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Domestic Violence Recidivism: Restorative Justice Intervention Programs for First-Time Domestic Violence Offenders

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Tamika Payne

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Walden University
2017

Abstract

Domestic Violence Recidivism: Restorative Justice Intervention Programs for First-Time

Domestic Violence Offenders

by

Tamika L. Payne

MA, University of Cincinnati, 2010

BS, Old Dominion University 2007

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

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Abstract

Domestic violence impacts millions of Americans annually and, in spite of the use of rehabilitative programs, recidivism in domestic violence continues to be more likely than in any other offense. To date, batterer intervention programs (BIPs) have not proven to be consistently impactful in reducing recidivism in cases of domestic violence. The purpose of this quasi-experimental, quantitative study was to examine differences in recidivism for first-time male domestic violence offenders who have participated in a BIP and a more recently developed alternative: victim-offender mediation (VOM). The theories of restorative justice and reintegrative shaming frame this study to determine if offenders take accountability for their actions and face the victim in mediation, there can be a reduction in recidivism. Archival data from records of first-time male, domestic violence offenders, between the ages of 18 and 30, who participated in either a VOM or BIP in a county in the Midwest were examined for recidivism 24-months postintervention, and analyzed with an ANCOVA analysis while controlling for age. The findings revealed no significant difference in recidivism for first-time male offenders 24-months post participation in a BIP or a VOM intervention while controlling for age $F(1,109) = .081, p = .777$. The findings provide support for the notion that restorative justice interventions may be an additional intervention used in cases of domestic violence deemed appropriate for the intervention. The findings from this study can add to the body of research examining interventions to address the high recidivism in cases of domestic violence, which impacts victims, offenders, and communities.

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Dedication

I would like to dedicate this study to my grandmothers Faye Payne and Marian Williams who have truly been examples of strength and courage for me throughout my life. I would also like to dedicate this to my mother who has been my strength throughout the journey. And last but not least to my husband, Melvin for the continual love and encouragement.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Recidivism in cases of domestic violence in the United States occurs at a higher rate than other violent crimes, despite the use of interventions such as protection orders, probation, incarceration, and batterer intervention programs (Frantzen, Miguel, & Kwak, 2011; Mills, Barocas, & Ariel, 2013; Richards, Jennings, Tomsich, & Gover, 2014; Sloan, Platt, Chepke, & Blevins, 2013). Furthermore, incidents of domestic violence are higher in age groups 18-24, which correlates with statistics representing the prevalence of crime by age (Breiding, Basile, Smith, Black, & Mahendra, 2015; Nelson, 2013). Domestic violence offenders enter the criminal justice system once charged with the crime of domestic violence (Frantzen et al., 2011).

Interventions for domestic violence offenders in situations deemed appropriate by providers include victim–offender mediation (VOM), a restorative justice intervention (RJI; Mills et al., 2013). Another intervention used was a batterer intervention program (BIP; Mills et al., 2013). BIPs are the most commonly used programs for domestic violence offenders; programs are modeled after the Duluth program developed in the 1980s by Ellen Pence and Michael Paymar (Pender, 2012). The BIP model was a group-oriented therapeutic behavior modification treatment focusing on contributing factors of domestic violence including anger and control (Pender, 2012). BIPs have been shown to be effective in the reduction of recidivism as compared to traditional sanctions including arrest, probation, and incarceration (Mills et al., 2013; Pender, 2012; Sherman & Harris, 2013).

VOM programs differ from BIPs, as VOM programs are a form of restorative justice mediation between the victim and offender (Daly, 2012; Dhami, 2012; Gromet, Okimoto, Wenzel, and Darley, 2012; Weeber, 2012). Present during the mediation session in addition to the victim, offender, and mediator was also the prosecuting attorney, and any other appropriate court officials (Daly, 2012; Dhami, 2012; Gromet, 2012; Weeber, 2012). VOMs are initiated through the request of the victim, and thereafter a certified mediator or court official completes an evaluation to determine if the mediation was appropriate (Daly, 2012; Dhami, 2012; Gromet, 2012; Weeber, 2012). Some factors that are examined to determine appropriateness are the severity of the crime and willingness of the offender to participate in the mediation (Daly, 2012; Dhami, 2012; Gromet, 2012; Weeber, 2012). In some cases, VOM programs are combined with other treatments and interventions to include BIPs, probation, and incarceration (Dhami, 2012). When examining recidivism with the use of VOMs and BIPs, both programs have been shown to reduce reconviction of domestic violence offenders (Mills et al., 2013; Sloan et al., 2013). Despite these findings, VOMs are not as commonly used as BIPs as an intervention in cases of domestic violence.

In research examining restorative justice (RJ) interventions such as VOM, researchers found in two different research studies, that possible reasons for the limited use of VOM were limited research on VOM outcomes within the criminal justice field, the impact of VOM on victims, and legal professionals' preference for punitive methods (Gavrielides, 2015; Mills et al., 2013). Concerns regarding the victim arise because the construct of VOM typically involves a session involving the victim, the offender, a

criminal justice representative, and a mediator to discuss the crime and come to an agreed-upon resolution (Daly, 2012; Dhimi, 2012; Gromet, 2012; Weeber, 2012). Despite such reservations about the use of VOM in domestic violence cases, the intervention has proved impactful in reducing recidivism in other violent crimes (Mongold & Edwards, 2014). VOM was most commonly used as an intervention with nonviolent offenses and with juveniles (Mongold & Edwards, 2014). Researchers have recognized that RJIs are not appropriate in all cases of domestic violence, and should be considered on a case by cases basis, taking into consideration the severity of the abuse and victim willingness to participate (Gavrielides, 2015). In this study, I compared VOM to BIP to examine the differences of each intervention on recidivism.

In a previous study, Nelson (2013) found that there was a correlation between committing crimes and the age of the offender, which has also been examined regarding domestic violence crimes. In research examining recidivism in cases of domestic violence, Nelson (2013) found that convictions for crimes of domestic violence significantly decreases after the age of 30. The researcher, Nelson (2013) concluded that recidivism occurs because of aging, and that research should exclude age when examining the effectiveness of intervention. In the study by Nelson (2013), the researcher controlled for age in the comparison of recidivism between VOM and BIP interventions.

This chapter included an introduction to the problem of recidivism in domestic violence cases. I provided an explanation of the background of the issue, the purpose of the study, and hypothesized outcomes of this research. In this chapter I also included definitions of terms used throughout the study, along with limitations, assumptions, and

social implications of the study. A detailed literature review and theoretical framework are presented in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 includes a discussion of the methodology used in the completion of this quantitative quasi-experimental study. I present the discussion of the findings in Chapter 4, and present the conclusions in Chapter 5.

Background

Researchers Herman, Rotunda, Williamson, and Vodanovich (2014) estimated that approximately 1.3 million women and 750 thousand men are affected by domestic violence in the United States annually (Herman, Rotunda, Williamson, & Vodanovich, 2014). In 2012, there were 51,644 charges of domestic violence in the United States—an increase of 12.6% from 2011 (Cucinelli, 2014). Nationally, from 2003 to 2012, domestic violence accounted for 21% of all violent crimes (Truman & Morgan, 2014). With these high rates, interventions are needed to provide protection for victims. Domestic violence figures have remained high despite the use of various interventions to treat offenders.

The results of studies on domestic violence interventions Mills et al. (2013), Pender, (2012), Sloan et al. (2013) have suggested that formal sanctions (e.g., restraining orders, probation, and incarceration) are not effective in the reduction of recidivism. Researchers Mill, Barocas, and Ariel have shown that BIPs are more efficient than formal sanctions in reducing recidivism. In other findings researchers suggested that RJIs may also be more effective in reducing recidivism than formal sanctions (Mills et al., 2013). In a study comparing circles of peace (CPs; a form of VOM) and BIPs, researchers found that in a 6-month period, CPs were more effective in reducing recidivism in offenders (Mills et al., 2013). However, long-term results were not significant enough to indicate

that CPs were more effective, and there were questions about the effectiveness of other RJIs (Mills et al., 2013).

BIPs and VOMs are two of four commonly used interventions used in response to cases of domestic violence offenders, in addition to anger management and individual therapy (Daly, 2012; Dhami, 2012; Gromet, 2012; Weeber, 2012). Offender participation in a BIP is determined through assessment, addressing the nature of the offense and other factors to determine appropriateness (Pender, 2012). There have been reductions in recidivism among domestic violence offenders where BIPs have been used (Mills et al., 2013).

In this study, I compared differences in recidivism rates for first-time male offenders in VOM versus BIPs; I addressed questions from previous studies on the effectiveness of the interventions as measured by reduction in recidivism. I examined data *ex post facto*, with a particular focus on first-time male offenders between the ages of 18 and 30, which is deemed to be the population with the highest recidivism rates in cases of domestic violence (Renner, Whitney, & Vasquez, 2015; Richards et al., 2014; Sutton, Simons, Wickrama, & Futris, 2014). The factors that were addressed in the study—VOM, and BIPs—have not previously studied together in the context of recidivism in first-time, male, domestic violence offenders. The aim of this study was to determine if there was a significant difference in recidivism rates for first-time male offenders enrolled in a VOM intervention or a BIP program without participation in VOM.

Problem Statement

Despite the use of interventions in cases of domestic violence, recidivism remains a concern (Apel, 2013; Herman et al., 2014; Mills et al., 2013). Apel (2013), in a study examining formal sanctions' effect toward criminal deterrence, researchers indicated that formal sanctions such as probation, incarceration, and capital punishment do not have a statistically significant effect in the deterrence of some crimes, including violent crimes such as domestic violence. Further, formal sanctions within a punitive model of justice can lead to additional harm and vengeance (Wozniak, 2014). In a study by Herman et al. (2014), researchers found that, after completion of a BIP, approximately 37.4% of the offenders reoffended. The researchers suggested that one reason for the program's ineffectiveness was that the BIP addressed the criminal and legal aspects of the crime, rather than behaviors (Herman et al., 2014). RJ programs created an opportunity for resolution between the victim and offender, through the examination of the motivation for the crime and appropriate interventions (Morrison & Vaandering, 2012). In comparison, RJI programs focused on offenders' behaviors and their impact on the victim, offender, and community (Morrison & Vaandering, 2012).

Despite findings from research studies were researchers have found significance in reduction of recidivism for domestic violence offenders in RJI programs, during the research period ending in 2012, RJI programs were not chosen as interventions for domestic violence cases by judges, and lawyers in many criminal justice agencies in cases of domestic violence (Alarid & Montemayor, 2012). A factor contributing to decreased use of RJI programs has been mandatory arrest laws that mandate traditional punitive

legal actions for domestic violence offenders (Boal & Mankowski, 2014). As a result of mandatory arrest laws, there has been an increase in BIPs, as these programs can be mandated and monitored by probation officers (Boal & Mankowski, 2014). Although mandatory arrest laws provided an immediate decrease in danger for victims, many feminists argue that victims are placed at a greater risk of danger upon the offender's release from jail (Munjaj, 2012). Despite the increase in interventions and legal sanctions in cases of domestic violence, recidivism rates for these crimes remain amongst the highest for violent offenses (Alarid & Montemayor, 2012, Morrison & Vaandering, 2012). The high recidivism rates not only impact victims, but also the criminal justice system with the financial cost, medical costs, and communities (Bell, Cattaneo, Goodman, & Dutton, 2013; Juodis, Starzomski, Porter, & Woodworth, 2014).

Mills et al. (2013) suggested that there has been limited research examining recidivism in domestic violence cases with the use of RJIs. In their study, Mills et al. compared recidivism for offenders enrolled in either a BIP or an RJI CP over a 24-month-period. CP interventions were group sessions involving victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and family members to address the issue of violence and find a resolution (Mills et al., 2013). The participants in Mills et al.'s study were individuals charged with misdemeanor domestic violence offenses; some had previously been charged with a domestic violence offense.

In addition, there has been limited research examining recidivism while controlling for age. In a study by Nelson (2013) examining recidivism and sentencing practices, the researcher found that age was a significant factor in the reduction of

recidivism. Researchers found in previous studies that crime decreases with age (Breiding et al., 2014; Nelson, 2013). In a study examining domestic violence, the researcher concluded similar findings, that suggest that age should be a controlled variable when examining if interventions are correlated to the reduction of recidivism (Nelson, 2013).

In the study by Richards et al., it was found that repeat domestic violence offenders were more likely to reoffend than those charged for the first offense (Richards et al., 2014). Over a 10-year period, multiple-time domestic violence offenders who were charged with domestic violence were more likely to reoffend than first-time offenders (Richards et al., 2014). One common theme remains: RJIs can be the most effective response in certain cases of domestic violence (Gavrielides, 2015). Researchers examining the use of RJIs found a reduction in recidivism for violent offenders who have committed crimes similar to domestic violence, such as assault and battery (Morrison & Vaandering, 2012).

Although the aforementioned research regarding recidivism in cases of domestic violence contains significant findings, I have found limited research on recidivism rates while controlling for age in cases of first-time male domestic violence offenders who participated in the RJI VOM programs. Thus, further research was warranted on recidivism in cases of domestic violence for first-time male offenders enrolled in RJI programs in comparison with BIPs. The limited amount of research in this area highlights the need for additional studies regarding recidivism in cases of domestic violence with the use of RJIs (Sloan et al., 2013).

The Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this quasi-experimental quantitative study was to examine differences in recidivism between offenders enrolled in a BIP and offenders enrolled in a VOM program, while controlling for age. My goal was to examine the impact of restorative justice interventions on domestic violence in a population that has been deemed high risk for violent crimes. By examining the differences, the outcomes could support the use of alternative interventions in cases of domestic violence. The participants consisted of male offenders age 18-30 years. The timeframe of the examination was a 2-year period following completion of the VOM or BIP program (2012 through 2013). The results of this study could provide a better understanding of strategies to address recidivism in cases of domestic violence.

Nature of the Study

The study involved quantitative, quasi-experimental analysis of archival data. A quantitative, quasi-experimental design was the most appropriate for the proposed study, as this method allows for examination of differences *ex post facto* for variables not randomly assigned. The use of an ANCOVA analysis made it possible to examine the differences between the dependent variable recidivism rates for two levels of the independent variable, VOM and BIPs, in a region where both interventions are available and in use, while controlling for the covariate, age, the second independent variable. Using an existing database, I could track outcomes over a period of time.

Research Question

RQ: What is the difference between recidivism rates for offenders who have participated in the restorative justice intervention VOM versus those who have participated in a BIP for first-time male domestic violence offenders 24 months postintervention?

Hypotheses

In this study, I examined the differences in recidivism for first-time male domestic violence offenders in VOM versus BIP programs, while controlling for age. Recidivism data were examined at 24 months' post-intervention. The hypotheses are as follows:

Ho: $\mu_1 = \mu_2$: There are no differences in recidivism rates between offenders enrolled in VOM versus BIP at 24 months' postintervention, while controlling for age,

H1: $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$: There are differences in recidivism rates between offenders enrolled in VOM versus BIP at 24 months' postintervention, while controlling for age.

Theoretical Framework

In this study, I examined recidivism for first-time male domestic violence offenders who have participated in VOM, a restorative justice intervention program, as well as a BIP. The theory of RJ relies upon an understanding of behavior through a motivational and socialization viewpoint (Morrison & Vaandering, 2012). The basis of the theory was that an individual's motivation to commit crimes was contingent on how committed they are to society (Morrison & Vaandering, 2012). Examples of commitment included community, family, and friends, in addition to social norms. Several theories of RJ posit different constructs about the criminal justice system (Daly, 2013; Kenny &

Leonard, 2014; Morrison & Vaandering, 2012; Weeber, 2012). The commonality among the theories is the notion that social commitment plays a role in an individual's motivation not to commit crimes (Morrison & Vaandering, 2012).

The practice of RJ dates back to 68000 BC a time when human societies did not have a formal criminal justice system (Dickerson-Gilmore, 2014). In societies where the criminal justice system is structured around RJ principles, the victim and offender worked together to address the issue, with the intended outcome of justice for the victim and reduction in reoffending for the offender (Dickerson-Gilmore, 2014).

RJIs can be conducted in different ways to include family sessions, community service, and victim and offender mediation (Beck, 2015; Gavrielides, 2015; Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015). VOM, one type of RJI, involves mediation between the victim and offender to restore power to the victim through the victim's participation in court proceedings, and communication with the offender on punishment for the crimes (Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015). The anticipated outcome of recidivism was that there would be a reduction in the likelihood of reoffending, as the offender would take accountability for actions (Gavrielides, 2015; Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015). Because RJI did not encourage formal criminal justice procedures, VOM, like other RJ approaches, was not widely used due to negative viewpoints of the nonpunitive components of the interventions (Gavrielides, 2015; Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015).

In cases of domestic violence, reservations concerning the use of VOM have been based on limited research on the impact of VOM on victims (Gavrielides, 2015; Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015; Mills et al., 2013). Power and control dynamics that

are associated with the crime of domestic violence, and could be harmful to victims, was determined by judges and lawyers to be another concern (Gavrielides, 2015; Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015; Mills et al., 2013). Because of the power and control dynamics in cases of domestic violence, VOM may not be appropriate, as victims may become revictimized due to the mediation session (Gavrielides, 2015; Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015; Mills et al., 2013). Because of the nature of domestic violence crimes, the victim must be willing to participate and the environment must be safe for all parties involved (Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015). As a result of the limited use of VOM programs, there have not been many opportunities to perform research studies on victims or to examine the effects of VOM on offenders (Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015).

Another reservation regarding the use of the VOM approach includes the appropriateness of the use of RJIs for more violent crimes, including domestic violence. Researchers have taken into consideration that RJIs are not appropriate to use in all cases of domestic violence, and interventions such as BIPs are more appropriate when the victim does not want to participate, and there has been a lethal level of violence (Sherman, Strang, Mayo-Wilson, Woods, & Ariel, 2015). An example of inappropriate cases determined by previous research are cases where there are significant violent threats, and when the victim is not comfortable with the mediation (Sherman et al., 2015). Despite these reservations, RJ theorists have proposed that the intervention is appropriate in cases where a designated individual screened the victim and offender for suitability for the intervention (Gavrielides, 2015; Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015; Mills et al., 2013). Researchers found RJIs to be more cost-effective than formal sanctions, which is an

additional benefit of using the intervention (Sherman et al., 2015). Researchers determined cost by the nature of the crime and cost associated with recidivism (Sherman et al., 2015).

To further explain recidivism, the theory of reintegrative shaming, developed by Braithwaite (1989), may be applied to describe offenders' behaviors. Reintegrative shaming encompasses the idea that criminals who come to feel shame and remorse, and are held accountable for actions by the members of their community who also care for them, are less likely to engage in criminal behaviors than individuals who have received punishment based on the crime and have reformed (Braithwaite, 1989; Mongold & Edmonds, 2014). Developers of VOM interventions focused on the individual accepting the criminal behaviors while also working toward reparations for actions, which was a principle of reintegrative shaming (Dhami, 2012). VOM interventionist used theoretical approaches to further understand the differences in the outcome between recidivism and VOM as compared to BIPs.

Similar to RJ, researchers have used reintegrative shaming in cases of violence and with juveniles (Mongold & Edwards, 2014). Reintegrative shaming focuses on the crime, the use of shame by the people who the offender deems significant, such as their family members, and reintegration to reduce crime (Braithwaite, 1989). Reintegrative shaming theory suggests that once a crime has occurred, the offender should be held accountable for behaviors; which should occur in a manner where respect is exhibited (Braithwaite, 1989; Mongold & Edmonds, 2014). The intervention should lead to the offender feeling shame and remorse for actions to those whom the offender holds dear,

then the offender should be openly reintegrated back into society (Braithwaite, 1989; Mongold & Edmonds, 2014). Reintegrative shaming is a theory that focuses on the importance of socialization, based on the position of disapproval of the actions associated with rituals of forgiveness (Braithwaite, 1989). Mongold and Edmonds related reintegrative shaming to VOM, as reintegrative shaming focuses on offenders understanding the impact of their actions and making amends to society for wrongdoing in reintegration efforts (Braithwaite, 1989; Mongold & Edmonds, 2014). Consideration, according to theorist should be taken as every offender cannot be reintegrated back into society (Mongold & Edmonds, 2014).

BIP and VOM interventions both focus on intervention in the behaviors of offenders, with the goal of reducing recidivism (Dhami, 2012; Herman et al., 2014). Interventions influenced by reintegrative shaming focus on reduction in recidivism by addressing how individuals are socialized in society (Braithwaite, 1989). By combining careful family focused shaming with reintegration, Braithwaite (1989) intended to have individuals take accountability for crimes and learn that criminal behaviors do not meet social norms. For persons who commit crimes of domestic violence, punitive shaming can occur through measures such as arrest and filing of charges and this may lead to anger and distrust, not reintegration. The difference between reintegrative shaming and punitive shaming is that reintegrative shaming leads offenders to feel remorseful and engaged in society, while punitive shaming can lead to anger and isolation (Braithwaite, 1989).

RJIs, in cases of domestic violence, may be effective in reducing recidivism when used post-conviction (Miller & Iovanni, 2013). These findings not only suggest that victims have more time to heal when RJ occurs post-conviction but also that offenders may develop empathy and understanding of the crime (Miller & Iovanni, 2013). The findings further suggest that as a result of reintegrative shaming (accountability), offenders are better able to understand that domestic violence incidents do not meet societal norms. Reintegrative shaming theory provides concepts to address recidivism and socialization concerns about the crime of domestic violence (Braithwaite, 1989; Dhami, 2012; Herman et al., 2014; Miller & Iovanni, 2013).

Definition of Key Terms

Batterer intervention program (BIP): A group intervention program for domestic violence offenders that is mandated by the courts to address behaviors associated with domestic violence (Mills et al., 2013). Programs are 26 weeks in length and include anger management, and self-control techniques (Mills et al., 2013).

Domestic violence: An act of violence committed by an individual against an intimate partner or family member (Breiding et al., 2014).

Male Offenders: Male individuals who have been charged with the crime of domestic violence against an intimate partner during the reporting period as identified in the study (Breiding et al., 2014).

Recidivism: A repeat offense resulting in a charge of domestic violence within the 24 months' post-intervention (Herman et al., 2014).

Victim-offender mediation (VOM): A restorative justice intervention between the victim, offender, and court officials in a structured environment to address the details of the crime and agreed-upon sanctions (Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015).

Assumptions, Limitations and Delimitation

In this study, I made several assumptions. One assumption was that the participants would be representative of the population for the geographical location. For example, I assumed that the participants of first-time male domestic violence offenders enrolled in VOM and BIP would be similar to other first-time male offenders enrolled in similar programs. Second, as archival data were collected, I assumed that the data were accurate and of high quality. High quality data collected was collected to meet the standards set for research and the requirements for the study. Thirdly, as I conducted an ANCOVA analysis I assumed that there was linearity, homogeneity of variance, normal distribution, and independence (Field, 2013).

The scope of this study is the examination of recidivism for offenders who participated in a BIP or VOM program. The offenders were male, first-time offenders, in the State of Ohio, who had been convicted of a crime of domestic violence and were between the ages of 18 and 30. I collected data from the municipal court in Franklin County, Ohio, including information from 2013. The design of the study was a quasi-experimental analysis of archival data. I did not collect the data while participants were in a BIP or VOM program. The limitations of the study include the chosen data collection method, which may limit factors that might further explain recidivism. In addition, I did not collect data while offenders participate in the programs, the data were secondary data

compiled by the Franklin County Municipal Court in Ohio, rather than by the researcher for this research. Franklin County Municipal Court clerks collected the data, and I did not have control over the criteria for participants placed in the programs. I also did not have control on the accuracy of the information that is collected.

A delimitation of the study was controlling for the age of the participants; this study excluded the population under 18 and over the age of 30. Another delimitation was that the study included only first-time domestic violence offenders and did not include repeat offenders. The sex of the offenders was male, which was also a delimitation.

Significance of the Study

In the United States, domestic violence affects thousands of families each year, and the majority of domestic violence cases go unreported (Alarid & Montemayor, 2012). There are interventions in place with the goals of decreasing recidivism among domestic violence offenders and promoting the rehabilitation of these offenders, but recidivism rates remain high (Mills et al., 2013). Mills et al. (2013), in a comparison of a BIP and RJI CPs, found no significant difference in recidivism rates between the CP and BIP. Mills et al. concluded that the RJI was effective in reducing recidivism for domestic violence offenders at the same rate as the BIPs. The significant differences between RJIs and BIPs are that RJIs are focused on victims, with offenders taking accountability for their behaviors, and participants in VOM are specifically selected with a predisposition to success (Androff, 2012; Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015). This study could be added to the body of literature examining interventions that have been found to be significant in

reducing recidivism, thus leading to additional treatment options for offenders of domestic violence.

Social Change Implications

With statistics showing that domestic violence impacts millions within the United States and even more internationally, examining ways to reduce recidivism may be beneficial to victims and other individuals who are affected by this type of crime. In this study, I sought to add to the current body of literature surrounding domestic violence and VOM. As previously stated, there was research showing the outcomes of BIPs and their impact on recidivism rates for domestic violence offenders. There was limited research examining the use of VOMs in cases of domestic violence. The findings of this study could be beneficial in the implementation of interventions in cases of domestic violence.

Summary

Recidivism among domestic violence offenders remained an issue impacting the lives of victims. In addition, offenders are not receiving effective interventions for their behaviors. BIP continues to be the intervention most commonly used in cases of domestic violence, despite evidence showing that RJIs are effective in the reduction of recidivism. The purpose of this quasi-experimental study was to examine any differences in recidivism between first-time offenders enrolled in a BIP and first-time offenders enrolled in a VOM program to support the use of additional interventions were determined to be appropriate in cases of domestic violence.

In Chapter 2, I presented a discussion of literature within the field addressing RJ and domestic violence, in addition to the theoretical framework of the study. In Chapter

3, I addressed the methodology used for this study. Lastly, I reported results in Chapter 4, followed by a conclusion and summary in Chapter 5.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

The purpose of this study was to determine whether there is a difference in the rate of recidivism between two interventions to domestic violence. Previous researchers have addressed the prevalence of domestic violence, types of offenders, and effectiveness of interventions (Apel, 2013; Dutton, 2012; Mills et al., 2013). Mills et al. (2013) suggested that additional research needs to be conducted to determine whether RJ programs can be as effective in reducing recidivism in domestic violence offenders as BIPs have been shown to in previous research.

