

Research Update

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Introduction

Stage one of the research project is now coming to a close, and this report will give a brief look into how the research project is shaping up thus far. This report includes an outline of the focus group meeting, preliminary survey instruments and an annotated bibliography which summarizes the main points found in our literature review. The literature review was very successful in leading us towards future research while also outlining implications to be considered in the development of the questionnaire.

While this report only outlines three of our current steps, the interim report which will be submitted the week of January 26th will further detail the progress we have made with regards to the violence report card and preparation of a monitoring strategy for ROC to use for future data collection. In the upcoming weeks the team will be busy working to create a sample draft of the survey and high level implementation plan. We are looking forward to completing the next steps, and are anticipating a very successful and informative focus group session.

Focus Group Design

Week of: February 23/04

Purpose: To test response to sample draft survey questions, looking for possible exclusions or problems.

Approach:

i) *Introduction of focus group members*

-ask them to give brief introduction about themselves; including background information and answer to \$6 million lottery question

ii) *Information Session*

-give brief, succinct overview of literature review to enable an equality of knowledge within the group

iii) *Substantive Issues:*

-definition of violence

-perpetuation of awareness

Session Outline

<u>Activity:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
Tea & Cookies	8:30-9:00
<i>Session #1</i> Orientation -name, background, lotto question	9:00-9:30
<i>Session #2</i> Information Session -brief overview of project -outline focus for group session -go over literature review and statistics	9:30-10:00
<i>Session #3</i> Definition of Violence -discuss different definitions of violence -how does definition effect people's awareness? -how does the definition relate to the community? -discussion of survey questions	10:00-11:15
Tea Break	11:15-11:30

Session #4

11:30-12:45

Perpetuation of Awareness

- discuss different methods for perpetuating awareness
- how does violence effect the community?
- discussion of survey questions

Preliminary Survey Instruments

Sample Draft Questions

Independent Variables

1) Age

- Which of the following age groups best describes you?
18-25 25-35 35-50 50+
(Bouley)

2) Income

- Less than 15 000, 15 000-30 000, 30 000- 60 000, more than 60 000
(Bouley)

3) Gender

- Male / female

4) Ethnicity

- Please describe which ethnic background best describes your own:
Anglo Saxon, Mexican, Native American (Krishnan)

Race

- White, black, Hispanic, Asian, Indian (Ernst)

5) Education

- Gr 1-6, 7-8, 9-12, college/technical/vocation, university, graduate (Krishnan)
- 5-8 years, high school incomplete, high school, post secondary in trade, 1-3 years of college/university, graduate schools (Shields)
- no high school, high school grad, some college/university, college/university graduate, graduate work (Bouley)

6) Marital Status

- married, never married, other (Bouley)
- married, single, other (Ernst)

7) Residential Density

???

8) Household Structure

- Which best describes the number of children under the age of 18 in you household?
0 1 2 3 4+
(Krishnan)

9) Employment Status

- Full time, part time (regular), part time (irregular), retired/on disability, Student, unemployed, other
(Krishnan)

10) Experience with Problems

- Have you been a victim of crime in the last 5 years? (Shields)
Yes no

11) Membership in community groups

-church, youth, work, social, city run etc

*Dependent Variables***1) Definition of Violence**

- Please define violence in your own terms
- Which of the following terms would be included in your definition of violence?
Verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, financial, all of above

2) Experience with Violence

- Please circle any of the following experiences of abuse which apply to you
Physical, sexual, verbal, emotional/psychological/mental, Isolated incident, while pregnant, child abuse
(Krishnan)

- Which of the following incidents of violence have you experienced?

Symbolic violence (hit, kick walls, furniture, broke objects, but not hurt you directly)

Mild Threats (shook finger at you, threatening gestures, acted as a bully, but not hurt you directly)

Moderate Threats (destroyed something that belonged to you or damaged something you cared about)

Serious Threats (Threatened to hurt you, threatened to kill himself, threatened you with a club, knife, or gun)
(Krishnan)

- Have you ever experienced:
Verbal abuse from another student(s)

Emotional abuse from another student(s)
Physical violence from another student(s)
Bullying from another student (s)
Verbal abuse from a staff member
Sexual harassment from another student(s)
Emotional abuse from a staff member
Sexual assault from another student(s)
Physical violence from a staff member
Bullying from a staff member
Sexual Harassment from a staff member
Sexual assault from a staff member
Other (please describe)

