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Thoughts and Opinions on Police Intervention on Domestic Violence

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THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ON POLICE INTERVENTION ON DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

A Thesis Presented to
the Faculty of the University Honors Program
Northeastern Illinois University

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
of the NEIU Honors Program
for Graduation with Honors

Magdelene Thebaud
May 2020

ABSTRACT

Historically, the criminal justice system was highly criticized for dismissing the intimate violence reports. Many lawsuits were filed against the police for not responding to victim's police reports. It is important to consider the victim's opinions on intimate partner violence interventions when deciding what is effective or not. Policy research should implement more victim focused resources and laws that would allow victims to safely leave abusive relationships. Being mindful of the evidence this study should encourage policy makers to consider the police intervention of intimate partner violence. This research could provide statistics showing that police intervention is causing retaliation and increasing intimate partner violence. If so, state legislatures are greatly failing numerous victims, impacting every one of them for a lifetime. The purpose of this study is to refine our current understanding of police intervention in intimate partner violence. Using content data and statistical analysis, I hope to give a better illustration of what causes a deterrence of reports by victims and what the role for the police should be. Using non-random sampling, my research sample will consist of domestic violence advocates at Connections for Abused Women and their Children. The population of this sampling will come in the form of counselors, legal advocates, children's advocates, and staff at this agency. My projected sample size is ten. I will be collecting data in the form of words, explanations, and ratings. I will use a survey that asks 10 general questions on the intervention of police and the effects it has on the survivors. First, I will hand out a consent form to the individuals prior to the survey being handed out. Next, they will complete the survey to the best of their knowledge. I plan to have an email sent out with a copy of the survey that will be forwarded to various individuals completing the survey. Finally, I will

request that they place the completed survey in my supervisor's mailbox to keep the anonymity of the individual. The time frame needed to complete the survey is around 20 minutes. I will allow for a month for the individuals to complete the survey and place it in my supervisor's mailbox. In conclusion, this data will help give the agency an overall idea of how the staff members believe it is important to create allies with the police departments in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am beyond thankful for the opportunity to do research under Dr. OG's guidance. The Northeastern Illinois University Honor's Program gave me a structured plan to develop my thesis throughout my senior year. Furthermore, my internship experience at Connections for Abused Women and their Children allowed me to grow in my social work practice. It all has prepared me with the skill set required to be an emerging social worker and researcher. I have had many valuable experiences learning about domestic violence and the diverse populations that are impacted by it.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	vi
LIST OF TABLES.....	vii
INTRODUCTION.....	1
MAIN STUDY.....	13
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.....	24
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	27

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1. YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.....18

TABLE 2. PARTICIPANTS AND POLICE EXPERIENCE.....18

TABLE 3. CLIENTS AND POLICE EXPERIENCE.....18

TABLE 4. MEANS OF THE RATINGS FOR EACH SUBSET LAW: POLICE
ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW.....20

TABLE 5. PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION WITH THE POLICE AND THE
LAW.....20

TABLE 6. DUALY ARRESTED CLIENTS.....20

TABLE 7. INDEPENDENT T-TEST OF PARTICIPANT AND POLICE EXPERIENCE
AND BELIEF OF FOLLOWING THROUGH LAWS.....22

INTRODUCTION

Historical Background

Police interaction with domestic violence has been a discussion for several decades on its effectiveness. Mandated arrest orders the police to arrest a suspect in the absence of a warrant under the notion of probable cause. Police must have a reasonable suspicion that someone has committed an assault. This has led to a lot of discrepancy between all parties involved in an intimate violence situation. Consequently, the government allowing police to intervene with mandated arrest is a mechanism that has led to retaliation by the abuser. Within certain populations mandated arrest is not as effective as others in preventing future intimate violence between partners (Iyengar, 2009).

In the 1970's, the criminal justice system was highly criticized for dismissing the intimate violence reports. Many lawsuits were filed against police for not responding to victims' police reports. "No drop" and pro-arrest policies were implemented in order to protect the victims safety. It is important to consider the victims' opinions on intimate violence interventions when deciding what is effective or not. Researchers have found that taking an empowerment approach when working with intimate partner violence gives the victims more satisfaction with how the criminal justice system proceeds with their case (Smith, 2001).