This chapter contains a literature review focused on domestic violence, BIPs, and RJ programs. The first section includes background information about domestic violence, including statistics on prevalence and definitions. In the second section, I reviewed international, United States, and Ohio laws associated with domestic violence. The third section includes the interventions explored in this study: VOM (Daly, 2012; Dhani, 2012; Gromet, 2012; Mills et al., 2013; Weeber, 2012) and BIPs (Herman et al., 2014; Mills et al., 2013; Pender, 2012). The fourth and final section contains the theoretical framework for the study, which involves restorative justice and reintegrative shaming.

Research Strategy

I conducted research for this literature review through an extensive search of scholarly research and databases. Using the Walden University Library, I searched for peer-reviewed articles through the following databases: SocINDEX, PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES, ProQuest Criminal Justice, EBSCO, and Sage Premier.

In a comprehensive search, I used the following terms to identify studies addressing the research problem: *recidivism, domestic violence, retribution, intimate partner violence, victim-offender mediation, batterer intervention program, the first-time offender, crime, shame, reintegrative shaming, deterrence, and rearrest*. The following sections contain discussions explaining domestic violence, recidivism, and the theoretical framework of the study.

Domestic Violence

The definition of domestic violence has changed over time in response to changes in cultural norms and values. Information published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) define the term *domestic violence* as any harm caused through physical, sexual, or psychological abuse brought against a current or former intimate partner (Breiding et al., 2014). Domestic violence was also classified as *intimate partner violence* (IPV). Domestic violence victimization is emotional, psychological, and physical abuse, which has costs for all stakeholders (Pow et al., 2015). Between the years 1980 and 2008, one out of five homicides was the result of domestic violence (Pow et al., 2015).

Leaving the relationship is not always a solution. When victims attempt to leave domestic violence offenders, they may be at greater risk of physical harm, which can even result in death (Pow et al., 2015). With These findings researchers further supported the need for programs that seek to reduce recidivism in offenders. Most of the domestic violence offenders who fatally injured victims have been charged with or convicted of a prior domestic violence crime (Pow et al., 2015).

Domestic violence impacts the lives of millions of individuals, with an estimated 4.8 million women being victimized annually worldwide (Sloan et al., 2013). As a result of these figures, numerous researchers are addressing the impact of domestic violence and interventions to reduce violence and recidivism rates. As with any crime, there are reparations for the crime that may restore safety and security to victims and the community. Gromet (2012) proposed, in his study that satisfaction, or the victims' feelings toward the interventions (including crimes of domestic violence), may restore security to the victim and assist in the reduction of recidivism. In addition to these outcomes, there was an implication for the need of additional research examining effective interventions for offenders in crimes such as domestic violence (Gromet, 2012).

Prevalence of Domestic Violence Incidents in the United States

Domestic violence is prevalent in the United States, with one estimate indicating that almost 60% of married women have been abused (Price, 2013). However, domestic violence expands beyond the victimization of married individuals. There are an estimated 1.3 million women in the United States annually who report a history of victimization, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in 2009 (Herman et al., 2014). Because many crimes of domestic violence go unreported, these numbers have been assumed to underrepresent the scope of the problem. These statistics showed that there is a need to address the domestic violence endemic within the United States, as well as internationally.

Domestic violence encompasses many acts of violence and intimidation, including stalking, rape, and assault, as well as psychological abuse and intimidation

(Breiding et al., 2014). Breiding et al. (2014), found an estimated 18.3 million women and 6.5 million men reported stalking in the year 2011. Almost 61% of female victims of stalking estimated that the offenders were previous intimate partners, and 41% of men reported that the offenders were intimate partners.

Rape is also considered a crime of domestic violence when it is committed by an intimate partner. Through a national survey, 8.85% of women and .05% of men reported being raped by an intimate partner over their lifetimes (Breiding et al., 2014). Statistics from the same study also indicated that 31.5% of women and 27.5% of men reported experiencing physical violence over their lifetime (Breiding et al., 2014). While the number of incidents of reported physical abuse between men and women in the United States is believed to be close in percentage to each other, there are disparities in reporting between men and women. Statistics show that women report more abuse and that men are charged with crimes of domestic violence significantly more often than women (Breiding et al., 2014).

Victims

Domestic violence is classified as a gender-based crime due to the number of incidences of violence reported by women (Richards et al., 2014). Its classification as a gender-based crime does not rule out men experiencing violence, but because women report abuse more often, there are more reports examining the impact of abuse against women. Domestic violence can occur regardless of gender, race, and age. In some cases, these characteristics may play a role in victimization, whereas some characteristics have

been found to have a statistically insignificant relationship to the occurrence of domestic violence (Breiding et al., 2014; Price, 2013; Richards et al., 2014).

Gender. With one in four women being abused yearly, many of the resources for victims of domestic violence are aimed at providing support and services for women (Herman et al., 2014). The support for women in regards to domestic violence is documented by research and gender-based laws that provide protection that meets the specific needs of women. As a response to the overwhelming number of women reporting abuse relative to the number of men reporting abuse, there are shelters and other resources that target women. Though men are victimized, women are more likely to be physically and psychologically injured by domestic violence than men (Straus & Gozjolko, 2014).

Although most domestic violence services are geared toward women, it is estimated that one in seven men are victimized yearly (Herman et al., 2014). This statistic, though it indicates that domestic violence victimization is not as prevalent among men as among women, is still significant in validating the need for services for men. Disparities have been found in the reporting of domestic violence by men (McKeown, 2014). McKeown (2014) who examined information gathered for use in studies, as well as the data collected for statistical purposes from arrest records and intervention programs indicated that there are more men than women among domestic violence offenders.

Race. Domestic violence can impact men and women of various races. According to a national study conducted by Breiding et al. (2014), women of multiracial ethnicity

were more likely than White and Black women to be victims of domestic violence crimes of rape and violence. Regarding stalking, American Indian/Alaskan Native women were more likely to be stalked than women of any other race (Breiding et al., 2014). In a national study examining domestic violence demographics in youth ages 18-27, 19.15% of the participants reported domestic violence by an intimate partner (Renner, Whitney, & Vasquez, 2015). In the findings of the study researchers suggested that White women and Black men between the ages of 18 and 27 reported higher instances of domestic violence perpetration than other demographic groups (Renner et al., 2015). Renner et al. (2015) stated that Black men and White women who reported perpetration of domestic violence also reported a history of child abuse. Black women and White men reported lower percentages of perpetration, as well as lower percentages of victimization (Breiding et al., 2014; Renner et al., 2015). Despite lower percentages for domestic violence perpetration and victimization, Black women and White men reported higher percentages of alcoholism, which has been linked to domestic violence perpetration (Lipsky et al., 2014; Renner et al., 2015).

Age. In a national study by Breiding et al. (2014), victims of domestic violence were more prevalent in the 18-24 age group. The decrease in victimization directly correlated with an increase in age. Researchers found that only 4.7% of victims reported violence over the age of 45 (Breiding et al., 2014). Researchers illustrated that the findings from this study that victimization decreases as age increases, which correlates with patterns exhibited by offenders in crimes. Researchers found that as individual's age, they are less likely to commit crimes (Breiding et al., 2014).

Offenders

The characteristics of individuals can place them at higher risk of becoming an offender or an abuser. Juodis, Starzomski, Porter, and Woodworth (2014) found that the characteristics of offenders show trends related to age, race, and psychological and social factors. When combined, these factors can impact the likelihood of recidivism and the most appropriate type of intervention. These factors may also have an impact on intervention programs that are designated for perpetrators of domestic violence.

Age. As with victims, the prevalence of offending decreases as age increases (Nelson, 2013). There are differences found between women and men offenders that have an impact on recidivism rates. For women who commit crimes of domestic violence, evaluation of arrest records has shown that recidivism for crimes of domestic violence decreases between the ages of 18 and 24 and further decreases in the late 40s (Nelson, 2013). Findings show that as women age, they are less likely to commit crimes of domestic violence in addition to other violent crimes.

The statistics for men differ regarding the relationship between age and offending. Between the ages of 18 and 28, there seems to be a slight decrease in recidivism for women, but it is not significant enough to indicate a correlation between age and reduced recidivism (Nelson, 2013). The researcher found in contrast to women, the rate of recidivism in cases of domestic violence has been found to decrease for men over the age of 28 (Nelson, 2013). Nelson (2013) reported that recidivism regarding domestic violence for men decreases, in spite of recidivism for other violent crimes increasing for the male

population. Based on the findings from previous research, domestic violence offending is highly correlated with age.

Race. There have been varied results in research concerning the race of domestic violence offenders. Many researchers have determined that race is not a significant factor in regard to domestic violence offending (Juodis et al., 2014; Straus & Gozjolko, 2014). There are disparities found for race, when there is an addition of other factors such as substance abuse and mental health issues, researchers found to have linkage to violence.

Gender. Though women are more likely to report abuse, in studies researchers have found that men and women offend in equal amounts (Straus & Gozjolko, 2014). Straus and Gozjolko (2014) indicated that while men and women offend at similar rates, men are more likely to cause more physical harm than women. When there is physical harm resulting in medical or legal intervention, there is more likely to be an arrest (Bradley, 2015). When individuals are arrested, the statistics are gathered that show that men are offending more than women. According to Straus and Gozjolko, however, men who are convicted of crimes of domestic violence are not the only population that is in need of interventions. There are disparities in what individuals consider to be domestic violence. In regard to domestic violence, it is more acceptable for women to smack or hit men than it is for men to strike women (Bradley, 2015). Bradley (2015) found that despite the acceptance of this type of behavior, these actions are still considered domestic violence.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Researchers have shown that there is a significant correlation between a history of mental illness and substance abuse and perpetration of domestic violence (e.g., Juodis et al., 2014; Lipsky et al., 2014; McKeown, 2014). Individuals who display symptoms of psychopathy such as lack of remorse, guilt, and manipulative behaviors have been found to be more physically aggressive and to have higher recidivism rates in cases of domestic violence (Juodis et al., 2014). Women who had a history of mental illness or posttraumatic stress as a result of the previous victimization were more likely to be domestic violence offenders than women who did not have the same history (McKeown, 2014).

Substance abuse is also a contributing factor in domestic violence (Lipsky et al., 2014). The researchers reported that binge drinking in Black and White women has a direct correlation with domestic violence toward an intimate partner (Lipsky et al., 2014). Furthermore, for Black men and women who have a history of familial violence in childhood in combination with alcohol abuse, there is an increased likelihood of victimizing an intimate partner (Lipsky et al., 2014).

Lipsky et al., (2014) found correlation between alcohol use and domestic violence increased as the number of drinks a person consumes increases (Lipsky et al., 2014). The use of other substances including cocaine and opiates have also been linked to domestic violence (Lipsky et al., 2014). In populations of offenders, the researchers found that a total of 64.9% of domestic violence offenders report drug use, and 75.7% specifically report alcohol use (Juodis et al., 2014).

Domestic Violence Laws

International

Violence against women is a global issue that has been determined to be a human rights violation by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights (Ramji- Nogales, 2014). In 1999, the United Nations declared that domestic violence is an act of violence, and this declaration posed many changes for various nations (Ramji- Nogales, 2014). One of the main challenges has been that regarding domestic violence as a gender-based crime violates the norms of some cultures (Qureshi, 2013). In some European cultures, for instance, submissiveness of women to men is a norm, and recognition of domestic violence as a human rights issue threatens cultural practices (Ramji- Nogales, 2014). These cultural issues notwithstanding, domestic violence according to human rights advocates are considered a violation of rights and many nations have made great strides since the initial recommendation for classification of domestic violence as a human rights violation as presented by the United Nations in 1999 (Qureshi, 2013).

Despite the classification of domestic violence as a human rights violation, some countries have reported difficulties in the enforcement of anti-domestic-violence laws (Qureshi, 2013). Difficulties have been presented since the initial recommendation in 1975, before becoming an official declaration by the United Nations (Qureshi, 2013). Because of the challenges in defining domestic violence and agreement among nations as a human rights violation, domestic violence was not recognized as a human rights violation internationally until almost 21st century (Qureshi, 2013). Some of the concerns

presented at the United Nations Conferences were the language used in the definition of domestic violence in the Human Rights Law, which has provided loopholes for countries in developing laws that impact enforcement (Chaban, 2014).

The U.S. Federal Government. In 1994, The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was passed, providing protection under the law for women impacted by domestic violence (Weissmann, 2013). The VAWA creators recognized and provided gender-based support for female victims of abuse at the hands of significant others (U.S. Department of Justice [USDOJ], 2015). VAWA was reauthorized in 2013, signifying that domestic violence was still a widespread issue within the United States (Weissmann, 2013). A component of the VAWA Lautenberg Amendment 18 (U.S. Cons. Art. CMXXII) also impacts gun control for individuals convicted of domestic violence crimes (Price, 2014). According to the USDOJ (2015), domestic violence offenders cannot be in possession of or obtain weapons in some cases. The possession of weapons includes the shipping and handling of weapons and ammunition (USDOJ, 2015).

There are concerns with the federal laws regarding victims and offenders. For instance, there is concern that limitations on gun possession for offenders will impact judges' decisions regarding whether to convict individuals of domestic violence crimes (Price, 2014). The concerns surround judges handling of domestic violence cases, who may view the loss of gun rights as not appropriate for the crime. These concerns arose despite statistics showing that a victim of domestic violence is at greater risk of physical harm, including harm inflicted through the use of a weapon, after the offender is convicted of a crime (Sherman & Harris, 2013). Another concern relates to the possibility

of violating the rights of the victim if the victim does not want the offender to be convicted or depends on the offender as a primary provider (Sherman & Harris, 2013). With these concerns, judges and police officers continue to have discretion in the arrest and conviction (Price, 2014).