(Peaceful communities)

3) Violence awareness

- In your opinion, violence is a problem in _____ .
(Disagree, agree)
Peterborough city
Peterborough county
Ontario
Canada
World
(Peaceful communities)

4) Tolerance Levels

- _____ is acceptable (never, rarely, sometimes, often)
Throwing objects at someone in anger
Stalking
Threatening physical harm
Hurting animals
Bullying
Destroying someone else's property
Acts of road rage
Hitting or slapping
Pushing or shoving
Withholding prescription medication from someone in one's care
Name calling or teasing
Telling racial or ethnical jokes
Refusing to discuss disagreements
Slamming doors or drawers in anger
Yelling or shouting at someone in anger
Spanking a child
(Peaceful Communities)

5) Safety

- Do you feel safe in the following places around Peterborough? (unsafe, safe, not applicable)
In your neighborhood
In your home
At your workplace
In a car
On local roads
In parking lots
In downtown Peterborough
In parks
On walking / biking trails
At parties /concerts

(Peaceful communities)

6) Response adequacy

(Availability of resources, help)
police, church, family, friends, support groups

7) Responsibility for Prevention

- Describe any reasons which may contribute to not reporting experiences of violence
Not sure what support was available
Wanted to deal with situation yourself
Felt support offered would not be helpful
Problem was not big enough to report
I was afraid
Abusive individual was the person in authority
Respondent was the person in authority
Part of the job
Told to do nothing / complaint was ignored
No reason/ not sure
Incident was in jest /joking
It was a friend
Embarrassed / didn't want to make waves
Behaviour is expected / typical /common
Other (please describe)

(Peaceful Communities)

8) Factors Contributing to Violence

- _____ is contributing to violence in your community (agree, disagree)
Lack of respect for other people

Poor parenting skills
Stress
Amount of violence in mass media
Alcohol use
Acceptance of violent behaviour in sports
Drug use
The way violence is reported in the news
Availability of pornographic materials
Government cuts to social programs

(Peaceful Communities)

9) Awareness of Resources to help
-what kinds of resources are available?
-where would you look for help?

Annotated Bibliography

Shields, Glenn et al. "Determinants of Perceived Safety Among the Elderly: An Exploration Study." Journal of Gerontological Social Work 38 (2002): 73-83.

Summary:

This study took place in a rural Northwest Ohio area where Shields et al. wanted to explore the residents experiences with crime and fear of crime or victimization. The research team developed a mail out questionnaire to randomly selected residents who were 65 years old and over. Their study concluded that the elderly were more "reliant on informal supports".

Implications:

In order to explore the fear of crime and victimization, the study used 3 independent variables which would be helpful to explore in both our survey and our questionnaire. They included: demographic, social network and criminal victimization. The article also brings to light the need to explore participants 'life situation and demographic characteristics', pointing out variables such as gender, work status, physical health, education, age and monthly income, which all would be useful to explore in our awareness questionnaire.

Amy Ernst et al. "Domestic Violence in a Medical School Class: 2 Year Follow-up." Southern Medical Journal 93 (2000): 772-76.

Summary:

This study was a follow-up study to an original project which sought to measure the long-term effectiveness and long-term retention of students who were given formal medical training regarding domestic violence. Ernst et al., felt their study was important because "formal education or training about domestic violence is rare", while the Association of American Medical Colleges concurred, sighting that medical schools should increase teaching to help reduce the problem. Most often doctors are the first line of defence in domestic violence cases (Ernst et al.), and they can often be a 'weak link' in identifying partner abuse. They conducted a survey to a first year medical school class to determine awareness. The survey was administered 3 different times by the same researcher, face-to-face with students. The study concluded that domestic violence awareness increased after only 3 hours of instruction.

Implications:

The awareness survey was comprised of two main parts: demographic information and a general knowledge examination, showing the importance of both variables and their relationship to different levels of awareness. Some interesting questions in their general knowledge examination which should be considered for use in our awareness survey. They include:

- i)sexual assault is not always a part of domestic violence: Yes / No
- ii)domestic violence can be non-physical: Yes / No
- iii)the victim is not responsible for domestic violence: Yes / No

iv)the victim can simply walk away from domestic violence: Yes / No

Bouley, Eugene E., and Terry L. Wells. "Attitudes of Citizens in a Southern Rural County Toward Juvenile Crime and Justice Issues." Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice 17 (2001): 61-70.