Rationale/Study Significance

Policy research should implement more victim focused resources and laws that would allow victims to safely leave abusive relationships. Being mindful of the evidence this study should encourage policy makers to consider the police intervention of intimate

partner violence. This research could provide statistics showing that police intervention is causing retaliation and increasing intimate partner violence. If so, state legislatures are greatly failing numerous victims, impacting every one of them for a lifetime.

There are two important legislatures on domestic violence. The first, is the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. The second, is the Violence Against Women Act. Both of these policies were made in order to protect victims suffering from domestic violence. The agency, Connections for Abused Women and their Children (CAWC), uses these policies to better serve and protect their clients. The failure of the police abiding by these policies can also negatively impact the survivors that come to CAWC.

Problem Statement

Battered women have had to deal with a great rise in violence once mandatory arrests were decided on their intimate partner. The determination of the police to arrest the abuser was not always made with their best intentions. The motivation to arrest the abusers would often stem from the pressure of liability. Often times the police racially profile the victims and the abusers which may result in a dual arrest or unwillingness for victims of domestic violence to contact the police. Nearly 43.7% of black women have experienced “rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime” (Sabri, Stockman, Campbell, O’Brien, Campbell, Callwood, Bertrand, Sutton & Hart-Hyndman, 2014). There are also various reasons for why victims might not want to report to the police about their abuse. Some victims have a relational commitment to their partners and would not want their abuse to deal with the consequences. There is also the fear that if an arrest is made that doesn’t result in a conviction, there is higher chance of retaliation. In 1997, 20% of the domestic violence arrests resulted in the woman being arrested too due to there

being evidence of them having started the fight. Most of them were victims of intimate partner violence beforehand (Iyengar, 2009).

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to refine our current understanding of police intervention in intimate partner violence. Using content data and statistical analysis, I hope to give a better illustration of what causes a deterrence of reports by victims and what the role of the police should be.

Research Questions

How can the police improve their service to better assist victims of domestic violence?

Is there a relationship between client/participant experiences with the police and their belief of them following through with the law in regards to the IDVA?

Research Hypothesis

I predict that police have a history of not completing their duties in accordance to domestic violence law. There are also ways in which police intervention can improve to better serve the victims of domestic violence. There is a high chance that the individuals who complete the survey who have years of experience will have very important input in regard to police intervention.

THE LITERATURE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mandatory Arrests

Often times when the abuser is arrested, they will not be convicted in later court proceedings. This leaves room for retaliation which contributes to the high homicide rates

for states that issue mandated arrests. In about 20% of domestic violence occurrences where the victim calls the police, the victim gets arrested themselves. More than half of the victims arrested have been victims of intimate partner violence prior to the arrest. This consequence leaves many victims questioning their sense of validation (Iyengar, 2009).

There are over 1.5 million women who seek medical treatment due to domestic violence annually. The severity of abuse can lead to mental health complications that include: “anxiety attacks, post-traumatic stress disorder, chronic depression, acute stress disorder, suicidal thoughts and ideation” (Bent-Goodley, 2004). The physical complications include “rape, unwanted and aborted pregnancies, stress-related illnesses, increased substance abuse, pregnancy complications, suicide attempts, and homicide (Bent-Goodley, 2004). Mental health complications and substance abuse have been strong indicators of lethal domestic violence. These factors are even more pervasive within certain subpopulations of victims (Sabri et. Al., 2014). Of the women who come into an emergency room 37 percent have been injured due to domestic violence. Domestic abuse costs the government more than 44 million every year. This includes costs for approximately 21,000 hospitalizations, 99,800 patient days, 28,700 emergency department visits, and 39,900 visits to the doctor every year (Bent-Goodley, 2004). Approximately 74% of victims who have died from intimate partner violence have visited a hospital before for injuries that resulted in past assaults and abuse (Sabri et al, 2014).

