

VOLUME 7 · ISSUE 2

JUSWR

A JOURNAL OF UNDERGRADUATE SOCIAL
WORK RESEARCH, POLICY REVIEWS,
& OTHER CREATIVE WORKS

PERSON-CENTERED

TRANSFORMING ·

HUMANITY FIRST ·

BREAKING BARRIERS ·





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About the Journal

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to Dean Benjamin Lough for supporting our efforts to continue publishing undergraduate student's original work in the Journal of Undergraduate Social Work Research (JUSWR): A Journal of Undergraduate Research, Policy Reviews, and Other Creative Works. We also thank the School of Social Work faculty for the encouragement they extended to the authors of the JUSWR 7th issue. We further wish to acknowledge and extend a very special thanks to the faculty and PhD student advisors for their extraordinary mentoring, guidance, and support on behalf of the student authors.

Dr. Rachel Garthe is our Undergraduate Research Program Coordinator. She brings her enthusiasm and her extensive knowledge of research to our advisory board. We are grateful for her expertise, guidance, and steady support.

Lastly, the JUSWR Advisory Board and Senior Editor wish to express our pride in and gratitude for our peer editors. These stellar students understood they were making a commitment: to participate in mandatory training, to review materials, and to offer viable, supportive recommendations to the student authors. We especially are grateful for their flexibility and dedication. Well done!

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Dear Reader:

Welcome to the seventh volume of the Journal of Undergraduate Social Work Research (JUSWR): A Journal of Undergraduate Research, Policy Reviews, and Other Creative Works. This journal is a result of a highly collaborative effort between students, faculty, and staff. Undergraduate peer editors were instrumental in the selecting, editing, and submitting recommendations for research pieces to be accepted for publication. These undergraduate peer editors worked closely with the Senior Editor, Rebecca Dohleman Hawley, who did an outstanding job providing feedback, guidance, and prowess throughout the entire publication process. In addition to the work of the undergraduate peer editors and senior editor, we had the help of doctoral students, Jeanna Campbell and Jenny Evans, to help with training, editing, and advising. Faculty members also generously mentored their students in the writing and publication processes, of which we are grateful for their time and energy. Fellow Advisory Board Member, Dr. Jan Carter-Black, provided the team with exceptional guidance and feedback. As the Undergraduate Research Program Coordinator for the School of Social Work and Advisory Board Member of the JUSWR, I approached my role with commitment and enthusiasm, assisting with the peer editor training and editing process. Together, this collaborative team proudly brings you the seventh volume of JUSWR.

The journal was published for the first time in the spring of 2017. This year, Volume 7 is split into two issues to accommodate the number of excellent pieces submitted. This year's volume includes pieces from students majoring in Social Work and Psychology. Pieces include policy reviews (e.g., Older Americans Act), critical thinking forums (e.g., Haitian Refugees at the Texas border, Abortion rights), research (e.g., intimate partner violence against transgender and gender expansive individuals), and creative pieces (e.g., poetry and an essay). As you flip through the current and previous issues of this journal, you will see a glimpse into the knowledge, creativity, critical thinking, and thoughtfulness of the authors across these diverse platforms. Students make contributions that advance social and economic justice, further enhancing their own and their readers' appreciation toward our diverse and constantly evolving social world.

As the Undergraduate Research Program Coordinator for the School of Social Work, I am honored to join such a remarkable editorial team and direct undergraduate research efforts. The journal originated with the aim of supporting undergraduate research and scholarly work, becoming a platform for students to disseminate their findings and work. Some of the ways students can become involved in research at the School of Social Work include: 1) participating as a Research Assistant to a faculty-directed research project, or 2) leading their own area of research with an Independent Study or Project. Students can find more information about these opportunities in the Course Catalog (SOCW 310, 418, and 480). It is from these projects that many students submit posters and papers to this journal or present at the University of Illinois Undergraduate Research Symposium. Other research opportunities include authoring or co-authoring research papers and presentations for peer-reviewed journals and academic conferences, serving as a peer editor for the journal, or pursuing the Undergraduate Research Certificate Program offered by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

I am pleased to announce the seventh volume of JUSWR. This publication provides clear and compelling evidence of the high quality of undergraduate social work research and creative works that contribute to knowledge permeating the School of Social Work and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Sincerely,
Rachel Garthe, PhD
Associate Professor & Undergraduate Research Program Coordinator
School of Social Work



