Researcher/Practitioner Collaboration: Strategies for Successful Implementation

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Webinar

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National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP)
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Background

- Lawyer working with immigrant crime victims 30+ years
  - 17 years direct services
  - 14 years national technical assistance
  - 21 years involved with research
- National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) (*pronounced new-app*)
  - American University
  - Washington College of Law

Research Partners

- Mary Ann Dutton
  - psychologist-quantitative
- Giselle Hass
  - forensic psychologist -qualitative
- Nawal Ammar
  - anthologist – criminologist – qualitative- evaluation
- Anita Raj
  - Sociologist – quantitative
- Rachael Rodriguez
  - Nursing – qualitative

History and Research Involvement

- Working with immigrant victims
  - Needed to document needs cross culturally for
  - Practice
  - Policy reform
    - Federal
    - State
- Working with researchers and on research since early 1990s

Multiplicity of Approaches

- Collaborations with researchers involving
  - Interviews with immigrant survivors
  - Surveys of service providers
  - Story collection
  - Review of OVW grant reports
  - With and without formal funding

Research Involvement

- Design
- Survey development
- Outreach to advocates and attorneys to identify survey participants
- Analyze data
  - Quantitative
  - Qualitative
- Public policy implications

Policy Reforms Resulting From Research

- Ayuda research led to
  - VAWA 1994 immigration protections
  - Definition of extreme cruelty used by DHS
- Kent State Collaboration
  - Replicated Ayuda research with multiple immigrant communities

Creating and Supporting VAWA Unit - Implementation

- Research led to definition of extreme cruelty
  - Power and control
- Cohesive control (Mary Ann Dutton)
  - Isolation
  - Intimidation
  - Economic Abuse
  - Immigration related abuse
- Educating DHS/changing the culture

Connection Between Abuse and Control Over Immigration Status

- Abuse rates among immigrant women
- Lifetime rates for those married or formerly married to citizens and lawful permanent residents – 50.8%
- U.S. citizen spouse/ former spouse abuse rate rises to 59.5%
- Almost three times the national average

Coercive Control Over Immigration Status

- Among abusive spouses who could have filed legal immigration papers for victims:
  - 72.3% never file immigration papers.
  - The 27.7% who did file had a mean delay of **3.97 years**.
- 65% of immigrant victims report some form of immigration related abuse (NIJ)

Immigration Status Affects Willingness to Call Police

- Significant difference between victims willingness to call the police related to their immigration status:
  - Stable (citizen/permanent resident) 34.4%
  - Temporary (temporary visa) 16.7%
  - Undocumented 14.8%
- U-visa created to address this

Immigration Related Abuse as a Lethality Factor

- **10 times higher** in relationships with *physical/sexual* abuse as opposed to *psychological* abuse
- Lethality factor can predict abuse *escalation*
- Corroborates existence of physical and sexual abuse

Children of Immigrant Women Who Received Help Protected Against Child Abuse

- National co-occurrence rate: 30-40%
- Rates among immigrants similar
- Co-occurrence among
  - Help seekers: 23%
  - Abused immigrants who did not seek help: 77%
- Children of help seekers 20% less likely to have abuser threaten them
- 33% less likely to have abuser threaten to take them away from their mother

1996 – Access to Benefits for Immigrant Victims

- Built upon research by Chris Sullivan
- Documenting the need for access to the public benefits safety net for battered women
- Survey of service providers –
  - HUD policy
  - "short term shelter" = emergency shelter and transitional housing for up to two years

NIJ Funded Research on Immigrant Survivors and Protection Orders

- Learned how to do research among multiple immigrant populations
  - Reaching undocumented victims
- Prove effectiveness of protection orders for immigrant survivors
  - Train judges, advocates and attorneys
  - Identify role of immigration related abuse
    - Use to train immigration adjudicators and judges

NIJ Findings: With advocates support immigrant victims will use and benefit from protection orders

- 60.9% *first* learned about protection orders from their advocates/legal services attorneys
- 81% chose to seek and got a protection order with help from advocate/attorney
- Evidence of benefits of safety planning
  - Strong correlation between severity of violence and undocumented immigrant victims' willingness to seek a protection order
- 96% found them helpful
- Protection orders reduced violence but –
  - 68.3% of violations immigrant related abuse

Relationships with Researchers Led to:

- Flexible collaborations that could produce data needed for
  - Public policy reforms
  - Training of DHS, Judges, Advocates, Attorneys

U-Visa Criminal Activities (11/11 data)

- Domestic violence 45.9%
- Rape, sexual assault, incest, trafficking 30.4%
- Felonious assault, murder, manslaughter 9.9%
- Kidnapping, being held hostage, unlawful criminal restraint, torture 8.47%
- Blackmail, extortion, perjury, obstruction of justice, attempts, conspiracy, solicitation 5.3%

Research Behind Age Out VAWA IV Immigration Protections

- Children turning 21+ = Age Out of U visa protection
  - 47% of U-visa applicants include at least one child in their application
  - When children are included in a parent's U-visa application the average number of children included is 2.28 children per application
  - 7 yr regulation & adjudication delays children in limbo
- Adjudication delays
  - U visas - 93.9% 6+ months, 30% year +
  - VAWA self-petitioners – 73.9% 6+ months, 54.2% year +, 27.1% 13 months to 2 years
  - Led to report to Congress from DHS

U-Visa path to lawful permanent residency is key to fostering victim cooperation

- 99.8% of U-visa applicants and recipients know that they will qualify for lawful permanent residency when they apply, provided they cooperate with law enforcement
- 99.5% cooperated or willing to cooperate
  - High level (70%) actual and ongoing cooperation
  - 29.5% of victims made police reports, wanted to cooperate, but officials did not seek further cooperation
    - Plea agreement, criminal prosecution completed, bench warrant outstanding, police still trying to identify the perpetrator

Technical Assistance and Materials

- **NIWAP Technical Assistance:**
  - Call (202) 274-4457
  - E-mail niwap@wcl.american.edu
- Website: www.wcl.american.edu/niwap
- NIWAPWeb Library: niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu
- NIWAP Trainings and Conferences: www.niwap.org/training
- State Agencies Serving Immigrant Services: www.niwap.org/directory