Summary:

This study sought to provide programming for youth at a local level, while seeking financial assistance to do so. Bouley and Wells first conducted a literature review on the subject of juvenile crime and noted the diverse opinions which exist in the rural setting. They noted that the public's support of treatment for juveniles was dependent upon the type of crime they were accused of, such as: 'seriousness of offence, type of offence, age and purpose of sentencing'. Bouley and Wells conducted a telephone survey using a modified version of Flanagan and Longmire's (1996) survey instrument which focussed on issues such as juvenile crime, and disorder in the community. The article continues to note the possible difficulties of conducting research in rural communities.

Implications:

The study noted the importance of examining prior experiences when studying public opinion, which will be useful to note in terms of our questionnaire. The report also noted a multitude of problems which can occur when using a random telephone method. For example: 78% of their phone numbers were bad, and of that which were good only 47% participated. Bouley and Wells suggested that in future mail our surveys or personal interviews may provide more information despite the increased expense.

Krishnan, Satya et al. "An Examination of Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Communities: Results from a Hospital Emergency Department Study from Southwest United States." Family and Community Health 24 (2001): 1-14.

Summary:

Krishnan et al. note that intimate partner violence (IPV) affects more women than men, stating that women were 5-8 times more likely to be victimized. IPV can lead to many serious problems for women both long and short term, including acute injuries and chronic illness respectively. The study notes several reasons for non-documentation and attention to domestic violence in rural communities such as "...existing perceptions and myths about the idyllic, tranquil and non-violent life in rural communities, the prevailing community norms, attitudes, acceptance of violence against women and the social and physical isolation of these communities that make their problems visible". Krishnan et al. notes that most research which is conducted in the urban communities has not been able to benefit rural communities, as it is not transmitted to these areas.

Implications:

The study conducted face-to-face 35-40 minute interviews. The researchers examined socio-demographic characteristics, domestic violence characteristics

and mental health characteristics, which would be useful for examination in our survey.

Carroll, Gisele B et al. "Youth Action Strategies in Violence Prevention." Journal of Adolescent Mental Health 25 (1999): 7-13.

Summary:

This report details a Canadian study involving high school students sought to increase youth awareness of violence prevention strategies. The objectives of the study included increasing students involvement in violence prevention activities while outlining coping methods related to these issues. Carroll et al. notes that importance of youth involvement in the development of self-care and empowerment skills. The youth participants expressed desires to have adults respect them when making their own decisions. Overall, the study notes the importance of allowing youth to becomes responsible for their own actions as a method of violence prevention.

Implications:

Carroll et al. outlines the importance of defining violence jargon such as aggression, violence, abuse etc. prior to starting the project. This will be very important for our group to do prior to starting the survey as well. These definitions can be discussed during the focus group.

Sanders-Phillips, Kathy. "Assaultive Violence in the Community." Journal of Adolescent Health 21 (1997): 356-65.

Summary:

This article discusses the shift of focus violence takes from a perceived law enforcement problem to a public health problem. It addresses the weaknesses of health care programs in relation to the psychological and emotional impacts of violence victims face. Sanders-Phillips addresses the need to increase awareness regarding the repercussions of violence, specifically to children. The study documents that experience with violence may lead to a variety of physical, as well as psychological problems such as irritability stress, post traumatic stress disorder and depression. Further, children often experience vulnerability, hopelessness, self-blame and retaliation. Adolescents who have been victims of crime commonly act out, and participate in risk taking and self destructive behaviours. The study also notes that repeated exposure to violence in the community may be related to a desensitization to violence. (This conclusion is related to urban statistics).

Implications:

This study is mainly urban based but provided a stepping stone for a search of rural based literature. It provided many keywords, and brought the groups attention to the

seriousness of violence and its effect on children. Although the study was urban based, it addresses the importance of educating children in the community, and brings to light issues relating to the cycle violence.

"Day to day... Parent to Child. The Future of Violence Among Homeless Children in America." Homes for the Homeless (1998).