Creative Expressions

Critical Thinking Forum Creative Expressions

From the editor:

Critical Thinking Forums give students the opportunity to consider and process rather dense course content through creative expression. Family trees, collages, analysis of existing or creating original song lyrics, poetry, videos, and various other art forms are welcomed. The one caveat is the creative piece must reflect some aspect of the student's lived experience as a member of a particular or combination of their multiple intersecting identities. Students are also required to submit a written description or reflection that addresses the relationship between their chosen creative piece and topics covered in a specific course. Some descriptions discuss the evolution of a student's thought processes, factors that have influenced their core beliefs, and values about how the world should be and what they should expect from said world, as well as issues they are still striving to reconcile that are related to the specific issues conveyed in their creative work.

Note to the reader:

Expletives associated with a particular identity group are included. However, such words must have an expressive and substantive purpose. The inclusion of potentially offensive words for entertainment or mere shock value is forbidden.

Pain

Kiera Collins

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Reflections from the Author:

In this poem, I personified pain and used it to explain the progression of a healing journey and one's own process with understanding their emotions and eventually accepting them. I wrote this poem during a time when there wasn't a lack of Pain's presence. Describing how Pain acted in the beginning of the poem was therapeutic as if writing down the experience made it real, and I couldn't tell myself I had been making it up or exaggerating. The idea of personifying pain and spending so much time to get to know it as if it were a friend helped me accept its presence without guilt or shame. Even when I would experience pain, it had something to teach me, or at the very least hold my hand when I was lonely. However, the idea that this friend I have spent so long with could disappear was troubling. Although I know I needed to feel the pain and hurt to get through it, I found it hard to let it go as it was what I had known and grew to be comfortable with for so long. I came back to the poem once I had been feeling better and added the experience on the end as well. I wanted to emphasize the presence of Pain on my birthday because on a day that was so filled with happiness, I still had the bittersweet presence of Pain at the end of the day to sit with me. It is important to note that this poem does not follow conventional formatting or grammar. It is meant to be read with the 'abnormal' spacing as pauses. The longer the space, the longer a pause to take while reading.

Keywords: pain, healing, friendship

About the author: *Kiera Collins is a senior majoring in Social Work. After completing her bachelor's, Kiera plans on attending UIUC in the MSW program, concentrating in the mental health field. She hopes to work with those who are deaf and/or hard of hearing along with clients who are experiencing disordered eating.*

Pain

I often find myself missing my friend. Wishing to be reunited. I don't like being alone. I miss the company and the presence of someone who understands me.

I used to dislike Pain. I used to curse at my Pain, at the world, at the people who hurt me. I would close my eyes, curl in on myself, and ball my fists over my eyes hoping if I didn't see Pain, then Pain wouldn't see me, and therefore would leave me alone.

When Pain approached me, it was not silent. Pain did not creep. Pain did not apologize for invading my life. Pain demanded to be seen. Pain did not just take hold of my life and my body, but rather consumed me. Like I was nothing more than an object in the way of a tornado's rampage. Pain gripped at my shaking shoulders and dragged me into a very dark place, far away from the outside world, and held me there to rot and starve and be nothing. Pain was not ashamed of being there like I was ashamed of Pain being there. No. Pain was mad. And made sure I knew it because Pain wouldn't leave me alone.

And I stayed there. Dissolving more and more into myself. Wishing for a ladder, a rope, anything to help pull me out of where I couldn't escape.

Once I realized that this place would be my home for a long time, all I could do for months, for weeks, for days on end in that deep dark place knowing I would not be set free from Pain's grip...

was cry.

Fall-to-the-ground-gripping-at-my-chest-heaving-edge-of-throwing-up-if-only-I-could-bring-myself-to-eat-something-anything-then-I-probably-would've-thrown-up-but-instead-I-would-

just-heavy-shaking-jack-hammer-headache-from-sobbing kind of cry.

Wishing-Pain-would-just-consume-me-finally-saying-I-don't-want-to-be-a-human-anymore kind

of cry.

It's a wheezing kind of cry. Reaching-for-my-inhaler-that-I-know-won't-help-my-lungs-at-the-

moment-let-alone-a-broken-soul-so-why-use-it-anyway kind of cry.

Staring-at-the-window-next-to-me-looking-for-an-escape kind of cry. Because-it-seems-better-

than-the-Pain-here kind of cry.

It is the kind of cry where being a human and being alive seems like too much of a weight to

bear.