Police Intervention

Historically, domestic violence has been a neglected issue regarding police response. Before the women’s movement for battered movement was initiated, the United States was not willing to “apply criminal law to intimate partner violence” (Hovemand &

Ford, 2009). Over the years, the government implemented mandatory arrest policies in several states to keep themselves from being liable of any inaction. There are more than 91% police departments that have some form of mandated arrest policies for intimate partner violence (Hovemand & Ford, 2009). There are several problems with mandatory arrest policies. Researchers argue that arrests are often made off racial profiling. Police discretion in the decision making of mandatory arrest were more inclined to arrest when the following characteristics were involved in the event: “race, class, injury severity, and marital status.” If there was clearly alcohol involved with the perpetrator officers would be more convinced to arrest the abuser (Frye, Haviland & Rajah, 2007)

The timing of everything that occurs in the arrest and the community involvement can positively affect the results of a domestic violence case. There are ways in which the overall community can improve offender accountability and increases victim safety. Some ways in which coordinated community response councils have addressed domestic violence is by “encouraging interorganizational exchanges, developing more integrated service delivery systems, and enhancing communication between agencies” (Hovemand & Ford, 2009).

Although police intervention is perceived as a just accountability tactic issued by the government, research has found that it is 60% more likely that a mandatory arrest will result in a homicide done by the abuser. In Radha Iyengar’s difference in difference statistical analysis on mandatory arrest laws and intimate partner violence, there appeared to be more of a consequence on the victim of domestic violence when there was police intervention. Iyengar used proposed that there were two reasons for an increase in

homicides. One of them being the tendency for victims not wanting to report their abuser. The other reason being retaliation of the abuser after the initial report (Iyengar, 2009).

Many of the policies that have been put in place are very centered on the abuse and their arrest. The unintentional consequences that these policies can have on the victims are just as important as the consequences for the abuser. The dual arrests that can occur in an intimate partner violence situation is detrimental to the well-being of the victim. Often times, the victim becomes less empowered, at risk of losing their children, and revictimization by the criminal justice system (Hovemand & Ford, 2009). In the research of behaviors on reporting the violence, Boivin states that “The results remind us that the criminal treatment of DV should not be understood as a monolithic issue but rather as a complex process involving rational victims in a coerced context” (Boivin & Leclerc, 2016). Making the decision to involve police is complex and does not get consistent results from each victim that comes forward about their situation. Goes on to state that “It is not the violence itself that causes women to feel in danger, but rather the meaning of the violence and the context in which the violence occurs with battering, lethality threats, and sexual violence holding particular meaning” (Dichter & Gelles, 2012). It is important to take in the victim’s perception of how much danger they believe that they are in. This impacts their decision as to whether police intervention is necessary or not.

Black Intimate Partner Violence

Victims of black intimate partner violence have a greater “distaste” when wanting to communicate to the police their concerns (Iyengar, 2009). There is a lack of cultural competency and accessibility in the agencies that provide domestic violence services. The National Black Women’s Health Project recognized domestic violence as the top indicator

for health-related issues for African American women. Black women are at a higher chance of catching HIV due to their higher rates of domestic violence.

There are certain factors that contribute to an increased risk of domestic violence for black intimate partners. These factors include: “fear of abusive partner, posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms, and use of legal resources.” (Sabri et. al., 2014). Black intimate partner violence is recognized as a public health issue as it has its costs on the economy and health. In a previous study done in New York City in 2004, nearly 45.2% of the victims in black intimate partner violence were killed by their abuser. Victims with unemployed abusers are four times more likely to die of a homicide as a result to intimate partner violence. Socioeconomical and demographic differences among black communities should be taken into consideration in relation to intimate partner homicides. Education, unemployment, cohabitation without marriage, and age are all factors that can increase the risk that a black woman is a victim of intimate partner homicides. The relationship characteristics such as lack of commitment is a reason for why non married couples are at a higher risk of intimate partner homicides. Often times the victims of cohabitated nonmarried couples will be beaten to death by the abuser (Sabri et. al., 2014)

With most minorities being people of color, victims of this population rarely get a full explanation of all the “application of the law.” Dual arrests have increased over the years as a result of mandatory arrest laws. It was particularly higher for women of color. If police felt as though the victim appeared to contradict the typically perceived victim, there was a higher chance of a dual arrest occurring. Therefore, young, single, black, women with children out of wedlock were at risk of this unintended consequence. This distasteful result is similar to the idea of there being a deserving and undeserving population that

receives help. The following four unintended consequences were used as a precaution to victims calling a hotline: “unwanted arrest,” “dual arrest,” “retaliation,” and “no arrest.” It was the poor victims that had a history of being presented with unintended consequences. They were the most distrustful of the police and ignorant of the policies in place which left them prone to increased domestic violence (Frye, Haviland & Rajah, 2007). There are statistics that show proof of a lack of legal counsel when it comes to intimate partner violence. “Only 11% of 231 women killed by their intimate partner have been issued a restraining order” (Sabri et. al., 2014). This could also be due to legal procedures that dismiss the victims need of a restraining order to begin with.