Summary:

This article discusses the many different factors of family violence, community violence and poverty. It notes that violence awareness programs which are offered in shelters allow many identified and unidentified victims of violence to be reached. The article also stresses that violence does not distinguish between rich and poor, but does acknowledge that it is often most devastating to the poor. It is suggested that shelters can become educational avenues for victims of violence and their families. Further, the article talks about the need to educate whole communities and prioritize violence intervention. Abusers often come between victims and educational or employment pursuits in a number of different ways, including beating the victim the night before an interview. Alarming, children who witness violence in the home become greater targets for future victimization or abuse.

Implications:

This article suggests the importance of focussing on programs which will reach children. It would be useful to discuss the possibility of conducting our awareness survey to participants who are of school age. This article also reinforces the value of programs in shelters, schools and community based centers to reach both identified and unidentified victims of violence. It also ascertains that providing awareness is key to eradication, possibly indicating areas where ROC can branch out to, allowing their facility to be of service to an even greater number of people.

Schroth, Gwen and Mary Susan Fishbaugh. "Increasing Caring and Reducing Violence in Rural Schools." Capitalizing on Leadership in Rural Special Education: Making a Difference for Children and Families (Conference) (2000): 37-45.

Summary:

This article provides information on violence in rural schools, giving indicators of the perceived causes of rural crime and violence. Schroth and Fishbaugh note that recent changes in rural communities which may contribute to violence include: increasing secularization, decreasing familial influence and economic restructuring. Violence in rural schools tend to receive very little attention, preventing proper education on the issue. Some of the variables the author notes which are present in rural communities include: higher poverty rate, higher jobless rate, and an increase of urban families settling. The church, schools and family all have less presence and influence in today's society. In the United States, rural school violence often goes unpublished, leading students to believe it doesn't exist.

Implications:

This article reinforces the need to educate youth with awareness. It suggests that there are 8 perceived causes of rural crimes which can be further used for our focus group discussion and questionnaire. They include:

- i) culture- especially in rural areas which use violence as a means to resolve conflict
- ii) poverty- rural areas with increased levels of poverty tend to have increased violence
- iii) urbanization- rural areas often becomes areas for second or seasonal homes or other tourist developments
- iv) rapid change- often subject to economic and population change
- v) organized crime-relevant to some rural areas (ranges from theft to drugs)
- vi) urban export- movement of urban criminals to rural areas
- vii) substance abuse- availability dramatically increased
- viii) gun availability and acceptance of ownership- relevant to hunting

Romer, Claude J. "Violence a Preventable Disease." World Health 46 (1993): 4-5.

Summary:

This article labels violence as a 'universal scourge of humanity'. Romer suggests that violence is the number one reason people die young, and notes it effects all societies, regardless of development. Further, the article cites the need for health care professionals, as well as police officers need to be involved with awareness. Romer concludes that violence is rapidly becoming a public health problem.

Implications:

This article has an emphasis on the idea that violence is preventable. This issue could be discussed further in the Focus Group, posing the question "Is awareness key to prevention?"

Kenemore, Thomas K. "Editor's Comments" Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal 19 (2002): 3-4.

Summary:

Kenemore discusses the influence violence has on children; especially as it pervades our lives through media. He notes that a recent study by Slovak and Singer "demonstrates the predominance and special characteristics of rural children and adolescents exposure to violence". Further, Kenemore challenges rural protection and crime mythology.

Implications:

Kenemore's article, much like several others suggests the need to focus on children and adolescent risk factors, as well as methods to increase awareness.

Ball, Carolyn. "Rural Perceptions of Crime." Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice 17 (2001): 37-48.

Summary:

In her report, Ball notes that law enforcement agencies in the United States often survey citizens to gain understanding of community problems, allowing them to adjust programs to suit community needs. Ball reports that rural people tend to be less fearful of crime than their urban counterparts. Rural citizens encourage officer participation in community activities more than urbanites. Ball also suggests that people perception of crime is shaped by their environment, which is also true in the case of law enforcement officers. In the United States crime rates are lower in rural areas, however crime patterns are similar to urban areas. Ball's survey about crime and fear perception was circulated to adults, high school students and police officers with methodology varying from group to group. The opinion scale used was 1-5 (1= no problem, 5= major problem), and found that adults tended to answer 1 or 2, while police officers answered 3 or 4.

