

Review of Domestic Violence Data Sources for Understanding Prevalence

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Background

Domestic violence (DV) is a difficult public health issue to quantify. To capture a comprehensive picture of the extent of DV within Los Angeles County and nationally, we aimed to assess all DV associated data sources. Data tracked by these different entities each provide a piece of the picture of DV. Persons seen by health care professionals are not necessarily the same persons engaged with other agencies.



Figure 1. Categories of Domestic Violence.

- Victims of Domestic Violence** – Person from whom suffered some form of DV. Victims may/may not be included in the reporting of the below categories or may not be reported in the following categories. Thus, a proportion remain “invisible”, or not quantified/reported by our data sources.
- Assisted and Identified Victims** – Victims of DV who have agreed to accept assistance from non-governmental, governmental, or other related organization (i.e. criminal justice, medical and mortality reporting, hotline and direct services).
- Survey Data** – Population estimates based on victims self-report through survey research.
- Survivors** – Victims who are no longer suffering from DV. These individuals may potentially be captured in the above categories.

Methods

The authors compiled common sources of DV and categorized by the following:

- 1) Morbidity and Mortality Data
- 2) Survey Data
- 3) Hotline and Direct Services Data
- 4) Criminal Justice Data

Data sources were compiled based on current/previously utilized sources, along with newly identified sources from our literature review.

Medical, Mortality, and Survey Data Sources



Figure 2. Pyramid structure of domestic violence cases by severity, of injury sustained. Source: Culross P, Fischer K, Bedair D. *Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Data Sources*; 2010.

Medical Data Reporting

- Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma Emergency Medicine Information System (TEMIS), Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Systems Agency

Mortality Reporting

- Los Angeles County Department of Coroner
- California Electronic Death Registration System (CA-EDRS)
- Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS)
- Center for Disease Control (CDC) Wonder

Survey Data

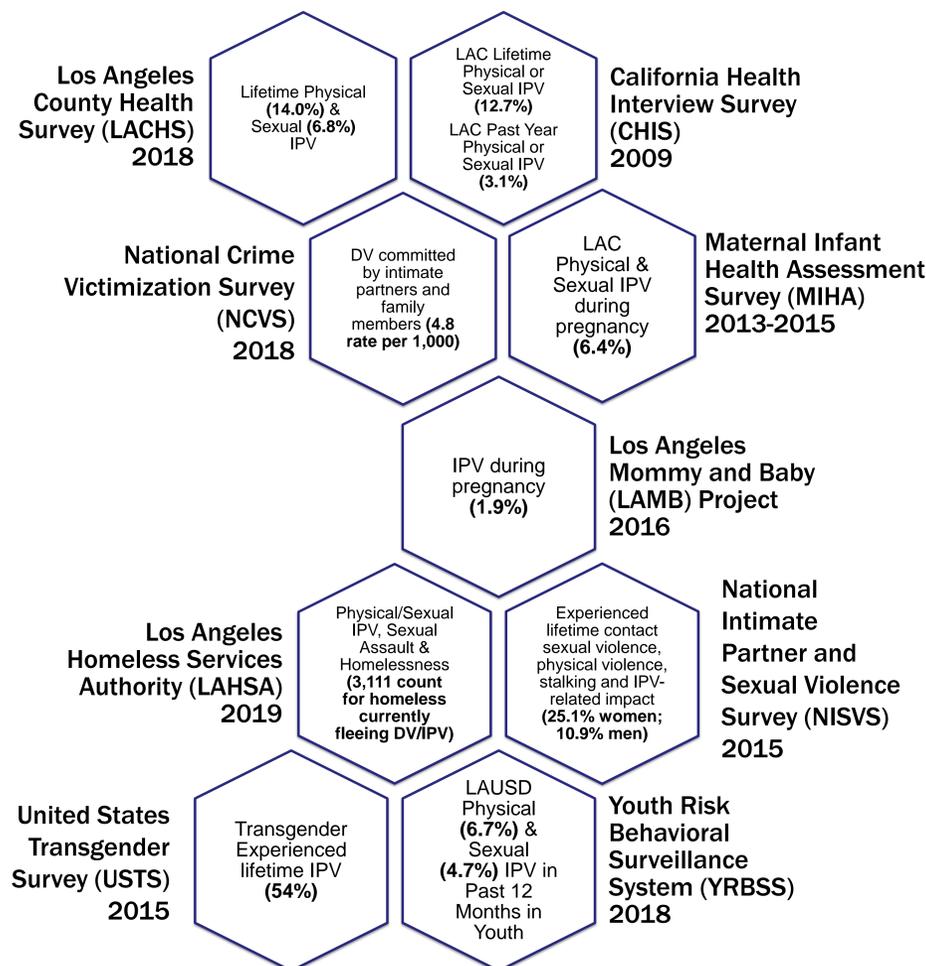


Figure 3. Various surveys and types of DV questions asked. Note: IPV = Intimate Partner Violence; LAC = Los Angeles County; LAUSD = Los Angeles Unified School District

Criminal and Hotline Data Sources

Criminal Justice Data

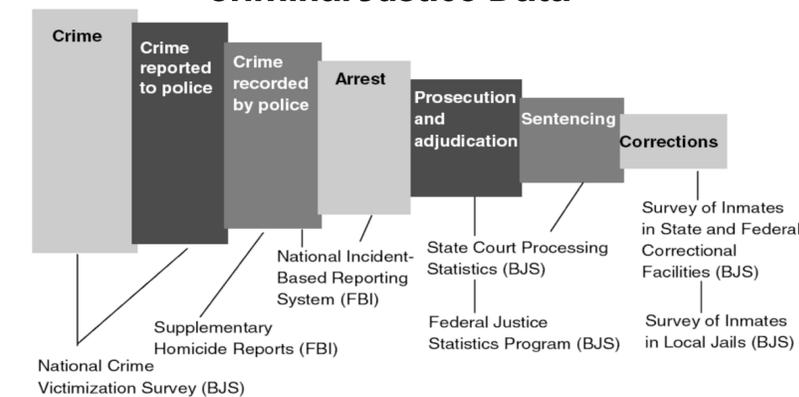


Figure 4. The flow of family violence statistics through the justice data systems. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Family Violence Statistics”, 2005, p. 4

Hotline and Direct Services	Data
National Domestic Violence Hotline (2018)	371,399 total contacts answered Has data on calls unanswered, types of abuse, and trends.
National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) (2017)	72,245 victims served in one day nationally, 5,724 victims served in California in one day.
DV-related Calls for Assistance to Law Enforcement (2018)	38,190 for DV-related calls for assistance in Los Angeles County.

Table 1. Hotline and Direct Services Data

Conclusion

The data from each source have their own limitations. To understand the prevalence of DV, comparison and review of current sources of DV data from multiple sources spanning category (criminal justice, medical and mortality, hotline/direct services, and survey data) generate a better estimate.

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