Poverty rates of house incomes from \$6,000 to \$11,999 are at a higher risk of being involved in domestic violence. Due to the higher rates of blacks in these neighborhoods, the African American community is having to face a multitude of barriers related to domestic violence. Since black women are more likely to kill their abuser, they are less likely to seek assistance putting themselves in even greater danger. This leaves black women more “mentally anguished” when wanting to be in contact with the police. There is also a “racial loyalty” in which black women have a stronger need to protect their black male counterparts before recognizing themselves as an individual woman and the accountability of the man alone. This sort of “gender entrapment” affects how African American women perceive domestic violence and the severity of their abuse (Bent, Goodley, 2004).

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

I will be conducting a mixed methods study on police intervention of domestic violence situations. This study will expand on the basic issues, facts, and concerns on police intervention of domestic violence. I am going to use purposive sampling. I have identified a number of criteria that are important to this study in which the counselors, legal advocates, children's advocates and staff will have had experience with domestic violence survivors and have a unique perspective to this study. The group-level design of this study is O1. This is a non-experimental group level design that involves surveys to gather opinions.

Research Sample

Using non-random sampling, my research sample will consist of domestic violence advocates at Connections for Abused Women and their Children. The population of this sampling will come in the form of counselors, legal advocates, children's advocates, and staff at this agency. My projected sample size is ten.

Research Instrument

I will be using a survey that will be administered to the staff in paper. The questions will be easy to read and anonymous so that the content cannot be used against the person taking the survey.

The following open-ended and close-ended questions will be asked

- 1.) What roles have you worked while working with the domestic violence population?**

2.) How many years of experience have you had working with the domestic violence population? Circle one.

0-5 5-10 10-15
15+

3.) What kind of interactions have you had with the police concerning your clients? Circle one.

Mostly negative Mostly positive

4.) What were the encounters your clients had with the police when experiencing domestic violence? Circle one.

Mostly negative Mostly positive

5.) What do you believe are some of the results of calling the police for domestic violence situations?

6.) The following policies are from the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. Rate from 1-10 how much you believe the police are acting in accordance to these policies. 10 meaning they follow through with the law.

a. Police departments should consult with domestic violence organizations for developing policies regarding arrest.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Whenever a law enforcement officer has reason to believe that a person has been abused, neglected, or exploited by a family or household member, the officer shall immediately use all reasonable means to prevent further abuse, neglect, or exploitation, including:

b. Arresting the abusing, neglecting and exploiting party, where appropriate;

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

c. If there is probable cause to believe that particular weapons were used to commit the incident of abuse, subject to constitutional limitations, seizing and taking inventory of the weapons;

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

d. Accompanying the victim of abuse, neglect, or exploitation to his or her place of residence for a reasonable period of time to remove necessary personal belongings

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

e. Offering the victim of abuse, neglect, or exploitation immediate and adequate information (written in a language appropriate for the victim or in Braille or communicated in appropriate sign language), which shall include a summary of the procedures and relief available to victims of abuse under subsection

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

f. Providing the victim with one referral to an accessible service agency;

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

g. Advising the victim of abuse about seeking medical attention and preserving evidence (specifically including photographs of injury or damage and damaged clothing or other property); and

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

h. Providing or arranging accessible transportation for the victim of abuse (and, at the victim's request, any minors or dependents in the victim's care) to a medical facility for treatment of injuries or to a nearby place of shelter or safety; or, after the close of court business hours, providing or arranging for transportation for the victim (and, at the victim's request, any minors or dependents in the victim's care) to the nearest available circuit judge or associate judge so the victim may file a petition for an emergency order of protection under subsection

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

i. Make a police report of the investigation

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

7.) How should the police department and domestic violence agencies promote collaboration in the future to ensure the needs of the survivor are met?

8.) How satisfied are you with the police following through in protecting the victims when called for intimate partner violence situations?