Implications:

Ball's report includes a section for future research which indicates using more variables in these types of surveys provides more depth. It is also noted that more controls need to be added to the survey methodology in order to guarantee validity. In respect to our survey we should examine the possibility of having qualifiers / prompts to ensure results are even, and opinions are being evaluated with the same level of understanding.

Aster, Ron A and Heather Ann Meyer. "Where Women and Girls Won't Go: Female Student's, Teacher's, and Social Workers Views of School Safety." Social Work in Education 21 (1999): 201-20.

Summary:

This article is based on urban planning but nevertheless contains issues which are relevant to rural schools. Violence directed at females in the school setting is a very serious issues in the United States. Many female students and teachers reported they were aware of dangerous areas in and around the school building. The National Report on Violence suggested that with increasing problems of violence for social workers in a school setting that many actually consider leaving the profession. In fact 1/3 of social workers fear for their safety. Participants in this study were selected after being labeled as having a 'violence problem', and maps of school and school areas where used in the surveying. Sexual harassment was the most reported type of female victimization. Findings show that areas with violent occurrences tended to be those which were labeled 'undefined public space', noting this space was 'unowned' by adults and students.

Implications:

This article reinforces the idea that school violence is an important issue, and that awareness is key. The group should consider having students as part of the sample survey, testing the perceived safety among school students.

Noak, James et al. "The Content Management of Violence Policy Documents in United Kingdom Acute Inpatient Mental Health Services." Journal of Advanced Nursing 37 (2002): 394-401.

Summary:

This article examines the content of 'trust' policies concerning violence in in-patient care settings, which is very common. Noak et al. suggest that health care workers are often targets of violence in these settings, and has thus become a major source of stress for workers. This study defined violence using only physical indicators, however acknowledges the other forms of violence which can occur. The majority of assaults (physical, verbal, emotional) which occur in mental health facilities go unreported. The researchers suggest the need for better policies to be put in place within health care facilities. This study used a cross-sectional postal survey with a sample taken from 'The Institute of Health Management Yearbook'. They reported a 100% response rate, however acknowledge that the sample may have been skewed.

Implications:

Although the content of the research is not entirely applicable to our rural study of violence, the methodology of the study itself had some useful notes. This study was descriptive only, and Noak et al. pointed out that there are several possible limitations with this type of research. Further, the study suggests the need to explore perceptions of violence which will be important to incorporate into our survey.

Adler, Connie. "Unseen and Unheard: Rural Women and Domestic Violence." Journal of Nurse-Midwifery 41 (1996): 463-66.

Summary:

The factors associated with rural living often make violence difficult to escape. These factors include: physical and social isolation, distance and availability of resources, and rural culture. Adler suggests the need for awareness is key in order to aid in prevention. People in rural areas like to think that they are violence free, however this is not always the case. Rural families tend to be private and unwilling to communicate their problems with abuse. Physical, social and emotion isolation tend to be large factors affecting rural women, and abusers tend to compound these situations. The abusers control the victims environment, and with transportation resources scarce and anonymity hard to achieve, the distance to help tends to reinforce dependency. Further, Native women often become alienated from authorities, preventing them from receiving adequate help. Adler also notes that many rural settings are not welcoming to single women, leaving them less likely to leave their abusive situations. Lastly, the report notes that the presence of firearms in rural homes is increased, acting as a tool of intimidation.

Implications:

This is a very detailed article which provides a multitude of information useful in determining some of the key factors of violence. It brings to light the topic of

firearms which may be a question to include in the awareness survey (something like: Is there are firearm present in your residence?). Adler also notes the importance of awareness of resources, and questions the availability of transportation, which sheds light into the difficulties which arise in getting help for victims.

Ellsberg, Mary and Lori Heise. "Bearing Witness: Ethics in Domestic Violence Research." The Lancet 359 (2002): 1599-1604.

