Domestic Violence

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Research Design and Issues

Survey questions among UVU students

○ We sent out a survey to 500 Utah Valley University students through Qualtrics.

○ Because our topic was sensitive, a survey was our best option so the participants could remain anonymous and opt out of any questions that made them feel uncomfortable.

★ The purpose of our study was to obtain more information on domestic violence through victims or through individuals who may not have been victims themselves, but have experienced domestic violence through relationships of others, as well as signs that may be common in a domestic abuser/signs that you may be entering into an abusive relationship. Also, another purpose of the study is help educate individuals of the reasons victims may choose to stay or leave and how you and others can help save someone or yourself from abuse.
*Why*

➢ We believe our research is important because anyone can be involved in a domestic violence relationship no matter what their age, race, gender, or sexual orientation may be. We want to use this information to recognize signs of an abuser earlier in a relationship and also bring more awareness to domestic violence.
Problems we Encountered..

There was some confusion between us and the IRB. The IRB had sent a contingent approval letter and approx. a week and a half later after follow up emails we figured out that they had sent it to the wrong email.

Another issue we had was finding a title to cover the combination of all our questions.

Our even pages of the scanned copy were missing for the IRB.

Another problem we had was that we could not have a “forced response” for some of our questions due to the sensitivity, so many questions have minimal responses.
Domestic Violence

What is domestic violence?
What are the signs of domestic violence?
Over the last several years we have all discussed and studied the topic of domestic violence in this field of study. Our group specifically wanted to know if it was recognized at UVU.

Victims of this crime are high in number and our study will show some of those results. Who is reporting at UVU? Why are they reporting it?
Other questions we had were what type of violence is being recognized or reported?

Were there any injuries the victims suffered? And how does this new information we discovered benefit all of us?
Anticipatory fear and helplessness predict PTSD and depression in domestic violence survivors

- Focus on negative effects of surviving domestic violence; fear, helplessness, PTSD, depression
- Theorize that effects of such an experience would be contributed to fear and helplessness long term
- Semi structure interview of 220 DV(Domestic Violence) survivors from shelters in Turkey
- Findings- DV relationship can be consistently as traumatic as an earthquake, war and torture survivors
- Best help mentally is to overcome fear and helplessness. This will significantly effect working through PTSD and depression
Witnessing Domestic Violence During Childhood is Associated with Psychopathic Traits in Adult Male Criminal Offenders

- Focus on psychopathic traits of adult male offenders exhibit if witnessed DV during childhood
- 127 incarcerated adult male participants in Wisconsin prisons that are not diagnosed with psychotic disorder
- Participants involved in two interviews and fill out questionnaire to assess personality, substance abuse, intelligence, etc
- Focused on types of DV that they were exposed to and socioeconomic status of family
- Findings show witnessing DV have strong association with psychopathic traits in participants
- Found that witnessing DV can have lifelong effects without being the victim
Literature Review

Adults with Witnessing Histories: The Overlooked Victims of Domestic Violence

- Overview on children witnessing violence and its effects. Long term effects of witnessing violence

- Effects on children witnesses
  - greater risk of depression and anxiety, school problems and problematic behavior.
  - As they grow, resort to conflict to resolve issues. Males tend to have external problems such as aggression. Females tend to have internal issues such as depression.

- Effects when reached adulthood
  - Resort to violence
  
  Damage of interpersonal functions: mistrust and low self-esteem.
Literature Review


- Explains violence between intimate partners among sexual minority populations; LGBT community
- Focuses on whole sexual spectrum and aspects such as the prevalence, incidence and risk factors
- Purpose of study to help future research through providing a framework
- Incidence and Prevalence rates
  - Psychological violence is most popular form of IPV in study among LGBT spectrum
  - Previous research showed that focus has been on rates of IPV victimization and not IPV perpetration

Shows that future research must change to help future of IPV in LGBT groups
Literature Review

What is empowerment anyway? A model for domestic violence practice, research, and evaluation

