

2. Report Title: *The Effects of Male Violence on Female Employment*

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Sample: The author interviewed 824 English and Spanish-speaking adult women in the low-income West Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago. Respondent demographics were 55% African-American, 39.2% Latina, and 5% Caucasian. Within the last 12 months, one-third of the sample received AFDC, 42.7% received food stamps, and 45.3% received Medicaid.

Time Frame of Study: September 1994 to May 1995. Additional analysis on employment outcomes were conducted in 1998, and published in *Violence against Women*, April 1999. Prevalence information presented below is taken from the 1997 report, "The Effects of Violence on Women's Employment."

Methods: Women were randomly selected and interviewed (in both English and Spanish) in their homes for approximately an hour by a female interviewer. The survey used a standardized instrument that included questions dealing with labor force participation, employment and educational history, background and family characteristics, community life, criminal victimization, personal and household income, personal and household social welfare program participation, and experience of male violence and coercion in the past twelve months, ever in adult relationships, and ever in life. The study also included in-depth interviews with a subset of 24 women whose experiences represented patterns suggested by quantitative analyses.

FINDINGS

A. Prevalence of Domestic Violence (Lloyd, 1997)

- Using an expanded version of the Conflict Tactics Scale, the authors defined abuse in eleven categories. Three of these include: current physical aggression (throwing objects, pushing, grabbing, slapping); current severe aggression (kicking, hitting, beating, injuring, threatening with or using a weapon); and current verbal and symbolic aggression (attempting to control, harassing, threatening children and friends). Aggression was considered current if it had occurred within the last 12 months.
- AFDC recipients were more likely to experience physical aggression, severe aggression, and verbal and symbolic aggression either in the past 12 months or ever in life as adults, compared to women not on welfare.
 - AFDC participants reported a 31.1% rate of physical aggression within the last 12 months, compared to 11.8% of women not receiving AFDC.
 - AFDC participants reported a 19.5% rate of severe aggression within the last 12 months, compared to 8.1% of women not receiving AFDC.
 - AFDC participants reported a 57.9% rate of verbal and symbolic aggression within the last 12 months, compared to 41.6% of the women not receiving AFDC.

B. Key Findings about Domestic Violence Victims

Education, Training, and Employment

- In general, male violence appears to have a negative but rarely significant impact on the labor force participation of the women in the sample. However, separate analysis of each of the behavioral measures of male aggression that respondents reported having experienced in the 12 months prior to interview indicate that:
 - Women whose partners had directly prevented them from going to school or work or had threatened to harm their children were less likely to be employed than women who did not experience these forms of abuse; and
 - Women whose partners had threatened to kill them at some point were less likely to be currently employed.

C. Summary

- This report concurs with the findings of Browne et. al. which show that recent violence (within the past 12 months) affects battered women's employability the most. Therefore, time limits on receipt of cash assistance, or work requirements can be problematic as these women may be unable to obtain, or retain, employment.
- As economic self-sufficiency may be the surest route out of an abusive relationship, the author states that job training programs which emphasize both longer-term counseling and retention efforts may have benefits for public assistance recipients well beyond simple compliance with time limits on welfare eligibility.