The State of Ohio. According to Ohio law, domestic violence is defined as an act of violence committed or threats to commit violence against a family or household member (Ohio Government, 2010). Acts of violence in this context included sexual assault, coercion, forceful detention, or any criminal activity with the intent to cause bodily harm to a family or household member (Ohio Government, 2010). In the State of Ohio, there are laws in place to provide protection specifically for victims of domestic violence. Protection provided under Ohio law (Ohio Revised Codes §2919.25, §2919.26) includes emergency protection orders which can be tracked nationwide (Ohio Government, 2010).

Federal law is enforceable by individual states, which means that federal mandates are applied in addition to a state's domestic violence laws (USDOJ, 2015). As a result of federal laws being applicable throughout the United States, offenders are held to the same sanctions throughout the country that were imposed in the original state of the offense (USDOJ, 2015). As a result of such charges, many offenders are unable to obtain employment in certain career fields.

Mandatory arrest laws are also applicable within the State of Ohio. Mandatory arrest laws require that police officers arrest the violators of restraining orders in crimes of domestic violence (Ohio Government, 2010). In the State of Ohio, offenders can be

arrested if they violate protection order as long as the officer believes that they have been the primary aggressor (Ohio Government, 2010). Mandatory arrest laws in Ohio are similar to policing agencies in the 21 other States with Mandatory arrest laws as officers may exercise their discretion, after hearing about the incident from both parties, to determine who should be arrested even if a protective order has not been granted to the victim (Ohio Government, 2010). In some cases, if the officer cannot make a decision on who was the primary aggressor, other parties can be arrested (domestic violence, 2016). Mandatory arrest has posed some issues regarding advocacy for victims of domestic violence. One of the concerns is the removal of victims' rights (Sherman & Harris, 2013). Mandatory arrest laws may impact the willingness of victims to call emergency responders for assistance and create increased violence for victims (Price, 2014).

Recidivism

One of the problems in cases of domestic violence, as identified through previous research, is recidivism (Gavrielides, 2015; Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015; Mills et al., 2013). In a quantitative study by Sloan et al. (2013) the researchers indicated that current penalties are not effective in the reduction of recidivism. Through the use of arrest data collected in North Carolina from 2007, the authors were able to ascertain whether criminal sanctions were effective in reducing recidivism in domestic violence offenders (Sloan et al., 2013). Sloan et al. suggested that current sanctions were not effective and supported the need for further research on interventions for first-time domestic violence offenders. The research by Nelson (2013) further supported the need for additional research on domestic violence, in concluding that age is highly correlated with domestic

violence, and should be controlled when examining the impact of interventions on recidivism. In addition, the researchers indicated the need for additional interventions for offenders because current penalties for crimes of domestic violence have not had a statistically significant impact in reducing recidivism.

In a quantitative study by Mills et al. (2013), they suggested that restorative justice interventions are effective in the reduction of recidivism in offenders. The participants in the study were offenders in Arizona who had been ordered to a RJ, or a batter's intervention program. Evidence from follow-up research at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months which showed that offenders had reduced recidivism rates as much, and at the 6-month period more than offenders in BIPs (Mills et al., 2013). These findings by Mills et al., (2013) (the limitations include small sample size, locale, and demographics of offenders) supported claims that despite such programs' impact on recidivism, there is a need for research on RJ use in cases of domestic violence when examining recidivism (Mills et al., 2013).

Researchers examined recidivism in cases of domestic violence offenders and supported claim that there is a need for additional interventions to support reductions in recidivism in domestic violence offenders (e.g., Frantzen et al., 2011; Mills et al., 2013; Sloan et al., 2013). Frantzen et al. (2011) investigated offenders whose cases of domestic violence were dismissed over a 2-year-period and found that prosecution impacts recidivism. The handling of domestic violence cases through the criminal justice system, and stigmatization offenders may receive by society was correlated with offender recidivism (Frantzen et al., 2011). In order to reduce recidivism in domestic violence

offenders, there needs to be additional support from judges and prosecutors in mandating participation in intervention programs (Frantzen et al., 2011).

RJI and Recidivism Demographics

Demographic characteristics play a role in recidivism. Younger, White men are more likely to recidivate than men of other races in the same age group (Richards et al., 2014). The likelihood of recidivism increases if an individual has a history of violent crime offenses. Offenders who have already been convicted of a crime of domestic violence according to Richards et al., were more likely to recidivate than individuals who are first-time offenders (Richards et al., 2014).

Substance abuse is another factor in recidivism; individuals with a history of substance abuse in combination with a history of violence, according to research have been found more likely to recidivate than other offenders (Lipsky et al., 2014). The relationship between the victim and offender also played a role in recidivism. In a previous study, researchers found that offenders who are married to victims are less likely to recidivate than nonmarried individuals (Richards et al., 2014). Subsequently, an offender who shared a child with the victim but does not reside in the same home is at higher risk of recidivism, as is an offender who was separated from the victim, than an offender who cohabitates with, is married to, or is divorced from, the victim (Richards et al., 2014).

Interventions

Domestic violence recidivism rates rank amongst the highest in violent crimes (Herman et al., 2014). Historically interventions in case of domestic violence according

to study findings focused on punitive sanctions to include incarceration (Herman et al., 2014). Based on the previous studies where researchers focused on recidivism, additional research needs to be conducted on interventions to determine the effectiveness of reducing recidivism in a case of domestic violence (Mills et al., 2013). Policing agencies also need to be included in research as one of the reasons for the lack of use of RJJ being the perceived lack of support by prosecutors and judges, which impact perceived legitimacy of intervention (Lee, Zhang, & Hoover, 2012).

Interventions are used in the United States, and internationally in cases of domestic violence. A qualitative study by Boonsit, Piemyat, and Claassen (2012) examined how cultural and international laws impact the implementation of interventions in cases of domestic violence in Thailand. In the implications of the study, the researchers suggested that there needs to be an additional evaluation of interventions to determine the most efficient in the reduction of recidivism (Boonsit et al., 2012).

In a quantitative study by Gromet et al., (2012) the authors examined victim satisfaction with RJJ programs. The studies researchers examined victim's satisfaction with a level of RJJ programs, with findings leading one to suggest that victims input in cases where RJJ programs are used, can be impactful on judges sentencing decisions and address other areas of concern within the criminal justice system to include overcrowded prisons in the United States (Gromet et al., 2012). Victim participation and previous interventions research provided support for the use of RJJ programs in cases of domestic violence.

Schools of thought

In addition to the programs mentioned above, there are other schools of thought to the perpetration of domestic violence. Abuse during childhood and adolescences have been linked to domestic violence perpetration (Lohman, Neppel, Senia, & Schofield, 2013; O'Leary, Tintle, & Bromet, 2014). It is believed that individuals can socially learn behaviors, which can be predictive of their future behaviors, as theorized through the social learning theory (Williams & McShane, 2004). In cases of domestic violence, in previous studies researchers have found high correlations between domestic violence perpetration and experience of childhood victimization (Lohman et al., 2013; O'Leary et al., 2014).

Social Learning theorist proposed that domestic abuse is cyclical and intergenerational (Lohman et al., 2013). Researchers have also found that abuse in childhood has been linked to dating violence within traditional college age students 18-24, which is the age bracket of a high incidence of domestic violence (Sutton et al., 2014). In order to break the intergenerational cycle of abuse, there would need to be an identification of children who are being abused physically or psychologically (O'Leary et al., 2014). Many of these children are diagnosed in adolescence with substance abuse disorders, and antisocial personality disorders, which has been linked to interpersonal problems associated with domestic violence (Lawson & Brossart, 2013; Lohman et al., 2013). According to O'Leary et al. (2014), abused children cases go unreported, making early interventions more difficult. When problems are identified, approaches such as individual therapy, and family therapy are intervention methods that could be used to

reduce future risk of domestic violence perpetration (Connors, Mills, & Gray, 2013).

Another approach was identifying offenders through assessments such as the Risk Need Responsivity, which could provide evaluation and suggestions for interventions for aggressive behaviors (Connors et al., 2013).

Though there is evidence to the social influence of domestic violence, there are also schools of thought that suggest that propensity to violence may be a result of development factors (O'Leary et al., 2014). The antisocial behaviors and substance abuse diagnosis are identified as ill coping factors by theorist developed by children who experience family violence (O'Leary et al., 2014). Substance abuse has been linked to domestic violence and the earlier the onset the higher the risk for aggressive behaviors (Juodis et al., 2014; Lipsky et al., 2014; O'Leary et al., 2014). Researchers found that a history of mental health diagnosis such as antisocial personality disorder according to findings from previous studies to be a contributing factor to violence in some offenders as individuals with this diagnosis lack connection to others and remorse (Juodis et al., 2014; Lipsky et al., 2014; O'Leary et al., 2014). Researchers have found that characteristics such as lack of remorse and lack of social connectedness can impact treatment of domestic violence offenders (Juodis et al., 2014; Lipsky et al., 2014; O'Leary et al., 2014). The incidence of domestic violence, with the above factors according to previous research findings, researchers suggested domestic violence prevalence is heighten when considering the age of the offender. The prevalence of domestic violence has been found to be highly correlating with age, and decreases at the age of 30 (Nelson, 2013). Age is

an additional factor which according to study findings impacted the prevalence of domestic violence cases, and recidivism (Breiding et al., 2014; Nelson, 2013).

Anger management. Anger management is an intervention used with the goals of prevention and reduction of recidivism in offenders. According to previous research findings, an offender's inability to effectively manage emotions contributing factors to domestic violence (Shorey, Seavey, Quinn, & Cornelius, 2014; Whiting, Parker, & Houghtaling, 2014). By providing interventions to address anger management, there can be a reduction in domestic violence and recidivism rates. To determine the type of anger management, program an offender may need they are assessed with scales, an example is the Anger Management Scale (AMS) developed by Stith & Hamby in 2002 (Shorey et al., 2014). Through assessment of college students with the AMS researchers found that students who had high scores; indicated difficulty managing anger; were more likely to perpetrate domestic violence on their partners (Shorey et al., 2014). In another study that examined male perpetrators perspective on domestic violence, the male offenders reported that anger problems, and inability to manage emotions as contributing factors to domestic violence (Whiting et al., 2014). Anger management programs can be beneficial as an early intervention, and reduction in recidivism tool.

Victim Offender Mediation. Despite research on RJIs in the use of cases of violence crimes, there is limited research addressing its use in crimes of domestic violence (Dhami, 2012; Mills et al., 2013). Many of the concerns with the use of VOM in the use of cases of domestic violence is the possible revictimization of victims having to address the issue of domestic violence (Mills et al., 2013). The use of VOM focuses on

the crime being between the victim and offender (Dhami, 2012). Though, there is a mediator present, much of VOM happens between the offender and victim, with the anticipated results that the offender takes accountability, and makes amends for actions against the victim (Dhami, 2012). There is also anticipated outcome that the offender and victim, in conjunction with the mediator and lawyer, agree upon a form of punishment (Daly, 2012; Dhami, 2012; Gromet, 2012; Weeber 2012).

The use of VOM can assist the offender in understanding the offense, the impact the crime has on stakeholders to include the victim and the community and to offender to take accountability (Mongold & Edwards, 2014). One must also take into consideration that VOM is not appropriate for every crime, and participation should be determined on a case by case basis (Dhami, 2012). Moreover, with the use of VOM victims and offenders can both tell their side, and come to a mutually agreed upon resolution for the crimes (Mongold & Edwards, 2014). When RJI programs such as VOM are used, there are additional benefits outside of the outcomes for victims and offenders. The first benefit is the reduction of recidivism for nonviolent and violent offenders (Mongold & Edwards, 2014). In cases of domestic violence researchers found to be a beneficial factor as recidivism in domestic violence cases ranks amongst the highest within the criminal justice system (Mills et al., 2013). The second benefit researchers found was that there is decreased court cost as the cases are handled outside of the court system, saving taxpayer dollars (Mongold & Edwards, 2014). Victims could also benefit from the use of VOM. Typically, in cases of domestic violence with mandatory arrest laws, and prosecution victims do not have a voice in decisions made which may impact their lives

(Mongold & Edwards, 2014). In cases where VOM are used, victims reported increased satisfaction with the judicial system (Choi et al., 2012). The use of VOM could also be a tool to increase victim participation in cases of domestic violence where victims are less likely to be cooperative with the criminal justice process, than victims of other offenses (Choi et al., 2012).

Batterer Intervention Program. According to Herman et al., (2014) BIPs were designed as a response to court- mandated treatment programs for batterers. The most popular BIP is the Duluth model developed in 1980 as a court mandated service by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program in Duluth, Minnesota (Pender, 2012). According to a national survey over 53% of BIPs in the United States used the Duluth Model. The difference between a VOM and a BIP is that BIPs are a behavior modification program (Pender, 2012). The offender is placed in a program with other offenders ranging up to 52 weeks in which behaviors are addressed, often using the Cycle of Abuse wheel as a tool (Herman et al., 2004). The Cycle of Abuse tool is used by program administrator to explain to offenders why abuse and ways that offenders can prevent re-offending (Herman et al., 2014). As with VOM, participants in BIPs are selected based on criteria that includes nature of offense, repeat offending, and additional criteria as determined by administrating programs (Mills et al., 2013).