But... Pain would be there when I lifted my head, promising to watch over me from just behind my peripheral. Enough to sense Pain's presence but not enough to see Pain when I turned quickly.

Pain and I would do this dance daily getting good at understanding each other's next step and rhythms. Soon enough, Pain and I would spend so much time together that I became accustomed to Pain's company. Soon enough, I began to appreciate Pain's presence in that dark place.

Now Pain holds my hand when I am lonely and always sits in the passenger seat when I drive. Pain doesn't leave me alone.

Once I started listening to what Pain had to say, my Pain began to speak to me in a sing-song voice and would softly remind me I'm alive. My Pain explains why I am led back to that dark place so often because I am human; one with a lot of feelings. Pain shows up in the first place because I care so much. Pain says it hurts because I am soft in the middle. I don't have sharp edges, or a wall built around my heart like many people do.

Pain is no longer mad at me the same way I am no longer mad at Pain. Pain is gentle and kind and lets me take my time in that deep dark place away from the rest of the world. Even when I need to set Pain aside for a little while, Pain is patient with me, now knowing I will return. I always return.

After many long nights and hazy days spent with Pain, my Pain stopped coming around as often to walk with me back to that dark place. I didn't understand what I did wrong or why I didn't have Pain to join me in the comfortable, secluded place where we would sit and talk and just be together.

My Pain used to visit me often. Not just at night or when the world slept and I would be forced to be alone with my thoughts, but rather in the morning when my coffee smelled too much of summer. And in the middle of the day when I saw friends, people who I know say they care about me, but I just couldn't see why anymore. And at night when I would drive home skipping each song that starts to play until I finally turned the music off and chose to listen to the concerning melody created by the rattling of my car rather than the songs I used to love. Pain showed up there then too with a soothing hand on my shoulder.

But where did Pain go? What did I do? Why am I not good enough to have Pain stay?
Did I say something wrong? I can fix it! Please.

I often find myself missing my silent friend. Waiting for Pain to come back to me.
Sometimes I look in dark places where I know Pain likes to sit and watch me from a distance
making sure I'm always in eyesight.

I don't like it when Pain leaves, I've begun to feel so comfortable with Pain that I feel we
are the same sometimes. So, when I don't feel the constant tug on my sleeve of Pain wishing I
would pay attention, I find myself feeling lost without my longtime companion.

I've traced around the edges of Pain so often and spent so long in Pain's warm embrace
that I don't know where the edges of me end and where Pain begins. After all this time, I am
beginning to wonder if we are the same. Maybe that's why I've stopped feeling Pain's presence,
but I'm not feeling much of anything else either.

Months later, and I begin to see the hopeful start of flowers peeking through the warm
earth. Pain no longer visits me as often, which was uncomfortable at first, but Pain promised to
come back to me. Pain has left me but not alone this time. I'm getting to know a new friend. It is
me. And I think I'm beginning to like her.

But Pain still showed up to wish me a happy birthday. Pain sat with me until I fell asleep watching over me to make sure I was not alone.

UIUC Social Work Application Essay

Kiera Collins

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Reflections from the Author

This is the application essay I submitted to the University of Illinois to study social work. I used my own perception of the world via synesthesia to explain how I have been influenced to go into the social work field. Psychology Today states, “Synesthesia is a neurological condition in which when one sense is activated, another unrelated sense is activated at the same time. This may, for instance, take the form of hearing music and simultaneously sensing the sound as swirls or patterns of color” (2023).

I offer the reader an inside look into how my experiences show up for me in different colors and shades. Therapy and counseling are seen in a beautiful black color that offers hope like stars in a night sky rather than the darkness of the human condition. Learning to be compassionate to the world manifests itself in varying shades of blue. My desire to study social work – ocean blue. Aiding those in need- cerulean. Inequalities in the world- dark blue. Finally, applying the skills learned from the classroom – sapphire. My unique lens of the human condition will aid my work as a counselor in deepening my understanding on different and insightful ways.

Keywords: social work, synesthesia, compassion

About the author: *Kiera Collins is a senior majoring in Social Work. After completing her bachelor’s, Kiera plans on attending UIUC in the MSW program, concentrating in the mental health field. She hopes to work with those who are deaf and/or hard of hearing along with clients who are experiencing disordered eating.*

UIUC Social Work Application Essay

My interest in social work is a product of my synesthesia. I view words, ideas, and my whole world in colors. I see the human condition and relationships between people and their environment in varying shades, heavily influenced by my feelings. My unique viewpoint shapes my sense of reality, which is where my desire to study social work emerged. I have a desire to help individuals and make a difference in their lives. I plan to take what I will learn at UIUC and use it to support others by working as a counselor.