Not at all Indifferent Slight Satisfaction Very Satisfied

9.) Have any of your clients been dually arrested (both the victim and abuser) when police are called for help? Circle one.

Yes No

10.) How can the police prevent revictimization of survivors of domestic violence?

Data Collection

I will be collecting data in the form of words, explanations, and ratings. I will use a survey that asks 10 general questions on the intervention of police and the effects it has on the survivors. First, I will hand out a consent form to the individuals prior to the survey being handed out. Next, they will complete the survey to the best of their knowledge. I plan to have an email sent out with a copy of the survey that will be forwarded to the various individuals completing the survey. Finally, I will request that they place the completed survey in my supervisor's mailbox to keep the anonymity of the individual. The time frame needed to complete the survey is around 20 minutes. I will allow for a month for the individuals to complete the survey and place it in my supervisor's mailbox.

MAIN STUDY

Data Analysis

My first research question is how can the police improve their service to better assist victims of domestic violence according to domestic violence service workers. The second research question I had is whether or not there is a relationship between participant or client experiences with the police and their belief of them following through with the law in regards to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act (IDVA). My hypothesis was that police have a history of not completing their duties in accordance to domestic violence law. I predicted that there are also ways in which police intervention can improve to better serve the victims of domestic violence. In addition, I thought that participants who report having

negative experiences with the police in regards to domestic violence will have a lower belief in the police following through with the laws in accordance with the IDVA.

I used a survey that asks 10 general questions on the intervention of police and the effects it has on the survivors. First, I handed out a consent form to the individuals prior to the survey being handed out. Next, they completed the survey to the best of their knowledge. I had an email sent out with a copy of the survey that was forwarded to the various individuals completing the survey. Finally, I requested that they place the completed survey in my supervisor's mailbox to keep the anonymity of the individual. The time frame needed to complete the survey was around 20 minutes. I allowed for a month for the individuals to complete the survey and place it in my supervisor's mailbox.

My sample size was five. I did a content data analysis on the open-ended questions that were asked. I analyzed correlations to the close-ended questions. I ran descriptive analysis in the form of means and modes. I found the modes for years of experience the participant has, interaction experience of the client and participant, and satisfaction of the police following through with the law in regard to domestic violence. The alpha level for my data is 5 percent. I ran inferential data analysis in the form of an independent T-tests in order to find the relationship between the means of the ratings on the laws (Question 6) and the client experience with the police (negative or positive) and participant experience with the police(negative or positive). I ran this test nine different times for each of the different subsets of Question 6 since they each represent the nine different laws that are asked about for the participant to rate.

The results show that the roles of the participants consisted of a direct service counselor, supervisor, legal advocate, support group facilitator, family support specialist,

outreach program coordinator, and family trauma therapist in regard to serving domestic violence populations. **Table 1** shows that all but one of the participants has worked with domestic violence populations for more than five years.

Table 1: Years of Experience

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0-5	4	80.0	80.0	80.0
	10-15	1	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total		5	100.0	100.0	

Table 2 shows that three out of the five participants had mostly positive experiences with the police intervening with their clients in intimate partner situations.

Table 2: Participant and Police Experience

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Mostly Negative	2	40.0	40.0	40.0
	Mostly Positive	3	60.0	60.0	100.0
Total		5	100.0	100.0	

However, **Table 3** shows that all of the participant's clients expressed a negative experience with the clients and the police.

Table 3: Client and Police Experience

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Mostly Negative	5	100.0	100.0	100.0

Question 6 looked at nine different policies and asked the participant to rate how much they believe the police are acting in accordance to the IDVA Act on a range from 1-10; 10

meaning that they believe they follow through with the law and 1 meaning that they believe the police are not following through with the law. **Table 4** shows the mean score of each subsection for Question 6. I stated in parenthesis, the means for each of the subsections for question number 6 in regards to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act goes as follows:

