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### Race, Gender, and Domestic Violence

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# Race, Gender and Domestic Violence

**CRIM 350: Race, Crime and Criminal Justice  
- Honors Enhancement**

Katrina Cokain and Faith Harris



# General Overview

Race and gender, as significant social locations, have an impact on many facets of life. One of these areas is the experience of victimization, particularly Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Race and gender impacts who perpetrates, their views towards IPV, who is victimized, the victims experiences with the Criminal Justice system and the preparedness of supportive services to assist these victims.



Research  
Behind our  
Project

# What is Domestic Violence

- ❖ Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners (Ganley, 1995, p.16)
- ❖ Types of Domestic violence:
  - Intimate Partner violence
  - Rape/Sexual assault
  - Aggravated assault
  - Simple assault
  - Marital assault
  - Partner abuse

# Perpetration by Gender

- ❖ Past research has shown that males are the most common perpetrator of domestic violence.
- ❖ New and upcoming research suggests that there is very little difference in the perpetrator's gender.
- ❖ Wide range in perpetration rates: for males it is 1.0% to 61.6%; for females it is 2.4% to 68.9%

# Perpetration by Race

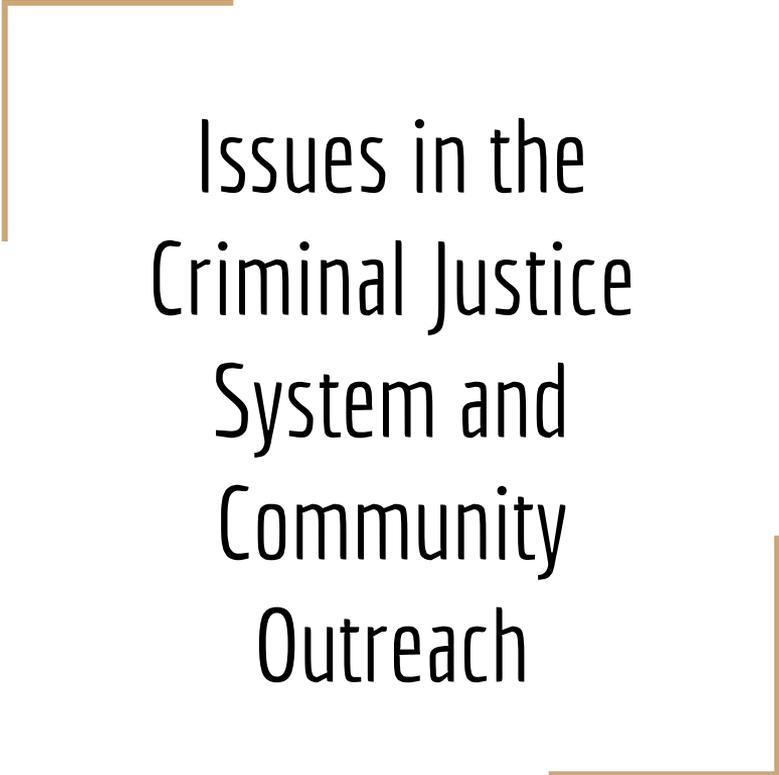
- ❖ Blacks are more likely to be a perpetrator of domestic violence.
- ❖ Research conducted on ethnic differences in intimate partner violence found that “rates of male-to-female partner violence (MFPV) and female-to-male partner violence (FMPV) among Blacks were 2 to 2.7 times higher than the rates among Whites” (Field & Caetano, 2004, p. 304).

# Victimization Data by Gender and Relationship

- ❖ Gender and relationship data comes from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
- ❖ For all forms of domestic violence in 2019, there were 2,963,430 female victims.
- ❖ For all forms of domestic violence in 2019, there were 2,849,978 male victims.
- ❖ For all forms of domestic violence, noted in the NCVS, males reported 78,406 incidents
- ❖ For all forms of domestic violence, noted in the NCVS, females reported 728,656 incidents
- ❖ All forms include rape, aggravated assault and simple assault