I have learned to take this condition and turn it into a benefit that allows me to understand compassion. I have experienced therapy in black. Therapy is often related to the darkness of the human condition, but like the midnight sky, it offers hope as bright stars amid that darkness in the form of rehabilitation. I have learned to be more compassionate toward the world and others because of this beautiful black color. Why is this? Because the color brings out a deeper understanding. The color brings about ideas, theories, trains of thought, a connectedness with others and their experiences.

Learning to be compassionate was a necessary precursor for identifying my passion for social work. My craving for social work is blue - benevolent but powerful, resilient like the rolling tide of the ocean. I see cerulean as kind, energetic, and even commanding of change. I found I want to be cerulean in my efforts, lifting up the impoverished. My experience in Sociology 101 painted social work light blue. My desire to study social work materialized by turning my condition into a tool for understanding the world. My academic experiences opened my eyes to the disparities in the world, which only crystallized my desire to study social work. In sociology, we learned about wealth disparities, marginalized people, and inequalities, all in deep

blue- almost devoid of color, but just enough pigment to inspire hope. I developed a burning desire to help alleviate these inequalities turning dark blue into sapphire. Sapphire is brilliant and sparkles as if promising a bright future. One that enacts change and is a little kinder to those who need it.

My ability to see through a colored lens has led me to seek a career as a counselor. My desire to help others, fueled by a unique understanding of the human condition via color, is why I will be a great counselor. These colors often act as the reasoning or the logical explanation to the world and its shortcomings but also its strengths. Having this kind of insight will allow me to understand and guide my clients by their strengths and empathize where they have come from. UIUC's social work program will provide me with the opportunity to exercise this desire through blood drives, youth programs, and student-focused partnerships. Synesthesia helps me to embrace the principles of being a social worker, ultimately empowering me to create a better world.

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Policy Analysis

Policy Analysis Essay: Older Americans Act

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Abstract

In 1965, Congress created and successfully implemented the Older Americans Act, which is now more commonly known as the Supporting Older Americans Act. This is a federal program, used nation-wide, specifically designed to meet an array of social services needs that low-income older Americans often require (NHI, (n.d.)). These support services in place include congregate and home delivery of meals, specialized transportation services, employment and volunteer programs, adult day care, senior centers, and long-term care activities (Price-Carter, 2020). The Supporting Older Americans Act and all of its reauthorized programming efforts remain in effect until fiscal year 2024 when the act will again be up for reapproval. With its most recent approval in 2020, Congress also approved supplemental funding allocated for additional COVID-19 relief efforts (Price-Carter, 2020). Currently, over 11 million older Americans along with their caregivers continue to benefit from this program (NHI, (n.d.)).

Keywords: policy analysis, Older Americans Act, Supporting Older Americans Act

About the Author: *Victoria recently graduated from UIUC with her bachelor's degree from the School of Social Work. She is currently in the MSW program, focusing on leadership and social change.*

Brief Introduction to Social Issue

Older Americans are currently one of the most vulnerable communities in our modern-day society. This demographic of more than 54 million people faces a plethora of hardships during the last portion of their lifetimes (Giefer & King, 2021). One in six adults over the age of 65 receive governmental, need-based assistance. In terms of specific programs, about 86% of older adults are participating in the Social Security program (Giefer & King, 2021). There is also a massive percentage, roughly 93%, of older individuals who benefit from the Medicare program (Giefer & King, 2021). Also, around 9% of older adults receive some form of nutritional assistance. It is important to note these need-based assistance programs listed above only apply to those who meet specific requirements (Giefer & King, 2021).

Along with this, not everyone who can meet those certain requirements applies for assistance at all. There is also the fact that those who could qualify might not even receive any assistance due to the demand of need (Giefer & King, 2021). This is because governmental funding is fairly limited for each of these resources. It makes the average person wonder - what about those individuals who do not receive any social assistance programs, or who have enough in their savings accounts to sustain their basic needs? This brief introduction of the social issue at hand enforces the notion about how crucial it is to have social safety nets for older individuals who are also considered to be economically vulnerable (Giefer & King, 2021). This safety net is truly paramount to supporting our elder Americans. It is clear we need more supportive programs for the elderly who might fall through the cracks within our society.

