

Witnessing Intimate Partner Violence and its Impact on Fear of Crime

Nicole Del Hoyo, Sociology- Social Work
Dr. Erika DeJonghe
Kellogg Honors College Capstone 2011

Introduction

- The importance of studying fear of crime and witnessing violence
 - Being a victim of a recent and direct incident of violence showed a stronger fear of crime for both abstract fear (criminality throughout the country) and concrete fear (criminality within one's residential area) (Russo & Roccato, 2010)
 - Individuals who aren't directly victimized are still conscious of the potential for crime victimization (Fox, Nobles, & Piquero, 2009)
 - Feelings of insecurity and fear of crime are brought on by threat (risk of victimization), vulnerability (the likelihood of painful consequences from that risk) and helplessness (not being able to avoid or lessen the risk) (Elchardus, Groof, & Smits, 2008)
 - Crime related violence within a neighborhood and lack of social controls can affect personal relationships because of the high levels of stress which would create conditions leading to the development of IPV (Caetano, Famisetty-Mikler, & Harris, 2010; Eastman & Bunch, 2007)
- IPV agencies provide important services for victims of violence such as: safety, emotional support, recovery from trauma, access to legal and health care services, and emergency shelters (Macy, Giattina, Montijo & Ermentrout, 2010)
- Very little research on witnessing IPV and the location of IPV service agencies
 - In Connecticut there was no association between the location of IPV service agencies within a town or an adjacent town where the highest rates of police-reported IPV incidents occurred (Hetling & Zhang, 2010)

Methods

Participants

- 875 residents in multiple cities of the Inland Empire who participated in the annual telephone survey
- Of the 814 respondents who completed the survey, 92 had witnessed IPV within the past year and 722 had not
- Demographics
 - Gender: 36% male, 64% female
 - Ethnicity: 57.3% Caucasian/White, 23.3% Hispanic, 5.3% Black or African American, 2.7% Asian, 3.1% multi-ethnic/biracial, .3% Arab American/Persian, 8% refused to answer, were not sure, or described themselves as another ethnicity
 - Annual household income: 10.6% under \$25,000, 18.9% under \$50,000, 26.5% under \$100,000, 16.3% above \$100,000, 27.7% refused to answer the question, did not know or reported no income

Measures & Procedures

- Data was collected from an annual telephone survey of a representative, randomly drawn sample of Inland Empire residents
- Participants were asked if they witnessed IPV or non-IPV violence within the past year and to rate their fear of becoming a victim of a violent crime
- Information was gathered on IPV service agencies and their location within the Inland Empire with the use of the internet (Google and 211) and from Cal Poly's Violence Prevention & Women's Resource Center