# Victimization Data by Race

- ❖ In 2019, for all forms of IPV for Whites, for both male and female, the victimization total was 508,559 with a rate of 2.6/1,000
- ❖ For all forms of IPV for Blacks, for both male and female, the victimization total was 56,210 with a rate of 1.2/1,000
- ❖ For all forms of IPV for Hispanics, for both male and female, the victimization total was 137,287 with a rate of 2.3/1,000



Issues in the  
Criminal Justice  
System and  
Community  
Outreach

# Criminal Justice

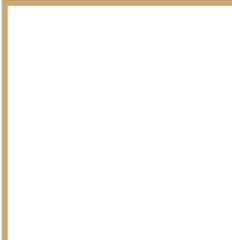
- ❖ Because Black women and girls have historically been dehumanized, considered unrapeable, and left without legal recourse, they become easier targets for abuse and are more reluctant to come forward.
- ❖ When abuse occurs, minority women are less likely to be believed and supported.
- ❖ A report published by Georgetown Law Center found that “adults view Black girls as less innocent and more adult-like than their white peers.” Black girls are perceived to be more independent, more knowledgeable about sex, and in less need of protection.
- ❖ There is an issue with the National Crime Victimization Survey, they only list: White, Black, and Other and don’t have data on other races

# Community Outreach

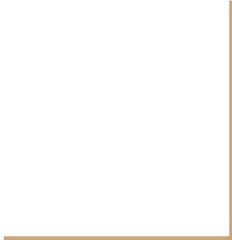
- ❖ Service gaps include specialized, accessible domestic and sexual violence services for:
- ❖ Women in rural and isolated areas,
  - Where innovative approaches to service delivery are required to maximize cost-effectiveness
- ❖ Women who live in poverty,
  - For whom material needs are often the most significant barrier keeping them in violent relationships
- ❖ Hispanic/Latino Women
  - Inaccessibility to information and resources in the victim's first language prevent many Hispanics/Latinas from seeking the appropriate services to aid her
- ❖ Asian and Pacific Island
  - Survivors are often under tremendous pressure to keep family matters private.
- ❖ Native American women,
  - Both on and off-reserve, who face high levels of violence as well as significant barriers to accessing services

# Community Outreach

- ❖ Survivors have more complex needs and require a greater variety of services, but there are few services available in rural areas
  - ❖ Survivors have fewer financial resources, making them more financially dependent on an abusive partner.
  - ❖ Rural communities have a scarcity of rental units or other affordable housing options, making it more difficult for survivors to leave spouses or cohabiting abusers.
- ❖ Domestic violence and sexual assault are less likely to be identified in rural survivors:
    - Obstetricians/gynecologists and emergency room staff are more likely to do screening for Intimate Partner Violence than primary care physicians, but rural communities are less likely to have specialized clinics.
    - Even though this is the case, the prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence identified in the primary care setting is higher than general community.



# Suggestions for Improvement



# Suggestions for Improvement

- ❖ Develop cost-effective strategies to involve key community organizations in the development and implementation of measures to address the issues
- ❖ Providing additional funding to existing provincial anti-violence organizations to serve this additional function
- ❖ Developing a provincial advisory committee of key members of each diversity group
- ❖ Provide funding for groups representing marginalized populations, including funding for research and education to assist government in policy and program decisions.
- ❖ Fund all victim support services to provide effective outreach and public education/awareness for marginalized groups, to address the isolation of many of these victims.

# Suggested Action

- ❖ Provide funding for Community-Based Victim Services, STV Counselling programs and Children Who Witness Abuse programs, as well as treatment programs for assaultive men, to facilitate accessibility for marginalized groups.
- ❖ Translate key information resources and provide appropriate, trained interpreters in all major languages and for those with communication disabilities for all services key to women's health and safety.
- ❖ In funding for enhanced accessibility of services, include funding for recruitment, cross sectoral training and mentoring of staff from these marginalized groups
  - recognizing the fact that some potential staff persons from these marginalized groups may need extra support and training to enable them to contribute most effectively to program operations.

# Conclusion

- ❖ The impact of domestic violence impedes upon all communities including racial, ethnic, linguistic, economic, religion, sexualities and genders. There are unique barriers and historical layers of oppression for marginalized populations.
- ❖ These communities share a common thread of a lack of culturally specific services, education of mainstream aspiring allies, prevention education and sometimes-legal protections and implementation.

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