Current Policy Provisions

Various policies are currently in place to address the basic, but distinct necessities of the elderly community. When assessing these policies, it represents, or aligns with the term adequate. Older adults make up a fairly large number of hospital stays, primary and home care visits, nursing home residents, etc. (Health and Aging, 2020). As we see a substantial increase in the elderly population, we will also see older patients who increasingly need a multitude of medical specialties. Our society will be shortly facing compelling obstacles within health and social service systems as a result (Health and Aging, 2020). There is currently a wide variety of diverse challenges in healthcare and wellness for the aging.

These efforts to assist with these challenges are seen within federal programs such as the Social Security Act, Medicare, and other nutrition assistance initiatives like the Supplemental and Nutrition Assistance Program, better known as SNAP. Furthermore, to receive Social Security, one must have an earning record, one also must be at least 62 years of age and have enough work credits, or have a disability (Ordp, (n.d.)). Medicare is accessible to individuals who are over 65, individuals with a disability, and individuals with End Stage Renal Disease (DCD, 2021). End Stage Renal Disease can be described as the final stage of chronic kidney disease (Johns Hopkins Medicine, (n.d.)). There are two parts to Medicare: Part A, which provides Hospital Insurance, and Part B, which provides Medicare Insurance to those who qualify (DCD, 2021).

There are also extremely specific criteria in place that one must meet to qualify for either Parts A or B (DCD, 2021). Regarding SNAP, one can be a recipient of this program if one's monthly gross income does not exceed the gross income limit allowed (IDHS, 2020). There are various other requirements to qualify for SNAP, and the whole process is fairly

complex (IDHS, 2020). It is interesting looking at the allowable income permitted for regular households because it is vastly different from a person who is over 60 or a person with disabilities. This is because their monthly income limits are quite higher compared to those who would solely fall under the traditional “household” category.

If one is over the age of 60 or has a disability, it is harder to receive SNAP, especially if one has already been barely getting by financially. This is precisely why we need a program like the Older Americans Act (OAA) that includes those of the elderly community who might fall between the cracks in our society. An example of how OAA would address this problem is reinstating the Meals on Wheels program. This would be a prime example of an OAA policy directly aiding older Americans facing food insecurity. As the population ages, the needs and the amount of disparity that already exists today will be even more prevalent and pronounced in the future (Health and Aging, 2020). Regarding all these programs, even more requirements are not listed online, or the explicitly stated ones are vague and unclear to most readers. This most likely contributes to why elderly people do not apply for benefits (Giefer & King, 2021).

Proposed Policy

As the population ages, one of the key policy issues for this community is the advancement of the Older Americans Act (NASW, 2016). This act has been in place for the past five decades but overtime the policy has expired and has been reauthorized (NASW, 2016). It allows for older adults to live a healthier and more productive way of life through living more independently within their homes and communities (NASW, 2016). There are a multitude of programs and services listed within the OAA, such as family caregiver support, the promotion of health and wellness, job training, long-term care, nutritional programs, and transportation (NASW, 2016). Most importantly, this act also includes programs to

acknowledge and to give additional attention to elder abuse, neglect, and even the exploitation of the elderly community. Therefore, the OAA has evolved and changed over several decades to best serve, aid, and enhance the overall well-being of the elderly community (NASW, 2016).

OAA funding has been severely lacking within the recent decade (NASW, 2016). This is due to a variety of reasons, but most notably because of both inflation and the increase in population growth of those over the age of 65 due to the aging baby boomer generation (NASW, 2016). Demographically, the elderly community is projected to grow as the general population ages (RHHub, 2019). Recently, there have also been cuts to discretionary programs such as this, reducing OAA funds even further (NASW, 2016). This is precisely why reinstatement and increased funding for the OAA is critical to support the basic needs of this specific, ever-expanding population (NASW, 2016).

Assessment of Players and Power

In 2015, the enactment of the Older Americans Act came across its 50th anniversary (NASW, 2016). However, five years after the 2011 expiration of the 2006 OOA reauthorization, the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016 passed congress (NASW, 2016). With the approval of both chambers of congress, it was inevitably signed into law by President Barack Obama (NASW, 2016). This policy was formally reinstated on April 19th, 2016, and expired again in 2019. The OAA has been noted within the National Association of Social Workers top key policy issues (NASW 2016). The OAA was last reauthorized on March 25, 2020 (ACL, (n.d.)).