According to findings from previous research there are some concerns with BIPs effectiveness in reducing recidivism in domestic violence offenders (Herman et al., 2014; Mills et al., 2013; Pender, 2012). Some of the concerns researchers found are that BIPs main focus is to be used in conjunction with sanctions of the court, thus the programs

become legal based rather than treatment focused (Herman, et al., 2014). Implications of the study by Herman et al. (2014) that examined recidivism in domestic violence offenders over a nine-year follow-up it was found that the program was not significant in reducing recidivism in domestic violence offenders. Subsequently, Pender (2012) found that the lack of uniformity in the training of facilitators and programs is a contributing factor to the lack of significance in the reduction of recidivism. BIP's are the most commonly used form of treatment for domestic violence offender, though it has been found to reduce recidivism, differences in program administration, and legal basis of some programs highlight that this may not be the most appropriate intervention in all cases of domestic violence.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is based on two theories; Restorative Justice Theory and the Theory of Reintegrative Shaming (Braithwaite, 1989; Daly, 2014; Kenny & Leonard, 2014; Mongold & Edwards, 2014; Morrison & Vaandering, 2012; Weeber, 2012). Each theory provides the possible explanation for offender behaviors and offers behavioral interventions that can be effective in the prevention of recidivism.

Restorative Justice

The theory of Restorative Justice (RJ) theorist explained behavior through a motivational and socialization viewpoint (Daly, 2013; Kenny & Leonard; Morrison & Vaandering, 2012; Weeber, 2012). The basis of the theory is that an individual's motivation to commit crimes is dependent on social commitment (Morrison & Vaandering, 2012). The premise behind RJ is that if a person feels connected to a

community, they will be less likely to commit crimes, thus reducing recidivism rates with the use of interventions (Weeber, 2012). The theory of RJ has been around for centuries dating back to aboriginal tribes around 68000 BC (Kenny & Leonard, 2014). According to previous research, researchers stated, historically, there has been accounts of Indian tribes using RJ as a means of maintaining order and justice within tribes (Kenny & Leonard, 2014). In a study conducted by Dickerson-Gilmore (2014), it was found that RJ is still used in the communities, and there is reported greater satisfaction for victims, than for traditional sanctions to include, probation, and incarceration. The idea of RJ was popularized in the American criminal justice system in the 1960's and 1970's by radicals against the use of formal sanctions to include incarceration and arrest (Kenny & Leonard, 2014). For RJ to be effective, the offender must be willing to participate in addressing the harm caused by the crime (Weeber, 2012). Albert Eglash was one of the first American theorists in the 20th century to re-coin the term RJ as a term to describe how offenders can provide restitution to victims within the American Criminal Justice system (Daly 2013).

Since the integration into the American criminal justice system of RJ by Eglash; Randy Barnett, Howard Zehr and Nils Christie; have each added to the term creating new practices for the use of RJ theory (Daly, 2013). Barnett proposed that RJ is a crime between the victim and the offender and that reparation should be paid to the victim, and not to the court or State (Daly, 2013). Zehr focused on the relationship, in addition to the legal aspect, that is a proposed agreement to meet judicial and victim request (Daly, 2013). Despite the proposal by Zehr, in a study that examined satisfaction with the

combination of RJ and the judicial system it was found that individuals in an aboriginal community reported less satisfaction than RJ as described by Barnett (Dickerson-Gilmore, 2014). The theorist, Christie, focused on the refraining from the use of punishment in RJ cases to concentrate on the offender making amends for actions (Daly, 2013).

Despite the varying theorist who have developed the RJ theory, there still lacks a clear definition of what RJ is, and how it should be implemented in the criminal justice system (Kenny & Leonard, 2014). Based on findings in previous research studies, researchers stated that there are varying ways that criminal justice systems throughout the world are implementing RJ in cases of domestic violence (Dickerson-Gilmore, 2014; Gavrielides, 2015; Miller & Iovanni, 2013). According to Miller and Iovanni (2013), they have found that placing the RJ process after completion of sanctions by the offender; there gives times victim more time between the domestic violence incident and RJ to “heal”. This practice contrasted with how some criminal justice systems use RJ, despite the differences in implementation there is still reported satisfaction by victims (Miller & Iovanni, 2013).

In cases of domestic violence RJ, according to researchers is used more frequently within the last 20 years, but there is still research that needs to be conducted to address the impact the use of the interventions has on victims. In a study by Gavrielides (2015) that examined the use of RJ in cases of domestic violence highlights the limited research examining the outcome for victims of domestic violence. Additionally, in a study by Dickerson-Gilmore (2014) that examined outcomes for Aboriginal families, it

was found that there was limited research examining the outcomes for families when RJ is used in conjunction with traditional criminal justice practices to include incarceration. RJ is more widely used in juvenile justice case, and cases of petty crimes such as theft (Weeber, 2012). According to Mills, Barocas, and Ariel (2013) the use of RJI could be beneficial to giving power back to victims, and reducing recidivism in domestic violence offenders. Despite the benefits, researchers questioned the safety and security of victims both mentally and physically remains an issue (Dickerson-Gilmore, 2014; Gavrielides, 2015; Miller & Iovanni, 2013).

Reintegrative Shaming

The theory of Reintegrative Shaming was first coined by John Braithwaite in 1989 (Braithwaite, 1989). Braithwaite approached punishment through the aspect of addressing the offender's behaviors rather than the offender (Braithwaite, 1989). According to Braithwaite the intended outcome is to reduce recidivism through reestablishing ties to the community, and preventing crime through leading offenders to feel shame for actions (Braithwaite, 1989). Reintegrative shaming is a combination of labeling, subculture, control, learning, and opportunities theories combined, to explain why crime occurs and how to prevent crime (Braithwaite, 1989). To better explain the theories Braithwaite went on to further explain crime, shame, and reintegration and how these terms relate to crime, and can the understanding can be used as tools to reduce recidivism.

Crime. According to Braithwaite (1989), individuals are motivated to commit crime through the need to fulfill selfish motivations, and what he refers to as hedonistic

pleasures. The motivation for the crime is says Braithwaite, is taken from the control theory in which individuals who do not possess restraints whether external or internal, they will be more apt to commit crimes (Braithwaite, 1989). Thus, these individuals will have higher recidivism rates because of the lack of control in behaviors. Male perpetrators of domestic violence have reported that inability to control situations, emotions and anger as factors contributing to domestic violence (Whiting et al., 2014). According to Braithwaite (1989), the individuals who fit into this category of offenders will be adolescent to young adult men ages 15-25, who do not have social ties to include marriage, children, and employment. These statistical findings were directly correlated by researchers with male perpetrators of violence who have higher instances of perpetration between the ages of 18-24, and non-married (Juodis et al., 2014; Nelson, 2013). Researcher also found that women between the same age group and those who are married or have children are less likely to commit crimes than men (Braithwaite, 1989).

Shame. The use of shame according to Braithwaite (1989) was necessary to prevent individuals from committing crimes, and reduce recidivism for offenders. For shaming to be effective, there must be social norms in place, by which the community would look down upon individuals for violating these norms (Mongold & Edwards, 2014). Braithwaite (1989) identified two types of shaming; stigmatizing and reintegration. Stigmatizing shaming is a type of shaming in which the offender is shunned from society for behaviors (Mongold & Edwards, 2014). This kind of shaming can cause individuals to isolate themselves from society, making them more apt to break social norms leading to criminal behaviors or recidivism (Braithwaite, 1989). According

to Haas (2012) historically stigmatization was the norm within society for examples the use of the Scarlett letter to let others known that a woman engaged in adulterous behaviors. In cases of domestic violence to decrease violence, there may be a need to break social norms. In a study where researchers examined social norms found that some cases of domestic violence were not reported as they were seen as norm social behaviors (Witte & Mulla, 2013). The researchers also highlighted the impact of socialization and acceptance on behaviors. There can be many contributing factors to the normalcy of domestically abusive behaviors to include a history of abuse, and experience of abuse in childhood according to findings from previous research (De Grace & Clark, 2012; O'Leary et al., 2014). Within the current criminal justice systems, the stigmatizations, reported by offenders are not used as often as a means of punishment. Though some would argue that the use of Sex offender registry can be considered a form of stigmatization (Braithwaite, 1989).

Reintegration. The solution to the harmful use of stigmatization shaming according to Mongold and Edwards (2014) would be the implementation of reintegration shaming in society. Reintegrative shaming is the idea that the offenders gain attachments to community and have the ability through the connections to the society to understand the harm that the criminal offense has caused (Mongold & Edwards, 2014). When the offenders have an understanding of the offense before commission of the crime, Braithwaite (1989) believed that the offender will be less likely to commit crimes. After the offense, reintegration according to Braithwaite could reduce recidivism by facilitating an environment for offenders taking responsibility for actions, through being held

accountable by individuals the offenders hold in regards (Braithwaite, 1989). In cases of domestic violence, if offenders understand the harm that the offense has caused to the victim and individuals who they hold dear, this can lead to a change in the behavior and a need to be reintegrated into society (Braithwaite, 1989). RJs such as Community Conferences and Sentencing Circles according to researchers have been useful in the reintegration of offenders into society (Mongold, & Edwards, 2014). These VOM program administrators engaged the victim, offender, and other individuals who the offender may hold in regard in a reconciliation process (Mongold, & Edwards, 2014). A premise of reintegrative shaming is the offender has to have a relationship with the victim and other impacted parties, where the offender holds the individuals in esteem, and will feel remorseful for actions to these individuals for shaming to work (Braithwaite, 1989).

Through the use of RJ and reintegrative shaming concepts recidivism in domestic violence according to researchers should decrease. Both of the theories authors highlighted the need for the offender to have accountability for actions, while meeting the needs of the criminal justice system, and needs of the victim (Braithwaite, 1989; Daly, 2014; Kenny & Leonard, 2014; Mongold & Edwards, 2014; Morrison & Vaandering, 2012; Weeber, 2012). With recidivism rates in domestic violence remaining high, there is a need for changes in the handling of these cases. The RJ and reintegrative shaming authors proposed addressing the needs of the offender, as well as the victim while still meeting the needs of the community and criminal justice system. Despite the different implementations of RJ in the criminal justice systems, researchers found that there are

perceived benefits in reduction of recidivism (Dickerson-Gilmore, 2014; Gavrielides, 2015; Miller & Iovanni, 2013).

Summary

The issue of domestic violence continues to be an epidemic despite the use of interventions over the past few decades. Over the past few years, according to researcher's strides had been made in recognizing that domestic violence has impacted the lives of women globally. Recidivism in domestic violence offenders remain high, and many factors influenced the treatment of offenders, to include age of the offender. Through the development of the literature review I concluded that RJ is not widely used in the United States. The reasons according to researchers included lack of formalized structure for implementation, and understanding of the impact RJ has on victims. The use of formal criminal justice sanctions to include mandatory arrest laws, probation, incarceration and enrollment in BIPs, according to these researchers has impacted the use of RJ in cases of domestic violence. BIPs based on findings from previous studies remained the most commonly used intervention, and there is evidence to support that BIPs are effective in reducing recidivism.

Researchers concluded that there was a need for intervention in cases of domestic violence to reduce the number of offenses that occur globally and provide protection for victims. Despite the support for RJ, there were still reservations about the use of the intervention. In the literature review I highlighted that lack of studies addressing the impact the use of RJ interventions may have on victims. Despite research findings, in

which researchers have shown that RJ was effective in reducing recidivism in crimes, there was limited research examining the effects RJ has on crimes of domestic violence.

The varying theories of RJ theorist offer a foundation of how to implement the program in criminal justice systems. In combination with reintegrative shaming practices, according to researchers, that have impacted offenders socialized behaviors, and beliefs, recidivism in cases of domestic violence can be reduced. This research study examined differences in recidivism in the first-time male offenders who are either enrolled in a VOM or a BIP. From the previous research study findings, researchers have supported the notion that both interventions have an impact on recidivism in cases of domestic violence. RJ programs according to researchers focused on remorse, offender accountability, and assisting offenders with reestablishing ties with the community to reduce recidivism (Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015). RJs according to research findings has been proven to be effective in the reduction of recidivism for juveniles and has been a method used for centuries in Indian and Aboriginal communities to restore peace (Daly, 2014; Dickerson-Gilmore, 2014; Gavrielides, 2015; Kenny & Leonard, 2014; Miller & Iovanni, 2013). Since RJ theory developers focused on offenders taking accountability for their actions, and the documented findings from studies where researchers examined effectiveness regarding recidivism, RJ could be an alternative intervention in cases of BIP where deemed appropriate. The following chapter provides a description of the study's methods.

Chapter 3: Research Method

The problem that I addressed in this study was that, despite the use of interventions for first-time offenders in cases of domestic violence, recidivism has not significantly decreased. As a result, offenders are more likely to reoffend, placing their significant others and communities at higher risk for victimization. The purpose of this quasi-experimental study was to examine the differences in recidivism of offenders who were enrolled in BIP and VOM programs while controlling for age. Through an examination of the differences, the outcomes can support the use of alternative interventions in cases of domestic violence.

In this chapter, I identified the research design and rationale for the study, variables, hypothesis, data analysis plan, and the population and participants used to conduct the study. I provided an explanation of ethical considerations, and threats to the validity of the study.

