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ECONOMIC SHOCKS AND PAST YEAR IPV IN LOUISIANA: FINDINGS FROM THE LAVEX 2023 SURVEY WITH LOUISIANA ADULTS

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

Prior evidence documents that economic vulnerabilities such as low income, neighborhood poverty, and joblessness increase risk for intimate partner violence (IPV) (1-3). Less evidence documents the role economic shocks may play in risk for IPV. We assess the association between economic shocks – measured by past year economic deprivation (not having enough money for food or other basic needs), eviction, and homelessness – and past year IPV, using data from Louisiana.

METHODOLOGY

The Louisiana Violence Experiences Survey (LaVEX) was an online state-wide survey on violence and discrimination conducted with adults aged 18 and older in Louisiana (N=1081) in 2023. Surveys were conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago using their probability and non-probability panels, and these are able to be weighted to yield state-level estimates. For more details on this study please see the LaVEX full report [here](#).

We measured past year IPV using a 22-item measure on emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. We assessed the following past year economic shocks: economic deprivation (not having enough money for food or basic needs), housing eviction, and homelessness (on the street or in a shelter). Surveys took 15 minutes to complete, and participants were compensated approximately US\$4 for their time. Participants provided consent to NORC for inclusion in survey panels, and participants can opt out of the survey panels or a survey at any point. Study procedures were reviewed and approved by IRBs at the University of Chicago, Tulane University, and University of California San Diego.

FINDINGS

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Past Year: Reported by 7% of men and 5% of women.
Men reported greater emotional abuse where women reported greater sexual abuse.

Economic Shocks, Past Year

<u>Economic Deprivation</u>	<u>Eviction</u>	<u>Homelessness</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34% of men 37% of women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8% of men 3% of women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23% of men 15% of women

Prevalence of Past Year IPV by Past Year Economic Shock

Economic Deprivation: Among women, past year IPV was *more than 5x higher for those with past year economic deprivation* compared to those without past year economic deprivation (11% vs. 2%). Among men, past year IPV was *more than 3x higher for those with past year economic deprivation* compared to those without past year economic deprivation (4% vs. 13%).

Eviction: Among women, past year IPV was *almost 10x higher for those with past year eviction* compared to those without past year eviction (39% vs. 4%). Among men, past year IPV was *almost 6x higher for those with past year eviction* compared to those without past year eviction (29% vs. 5%).

Homelessness: Among women, past year IPV was *over 5x higher for those with past year homelessness* compared to those without past year homelessness (16% vs. 3%). Among men, past year IPV was *7x higher for those with past year homelessness* compared to those without past year homelessness (21% vs. 3%).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Given the association between economic shocks and IPV, policies that improve social supports may help lower rates of IPV. For instance, it may be useful to improve policies that address housing insecurity, such as increased tenant protections, and economic insecurity, such as increased access to emergency financial aid and cash assistance. Increasing IPV screening as part of economic assistance programs can also help, as well as funding research into the whether the relationship between economic shocks and IPV is causal.

CONCLUSION

Economic shocks are associated with recent IPV, though it could be IPV resulting in the shocks or the shocks increasing risk for IPV. Safety net systems can be instrumental in addressing both economic shocks and IPV for women and men.

REFERENCES

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If you need help: Please contact the Louisiana Domestic Violence Crisis Line: 337.436.4552. You can also text “Begin” to the national domestic violence hotline at 88788. Or call the Mental Health, Suicide, and Crisis 24-hour Hotline: 988. For information on local resources for domestic violence, you can also visit: <https://lcadv.org/>

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