Regarding the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare's position, the nonprofit organizations themselves are concerned that congress may go back to the historic practice of underfunding this program (NCPSSM, 2021). Despite the rapidly growing elderly population, this is a very real possibility. The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare urges the Biden Administration, along with congress, to fully fund the OAA (NCPSSM, 2021). There is the concern of basic inflation as well. This continuation of the program is essential because there are instances of eligible seniors potentially enduring waiting periods for various OAA services in a multitude of states (NCPSSM, 2021). Congress, the Biden Administration, and other governmental agents need to acknowledge this program has steadily declined over the past decade and needs attention (NCPSSM, 2021). Americans cannot have millions of older adults struggling due to the severe lack of funding.

Likelihood of Implementation

When addressing the overall likelihood of the OAA's implementation, it is unlikely this program will be reauthorized. Comparing the OAA to the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020, there is an ample amount of overlap. However, even though the Supporting Older Americans Act covers a wide variety of different policies and programs, there are still aspects of the OAA that are not seen within this recent bill. Certain programs of importance written within the Older Americans Act are completely neglected and omitted from the Supporting Older Americans Act. This act has essentially been passed in order to replace the OAA (Phillips, 2020). The National Council of Ages exclaims: "The Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020 is a bipartisan, bicameral compromise on the 2020 reauthorization of the

Older Americans Act (OAA)” (Phillips, 2020). More extensive programs are necessary; not just for people over 60 or people with disabilities who might have the chance to qualify and receive the benefit. There is still a large percentage of elderly people struggling to survive and to make ends meet every single day.

Advocacy

There are various methods to advocate for an increase in services and programs, along with funding for the social issue at hand. Firstly, one can contact their legislators. It is important to truly understand and encourage other people to come to terms with the fact that advocacy itself does not always lead to change, but this change will only be introduced by those who represent us within the government. This can be done by any mode of communication such as writing a letter or email, making a phone call, or filling out a witness slip on the congressional website. There are many advocacy groups for initiatives such as this too. In addition, there are many full-fledged organizations dedicated to this cause that one can support. Each of these factors are important because together they empower individuals and could potentially influence future change.

The more people who advocate for a cause, the more likely lawmakers are going to take it into serious consideration to propose or pass a reauthorized bill. After all, the American people are the ones who hired them to advance and enact certain pieces of legislation. From a social work perspective, being up to date on the National Association of Social Workers and their own advocacy to members of congress and other regulatory agencies with the power and authority to influence policy change is an important method too (NASW, (n.d.)). There are statements and other sign-on letters that one can get involved with to continue promoting increased funding and access regarding the OAA (NASW, (n.d.)). One can also join the political action arm of NASW,

which is formally known as the Political Action for Candidate Election (NASW, (n.d.)). All of these advocacy methods are just one step forward in the right direction for change.

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*Research Based
Poster Presentation*

Intimate Partner Violence Against Transgender and Gender Expansive Individuals: A Review of Existing Literature

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Abstract

In the past 20 years, more research has been directed toward intimate partner violence (IPV) within lesbian, gay, and bisexual relationships. However, few studies have examined the prevalence of IPV among transgender and gender expansive (TGE) individuals. This is concerning, given that transgender individuals may be at particularly high risk for IPV. A large, national study in the United States surveyed transgender individuals, and 54% of respondents reported experiencing at least one form of IPV. Given the unique oppressions that places TGE populations at risk for violence, as well as the dearth of research that includes these populations, a thorough synthesis and review of the literature is warranted. In the current study, a literature review was conducted that examined published articles between 2010 and 2020. This review sought to better understand the prevalence, impact, and correlates of IPV victimization among TGE individuals. Articles were searched for on Google Scholar and PsycInfo between September and November of 2022 using the following search terms: ("intimate partner violence" or "domestic abuse" or "domestic violence") AND ((LGBT or LGBTQ) OR (transgender or "gender expansive" or "gender nonbinary" or "gender nonconforming")). A synthesis of the articles and recommendations for future research is provided.

Keywords: transgender and gender expansive, intimate partner violence, and identity abuse.

