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**Causal Estimates
of the Intangible
Costs of
Intergenerational
DV in Latin
America and the
Caribbean
Revealed**

In a first-of-its-kind study, researchers find if a woman's mother was beaten, she is more likely to suffer the same as an adult across South America. Bolivia has the highest intergeneration DV rate—60% of women whose mothers were beaten suffer partner violence as adults compared to only 45% whose mothers were not beaten. The lowest rate was found in the Dominican Republic, where 28% of women whose mothers were beaten suffer DV compared to 15% whose mothers were not beaten. The study, called "Causal Estimates of the Intangible Costs of Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean," documents the future losses associated with this inter-generation legacy for the next generation. In other words, in addition to the costs to the immediate victims, DV affects "the human capital accumulation of the next generation of workers." In a region of emerging economies, where GDP growth is paramount to each government's success from Peru to Brazil, the findings will be hard to overlook, or at least that is the hope of the researchers.

Domestic violence in Latin America devastates families and may weaken the region's workforce over time, according to the study conducted by an economist at the University of California, Riverside, Jorge Aguero, who received a \$35,000 grant from the Inter-American Development Bank to study the issue. The study was co-authored by Martin Benavides, Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE) and Department of Social Sciences at the Pontifical Catholic University in Lima.

As the researchers explained, their main goal was to develop hard and scientific evidence of the effects of DV so

it can be quantified so it is more than an equity issue, but also an economic one affecting society. Some researchers estimate the resulting loss of productivity from DV can be as much as 2% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in some Latin American countries.

The researchers analyzed 14 years of DV data from the Demographic and Health Surveys of Bolivia, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru, representing more than 30 million women between the ages of 15 and 49. The researchers are not done yet, intending to evaluate other costs of DV, such as women's reproductive health, employment, and lost wages; the ability of women to care for their children; and the impact on child welfare, such as health, nutrition, vaccinations, school enrollment and education attainment.

Hawaiian Courts Give Protective Orders to Victims, Not Police

A Hawaiian TV station's investigation found a major gap in protective orders designed to protect vulnerable victims across that state. KHON2 tracked down thousands of orders issued over one year. It found fewer than half took only about a day or two to get into the hands of the abuser respondent. A quarter of them took up to a week. Nearly one in five took a month to track down the recipient, sometimes even longer.

A full 15% were never served.

While bad addresses impede police service, the biggest problem turns out to be the state courts. Judges refuse to give the orders, once issued, to the police to serve. The courts require the victim petitioners to bring the orders to the police for service.

"It is a lot to ask," according to legal advocate, Nancy Kreidman.

While almost every other court system in the United States provides police with orders directly, a spokesperson for the Hawaiian Judiciary explained the extra step requiring the victim to provide the order to police

prevents the courts from "forcing an unsure or subsequently unwilling petitioner to effectuate" the order. Further, the spokesperson explains that the court, as a "neutral, fair and objective adjudicator," cannot serve the order on the petitioner's behalf.

When KHON2 investigators returned to question court officials further on such ridiculous rationales, they were told that the Family Court of the First Circuit will consider the recommendation to allow law enforcement to immediately serve domestic restraining orders on respondents upon approval by the court.

Hats off to KHON2 for its investigation.

New York Police Make DV House Calls Long After an Arrest

Over the past several years, the New York City Police DV unit has increased by 40% to 450 officers zeroing in on DV, targeting high risk households, making more DV arrests. City police now average 70,000 house calls a year to check on the targeted families. Each precinct station house maintains a "high propensity" list of the most dangerous households. In their visits, the police devise safety plans with victims and check for further abuse, including any violations of outstanding protective orders. To encourage New York police to take DV seriously, Commissioner Raymond Kelly made DV units assignments detective-track positions.

The units have improved evidence collection. If a victim has been strangled, officers return a day or two later to photograph the bruises that are not visible immediately after the assault. Challenges remain. In writing of new police procedures, the *New York Times* reported a case from Queens. Police made 20 visits to a victim's house to ensure her safety from her court restrained boyfriend, Angel Perez-Rios, who had previously been arrested for assaulting her. A week after the last visit, despite assurances from the victim and her children that her ex-boyfriend had not returned to the household (which he had), Perez-Rio stabbed her to death.

In 2012, the police responded to 263,207 DV reports. These also have been harnessed by police. Software scans the reports to discover red flag words like “kill,” “suicide,” and “alcohol” to help officers rate abuser risk. When an officer files a report, the system automatically supplies the officer with all prior reports involving the same parties so patterns of abuse become evident. Such data alone is not enough. Less than quarter of the victims and perpetrators of DV homicides had contact with the police in the year before the murder, according to police.