Summary:

This article provides much needed guidance in regards to the ethical treatment of people when conducting research. Confidentiality, disclosure and consent are all very important issues when conducting research in this domain. Ellsberg and Heise note that the most important concern in researching violence against women is the possibility of causing harm or stress to the respondent. Protecting the participants safety is of the utmost importance, and field workers should be adequately trained, and able to refer victims to areas of support. Ellsberg and Heise stress that "violence questions should be incorporated into surveys only when ethical and methodological requirements can be met". The World Health Organization reinforces that it is researchers ethical responsibility to be able to provide information regarding services to respond to victims situation. It is also important to note that not only the respondents are at risk, but researchers and field workers are also at risk when conducting violence research. The most common factor effecting these groups is the emotional toll of listening to women's painful stories repeatedly, and it is recommended that they undergo regular debriefing sessions. The key methodological consideration is to maximize disclosure. It is important not to underestimate the extent of violence against women, and it is also important to understand the risk factors involved. Survey questions should avoid ambiguous or vague terms, and instead directly ask a specific question. Ellsberg and Heise also note the importance of directing respondents to recall several situations (work, school, home), and to end the interview on a positive note, emphasizing the women's strengths, minimizing distress. Finally, it is crucial to ensure that the research findings are used in "advocacy, policy making and intervention", while understanding where laws of mandatory reporting of abuse exist.

Implications:

We think that this article is vitally important to the group project. There are many issues which Ellsberg and Heise provide a great deal of insight into. The issues of vague language will especially effect our group, and we should try to eliminate such language in our questionnaire. We should try to include a variety of settings when discussing violence perception and awareness. This article also addresses reasons to not directly recruit victims of violence for the sample unless the researchers are prepared to deal with the matter with utmost ethical consideration. When choosing methodology, it will be important to keep in mind some of the problems with face-to-face surveying in this area, and its possible toll on the researchers.

Peaceful Communities. "Report on Violence Prevention Research in Peterborough City and County". Peterborough: 2002.

Summary:

This research project sought to survey the perception of violence in the community using various target groups including students, faculty of law, gay and bisexual men, older adults and native women. Seeking to gain insight on the 'local attitudes and perceptions of violence', the Peaceful Community Initiative facilitated several focus groups and conducted a survey with a broad, very inclusive sample of the public.

Implications:

This project will be extremely useful to the research team in developing our draft questionnaire, as well as conducting our focus group. Several of the questions related to perceptions of violence that the Peaceful Communities used have been incorporated into our draft instrument, and will provide insight into the shaping of our methodology.

Barnett, C. & Mencken, C. "Social Disorganization Theory and the Contextual Nature of Crime in Nonmetropolitan Counties." Rural Sociology 67 (2002) : 1296 - 303.

Summary:

This article explores violent crime and property crime rates in nonmetropolitan counties. It is argued that crime rates are lower in nonmetropolitan counties because they have a higher level of social integration. Barnett and Mencken's main purpose was to test the hypothesis that the rate of crime increases or decreases according to the population of the county. They found that resource disadvantage has different effects on violent and property crime rates with different population changes in nonmetropolitan counties. Items that were considered to be a disadvantage were poverty rate, income inequality, unemployment, and percent female-headed households. The use of voluntary organization was discussed briefly with the conclusion that residential stability was needed for the formation and maintenance of such a network. It was discovered that people living under the poverty line and those with low levels of education were less likely to participate in such community organizations.

Implications:

Income, employment and construction of household are all variables which will be useful to look at in our survey. This article provided insight into the possible connection of poverty and violence.

Frank, R., "When Bad Things Happen in Good Places: Pastoralism in Big-City Newspaper Coverage of Small-Town Violence." Rural Sociology 68 (2003) : 207.

Summary:

This article looks at some of the clichés of living in a small town such as: safe, close-knit, where bad things don't happen, leaving front doors unlocked and the keys in the ignition. It looks more at how newspaper journalists write about crimes in small towns and how they are creating a set of stereotypes which lead people to believe that crime is nonexistent in rural communities, which is false.

Implications:

For our survey it could be useful to explore how people's perception / awareness of violence is effected by the media. This good be a valuable focus group discussion.

Lee, K., et al. "Intimate Partner Violence and Women of Color: A Call for Innovations." American Journal of Public Health 92 (2002) : 530 - 535.

Summary:

This article uses the term Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) which refers to physical violence, violence resulting in injury or death, emotional / verbal / psychological abuse, forced sexual acts, rape and stalking. Lee et al. reviewed articles regarding IPV including issues such as, current prevention efforts as well as responses to these initiatives. Using the National Violence Against Women Survey it became evident that there was little difference between the amount of IPV white and coloured women incurred during their lifetime. Also, they found little difference when looking at women who lived in urban compared to rural areas. One difference that was found was that women of colour were more likely to report violence to the police, but may have troubles seeking community help. Many women do not seek the aid of shelters because they are scared that the outcome will have negative effects on their lives. It was also thought that communities should have many types of shelters to accommodate the different forms of IPV.