Procedures

I compiled the data for this study from the municipal courts in the State of Ohio. The information provided by court statisticians collected at the time of arrest and charge of the crime of domestic violence. The information I collected included the names, date of birth, gender, race, and locale in which the crime occurred. The information provided by court statisticians was updated to reflect the disposition of the case to include charges or dismissal of the case. In determining the appropriate treatment recommendation, Judges in Ohio ordered screening for offenders, and made referrals based on appropriateness in congruence with legislation (Taft & Bradley, 2003). The lethality

assessment is ordered by the court to assess domestic violence and the level of treatment (Taft & Bradley, 2003). The lethality assessment by researchers was assessed for validity in three independent studies, researchers suggested that the tool predicted reassault (Roehl, O'Sullivan, Webster, & Campbell, 2005). Reliability was assessed through comparing the finds to that of 15 other studies where researchers used the assessment and findings state that reliability was .60 to .86 (Roehl et al, 2005). The findings by researchers exhibited by test-retest reliability. The researchers published the information through the data entry program to the municipal counties public website. I collected this information from the municipal court and compiled by the data entry program to reflect the period from 2013 to 2015, which was postintervention for the offenders used in the study. The information I collected reflected the two-independent variables the first with two levels; VOM and BIP programs, and the second which is the covariate AGE. Individuals who participated in a VOM were placed in *VOM* and those who participated in a BIP were placed in *BIP* in the SPSS program. I determined recidivism to be at least one subsequent charge of domestic violence within the 24-month period after the initial offense in 2013. I coded the recidivism data as nominal variables beginning at 0 for no new offenses and 1 to reflect recidivism. I ran an ANCOVA analysis in SPSS to analyze the data. I also ran assumption test to address homogeneity of variance, linearity, normal distribution, and independence. I then coded the data to protect the personal information of the offenders in accordance with ethical guidelines.

Research Design and Rationale

I used a quasi-experimental design to analyze recidivism for first-time domestic violence offenders in a VOM program or BIP program. I selected the design to examine the variability in recidivism due to the first-time offender's interaction in a BIP or VOM program.

The use of quasi-experimental designs in social research can allow the researcher to examine variables that are unmanipulable (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). The quasi-experimental design enables the researcher to manipulate the data, which can influence data collection (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). The current study was a quasi-experimental study with categorical variables, which according to Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2008) required for comparative quasi-experimental studies.

There were two independent variables within the study. The first independent variable had two levels, or conditions, which are groups for this study, and the other independent variable was age, which was the covariate. The independent variable levels in the study were VOM and BIP interventions. I defined the level VOM, or *victim-offender mediation*, as an RJ intervention that involves the offender, victim, and court-appointed officials agreeing to a set upon restitution for the crime. The level BIP, or *batterer intervention program*, I defined as a course offered to address the defense of domestic violence and is conducted in a group/classroom setting. I define the age of the offenders was 18 to 30 years. The dependent variable was recidivism, which I defined as a re-offense of a domestic violence crime. I examined recidivism in terms of differences in first-time offenders in VOM and BIPs. Recidivism was scaled as a ratio variable. I

demonstrated reliability and validity in that the data were collected from the municipal court in Ohio which reports date in accordance with the standardized format of the Court Statistics Project by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. In addition, I collected the information during this same time-period, and the charges were all domestic violence in accordance with Ohio State Law. To provide additional evidence of validity, the validity the process of records collecting was reviewed by the clerks of courts, and then information was later analyzed by court statistician to examine accuracy of data regularly. The process of record collecting was reviewed by the Supreme Court Records Office annually, to adhere to standards of collection for State and Federal reports (The Office of Criminal Justice Services, 2010). The Municipal Court administrators further established identity in addition to social security information, birthdate, name, address, and other demographic information were collected. The court officials provided a disclaimer stating that the information was collected to the best of their knowledge and procedures which is displayed on the court website. VOM and BIP variables will be isolated, and cases where they are combined were not be used in the sample for this study.

Methodology

In this quasi-experimental study, I analyzed recidivism in first-time domestic violence offenders exclusively in a VOM or BIP program while controlling for age. The sample I used in the study was from a population of domestic violence offenders. The offenders selected from the population were first-time offenders charged with a crime of domestic violence. The sample was a convenience sample, collected from a municipal

court. According to Hedt and Pagano (2011) the use of a convenience sample was appropriate, as manipulation of variables was not a possibility for this study. The researchers also stated that a convenience sample was inexpensive to collect and is readily available saving time (Hedt & Pagano, 2011).

Domestic violence was defined by Ohio Revised Code §2919.25, as an intentional act to cause physical harm or danger against a family member or household member (Ohio Government, 2010). The source of the data was the municipal court in Franklin County, Ohio and surrounding courts. The information administrators collected these data from the courts from 2013 to 2015. To draw the sample, I pulled data for individuals, ages 18-30, who participated in a VOM or a BIP in the year of 2013.

The data that I collected were archival data that were originally collected by the clerk of courts at the municipal courts. According to Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2008), this was a convenience under the nonprobability design, which is commonly used in social science research.

In this study, I used a diverse population through determining sample size using the G*power calculator. I chose the effect size of .05 as it was the effect size used in similar studies where researchers analyzed recidivism and difference with interventions (Mills et al., 2013; Pender, 2012; Sloan et al., 2013). To address type 1 errors, the sample size was determined to be significant based on Cohen's $1-\beta > .80$ (Faul, Erdfelder, Lang, & Buchner, 2009). A priori analysis was run with the effect size 0.40, $\alpha = .05$, $1-\beta = .80$, and $df = 1$, I determined that the sample size needed least 52 to be statistically significant according to the G*power calculator for a two-tailed test.

Data Analysis Plan

I conducted the current study to examine whether there was a difference in recidivism between VOM and BIP in first-time domestic violence offenders while controlling for age. Based on the research questions and hypothesis, the most appropriate test was ANCOVA, which can be used to test interaction and main effects of categorical variables, while controlling for variables which covary with the dependent variable (Bakker & Wicherts, 2014; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). The ANCOVA was two-tailed, with alpha levels; the probability of rejecting the null hypothesis when it is true; set at $p < 0.05$. I ran a the Levene's test was run to test the between-group factors, and to test that the assumption of homogeneity of regression is met (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). I used SPSS software to analyze of the variables with the ANCOVA.

Archival Data

I designed the study to provide a comparison of the use of VOM and BIP and the relation the programs have on recidivism on first-time domestic violence offenders. Frankfort-Nachmias and Frankfort (2008) indicated that the use of archival data for comparison may assist with generalization and increase understandings of outcomes. The benefits of the use of archival data in this study were the financial benefits, methodological reasons, and conceptual-substantive reasons that were identified as primary factors for the use of archival data (Hedt & Pagona, 2011). The use of archival data was the best choice for this study due to the nature of the study to include variables, research questions, and theoretical framework.

Variables of the study

In this study, I examined the differences in the following dependent variable: recidivism, and the two independent variables, the first with two levels: VOM and BIP, and the second independent variable, that was the covariate age.

Recidivism

I described recidivism in the study as at least one charge of domestic violence by the offender within the 24-month period after completion of a VOM or BIP program. I determined that Recidivism was the dependent variable in the study, and was measured as a ratio variable. I established reliability and validity in the collection of the data, that was collected by trained court officials and compiled into the Case Management Data Collection Program in Ohio Municipal Courts, and was reflective of the variables as defined in this study. The definition aligned with the definition as set by the State of Ohio as a re-offense of a crime which results in a new charge or conviction within a set time of the first offense (The Office of Criminal Justice Services, 2010). The court statistician examined the data for reliability through running a test through the Municipal Court Case Management system that the court statistician examined the completeness of information collected and this information was compared to previous data collected by the statisticians working for the municipal courts. The court statistician determined Face validity after the data were analyzed and examined against previously collected recidivism data. The court statistician measured recidivism data were measured at the 1, 2, and 3 year periods after the initial offense (The Office of Criminal Justice Services, 2010). The court statistician scored the data as a “new offense” within the designated

time periods of 1, 2, and 3 year periods and scaled as a ratio variable (The Office of Criminal Justice Services, 2010).

Victim-offender mediation

The State of Ohio Court administrators defined VOM as an intervention program between the offender and victim and mediated by a certified mediator and court officials, per Ohio State Law (Taft & Bradley, 2003). I measured the variable as a nominal variable, and identified as *VOM* in the study. The court statistician established reliability and validity in the collection of the data, that will have been collected by the data program in Ohio Municipal courts, and will be reflective of the variables as defined in this study.

Batterer intervention program

I defined BIP as a group intervention program for offenders to address issues related to the domestic violence offense. I labeled BIP as a nominal variable and identified as *BIP* in the study. I collected the data information from the Data Program for Ohio Municipal courts. The court statistician established reliability and validity in the collection of the data, that was collected by the data program in Ohio Municipal courts, and was reflective of the variables as defined in this study.

Age

I defined age in the study as the age at the time of the first domestic violence offense. I labeled age was an ordinal variable and identified as *Age* in the study. I collected the data for age from the offense data from the Case Management Data Program for Ohio Municipal courts. The court statistician established reliability and validity were

established in the collection process where data were examined for completeness and consistency by the statisticians and trained staff in the Ohio Municipal Courts.

Operational Definition of Variables

I selected the variables to examine the differences in recidivism. The dependent variable in the study was recidivism. I defined recidivism as the re-offense of a crime of domestic violence as classified by Ohio Revised Code §2919.25, as an intentional act of violence or threatening danger against a family member or household member. The dependent variable was dichotomous with recidivism being *yes* or *no* in a 24-month period. The first independent variable had two groups BIP and VOM. I categorized the groups as Intervention, *BIP* group 1 and *VOM* group 2. The two interventions were nominal variables. Age in the study was the second independent variable and covariate I collected the age of the offender at the time of first offense. I scored the age of the offender as age 18 to age 30, representing age at the time of the first offense. I collected and determined age by the offender's date of birth collected in the Ohio Case Management Court Data System. My selected independent variable with two levels, and covariate in the study were defined as:

1. Victim Offender Mediation (VOM) was an intervention program between the offender and victim mediated by a certified mediator and court officials.
2. Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) was a group intervention program for offenders to address issues related to the domestic violence offense.
3. Age that was determined at the time of the first-offense and will be determined by birth date collected by the Municipal Court labeled as AGE.

My dependent variable was defined as:

1. I defined recidivism as a new conviction of domestic violence within the 24-month period post-intervention labeled as RCDVSM.

Research Question

RQ 1: What is the difference between recidivism rates for offenders who have participated in the restorative justice intervention VOM versus those who have participated in a BIP for first-time domestic violence offenders 24 months' postintervention while controlling for age?

Hypotheses

In this study, I examined differences in recidivism for first-time domestic violence offenders in VOM versus BIP programs while controlling for age. Recidivism was defined as at least one charge of domestic within a 24-month period post VOM and BIP intervention labeled as RCDVSM. The age of the offender was the age determined by birthdate at the time of the charge labeled as *AGE*. Age was the covariate in the study. The hypothesis is as follows:

Ho: $\mu_1 = \mu_2$: There are no differences in recidivism rates between offenders enrolled in VOM versus BIP at 24 months' postintervention, while controlling for age.

H1: $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$: There are differences in recidivism rates between offenders enrolled in VOM versus BIP at 24 months' postintervention, while controlling for age.

Threats to validity and limitations

I determined that the quasi-experimental design was a valid and a reliable design to examine the difference between recidivism and VOM and BIP interventions for first-

time domestic violence offenders. To minimize the threats to validity, I addressed the rationale for the study, by the design of the study, and being preventative about threats (Trochim & Donnelly, 2008). To address the rationale for the study research questions and hypothesis I supported the rationale through the findings in previous research. I addressed the gap in the literature and provided support through previous studies. I determined the design of the study as appropriate based on previous studies where researchers addressed recidivism.

Due to the nature of the study statistical regression, history, and mortality can pose internal validity concerns when data were collected ex-post facto (Campbell & Stanley, 1963). In addressing mortality, I understood that the study was conducted in the State of Ohio and there was a possibility that during the two years' postintervention an offender could have relocated out of the state. Campbell and Stanley (1963) stated that mortality can be a concern when working with groups, and can potentially skew analysis, and should be acknowledged. I acknowledged that selection bias was a concern with using secondary data. History can impact the outcome for the treatment, to include treatment for previous crimes outside of domestic violence (Campbell & Stanley, 1963). According to Campbell and Stanley (1963) statistical regression can occur when there are extreme scores. In the case of this study, I examined two groups, and the scores could be extreme in one group.

Throughout the study, I took appropriate measures in accordance with standards set by the IRB to collect the data, and review of questions by peers to determine the validity for the study. Also, I addressed bias, and the study was subjective, focusing on

the research question. Trochim and Donnelly (2008) indicated that analysis chosen for the studies should reveal accurate results, and not desired. For this study, an ANCOVA test was the statistical test that I used to determine the difference between variables. Throughout the completion of this study, my process was evaluated to determine appropriateness and accuracy.

Ethical Assurances

The first ethical assurance for this study was that I secured IRB approval before the beginning of any data collection. I ethically guided this study by the Code of Ethics for research and evaluation as set by the National Organization for Human Services (NOHS) (National Organization...2015). To protect the confidentiality of the individuals charged with crimes of domestic violence, I used no names, as well as any other confidential information. The information I collected and data were secured in a locked file cabinet. The data I collected was information used by the State of Ohio for benefit of the State. In addition, the data analyst administrator monitored the use of the data in the study in regards to the policies and procedures. I submitted a request the data analyst to collect and release the data were made in correlation with IRB standards. I used a password, for data that was processed and stored on the computer.

