Domestic Violence and Occupational Homicides

Terry Bunn
Travis Fritsch
Sergey Tarima
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Project

- CDC funded 1999-2005

- Purpose was to quantify the magnitude of IPV in females in Kentucky, characterize its nature, and measure health and mental health outcomes
IPV Prevalence in Adult Women

- 2002-2003 KY IPV prevalence determined by telephone survey (n=4,059)
- Results were compared to National Violence Against Women Survey (NVAWS), 1995-1996, reported in 2000.
Lifetime IPV Prevalence

Comparison of National and Kentucky Lifetime IPV Prevalence

Sexual Abuse
- 2000 NVAWS: 7.7%
- 2002-3 KY: 8.7%

Physical Abuse
- 2000 NVAWS: 22.1%
- 2002-3 KY: 34.3%

Physical or Sexual
- 2000 NVAWS: 24.8%
- 2002-3 KY: 34.8%

Stalking
- 2000 NVAWS: 4.8%
- 2002-3 KY: 14.5%

Total
- 2000 NVAWS: 25.5%
- 2002-3 KY: 36.6%
IPV and the Workplace (2003)

Stalked at workplace
- 7.3% of all women (lifetime)
- 2.4% of all women (previous 12 months)

Most likely:
- Current spouse 47.6%
- Former boyfriend 11.6%
- Former spouse 13.7%
- Current boyfriend 15.6%
8.8% of women who reported IPV and harassment at work were still involved with perpetrator at time of survey.

The majority of women (89.1%) reported between 1-5 harassments /6-10 IPV-related incidents at work.
Surveillance of IPV Fatalities in the Workplace

- To perform more accurate baseline surveillance
- To develop collaborative recommendations for effective prevention and intervention strategies
What do we mean when we say “Domestic Violence Related Homicide”? 

- 14-yr old boy witnessed his mother’s murder and his father’s suicide at their family-owned grocery store 
  - Police had previous domestic violence calls for help, but no reports, arrests, or protective orders could be found
A man entered the drive-thru window of a fast restaurant where his ex-wife worked and shot her while she was opening the restaurant.
Occupational Homicides

- The southern region of the US (including KY) has the highest workplace homicide rate in the country.
  - 0.06 deaths/100,000 workers in the South
  - 0.03 deaths/100,000 workers in the Northeast, Midwest
  - 0.04 deaths/100,000 workers in the West
- Almost one-half of the workplace homicides occur in the South
- In KY, workplace homicides are the 4th leading cause of death and 86% involved firearms.
Workplace Violence Classifications

- **Type I  Criminal (85%)**
  - The offender has no legitimate relationship to the workplace or the victim and usually enters to commit a crime

- **Type II  Client (3%)**
  - The offender is the recipient of some service provided by the employee or the workplace

- **Type III  Employment-related (7%)**
  - The offender has an employment-related involvement with the workplace.

- **Type IV  Interpersonal (5%)**
  - The offender has an indirect involvement with the workplace because of a personal relationship with an employee who may be a current/former spouse or partner.

(Ref: 1995, Cal/OSHA, Peek-Asa)
FACE/IPV Methods

- Identification of cases through the existing FACE workplace fatality database.

- Collaboration with IPVS Project and community partners (e.g., IPV advocacy community, justice system) to identify or supplement IPV cases and assist in data interpretation.
Preliminary Findings: 1994-2004

- 100 workplace homicide events

  16 events or 16.0% were confirmed as IPV-related

- 10 cases yet with insufficient information to rule in or out of either subset.
Of the 16 confirmed IPV workplace homicide events:

9 (56.3%) = homicides
6 (37.5%) = homicides followed by suicides
1 (6.2%) = double homicide
16 IPV workplace homicide events with 22 deaths:
- 10 women (IPV victims)
- 1 man (wife hired stepson to kill him)
- 6 male suicides (IPV perpetrators)
- 2 men (unintended victims i.e., by-stander, a man attempting to protect his female cousin)
- 3 public service professionals killed: 2 law enforcement officers (female/male) and 1 female firefighter
Of the 16 confirmed IPV workplace homicide events:

- Domestic Violence Protective Orders:
  - 3 confirmed cases
  - 2 did not
  - 11 unconfirmed

- Children:
  Several of the cases documented that the IPV victims had children. One 14 yr-old witnessed her father kill her mother then kill himself at the family grocery store.
Professions of the Victims

- Grocery store/tavern owners
- Fast food manager
- Nurse
- Florist
- Factory worker
- Manufacturing customer representative
- Machine operator
- Cleaning person
- Law enforcement officers
- Secretary
- Dental assistant
- Day care worker
Future Plans

- Expansion of multiple sources to provide an evidence-based approach for improved surveillance and prevention of occupational homicides due to domestic violence
Summary I

- The comprehensive multi-source surveillance data will help identify specific worker populations at risk for domestic violence in the workplace and help define the scope of the problem.
Intervention strategies targeted to the prevention of workplace violence involving interpersonal relationships can be developed using the Haddon matrix that employs behavioral, administrative, and environmental approaches.