Implications:

Variables such as race and ethnicity may be valuable to explore in our questionnaire in order to compare different groups awareness of violence.

Murty, A., et al. "Physical and Emotional Partner Abuse Reported by Men and Women in a Rural Community." American Journal of Public Health 93 (2003) : 1073 - 1076.

Summary:

This article argues that people living in rural communities encounter more violence because they are more isolated, have access to fewer services and face different attitudes and norms than those who live in an urban environment. Murty et al. examined the prevalence of severe physical abuse and controlling emotional abuse through victimization reports from men and women. By doing this they were able to identify the factors associated with violence against men and women. The participants used were eighteen years or older and they used the Conflict Tactics Scale and Yllo's Controlling Behaviour Questionnaire to determine the prevalence of different forms of abuse. The most outstanding

percentage was the percentage of men and women who had experienced at least one case of emotional abuse from their partner in the last year; 30.2 percent and 46.7 percent, respectively. Overall women reported being abused more than men, but this may change when living on a farm in a rural community. It was determined that indicators of abuse in rural areas are much different than those in urban areas. Also, it was found that education had no effect on amount of abuse for men or women.

Implications:

As previously noted, the group should consider including a question about a previous history of abuse in the survey. It may be valuable to compare violence awareness in those groups who have and have not experienced violence.

Cairns, Ed., Hunter, Dale., and Herring, Linda. "Young children's awareness of violence in Northern Ireland: The influence of Northern Irish television in Scotland and Northern Ireland." British Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology 19 (1980): 3-6.

Summary:

This article discusses the influence of television news on young children ages 5-6 and 7-8 years old. A word count was used to see how many times the words 'bomb' and 'explosion' were used in the children's explanation of pictures or short essays about the news. Findings suggested that children who were exposed to Northern Irish news (whether they lived there or not) used the words more frequently in explanations. Therefore, it was concluded that television news can distort perceptions of reality. Overexposure to news about violence may lead to the perception of violence as more usual and also more acceptable.

Implications:

While the context of the article is not relevant to our rural study of awareness, the article does provide insight into the possible connection between violence awareness and media coverage. A question regarding media intake in the questionnaire may be insightful, possibly showing a connection between fear / awareness of crime and how its portrayed in the news.

Crank, John P. Giacomzzi, Andrew. and Heck, Cary. "Fear of crime in non urban setting." Journal of Criminal Justice 31 (2003): 249-263.

Summary:

This report discusses perceptions of crime and disorder in a rapidly growing non urban setting. The purpose was to assess citizens' attitudes toward crime and disorder in order to assist local law enforcement in the development of crime prevention strategies. There were 3 different models for fear of crime. 1) Victimization model, 2) Disorder/ broken window model and 3) Social integration model. Four hypotheses were put forth: 1) County residents who witness what they think is drug and gang activity are more likely to believe that there are public order and crime problems in their neighborhoods. 2) Increases in the perception

of the magnitude of drug and crime problems will lead to increasing concerns over safety and fears of victimization. 3) The greater the concerns over safety and victimization, the less frequently residents will engage in out-of-house activities. And 4) When social control infrastructure is high, citizens' perceptions of crime and public order problems will not be associated with concerns over safety or fear of victimization. The findings support hypotheses 1 and 3 and are mixed for hypotheses 2 and 4.

Implications:

Being that this article has a large focus on the fear and perception of crime it will be very useful to our research. Some of the fear of crime models could be useful for focus group discussion.

Jobs, Patrick C. "Residential Stability and Crime in Small Rural Agricultural and Recreational Towns." Sociological Perspectives 42 (1999): 499-524.

Summary:

Jobs examines the importance of migration, population size and economic base in explaining felony convictions in small rural areas within this study. The central hypothesis is that lower social cohesion and integration increases crime. Jobs primarily looks at two issues: 1) the type of community structure associated with felony convictions; and 2) does migration account for high proportions of rural crime? Findings: 1) Recent migrants account for a highly disproportionate amount of crime (63% of crime committed by short-term residents). 2) Economic base, agricultural vs. recreational, accounted for significant differences in rural crime (68% of total offenses were in recreational towns). 3) Small towns comparatively had much more crime (this opposite to hypothesis). Limitations: based on convictions (felonies that were not convicted were not included), therefore numbers may actually be higher than what is represented in this study.