Assumptions

Through analyzing the variables with an ANCOVA, I assumed certain inferences in explaining the differences in recidivism for first-time domestic violence offenders enrolled in a BIP or VOM program. According to Field (2013) here was an assumption that there was additivity and linearity, that Field implied there was a relationship between

the predicted variables. I created a scatterplot graph to demonstrate the linearity. I also used the scatterplot to demonstrate normal distribution with the presence of a bell curve within the graph. According to field (2013) the next assumption was that there is homogeneity of variance between the variables that I analyzed with the Levene's, which test equality of error variances $p > .05$. The last assumption according to field (2013) was that there was independence between means. According to Field (2013) independence was assumed, as it was used to estimate standard error, that I used to determine confidence, and statistical test.

Summary

To explore the differences in recidivism in first-time domestic violence offender, I examined two variables, while controlling for age. Recidivism, in this study, I will label as a dichotomous variable. I had two independent variables the first independent variable that had two levels, which were the offenders' participation in BIP or VOM programs and the second independent variable was AGE which was the covariate. The individuals in this study was first-time offenders charged with a crime of domestic violence in the State of Ohio. To complete analysis of the variables, I collected secondary data from the municipal court in Franklin County, Ohio including data from smaller surrounding courts. In Chapter 4, I described the results from the study and statistical analyses. I presented the conclusion and summary of the study in Chapter 5.

Chapter 4: Results

Introduction

The purpose of this quasi-experimental quantitative study was to examine differences in recidivism between first-time domestic violence offenders enrolled in a BIP and VOM program, while controlling for age. The research question was: what is the difference between recidivism rates for offenders who have participated in the restorative justice intervention VOM versus those who have participated in a BIP for first-time domestic violence offenders 24 months postintervention while controlling for age? The hypotheses were $H_0: \mu_1 = \mu_2$: There are no differences in recidivism rates between offenders enrolled in VOM versus BIP at 24 months' postintervention, while controlling for age, and $H_1: \mu_1 \neq \mu_2$: There are differences in recidivism rates between offenders enrolled in VOM versus BIP at 24 months' postintervention, while controlling for age. I categorized Recidivism as being charged with a crime of domestic violence at least one time within the 24-months following the intervention (VOM or BIP). I controlled for the age of the first-time offender at the time of offense in the study. This chapter was a description of the data collection process, results of the study, and summary.

Data Collection

I collected archival data for this study from the Ohio Municipal Courts, that included data from Franklin and surrounding counties. I collected data from timeframe of February 13, 2017 through March 25, 2017. I found no discrepancies in the collection process. The court statistician assisted me in the collection of the archival data. The individuals in the participant population were first-time offenders who had been charged

with a crime of domestic violence in 2013. I determined the first-time offender status was determined by having no previous charges for domestic violence in the State of Ohio. Out of the 112 records there were 56 individuals who participated in VOM and 56 individuals who participated in BIP. I collected age from the archival records. There was a total of 43 (38.5%) individuals age 18-24 years and 69 (61.5%) individuals age 25-30 years.

There was a total of 112 records used in the completion of this study. According to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (2014) there were a total of 39,979 charges filed for domestic violence in Ohio in 2013. I drew the participants for this study from a small portion of the State of Ohio Courts. The small sample was a limitation for the study, and the sample cannot be considered an accurate representation of the domestic violence population in the State of Ohio. I will describe this limitation in more detail in Chapter 5.

Results

In the completion of the study, my goal was to examine whether there was a difference in recidivism between first-time domestic violence offenders who participated in a VOM or BIP program.

Hypothesis

Ho: $\mu_1 = \mu_2$: There are no differences in recidivism rates between offenders enrolled in VOM versus BIP at 24 months' postintervention, while controlling for age.

H1: $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$: There are differences in recidivism rates between offenders enrolled in VOM versus BIP at 24 months' postintervention, while controlling for age.

I performed an ANCOVA to analyze the variables. I performed assumption test to make sure the testing procedures were accurate for an ANCOVA. The first assumption was to test for linearity. I assumed Linearity based off the plot in Figure 1.

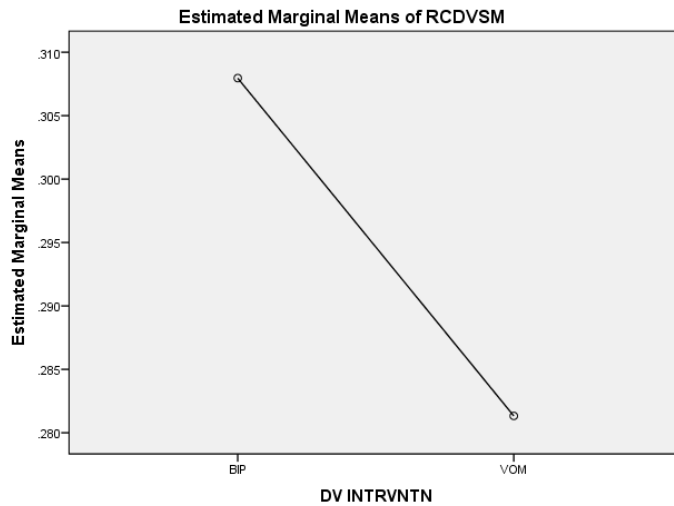


Figure 1. Estimated Marginal means

In the second assumption test I examined normal distribution. In Figures 2 and 3, distribution can be seen in the Normal Q-Q plot of RCDVSM VOM and BIP.

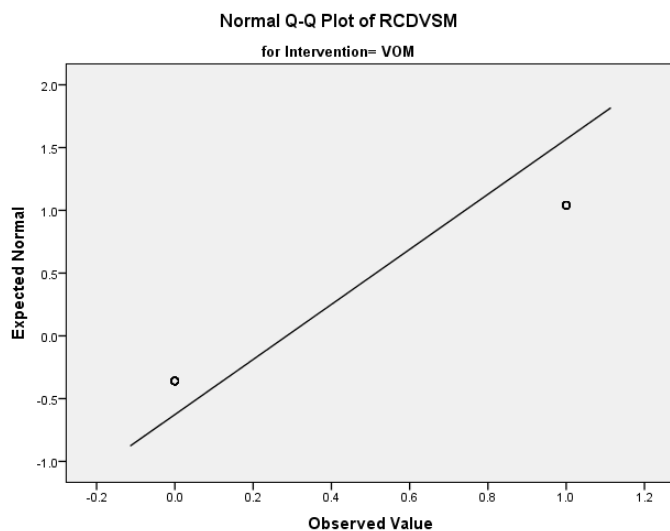


Figure 2. Normal Q-Q Plot RCDVSM for VOM

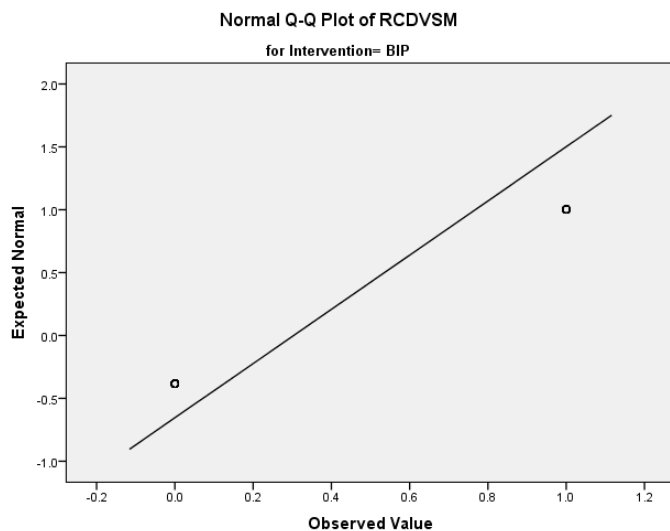


Figure 3. Normal Q-Q Plot for RCDVSM BIP

The third test that I performed was Levene's Test of Equality of Error Variance, which I used to analyze homogeneity of variance. The result of Levene's Test of Equality of Error Variance on the dependent variable was a significance of .648 where p

> 0.05. As evidenced in Table 1, $p > 0.05$, thus, the data did not violate the assumption of equality of error variances. In addition, I assumed the fourth assumption was independence for the study.

Table 1

Levene's Test of Equality of Error Variance

F	df1	df2	Sig.	Alpha
209	1	110	.648	.05

I analyzed the variables with an ANCOVA test between RCDVSM and domestic violence intervention while controlling for age. In this analysis, the dependent variable was RCDVSM, while there was one independent variable with two levels: VOM and BIP. I categorized age as the covariate in the ANCOVA analysis and it was the second independent variable. The outcomes of the ANCOVA analysis presented in Table 2, were that there was no significant difference in RCDVSM for first-time male offenders 24-months post participation in a BIP or a VOM intervention while controlling for age $F(1,109) = .081, p = .777$. Thus, I would accept the null hypothesis, that there is no significant difference between recidivism for first-time male offenders who participate in a VOM or a BIP intervention.

Table 2.

Analysis of Covariance Summary

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Partial Eta Squared
Intervention	.017	1	.017	.081	.001
Error	23.254	109	.213		

Summary

I conducted a one-way ANCOVA to examine differences in recidivism in BIP and VOM programs whilst controlling for age. I deemed the ANCOVA to be the most appropriate analysis as age needed to be controlled for as it co-varied with recidivism. In addition to analyzing the variables with the ANCOVA, I ran descriptive analyses to address the assumptions. I performed a scatterplot, Levene's test, and normality checks and the assumptions were met. There was no significant difference in mean recidivism [$F(1,109) = .081, p = .777$] between the interventions while adjusting for age. Meaning that recidivism for first-time male offenders who participated in a VOM was not significantly different than recidivism for first-time male offenders who participated in a BIP. Section 4 included the results of the ANCOVA analysis of data for this study. In Section 5 there, I will discuss the interpretation of the results, limitation of the study, recommendations, and implications of the findings.

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusion, and Recommendations

Introduction

The purpose of this quasi-experimental, quantitative study was to examine differences in recidivism for first-time male domestic violence offenders who have participated in a BIP and a more recently developed alternative: VOM. The research question was: what is the difference between recidivism rates for offenders who have participated in the restorative justice intervention VOM versus those who have participated in a BIP for first-time male domestic violence offenders 24 months' postintervention while controlling for age? I categorized recidivism as being charged with a crime of domestic violence at least one time within the 24-months following the intervention (VOM or BIP). I controlled for age of the first-time offender at the time of offense for in the study. I used an ANCOVA to analyze the variables, and findings were that there was no statistical significant difference in recidivism for first-time male offenders enrolled in a BIP or VOM program. This chapter includes a discussion on the interpretation of the findings, limitations, recommendations, and implications for social change.

Interpretation of the Findings

There was one research question addressed in this study: what is the difference between recidivism rates for offenders who have participated in the restorative justice intervention VOM versus those who have participated in a BIP for first-time male domestic violence offenders 24 months' postintervention while controlling for age? In this section, I discuss the findings from the study and address each variable in the

research question. I also discuss how the findings contributed to the body of literature examining domestic violence interventions and how it relates to previous research findings.

Recidivism

I examined the differences in recidivism between VOM and BIP interventions. In previous research studies researchers found that recidivism in cases of domestic violence in the United States occurs at a higher rate than other violent crimes (Frantzen et al, 2011; Mills et al, 2013; Richards et al, 2014; Sloan et al, 2013). I took findings from previous studies in consideration in the use of interventions in cases of domestic violence, including: protection orders, probation, incarceration, and batterer intervention programs. In the implications of these studies researchers suggested that there was a need to research alternative interventions to use in cases of domestic violence to reduce recidivism. According to Mills et al., (2013), Pender (2012), and Sherman and Harris, (2013) the most commonly used intervention in cases of domestic violence were BIPs, that research has shown to be effective in the reduction of recidivism as compared to traditional sanctions including probation, arrest, and incarceration. There was limited research examining recidivism in cases of domestic violence with the use of RJIs, including VOMs. In one study, that compared recidivism in the use of a RJI Circles of Peace and a BIP in cases of domestic violence, researchers found that there was no significance in the reduction of recidivism between the two interventions (Mills et al., 2013).

I defined recidivism as at least one charge of domestic violence postintervention; VOM and BIP. I analyzed the variables with an ANCOVA. The results of the analysis, that examined the differences in recidivism while controlling for age were $F(1,109) = .081, p = .777$. The findings showed that there was no significant difference in recidivism between first-time male offenders who participated in a VOM or BIP program. Thus, I accepted the null hypothesis, that there is no significant difference between recidivism for first-time offenders who participate in a VOM or BIP intervention. The results were similar to previous results in a study completed by Mills, Baracos, and Ariel (2013), in which the researchers examined recidivism for first-time offenders who participated in a CP RJI program and BIP. The results of the study by Mills, Baracos, and Ariel (2013) indicated that there was no significant difference in recidivism for offenders enrolled in a RJI Circle of Peace program when compared to offenders enrolled in a BIP. The implications of the Mills, Baracos, and Ariel (2013) study were that there were interventions that were significant in reducing recidivism, and other RJI should be explored. With this information added to the body of literature examining domestic violence intervention, there will be a continued discussion on alternative interventions to punitive sanctions such as restraining orders, probation, and incarceration.

VOM

According to Dhimi (2012) VOM sessions should be focused on the crime being between the victim and offender. Additionally, researchers found that the use of RJIs has resulted in the reduction of recidivism for nonviolent and violent offenders (Mongold & Edwards, 2014).

