characterize each type of offense; (3) address methodological issues arising in the NIBRS dataset; (4) compare patterns of intimate partner homicide and aggravated assault between communities to determine the degree of variation and whether variation is systematically related to social characteristics of communities and policy environment; and (5) investigate the utility of NIBRS data for future research. This study will utilize the 1996 NIBRS data, as it is a rich source of information concerning criminal incidents, including homicides and aggravated assault. The methods for this study fall into two major categories: (1) preparation and assessment of the data and (2) analysis of the data.

2000-WT-VX-0012: An Analysis of Unexamined Issues in the Intimate Partner Homicide Decline
Amount: \$42,200
PI: William Wells
Status: Completed

The proposed study will analyze existing data on rates of intimate partner homicide (IPH) in California from 1987 to 1998 in order to ascertain a trend of theoretical and policy-relevant factors, disaggregated by the race and gender of victims and offenders. The project's objectives include testing the following three constructs, which are hypothesized to affect victim safety, as measured by the rate at which females are victims of IPH: (1) domestic support services; (2) offender accountability; and (3) system accountability. The primary data sources are the California Department of Health Services, the California Alliance Against Domestic Violence, and the California Department of Justice. California's 58 counties will serve as the units of analysis, a data structure that allows direct measure of the key constructs of interest and distinct knowledge of the collection and coding methods used. Rates of domestic homicide will also be measured at the State and county level across time. Detailed descriptive statistics will provide insight into the extent and nature of domestic homicide in California, such as changes in IPH perpetrated by offenders from different racial groups across time and counties.

Product: NCJ# 196666

Analysis of Unexamined Issues in the Intimate Partner Homicide Decline: Race, Quality of Victim Services, Offender Accountability, and System Accountability (2002) – W. Wells, W. DeLeon-Granados

Relevant data were obtained from all 58 counties of California from 1987-2000. The study examined the net effect of criminal justice system response and federally funded DV shelters on the victimization of white, African-American, and Hispanic males and females. Criminal justice system interventions and offender accountability were measured by arrest, conviction, and incarceration rates for DV offenses in each county, as DV services were measured by the rate of federally funded shelter-based organizations in each county per 100,000 women by race. Overall, rates of intimate partner homicide victimization declined for all demographic groups over the study period; however, percentage declines were greater for male victims than for females. The study found that in urban counties, federally funded DV, shelter-based organizations were associated with declines in Hispanic female victimization, but not African-American or white female victimization. Also in urban counties, shelters were associated with declines in African-American male victimization, but not African-American female victimization. In rural counties, shelters were associated with overall declines in female victimization. There was no net relationship between any criminal justice system response and victimization by either gender or race. Women generally experienced larger percentage increases in arrest, prosecution, and conviction than men. Overall, white female victimization was greater in urban environments than in rural areas.

Additional NCJ Citations: 200045, 208710, 214027

2003-IJ-CX-1003: Rural and Urban Trends in Family and Intimate Partner Homicide: 1980-1999
Amount: \$35,000
PI: Andria Gallup-Black
Status: Completed

This study will explore rural and urban trends in family and intimate partner homicide for the period 1980 through 1999. The applicant will use, among other sources, the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) data, which identifies (to the extent known) the relationship between the victim and the murderer, as well as the geographic location of the homicide. The following research questions will be addressed: (1) How do the rates of family and intimate partner murder differ by urban or rural location? (2) Did these differences remain constant over time or are there increases in rates in some places and decreases in others? (3) What are the independent variables that explain the differences in rates by place? (4) In what ways do those variables affect changes in rates by place over time? The independent variables to be tested are (1) community economic distress (income dissimilarity, job loss, population loss), (2) overcrowding, (3) isolation, (4) traditional views about women and children as a function of educational attainment, (5) lack of access to health care, and (6) alcoholism.

Product: NCJ# 208344

Rural Trends in Family and Intimate Partner Homicide: 1980-1999 (2004) – A. Gallup-Black

The research explored place-based trends in family and intimate partner homicide from 1980 through 1999 using data from the FBI’s SHR. “Place” was operationalized by population and proximity to a metropolitan area. Several independent variables were isolated and tested to understand the connections between place and murders. There was a strong relationship between place and intimate partner murder, whereby the rates increased with rurality. Although intimate partner murders fell in the metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties during the time period, they rose in the rural counties. Family murders were also higher in the rural counties, and rates rose with increased rurality; however, unlike intimate partner murders, they fell between 1980 and 1999 regardless of the county category. In comparison, other murder rates did not increase or decrease with rurality. Multivariate analyses against a pooled 1980-99 dataset showed that overall community socioeconomic distress played a major role in explaining family, intimate partner, and all other murders, but the particular aspects of this distress played out in different ways based on population and proximity. Family and intimate partner murders were distinguished from all other murders as to the extent to which they were affected by population and density shifts. Community socioeconomic distress, when driven by population growth and household crowding, was negatively correlated with family and intimate partner murders, but not all other murders, in metropolitan areas. Population declines were associated with family murders in the non-metropolitan counties adjacent to a metropolitan area, and with intimate partner murder in the metropolitan counties adjacent to a metropolitan area, and with intimate partner murder in the metropolitan counties not adjacent to a metropolitan area. In the rural counties, population declines, even alongside improvements in community indicators, were correlated with increased in all murders; however, overall declines and young adult population declines alone were associated with intimate partner murder.