About the authors: *Maya Novick is a junior working toward a dual degree in social work and psychology. Their research interests the prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) within the LGBTQ+ community and the prevention of sexual violence on college campuses.*

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Intimate Partner Violence Against Transgender and Gender Expansive Individuals: A Review of Existing Literature

Background

- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is an omnipresent social issue and preliminary research suggests that Transgender and Gender Expansive (TGE) individuals might be at disproportionate risk.
- Understanding IPV prevalence among TGE people is crucial for prevention and response efforts as IPV is associated with adverse physical and mental health outcomes (Testa et al., 2012).
- In our current study, we will be analyzing a set of six articles that specifically study the experiences of TGE people with the goal of identifying gaps in the literature.

Method

- PsychINFO and Google Scholar were used to find literature in September through November of 2022.
- Articles were included if: 1) Data on IPV victimization among TGE individuals was provided; 2) The study was written in English; 3) The study was published within the last 20 years.
- After scanning titles and abstracts, 25 articles were reviewed in full to determine if they met our inclusion criteria.
- Six articles were ultimately included in this review.
- We systematically coded the following data: the prevalence of IPV, sample size, the methods used, measures, key findings and prevalence rates of IPV.

Results

- All articles were written between 2010-2020.
- IPV was most frequently divided into three sectors of abuse: physical, psychological, and sexual.
- Only two of the studies presented data on IPV that are unique to TGE individuals (see Table 1). This finding indicates that TGE specific IPV is a subset of IPV that warrants further examination.
- Overall IPV ranged from 22% - 80%

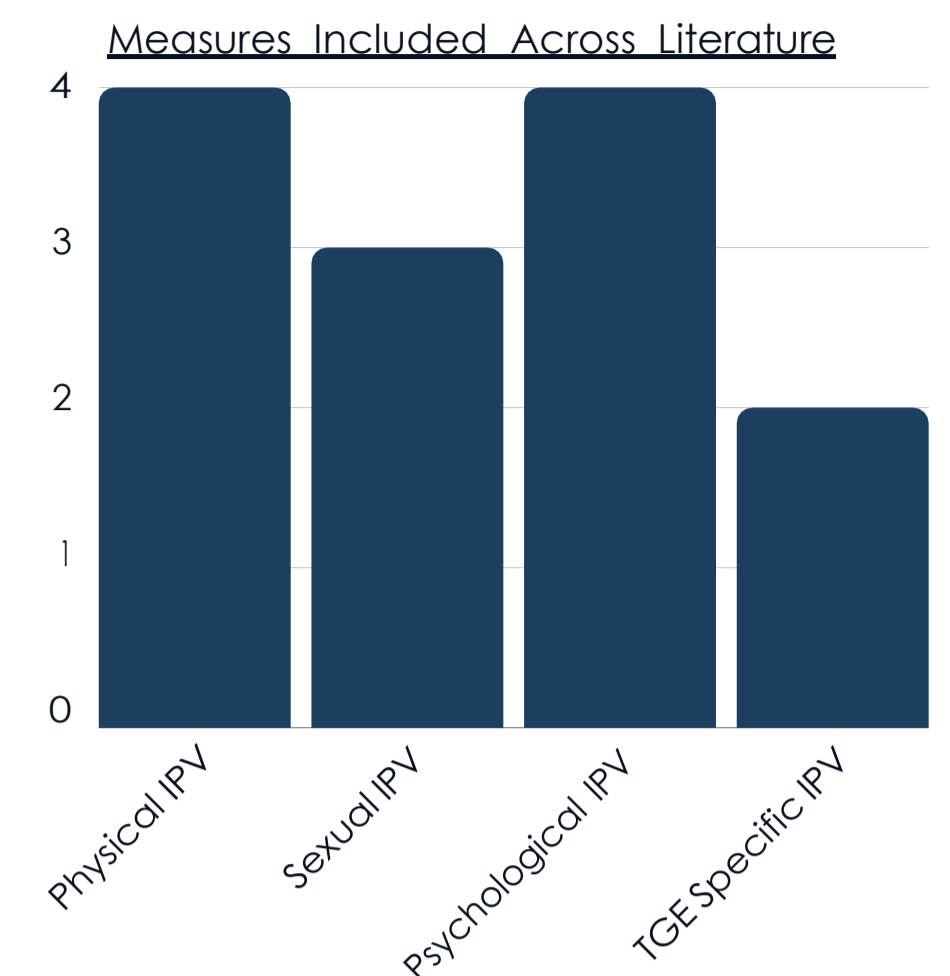




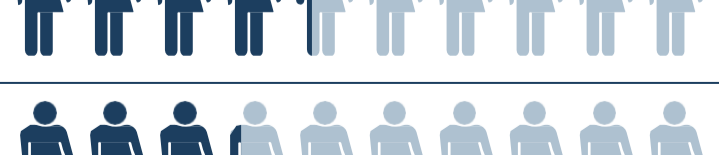



FIGURE 1. Bar chart of the measures used across studies.