- 6a. Police departments should consult with domestic violence organizations for developing policies regarding arrest (5).
- 6b. Arresting the abusing, neglecting, and exploiting party, where appropriate (5.2).
- 6c. If there is probable cause to believe that particular weapons were used to commit the incident of abuse, subject to constitutional limitations, seizing and taking inventory of the weapons (6.2).
- 6d. Accompanying the victim of abuse, neglect, or exploitation to his or her place of residence for a reasonable period of time to remove necessary personal belongings (6.8).
- 6e. Offering the victim of abuse, neglect, or exploitation immediate and adequate information, which shall include a summary of the procedures and relief available to victims of abuse under subsection (5.2).
- 6f. Providing the victim with one referral to an accessible service agency (6.2).
- 6g. Advising the victim of abuse about seeking medical attention and preserving evidence (6.0).
- 6h. Providing or arranging accessible transportation for the victim of abuse to a medical facility for treatment of injuries or to a nearby place of shelter or safety; or, after the close of court business hours, providing or arranging for transportation

for the victim to the nearest available circuit judge or associate judge so the victim may file a petition for an emergency order of protection under subsection (5.8).

- 6i. Make a police report of the investigation (5.4).

TABLE 4: Means of the Ratings for Each Subset Law: Police Accordance with the Law

	Report								
	Law1	Law2	Law3	Law4	Law5	Law6	Law7	Law8	Law9
Mean	5.0000	5.2000	6.2000	6.8000	5.2000	6.2000	6.0000	5.8000	5.4000
N	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Std. Deviation	1.22474	.83666	1.30384	1.64317	1.78885	1.64317	2.34521	1.30384	1.14018

Table 5 shows that all but one of the participants had a slight satisfaction for police following through in protecting the victims when called for intimate partner violence situations. The other participant remained indifferent in this matter.

Table 5: Participant Satisfaction with the Police and the Law

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Indifferent	1	20.0	20.0	20.0
	Slight Satisfaction	4	80.0	80.0	100.0
	Total	5	100.0	100.0	

Table 6 shows that only one of the participants had a client (survivor) who was also arrested alongside the abuser when the police were called for help.

Table 6: Dually Arrested Clients

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	4	80.0	80.0	80.0

Yes	1	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	5	100.0	100.0	

Table 7 shows the results of the T-tests I ran to examine the P-Values, which were all greater than the alpha level of .05. It states the test statistics of each of the laws and the degrees of freedom. For example, Law 1 is subsection a of Question number 6. It states that police departments should consult with domestic violence organizations for developing policies regarding arrest. It has a P-Value of .323, test statistic of .696 for participants who had a positive experience with the police, and a test statistic of .822 for participants who had a negative experience with the police. It also has degree of freedom value of .537 for participants who had a positive experience with the police and a degree of freedom value of 2.894 for participants who had a negative experience with the police. The data shows that the p-values are not less than .05. Therefore, accept the null hypothesis of the second question which asked whether or not there is a relationship between participant experiences with the police and their belief of them following through with the law in regards to the IDVA. I could not do an independent T-test for the relationship between the client experiences with the police and their beliefs of the police following through with the law since they all had negative experiences.

Table 7 Independent T-Test of Participant and Police Experience AND Belief of Following through Laws

		Independent Samples Test								
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Law1	Equal variances assumed	1.396	.323	.696	3	.537	.83333	1.19799	-2.97921	4.64588
	Equal variances not assumed			.822	2.894	.473	.83333	1.01379	-2.46071	4.12738
Law2	Equal variances assumed	.150	.724	.600	3	.591	.50000	.83333	-2.15204	3.15204
	Equal variances not assumed			.655	2.882	.561	.50000	.76376	-1.98773	2.98773
Law3	Equal variances assumed	3.750	.148	.372	3	.735	.50000	1.34371	-3.77628	4.77628
	Equal variances not assumed			.447	2.778	.687	.50000	1.11803	-3.22466	4.22466
Law4	Equal variances assumed	2.850	.190	.731	3	.518	1.16667	1.59571	-3.91160	6.24493
	Equal variances not assumed			.896	2.597	.445	1.16667	1.30171	-3.36489	5.69822
Law5	Equal variances assumed	.789	.440	.775	3	.495	1.33333	1.72133	-4.14469	6.81136
	Equal variances not assumed			.853	2.924	.458	1.33333	1.56347	-3.71583	6.38249
Law6	Equal variances assumed	6.189	.089	.859	3	.453	1.33333	1.55158	-3.60449	6.27116
	Equal variances not assumed			1.109	2.000	.383	1.33333	1.20185	-3.83781	6.50448
Law7	Equal variances assumed	4.050	.138	1.246	3	.301	2.50000	2.00693	-3.88695	8.88695
	Equal variances not assumed			1.555	2.397	.240	2.50000	1.60728	-3.42692	8.42692
Law8	Equal variances assumed	1.396	.323	.974	3	.402	1.16667	1.19799	-2.64588	4.97921
	Equal variances not assumed			1.151	2.894	.336	1.16667	1.01379	-2.12738	4.46071
Law9	Equal variances assumed	.600	.495	.949	3	.413	1.00000	1.05409	-2.35459	4.35459
	Equal variances not assumed			.866	1.684	.492	1.00000	1.15470	-4.97700	6.97700