- empowerment= self-induced motivation or belief in yourself to do or be anything you want to be
- DV has been deemed a public health crisis. Article shows how empowerment can be a characteristic of all survivors
- Illustrates empowerment as a concept and how to deeply root in in life
- Focus on using the “Empowerment Process Model”
  - Model shows empowerment as a shift in experience of power attained through social interaction and building empowerment through interaction and action toward personal goals
  - Gained by support from personal community, personal skills, ability to move toward goals and knowledge gained along the way
  - path= create goals- moves to action toward goals- impact those goals have on your life
Antisocial Traits, Distress Tolerance, and Alcohol Problems as Predictors of Intimate Partner Violence in Men Arrested for Domestic Violence

- Common factors/traits of men arrested for domestic assault are alcohol issues and antisocial behavior

- Found that low stress tolerance can lead to DV behavior

- Men who turn to alcohol due to stress have higher volume of DV related incidents

- Study show correlation in three areas
  - “Distress tolerance and alcohol problems explained the relation between domestic violence traits and psychological aggression”
  
  - DV traits are associated with increased alcohol issues and relate to increased psychological aggression perpetration
  
  - “Domestic Violence traits related to psychological aggression perpetration in the presence of paths to and from distress tolerance and alcohol problems”
Sample Size and Response Rate

500 Utah Valley University Students

According to the sample size calculator we needed a sample size of 500 participants.

We sent out the initial survey and then a reminder a few days later.

Based on the first question we got 62 responses which put our response rate at 12.4%
Gender & Relationship Status

Men accounted for 40% of the results, there was one “other” option, and women accounted for the remaining.

Most individuals who participated in our survey were single and never married. The next most popular relationship group was married.
Results

Our opening question was:

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions, or threats of actions that influence another person." According to the above definition given by The United States Department of Justice. Have you experienced domestic violence?

According to the results out of 62 participants.

14 said they have experienced domestic violence.

48 claimed they have not experienced domestic violence.

Out of the 48 respondents that claimed they have not personally
Why People Stay…

Leaving an abuser is very difficult. It often takes multiple efforts to leave and stay away for good.

According to our results, The Top 3 reasons people stay:

- Fear; or felt threatened to leave.
- Denial.
- Lack of Support.

Question 6 of our survey asks the individual who influenced them to leave their abuser.

The number one answer was “Myself.”
Most Common Types of Domestic Violence

According to the UVU students, there were 3 types of violence that were most common in the people who have experienced DV.

- Physical
- Mental
- Verbal Abuse

Some others that were not as common were economic and sexual.
Injuries..

A question in our survey asked the participants what type of injuries they have received due to domestic violence.

1. Bruises were the most common injury determined by UVU students.

2. Scratches were a close second.

Other injuries that people experienced were: Stitches, bite marks, broken bones, lost teeth, and concussions.
Signs..

Many victims often make excuses for the abuser or deny the abuse in general. The first step in avoiding abuse and ending it is to know the signs of an abuser and reach out for help. Here are some common signs we found in our research.

Jealousy, threats, controlling, become angry easily, name calling, over-protective, insecurities, depression, substance abuse.
Domestic Violence

According to NCADV, "1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been victims of (some form of) physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime." Domestic violence is a common issue in society.

Approximately 62% of the remaining participants know someone who has experienced domestic violence.

38% do not know anyone who has experienced DV.

Our results suggest that a friend/co-worker is the most recognized group that experiences domestic violence.

Other; Aunt, Son, daughter.

Mother is another popular victim.
Help!

❖ What type of help was offered to the victim?

➢ Emotional support was the most used method of help.

➢ A place to stay is another popular solution to help a victim.
Has the domestic violence been reported?

Our research indicated that if an individual reports abuse it was most likely to a religious leader. The next highest percentage of reports was to law enforcement, or simply not reported at all.
FINAL CONCLUSION

70% of all our respondents have been victims of Domestic Violence or know someone who has been affected by it.

The most common signs of Domestic Violence seen by our respondents were jealousy, a controlling partner, easily agitated and insecure.

These signs can been seen in our own partnerships, marriages and relationships but they can also be seen in our friends lives, family members and co-workers.
WHAT CAN WE DO?

Whether we are the victims or we see the signs from others or their relationships; our results showed the most offered up help was emotional support.

If we have the ability, we can offer a place to stay and provide the proper resources for further help.

Professionals who can help include family doctors, counselors and local clergy members.

Local law enforcement can also help with investigations into Domestic Violence and provide help with temporary/permanent protective orders and have victim advocates assigned to the families case which can provide additional resources.