

Intimate Partner Violence and Economic Well-Being: A Brief Research Review

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IPV and economic status

- Income-IPV gradient
- IPV as cause
- IPV as a result

IPV & economic well-being

- Economic Abuse
 - abuse that directly impacts economic spheres
- Traumatic impact of IPV
 - Health and mental health effects that diminish economic well-being
- Other Economic impacts
 - associated with IPV and its aftermath

Economic Abuse

- Form of psychological maltreatment-inclusion in Power and Control Wheel
- Expanded conceptualizations and measures developed more recently
- Behaviors that control a woman's ability to acquire, use, and maintain economic resources, thus threatening her economic security and potential for self-sufficiency (Adams et al, 2008).

Direct Interference with Employment

- Block employment
 - Threats to harm if working
- Interfere with employment
 - E.g. harassed at work
 - Sabotage work efforts-e.g. hiding keys
- Interfere with other employment-related activities

Traumatic Effects

- Health and mental health outcomes clearly linked to IPV
- These can diminish the ability to work and to perform other important life roles.
- May limit actual ability or victim's perceptions of ability

Other economic impacts

- relationship dissolution and associated economic challenges
- housing displacement
- credit problems
- increased child care costs
- health and mental health care costs

Welfare Status-Background

- Much work began during debate about PRWORA
 - Concerns for well-being of battered women in era of demands to work and loss of entitlement
 - Trapped by Poverty/Trapped by Abuse
 - Family Violence Option

Welfare Status-Research

- High rates of IPV among women on welfare caseloads
- Association with reliance on welfare and cycling
- Some ethnic variation e.g. Honeycutt et al
 - Physical IPV
 - Psychological
- Welfare as gateway to needed services

IPV and Employment

- Results vary by type of employment measure
- Vary by how IPV is measured
 - Recency
 - Cumulative
 - Severity
 - Type i.e. physical, psychological, etc.

Unemployment

- IPV not clearly linked to current employment status i.e. has or doesn't have a job in welfare samples
- Kimmerling et al (2009) found psychological but not physical IPV related to unemployment of women in general population

Other employment measures

- Several studies in welfare samples link diminished employment effort or hours worked over time to IPV
- Tolman & Wang, 2005
 - IPV diminished work effort on average 137 hours per year (about 10% of total work effort)
 - This eliminated much of the benefit other welfare recipients experienced in period of economic growth

Recency

- Overall, recent IPV associated with employment stability rather than IPV in more distal time periods
- E.g. Adams, Tolman, Bybee, Sullivan & Kennedy (in press)
 - IPV measures
 - Past year, 1-3 years, more than 3 years
 - Results
 - Past year, 1-3 years predicted employment stability
- More distal abuse may continue to impact

Material Hardship

- IPV linked to multiple forms of hardship
 - Food insufficiency
 - Homelessness and other housing related problems
 - Utility shutoffs
- Adams et al (in press)
 - IPV in past year, 1-3 years associated with objective hardship

Subjective Hardship

- Subjective rating of current or anticipated level of hardship
- Can be seen both as an alternative measure of hardship but also as a distinct psychological impact
- Adams et al (in press)
 - Past year IPV predicted anticipated hardship but not IPV that occurred more distally

Job performance

- IPV linked to absenteeism and distraction (Reeves et. al 2007)
 - Lifetime measure, not current IPV linked
 - Perhaps chronic health issues that don't remit when IPV ends
 - Concentration and distraction issues linked to current IPV
- Consistent with other studies reporting similar findings
 - Both “direct” i.e. abuser interference and “indirect” via stress, health, mental health

Health

- Strong relationship of IPV to acute and chronic health problems (Campell et al, 2002)
 - higher levels of gynecological, chronic stress-related, central nervous system, and total health problems
 - More of the following symptoms: abdominal, pelvic, and back pain, appetite loss, urinary tract infections, vaginal bleeding and infections, painful intercourse, and digestive problems

Mental health

- Mental Health disorders and IPV
 - Depression and suicidal ideation, posttraumatic stress disorder, and alcohol and drug abuse
- Tolman & Rosen, 2001
 - Measured depression, alcohol dependence, drug dependence, generalized anxiety disorder, PTSD
 - 62% of recent victims had at least one of five disorders measured
 - compared to 34% of past victims, and 23% of those who never experienced severe abuse.

Costs related to traumatic effects

- Beyond employment impact, other economic costs of traumatic effects of IPV
- Increased health and mental health costs (Ulrich et al 2003).
- Concern but not conclusive evidence IPV might diminish obtaining jobs with good benefits, including health insurance.
- IPV predicted employment stability, material hardship, but not job benefits (Adams et al, in press).

Pathway to Job Instability

- Tolman & Wang, 2005- demonstrated that health and mental health problems associated with IPV
- Health partially mediated impact of IPV on employment, when controlling for other factors
- Mental health disorders or measures have generally not been significant mediators of IPV-employment.

Job instability as pathway to mental health problems

- Adams (2009) –Michigan welfare sample
- Job instability for IPV victims linked to increased mental health problems
- When considering interventions needed to address economic stability, mental health issues important

Characterizing the Research

- Relatively few studies especially outside of TANF system
- Need for continued research, expanded measures and samples
- Subsequent presentations will deal with needed emphasis on how best to address IPV survivors economic-well-being