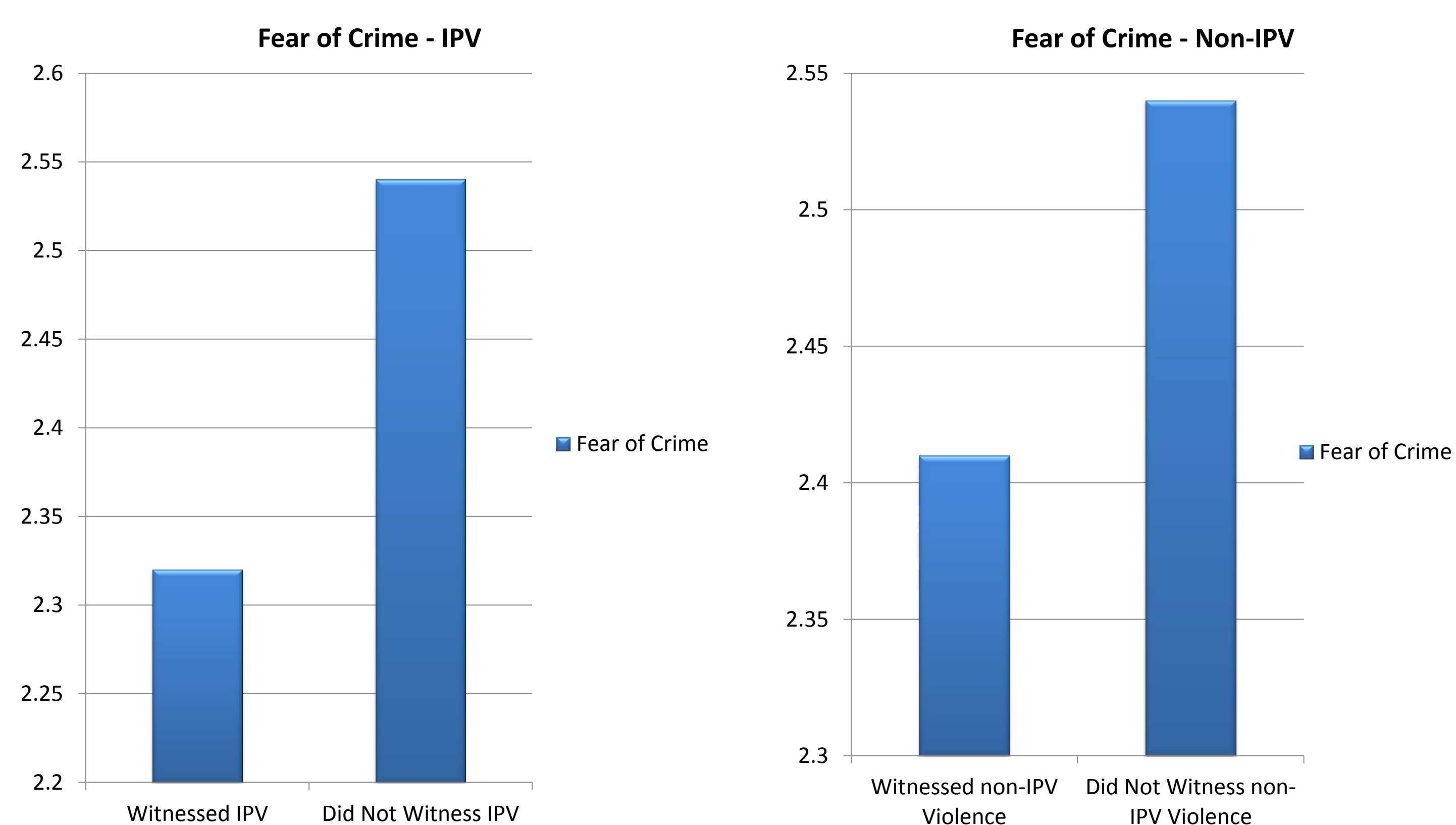
Research Questions

- Does witnessing IPV have an effect on a person's fear of crime?
- Are IPV service agencies available in the areas where they are needed the most?

Results

Research Question 1: Fear of Crime

- Respondents who witnessed IPV have a higher level of fear than those who did not witness IPV, $t=-3.241, p=.001$
- Respondents who witnessed violence other than IPV had a higher level of fear than those who did not witness violence other than IPV, $t=-2.136, p=.033$



Research Question 2: Service Availability

- There is no association between witnessing IPV and IPV service availability, $\chi^2(2, N=814) = 1.94, ns$

Conclusions & Implications

- Findings suggest that...
 - There is a correlation between fear of crime and witnessing IPV and non-IPV acts
 - There is no association between IPV service availability and witnessing IPV
 - Service agencies were not located in areas where the highest rates of IPV were reported
- Limitations
 - The exact location of IPV service agencies are not fully accurate due to confidentiality of agency addresses
 - The study was conducted only in the Inland Empire, other geographical areas may be about different results
 - Study participants may not have been truthful when answering survey questions
- Recommendations for future research
 - Research areas where there are high rates of IPV and see if there is a relationship between witnessing IPV and service location
 - Fear of crime and witnessing IPV could be studied by looking at a specific population (e.g., IPV-exposed children) to see whether their fear of crime has any relationship to them witnessing IPV

References

- Caetano, R., Ramisetty-Mikler, S., & Harris, R. (2010). Neighborhood characteristics as predictors of male to female and female to male partner violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 25*(11). Retrieved from <http://jiv.sagepub.com.opac.library.csupomona.edu/content/25/11/1986.full.pdf+html>
- Eastman, B., & Bunch, S. (2007). Providing services to survivors of domestic violence: a comparison of rural and urban service provider perceptions. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 22*(4). Retrieved from <http://jiv.sagepub.com.opac.library.csupomona.edu/content/22/4/465.full.pdf+html>
- Elchardus, M., Groof, S., & Smits, W. (2008). Rational fear of represented malaise: a crucial test of two paradigms explaining fear of crime. *Sociological Perspective, 51*(3). Retrieved from <http://web.ebscohost.com.opac.library.csupomona.edu/ehost/detail?hid=104&sid=db302224-9192-4f9a-ac40-0fa6f6889c05%40sessionmgr112&vid=3&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbG12ZQ%3d%3d#db=psyh&AN=2008-12840-001>
- Fox, K., Nobles, M., & Piquero, A. (2009). Gender, crime victimization and fear of crime. *Security Journal, 22*(1). Retrieved from <http://web.ebscohost.com.opac.library.csupomona.edu/ehost/detail?hid=104&sid=db302224-9192-4f9a-ac40-0fa6f6889c05%40sessionmgr112&vid=12&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbG12ZQ%3d%3d#db=psyh&AN=2009-01420-003>
- Hetling, A., & Zhang, H. (2010). Domestic violence, poverty, and social. *Social Science Quarterly, 91*(5). Retrieved from <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.opac.library.csupomona.edu/doi/10.1111/j.1540-6237.2010.00725.x/pdf>
- Macy, R., Giattina, M., Montijo, N., & Ermentrout, D. (2010). Domestic violence and sexual assault agency's' directors perspectives on services that help survivors. *Violence Against Women, 16*(10). Retrieved from <http://vaw.sagepub.com.opac.library.csupomona.edu/content/16/10/1138.full.pdf+html>
- Russo, S., & Roccato, M. (2010). How long does victimization foster fear of crime? a longitudinal study. *Journal of Community Psychology, 38*(8). Retrieved from <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.opac.library.csupomona.edu/doi/10.1002/jcop.20408/pdf>