

Category G – SYNTHESIS OF EXISTING INFORMATION

VIOLENCE & VICTIMIZATION RESEARCH DIVISION'S
COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1993-2009

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1995-IJ-CX-0006:	Panel on Research on Violence Against Women
Amount:	\$296,952
PI:	Elaine Smialek
Monitor:	Bernard Auchter
Status:	Completed

The Committee on Law and Justice of the Commission on Behavioural and Social Sciences and Education (CBASSE), National Research Council, conducted a study to develop a research agenda on the understanding and control of violence against women. The Committee appointed a panel of approximately 15 experts from relevant fields, including law, criminal justice, emergency medicine, public health, social work, sociology, psychology, nursing, obstetrics and gynecology, public policy, and experts on family violence in diverse ethnic, social, and language minority communities. The panel meetings during the course of the study examined empirical and clinical research reports and databases on violence against women, identified gaps in the knowledge base, and developed a research agenda highlighting areas that can improve the development of preventive, educative, social, and legal strategies, including addressing the needs of under served populations. The panel study, which was mandated by Section 40291 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, was supported jointly by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control. The report, “Understanding Violence Against Women” has been published by the National Academy Press and has been forwarded to Congress.

Product: NCJ# 162272

Understanding Violence Against Women (1996) – N. Crowell, A. Burgess (eds.)

“Understanding Violence against Women”, presents a comprehensive overview of current knowledge and identifies four areas with the greatest potential return from a research investment by increasing the understanding of and responding to domestic violence and rape: 1) what interventions are designed to do, whom they are reaching and how to reach the many victims who do not seek help; 2) factors that put people at risk of violence and that precipitate violence, including characteristic of offenders; 3) the scope of domestic violence and sexual assault in America and its consequences to individuals, families, and society (including costs); and 4) how to structure the study of violence against women to yield more useful knowledge. Despite the news coverage and talk shows, the real fundamental nature of violence against women remains unexplored and often misunderstood. “Understanding Violence against Women” provides direction for increasing knowledge that can help ameliorate this national problem.

1998-WT-VX-K011:	Synthesis of Scientific Research on Violence Against Women for a Diverse Audience
Amount:	\$349,465
PI:	Alissa Pollitz Worden
Monitor:	Bernard Auchter
Status:	Completed

This 15 month project will synthesize research on violence against women to communicate key findings to a diverse audience of local, state, and federal policy makers and administrative officials; public health professionals; staff or community based organizations; personnel in criminal justice settings; and criminal justice agents. The goal of this project is to organize relevant research findings in ways that will help practitioners: 1) modify or adjust their working routines to recognize or respond to the health and safety needs of victims; 2) take advantage of opportunities to prevent violence against women; and 3) invest in strategies for holding violent offenders accountable for their behavior and for changing behavior. The project will utilize a team of 14 authors or author pairs with expertise in violence against women and 16 practitioners who represent diverse audiences in criminal justice and public health to collaborate in the development of summaries of research on violence against women for practitioners. The summaries will be prepared from a source bibliography developed from online document databases, reviews of bibliographies in current and key publications, and consultation with other experts.

Product: NCJ# 199912

Violence Against Women: Synthesis of Research for Task Forces and Coalition Members (2000) – A. Worden

Coming from different professional backgrounds and responsible for different constituencies, participants in local task forces involved in violence against women confront an enormous amount of information, recommendations, and opportunities for change. Therefore, task force members can benefit from sharing what researchers have learned about conventional wisdom regarding domestic violence and criminal justice. This report attempts to synthesize social science research in three broad topic areas of interest to task force members and coalition members. It begins with a revisiting and revising of conventional wisdom about domestic violence, victims, and offenders. Conventional wisdom about violence, victims, and offenders has frequently served to justify longstanding policies and practices. However, such assumptions should be scrutinized since they can oversimplify complex issues, sometimes over-generalize from limited experiences, and can become self-fulfilling prophecies. The report continues by briefly summarizing the findings of research of particular interest to practitioners involved in community-level innovations. These findings lead to an important point: the effectiveness of many innovations may be contingent on the consistency of the messages exchanged among victims, offenders, and practitioners. The final topic area discusses research on the initiation, implementation, and impact of community-level change efforts.

Additional NCJ Citations: 198372, 199577, 199578, 199579, 199660, 199760, 199761, 199911, 201222, 201342

2000-WT-VX-0008:	A Synthesis of the Research and Evaluation from the VAWA
Amount:	\$148,392
PI:	David Ford
Monitor:	Bernard Auchter
Status:	Completed

This project will prepare a Policy Brief on the current state of knowledge from research attributable to the 1994 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The report will focus on the impacts of the justice components of VAWA to describe how the Act has helped to advance knowledge on effective controls. The goals of the project are to review the state of knowledge on VAWA impacts today and to render an opinion informed by current knowledge and data on what is already known and what can be expected from rigorous research. The report will address the following questions, in particular: 1) how has VAWA helped to advance knowledge on violence against women? 2) what is known with confidence today about the impacts of VAWA in preventing violence against women and what gaps in understanding persist? 3) given barely five years of activity under VAWA, what promise does VAWA research hold for further advances in knowledge for effective controls? and 4) what guidance can VAWA research to date give policy makers and practitioners for dedicating future resources to prevent violence against women?

Product: NCJ# 197137

Controlling Violence Against Women: A Research Perspective on the 1994 VAWA's Criminal Justice Impacts (2002) – D. Ford, R. Bachman, M. Friend, M. Meloy

This report is an examination of the research side of the original legislation under the VAWA, paying particular attention to the current state of knowledge on violence reduction through criminal justice interventions based on what has been learned from evaluations fostered by VAWA. The report is broken into four parts as the authors consider how extant research contributes to advances in a knowledge base on violence against women by discussing expectations for VAWA success, agendas for research, and funding in support of VAWA research and evaluations. Authors also note issues in measuring violence against women that confound the understanding of VAWA's impact. Part 1, "The convergence of Advocacy, Research, and Law" discusses the VAWA's criminal justice components that are meant to hold offenders accountable while protecting victims through criminal justice or related legal remedies, and the VAWA goals and expectations that have been passed with the confidence that legal remedies do exist to solve the problem of violence against women. Part 2, "VAWA's Influence on Research and Evaluation, includes mandated studies under VAWA and other research-related reports such as state anti-stalking efforts, confidentiality of domestic violence victims' addresses, and VAWA grant evaluations. Part 3, "Research on the Preventive Impacts of Criminal Justice", includes a synthesis of research on police, prosecution, courts, corrections/treatment, and other coordinated justice responses. Finally, Part IV, "VAWA Impacts: What We Know, Where Research Can Take Us to Control Violence Against Women", contains recommendations for future research to advance VAWA's preventive impacts to include: 1) impact evaluations; 2) theory-based evaluations; 3) general prevention research; 4) precision and consistency in baseline data; 5) situational crime prevention; and 6) evaluations of policies and programs against stalking.

For an index of all grants, go to <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223572-grants-index.pdf>.