Discussion

- IPV in these studies were common and was most commonly divided into psychological, physical, and sexual abuse.
- Few studies focused on IPV that specifically targets someone's status as a member of a gender minority group. Identity Abuse is defined as abuse tactics that specifically leverage societal oppression systems to harm an individual (Woulfe & Goodman, 2021).
- We recommend researchers examine how current system responses can be altered to better cater to TGE survivors.
- Some limitations to our study were that our data was not double coded and publication bias may have occurred because we only pulled from published data. Future studies should include a meta-analysis that includes dissertations and unpublished data.
- Future studies should examine differences within groups (e.g. the experience of transgender women vs. the experience of nonbinary folk).

TABLE 1. Data of coded articles; PSYCH acronym refers to studies having measures on either psychological or emotional abuse, SEXUAL refers to studies having measures on sexual violence, and TGE refers to IPV specifically targeting a survivor's Transgender and/or Gender Expansive identity.

STUDY	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	OVERALL IPV	PSYCH	PHYSICAL	SEXUAL	TGE	OVERALL PREVALENCE
James et al., (2018)	N=27,715	54%	44%	35%	-	-	
Goldenberg et al., (2018)	N=131	45%	-	-	-	-	
Henry et al., (2018)	N=78	72%	70.6%	42.3%	32.1%	73%	
Roch et al., (2010)	N=60	80%	60%	45%	47%	-	
Garthe et al., (2018)	N=204	44%	22%	20%	16%	18%	
Langenderfer-Magruder et al., (2016)	N=1,139	22%	-	-	-	-	

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National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 800-656-4673

Text “START” to: 88788



*Service-Learning Video
Project*

Service-Learning Video Project

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This video was completed through our service-learning student positions within the Champaign County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Board. These positions were made possible through the University of Illinois School of Social Work's various partnerships within the Champaign-Urbana community. The Champaign County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Board decided to continue their ongoing initiative to make informational videos of different area agencies for the populations they serve. This aligned perfectly with our semester project assignment. As a group, we admired their mission, and we decided to make two informational videos for the disABILITY Resource Expo's YouTube channel.

Filming an educational video about Stephen's Family YMCA, or Larkin's Place, was most likely our favorite project out of the two completed. We were able to develop an informational video that was appealing to watch while still allowing viewers to process the facts being presented to them. Unlike the other disABILITY Resource Expo video, this one had more of a Q & A session style which was valuable because it covered a lot of similar questions the disability community has when going to new places such as Stephen's Family YMCA or Larkin's Place. Along with this, it made the interaction more personable and transparent to those watching.

Relating it back to the social work profession, this project ultimately aligns with the social perspective of disability. The perspective exclaims that "disability is caused by the way society is organized, rather than by a person's impairment or difference. It looks at ways of removing barriers that restrict life choices for disabled people" (Disability Nottinghamshire, 2020). Using this specific perspective, and looking through this unique lens, allowed us as media creators to produce the best content possible to align with the mission at hand.

Stephen's Family YMCA / Larkin's Place: <https://youtu.be/pZnuHhAj8jg>

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Our second project was filming a video for the Champaign County Clerk. It was the most valuable project out of the two completed. Not only did we receive the opportunity to create something truly meaningful for our community at-large, but we also were able to obtain more knowledge about local politics and the voting process here in Champaign County. More specifically, the clip shows the updated voting system put into place this year for people with disabilities who might need additional assistance to properly execute their voting rights. It also seeks to highlight how voting remains a private and independent experience for all.

Similar to how every county's voting system can be different, every person and their abilities are diverse as well. This is exactly why the Champaign County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Board and the disABILITY Resource Expo strive to make new, accessible programs and services known to the residents of Champaign County through various media content. Along with this, it gives a lot of individuals peace of mind because we cover what the building looks like, some familiar faces they might see, and what to expect if they decide to utilize these services.

Champaign County Clerk: <https://youtu.be/8kh9MG9KkOg>