Additional NCJ Citation: 209642

2004-IJ-CX-0046:	Impacts of Self-Protection of Rape and Injury
Amount:	\$33,825
PI:	Jongyeon Tark
Status:	Completed

Researchers will analyze data from the 1992-2002 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) to investigate which types of self-protective (SP) actions are most and least effective for avoiding a rape and associated physical injury under different circumstances and, most significantly, the sequence of SP actions and injury. The project goals are to: (1) examine a large national probability sample of crimes; (2) take account of the sequence of SP actions and injury; (3) control for confounding correlates of defensive actions; and (4) assess 16 SP actions coded in the post-1992 NCVS on the outcomes of crimes. The findings are intended to help determine whether women’s resistance to rape offenders increases the probability of additional injury and whether the effects of SP vary depending on the relationship of the offender and victim.

Product: NCJ# 211201

The Impact of Victim Self-Protection on Rape Completion and Injury (2005) – G. Kleck, J. Tark

Rape and other sexual assault is prevalent and inflicts serious trauma on its victims, yet prior researchers and law enforcement agencies have failed to provide practical and consistent self-protection advice to potential victims. Researchers have generally agreed that female victims’ resistance is effective for preventing the completion of a rape attempt; however, controversy remains concerning the impact of resistance, especially forceful resistance on whether the victim suffers any additional injuries other than rape itself. Variation in the findings of these studies is due in part

to defects of methodology and data. The current research avoids previous methodological flaws by analyzing the largest probability sample of sexual assault incidents available, derived from the National Crime Victimization Survey for 1992-2002. The sample consisted of 733 rapes, 1,278 sexual assaults, and 12,235 assault incidents involving female victims. Logistic regression analysis revealed that most self-protection (SP) actions, both forceful and non-forceful, significantly reduced the risk of rape completions, and that the effects of SP actions on rape completion did not vary depending upon conditions such as (a) whether the offender was a sexual intimate, (b) whether the offender was under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, (c) whether there were multiple offenders, nor (d) whether incidents occurred at home or and night. Cross tabulation findings indicated that victim resistance was not associated with nonsexual injury (injury besides rape or attempted rape) compared to nonresistance, and was associated with only very slightly more risk of serious injury. Further, the results of the multivariate analyses of general assault incidents (including both sexual and nonsexual assaults) involving female victims showed that most SP tactics, both forceful and non-forceful, appear to reduce the risk of injury and serious injury compared to nonresistance.

2013-R2-CX-0007:	Person or Place? A Contextual, Event-History Analysis of Homicide Victimization Risk
Amount:	\$161,551
PI:	Emily R. Berthelot
Status:	Closed

This grant is funded under the FY2013 Research on Violent Victimization Program solicitation, which sought applications for investigator initiated research on violent victimization topics including but not limited to the intersections of race, ethnicity and victimization; the victim offender overlap as it pertains to violent victimization; the effectiveness of services for victims of violent crime; and sexual orientation and/or gender identity and violent victimization. Researchers have studied the causes of homicide for nearly 100 years and the vast majority of this research focuses on how social context influences homicide rates. Another tradition of research focuses on individual characteristics and the likelihood of being a homicide victim. The purpose of this study is to examine the influence of community disadvantage on the risk of homicide victimization and focuses on how the community effects change once characteristics of the individual are considered. This research integrates concepts from social disorganization theory with concepts from lifestyle theory by examining the effects of both community predictors of disadvantage and individual attributes which may compel a person in certain ways. The research will use data from the National Health Interview Survey (1996-2006) (NHIS) linked with the National Death Index data which provides individual-level data on homicide mortality including achieved characteristics (e.g. education, employment status, marital status, etc.) and ascribed characteristics (e.g. race, age, sex, immigrant status, etc.). The 2000 Census and 2005-2009 American Community Survey will be integrated using geographic identifiers from the NHIS to create community-level characteristics of disadvantage including measures of resource deprivation, "urbanness" and housing instability. Event history analysis and survey logistic regression analysis will be used to investigate the impact of community-level disadvantage and individual-level characteristics of homicide mortality in block groups in the U.S. and to examine how individual-level characteristics influence the relationship between context and risk of homicide victimization. This research will advance the research on homicide victimization risk and provide insight into the reduction of risk of homicide victimization.

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