For the content analysis, the participants believed in the following statements of what could be the result of calling the police for domestic violence:

- Some survivors may be revictimized.
- Police may take the side of the abuser.
- Survivor may not be given the appropriate guidance based on current needs.

- There is a risk of victim blaming and gaslighting.
- Nothing changes and abuser is let go free. Police don't document the report accurately.
- The survivor is assisted, informed of their rights and provided referrals.
- The survivor can be arrested.
- There can be a language barrier.
- Feelings and emotions are not validated.
- Police can give shaming messages.
- The abuse can escalate as soon as the police leave.

The participants provided the following statements as to how domestic violence agencies and police departments can collaborate

- Police can be given training on domestic violence.
- Bilingual officers should always be accessible.
- Have a domestic violence counselor per police department.
- Police have a list of resources to call.

The participants provided the following statements on how the police can prevent revictimization:

- Police can follow through with referrals and transportation.
- Police can learn to understand the dynamics of power and control and the cycle of violence.
- Informing the victims of what resources they can use for assistance.
- Not victim blaming the survivor.

- Obtaining an interpreter when needed.
- Speaking to the survivor first and separately. Maintaining effective communication skills. Accurately documenting reports.

There seems to be a general theme with the content data regarding police departments improving their services to domestic violence survivors and future collaboration with domestic violence agencies.

Data Discussion

The purpose of the research project was to refine our current understanding of police intervention in intimate partner violence. Using content data and statistical analysis, I wanted to give a better illustration of what causes a deterrence of reports by victims and how the roles of the police should be in the future in regard to domestic violence. My first question was how the police can improve their service to better assist victims of domestic violence according to domestic violence service workers. The second question I had was whether or not there was a relationship between participant or client experience with the police and their belief of them following through with the law in regards to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act.

My major findings were that all the participants believed their clients had mostly negative experiences with the police. All but one of the participants had a slight satisfaction for police following through in protecting the victims when called for intimate partner violence situations. The participants believed that the police followed through with the law in accordance to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act from a scale 1-10 (10 meaning the police follow through with the law and 1 meaning the police do not follow through with

the law) with a mean rating of 5.76. In regard to question one, there also was a general theme among the participants in that police have a lot to do in the future to improve their services to survivors of domestic violence. In regards to question 2, there was no statistical relationship between participants experiences with the police and their belief that police are following through with the law.

The implications of my data analysis show that police have a history of not assisting survivors adequately. To this day, it seems like the police are still not responding with the right resources or knowledge of domestic violence and that needs to change. For domestic violence agencies, they really need to work on advocacy on the survivors behalf by promoting more collaboration with police departments. This can be in the form of trainings, rallies, or staffing. Policies in the future should push for more requirements such as having the police officers 40 hour trained so that they all have a basic understanding of what domestic violence is and the cycle of abuse.

My research did have some limitations. One of them being that the clients themselves were not asked to participate in the survey. This could have given us more insight on how to improve police services to survivors of domestic violence. Another limitation is that I was not able to see if there was a relationship between client satisfaction with the police and participant belief of the police following through with the law in accordance to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. The independent T-testing would not allow for these statistical calculations to occur. Another limitation is the sample size. A larger participant number would give me more insight.

In the future, I would like to take my research a step further by questioning the police on how much they believe they follow through with the law in accordance with the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. I believe they would have a more realistic idea of how domestic violence advocates can work within their departments. I would also like to question the clients at this agency how much they believe the police follow through with the law in accordance to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. I believe this could give us insight as to how much the public is aware of the law and police responsibilities.

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