Implications:

The idea of recent migration may be useful to our study. Buckhorn is partially comprised of urban transplants and this article provides insightful background this issue in its connection to crime. It may be useful to include a question on the survey which deals with this idea. (i.e. how long the participant has resided in this area.

Ulbrich, Patricia M. PhD. and Stockdale, Jami, MA. Making Family Planning Clinics an Empowerment Zone for Rural Battered Women. The Haworth Press. 2002.

Summary:

Ulbrich and Stockdale describe the network of family planning clinics and domestic violence advocacy programs in western Pennsylvania. This was a pilot project designed to implement routine screening for domestic violence in family planning clinics in rural Pennsylvania. The results in this case are descriptive,

and there was an increase in reporting and comfort over the trial period. The positive change in screening patients for domestic violence and the reported ease in asking direct questions about domestic violence among staff at the clinics was unexpected. This study shows that this system can lead to increased detection of abuse, documentation in the medical charts and referrals to appropriate services for rural women.

Implications:

This article reinforces the idea that medical professionals are key to violence prevention and awareness. It may be interesting to include members of the medical community in our sample.

Zwieg, Janine M et al. "Adolescent Risk Factors for Sexual Victimization: A Longitudinal Analysis of Rural Women." Journal of Adolescent Research 17 (2002) 568-603.

Summary:

Longitudinal data was used to examine risk factors for sexual victimization among 237 young adult rural women. Both individual risk factors (sexual behaviour, substance abuse, and psychological adjustment) and contextual risk factors (family structure and maternal education) were examined. Women were ages 16 to 24 are 3 times more likely to report rape than women of other ages. Research questions: a) Do contextual and individual risk factors predict the likelihood of reporting forced sex? b) Do contextual and individual risk factors predict the likelihood of reporting coerced sex? The hypothesis were; 1) Higher frequency of sexual intercourse during adolescence would be related to greater risk of experiencing forced sex or coerced sex. 2) Higher frequency of drunkenness and experience with drug use during adolescence would be related to greater risk of experiencing forced or coerced sex. 3) Lower emotional tone would be related to greater risk of experiencing forced or coerced sex. *Probability of forced sex:* mother's education significantly predicted the probability of forced sex, family structure did not. None of the individual factors were significant; however, there was a significant interaction between frequency of sexual intercourse and mother's education. Lower educated mothers and higher frequency of sexual activity = increased likelihood of reporting forced sex. Women with more educated mothers, and higher frequency of sexual activity = decreased likelihood of reporting forced sex. *Probability of coerced sex:* neither context variable predicted membership in the coerced sex group. Only one individual factor, frequency of sexual intercourse, was a significant indicator here. The results indicate that individual and contextual factors should be examined together to fully understand the vulnerability women experience.

Implications:

This article provided a great deal of insight into the realm of sexual victimization in rural areas. It may be useful to include questions relating to individual risk factors mentioned by Zweig et al. into our survey, and focus group discussion.

“Fear itself.” Economist 368 (2003): 45.*Summary:*

This was from the Economist in Britain, which discussed the fear of crime in the United Kingdom. The actual number of crime related incidents are down in the last two years, but the fear of crime is on the rise. Fear levels are used as “best value performance indicators” meaning police forces have to keep track of them and think up ways of claming people down. Fear of crime is serious- when keenly felt it can prevent people form living productive and fulfilling lives. Elizabeth Stanko says “fear of crime is like a sponge: it absorbs all kinds of social anxieties.” Those who are least likely to suffer a criminal act are those who fear it the most, example women over 60 years old. Gathering information about fear may generate more of it. How the questions are phrased becomes very important. People should be asked about the actual incidence of violence instead of perceived violence. The easiest way to reduce fear of crime is not by cutting actual crime rates, but to convince people that bad things are unlikely to happen to them.

Implications:

Although this article does not have a rural emphasis, it does provide insight into methodological strategy which the research group should consider when developing the questionnaire. It reinforces the issue with regards to the phrasing of questions, which will be important for us to examine in detail. Further, it indicates the possible problems associated with differentiating between incidence of violence and perception of violence. This could be further discussed at the focus group.