Prosecutors in New York’s four Boroughs have also enhanced their responses to DV, no longer automatically dropping cases based on lack of victim cooperation. Where possible, they are using threatening phone records from Riker’s Island where abusers may be held pretrial, or ultraviolet light to find evidence of neck injuries.

In 2011, there were 47 DV homicides across the city. That dropped to 39 last year. As of July, the city had 21; 80% of the victims are women.

At the same time, New York City with a population of 8.2 million had 39 DV homicides in 2011, and North Carolina with a population of 9.7 million had 122. Although lack of gun control laws makes their job more difficult, some police in North Carolina are adopting programs similar to New York City’s. In High Point, North Carolina, police and prosecutors identified the area’s 650 worst abusers and then notified them by letter or in person that their continued DV will not be tolerated. The program is specifically modeled after a successful gang intervention program in Boston where police rounded up and met with all gang leaders.

The High Point notification is designed to warn suspects and offenders that the police will keep a close eye on them. For 10 of the 650 already under court supervision, they were required to attend an assembly to be told in person. Others were sent written notification. The High Point Community Against Violence organization, a panel of law enforcement officials and prosecutors, hope the message they presented will be heard loud and clear. The 10 were offered assistance in turning their lives around, including job search assistance, housing assistance, and substance abuse treatment.

So far, of the 650, police say 42 have re-offended.

Legacy Snapshot

Leading advocates reflect or recalled

Fred Stubbs

by Barbara Hart

Fred Stubbs was a soft-spoken, gentle man who worked diligently to end violence against women. It was his life work to protect women and children from abuse while extending his compassionate spirit to call men to nonviolence.

Fred was available 24/7 to men who battered their partners. He made home visits. He answered midnight calls. He shared meals with abusive men. Men thinking about battering frequently called Fred, asking him to talk them through their rage, jealousy, loss, despair, or sense of betrayal by their partners and the retaliation they were planning. He was known throughout the community as a man of peace and was frequently stopped in the streets by men seeking help in troubled relationships.

Fred and Becky Stubbs were a unique partnership in their marriage and in their life work to end woman battering. Fred and Becky modeled equality, mutuality, and intimacy in their relationship. Becky had been abused in childhood and in a former relationship. She became a fervent advocate and voice for battered women throughout the community. Fred’s support for Becky’s leadership in the work was quiet, steadfast, and always apparent. His deep respect for women was always demonstrated in his demeanor. Fred spoke eloquently of his belief that activist men should defer to the leadership of women in anti-violence work.

Fred and Becky co-founded Berks Advocates Against Violence (BAAV) in Reading, Pennsylvania in 1992, developing a group educational model for batterers entitled CHOICES (*Conflict Happens Often. I Choose Equality, Safety*). BAAV offered a HALT program for at-risk youth to learn safe & effective conflict resolution skills.

BAAV facilitated both probation and reentry programs for violent men. BAAV additionally provided outpatient mental health and chemical dependency services. Men compelled into BAAV groups by the courts or “socially compelled” by battered wives often continued in groups past the requirements to continue in BAAV’s community of support.

A reporter for the *Reading Eagle* captured Fred’s unusual approach. “Stubbs once was speaking to a man with a terrible history of violence who again found himself on the edge. Stubbs told him the next time he was losing his temper, he should do the dishes. The warm water, the suds, the entire process would calm him down

“During the man’s next (group) session, he told Stubbs that washing the dishes was a great help.” Battered women reported that men took Fred’s unusual advice and coaching to heart.

Fred was disciplined in his principles. When the Batterer Intervention Services Network of Pennsylvania, an informal statewide group of BIP providers, adopted a standard that a BIP would not seek or accept state funding for intervention work with men unless the local battered women’s program endorsed the BIP program, BAAV did not pursue state funds when the DV program decided not to provide an endorsement.

Fred’s life was not free of violence. About a year before his death, Fred experienced “road rage.” A motorist walked over to Fred, who was sitting in his parked car, and sucker-punched Fred in the face, breaking his glasses and cutting his eye. Fred responded by rolling up the window and calling 911. He later commented, “I wish I could get that man into my group. That’s a guy who needs help.”

Fred was a storyteller and an inspiration to colleagues engaged in BIP work in Pennsylvania. At a retreat on racism, Fred reflected on the harsh lessons his father taught him about racism as a young boy. When his father learned that Fred and his brothers had been a fight with a group of white youth, his father beat him severely. He told Fred that the reason he was inflicting such fierce violence on Fred was in the hope that if local (white) law enforcement received a report of the fight, they