VOM was one of the levels of the first independent variable in the study. I defined VOM as an RJ intervention that involves the offender, victim, and court-appointed officials agreeing to a set upon restitution for the crime. In the study, there was a total of 56 offenders who participated in a VOM intervention program. Of the 56 individuals who participated in VOM, 16 (28.57%) were charged with a subsequent crime of domestic violence within the 24-month period postintervention. 40 (71.43%) were not charged with a crime of domestic violence within the 24-months postintervention. I determined that the findings suggest that VOM is a factor in the reduction of recidivism for domestic violence offenders. Since VOM has also been linked to the reduction in nonviolent crimes, it would have been interesting to explore if the offenders who completed VOM committed any non-violent crimes post completion of the intervention.

BIP

While there are varying types of interventions used in cases of domestic violence, according to researchers the most commonly used is the BIP. According to Herman et al., (2014) BIPs were designed as a response to court- mandated treatment programs for batterers. Unlike in the VOM intervention, according to Herman et al, victims were not included in the BIP intervention. The researchers stated that the offender was placed in a program with other offenders where behaviors were addressed, where most frequently the Duluth Model is used (Herman et al., 2004).

In the study by Pender 2012, judges assigned offenders to participate in BIPs after a conviction of domestic violence. There was a total of 56 offenders who participated in a

BIP intervention. Of the 56, 39 (69.64%) were not charged with a subsequent crime of domestic violence postintervention. A total of 17 (30.36%) offenders were charged with a crime of domestic violence 24-months postintervention. All the offenders were sentenced to probation in conjunction with the BIP intervention. This information is congruent with previous research that addressed if BIPs could be considered treatment, as the program is often linked with punitive sanctions (Herman et al., 2014; Mills et al., 2013; Pender, 2012). In the pool of archival data there were more cases of offenders who participated in a BIP than in VOM. This finding aligns with previous research stating that BIP was the most commonly used intervention (Pender, 2012). Based on the data, researchers have found that BIP has been shown to have some impact on recidivism on cases of domestic violence, but researchers must keep in mind other factors which may impact recidivism, to include probation (Herman et al., 2014; Mills et al., 2013; Pender, 2012).

Age

Findings from previous research showed that between the age of 18 and 24 there was a higher instance of violent offense among male perpetrators (Juodis et al., 2014; Nelson, 2013). In a previous study, the researcher found that recidivism for men who commit crimes of domestic violence decreased with age, when compared to other violent crimes (Nelson, 2013). Based on the findings from previous research, and the researcher's findings that suggested that domestic violence offending is highly correlated with age, it was appropriate for age to be a covariate in this study (Juodis et al., 2014; Nelson, 2013).

In this study, there were a total of 29 (51.79%) offenders who participated in a BIP between the ages of 18-24 and 27 (48.2%) in the age group of 25-30. In the BIP there were a total of 10 (17.86%) offenders who were charged with a crime of domestic violence 24-months postintervention as compared to the seven (12.5%) of offenders age 25-30. The age groups were almost similar in size, but there were slight differences in the recidivism between the two groups. The total participant size may not be representative of the population, which impacts whether these results can be generalized.

In regard to VOM participants, there were a total of 14 (25%) between the ages of 18-24 and 42 (75%) between the ages of 25-30. Of the offenders ages 18-24, three (5.36%) reoffended within the 24-months postintervention compared to 13 (23.21%) in ages 25-30. I noted that 42 (75%) of the offenders were in the 25-30 age group. There was a considerable difference with the VOM participants' ages than with BIP. Various factors can be contributed to this difference, with the main being the type of courts. While offenders can be sentenced by BIP intervention in either courts, VOM is only offender in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, which cases of divorce, child custody, and parenting petitions are also handled. It was noted in previous research that another characteristic of domestic violence offenders age 18-24 was that they were more likely to be non-married with no children (Juodis et al., 2014; Nelson, 2013).

Theoretical Framework

There are many factors that affect whether first-time domestic violence offenders will reoffend. One factor was how committed that individual is to society (Morrison & Vaandering, 2012). The RJ theorists highlighted understanding of the offense and

determining the appropriate level of intervention (Gavrielides, 2015; Laxminarayan & Woldhuis, 2015; Mills et al., 2013). In the State of Ohio, the use of interventions in domestic violence were detailed in the Domestic Violence Bench Book (Taft & Bradley, 2003). I took special consideration in regard to the use of VOM, and it was primarily used in juvenile and domestic relation courts throughout the State.

A component of RJ was the offender being committed to society, which includes family and friends. Researchers suggested that despite domestic violence cases being managed in the juvenile and domestic relations courts, there should be a focus on the family in cases where VOM was used. The placement in the juvenile and domestic relations court also related to the reintegrative shaming theory that focused on the shame of an individual that the offender holds of high esteem, which could include family members (Braithwaite, 1989). Braithwaite focused on the reduction in recidivism in reintegrative shaming theory, which was the goal of both the VOM and BIP programs (Braithwaite, 1989).

In the RJ and reintegrative shaming theories, the theorist highlighted that the use of interventions should occur postconviction to allow victims time to heal, and offenders time to gain empathy and remorse for the crimes (Braithwaite, 1989; Dhimi, 2012; Herman et al., 2014; Miller & Iovanni, 2013). Both interventions (VOM and BIP) occurred postintervention. The difference was that VOM occurred at the request of the victim or judge in conjunction with other proceedings including divorce or child custody (Taft & Bradley, 2003). VOM can also be requested in the State of Ohio in cases of domestic violence without a formal charge of domestic violence being filed (Taft &

Bradley, 2003). BIP programs, on the other hand, occurred while the individual was on probation, in cases in which the information could be reported back to court regarding the offender's completion of the program (Taft & Bradley, 2003). According to Braithwaite, when used, the BIP intervention could result in punitive shaming, which was not a component of the reintegrative shaming theory (Braithwaite, 1989). These theories helped further explain why RJIs need to be formatted differently than BIPs.

Limitations of the Study

As with any research design, there were limitations to the study regarding the use of secondary data. The first limitation according to Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2008) was that the sample of participants was derived from a nonprobability (convenience) sample. The statistician collected the information in the municipal and court of common pleas clerk of courts, and then placed in the court system. I could not control for the completion of the demographics in the data.

I determined another limitation was that the data were collected from one court in Ohio which has court data from smaller counties in the surrounding area. I also determined that there were factors throughout the State of Ohio which may not have been reflected in this data due to the small participant pool.

The design methodology selected was reliable and valid in examining differences in first-time male domestic violence offenders in a VOM or BIP intervention. To address validity, I examined if the data were collected using appropriate methods. I collaborated with the statistician with the municipal court in the collection of data. The process for collection of data included information being placed in the court information system by

the clerks of court, and the data processors and statisticians evaluated the data for completion and accuracy. The data were also reliable, as I gathered the information from a government agencies with policies in place for collection in accordance with the Court Statistics Project by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, that was a standardized method of collection used in the State of Ohio and nationwide.

There were also limitations that I previously highlighted in regard to internal validity threats. Campbell and Stanley (1963) highlighted the importance of addressing these threats in regard to establishing evidence of causality. The first internal validity threat was history. I collected the data from a secondary source, and I was not able to determine if the offenders had participated in any other form of treatment prior to the intervention being analyzed in the study. I determined that history could have also been a factor as recidivism was analyzed over a 2-year period after intervention. I examined the data and was not able identify if the participants were enrolled in another intervention program during that period.

The next internal validity threat I examined was statistical regression. Again, as the data were secondary, I was not able to control for individuals who may be prone to recidivism. While there were no extreme variables within this study, statistical regression according to Stanley and Campbell (1963) is seen a threat to internal validity when analyzing secondary data. The last threat to internal validity I examined was mortality. According to Stanley and Campbell (1963) mortality refers to the loss of subjects within the study. In regard to the use of secondary data for this study, I was not able to control or account from the individuals selected not being in the study area 24-months

postintervention. While mortality is an internal validity threat in many studies, within the quasi-experimental design according to Stanley and Campbell (1963) it could be a concern as the researcher is not primarily collecting the data, thus cannot account for all the participants throughout the study. According to Stanley and Campbell (1963) when using secondary data, the researcher is dependent upon the primary source of collection to address these concerns during the data collection process.

Discussion

Despite these limitations, I could control for age in the study. In regard to recidivism for violent crimes, in implications from previous studies it was found that age was a significant factor in recidivism for male perpetrators age 18-24 (Juodis et al., 2014; Nelson, 2013). Based on these findings I determined that controlling for age in the study was necessary to address the effects on the VOM and BIP interventions on recidivism. I also determined that age also mitigated the statistical regression threat to validity. By controlling for age, I reduced the causality of recidivism being linked to the age of the offenders. Controlling for age proved to be a significant process for this study after collecting the data I found that 50% of the individuals were age 18-24 and 50% were age 25-30 completed BIP, while 25% of the individuals were ages 18-24 who completed a VOM while the other 75% were ages 25-30. I made age the covariate, so that I could reduce the impact of age on the findings.

If I did not control for age in the study I determined that the data for offenders between ages of 25-30 would have skewed the results, and there could have potentially been a significantly lower level of recidivism for the VOM group as compared to the BIP

group. Thus, the findings from previous researchers that stated that recidivism is reduced as age increases above the age of 25 in violent crimes, would have aligned with my results (Juodis et al., 2014; Nelson, 2013).

As previously stated, another difference I determined was the demographics of offenders which could account for the age differences in the VOM program as compared to the BIP program. In the State of Ohio, cases were assigned to VOM in the juvenile and domestic relations court, as compared to BIP being assigned in the juvenile and domestic relations courts, and the municipal courts. Some of the key demographics of the offenders tried in the juvenile and domestic relations court were that they were married and had kids. Demographically, previous researchers found offenders ages 18-24 were non-married without children (Juodis et al., 2014; Nelson, 2013). These findings from previous studies could account for the difference in ages for the VOM and BIP participant groups. These findings may be significant in other studies, since increase in age has been correlated to the decrease in recidivism, in programs where VOM is linked strictly to juvenile and domestic relations cases, there may be differences in age, that could account for the decrease in recidivism.

I found the separation of the programs aligned with the concerns associated with VOM programs. One of the concerns reported by researchers in previous studies examining the limited use of VOM programs was safety. Taft and Brady stated that based on the requirements by the State of Ohio the use of a VOM program should be used in accordance to the least minimal harm to the victim, and primarily used in cases of domestic violence where there are children involved with the family. The location of the

VOM program in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court aligns with the criteria as set in the State of Ohio Domestic Violence Bench book.

Recommendations

In implications from previous studies researchers suggested that there needed to be additional research in regard to evaluating the use of RJIs in cases of domestic violence (Gavrielides, 2015; Mills et al., 2013). Despite the findings that have shown that RJIs are impactful in the reduction of recidivism in other violent crimes at the same level as BIPs, I found in examination of research that there was still reluctance within the criminal justice system in the use of RJIs.

In analyzing the results of the current study, in regard to previous studies, I would recommend that “satisfaction” be address with the offenders “VOM or BIP programs. By examining the offender’s viewpoint on the treatment, I believe there could be a better understanding of why some offenders reoffend as compared to others. Also, I would recommend that a study be completed with the offenders while they are in the programs, and follow them over the 24-month period. By doing so, I could have accounted for mortality in the study. Additionally, I would recommend examining a larger participant pool, would allow for the study to be generalizable to a larger population.

In addition, I would recommend that further analysis should be done to examine recidivism with the use of additional RJIs to include Family Group Counseling (FGC). FGC is an extension of VOM (Hipple, Gruenewald, & McGarrell, 2015). While, VOM includes the victim, offender, and court officials; FGC on the other hand included the same individuals plus law enforcement and community partners (Hipple et al, 2015). In

addition, FGCs program administrators incorporated the theory of reintegrative shaming, and was found to be significant in the reductions of recidivism in youth offenders (Hipple et al, 2015). In the implications of the study researchers suggested additional research to examine the impact of RJIs on recidivism. Lastly, I would recommend further research examining judge's decisions to sentence offenders to RJIs of BIP, could assist with a better understanding of judge's knowledge of the interventions.

Implications

The purpose of this research was to examine the impact of restorative justice interventions on domestic violence in a population that has been deemed high risk for violent crimes. In addition, I conducted the study to add to the body of research in regard to domestic violence interventions. I found the outcomes of this research were congruent with previous studies were researchers that analyzed similar variables. Significant differences in recidivism have not been found, thus, justifying the need for additional research on the use of RJIs in case of domestic violence. I determined the information from this study can be useful within the judicial system, as it was found in previous research that RJIs are not used due to lack of research examining the impact on recidivism in domestic violence cases (Frantzen et al., 2011). Lastly, this study could lead to additional research in examining requirements for participation in RJIs and BIPs. Making sure offenders are placed in the most appropriate treatment, could not only benefit offenders, but victims, and communities.

Conclusion

The responsibility of reducing recidivism lies not only with the offenders, but with researchers, and interventionist. Through this research study I have added to the body of literature examining recidivism in cases of domestic violence. It is important as researchers that we are continuing to support a platform for future research. Domestic violence continues to impact victims, offenders, and communities, and this study highlighted that there are alternatives to current interventions. There is a need for continued research as it could provide evidence and support for changes in sentencing and treatment of offenders, as well as how to best address the need of victims in cases of domestic violence.

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