

VAWA's STOP Program and its Effectiveness

Brock Timmons
Lindenwood University

Abstract

The 2004 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)(1994) is a multifaceted piece of legislation with the overarching goal of reducing intimate partner violence. The Office of Violence Against Women was created within the Department of Justice to facilitate several different grant programs to ensure effective handling of cases of intimate partner violence. This is a proposal to examine the outcomes of one such program, the STOP Program (**S**ervices, **T**raining, **O**fficers, & **P**rosecutors).

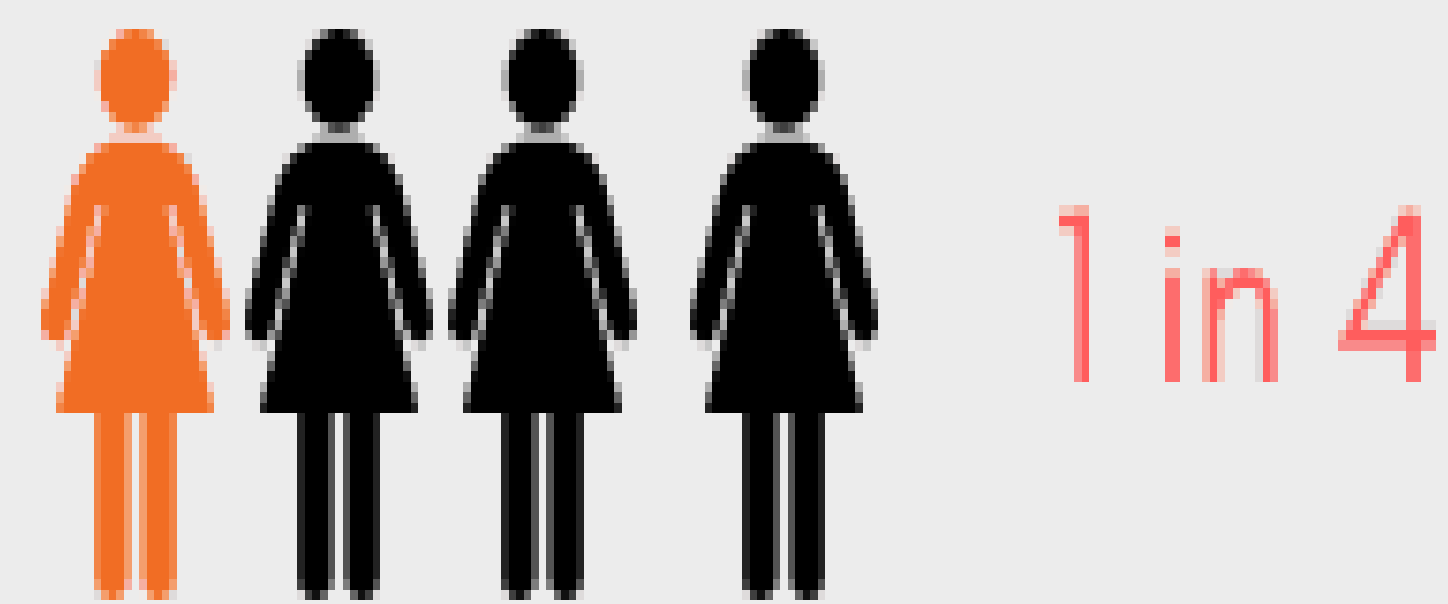
Hypotheses

H₁: The implementation of STOP programs within a state will dramatically decrease the number of cases of intimate partner violence.

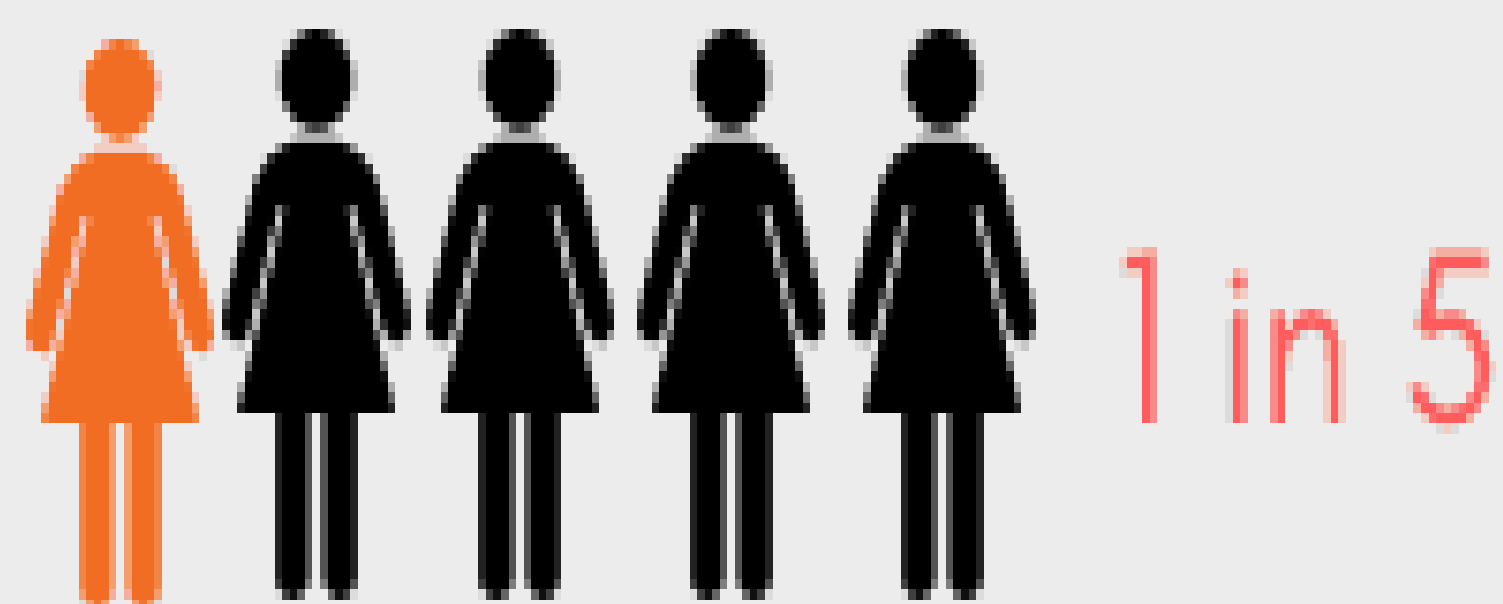
H₀: The implementation of STOP programs within a state will have no significant effect on the number of cases of intimate partner violence.

Why We Need the Violence Against Women Act

U.S. women who are victims of **domestic violence**:



U.S. women who have **survived** attempted or completed **sexual assault**:



The rate of sexual assault has decreased by **63%** since **1993**, VAWA was passed in **1994**

People who experienced incidents of **rape or sexual assault** in 2016 in the U.S.:

Over 320,000

44%

Of survivors have incomes below \$25,000

Sources: National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, National Sexual Violence Resource Center, and FiveThirtyEight.com

Limitations

- Accurate numbers will be difficult to attain given the unfortunately high rate of non-reporting.
- An important ethical consideration is denial of services to the comparison group, but this group will continue to receive “services as usual” available in their respective communities.
- Intense oversight will be required to ensure program recipients effectively implement the program.

Sample

- Stratified sampling method of (5) counties within two states of similar populations and # of forcible rapes per 100,000: NC & GA
- Ensure representation of entire state population

Method

- Implement STOP Programs in each of the (5) counties in the randomly selected state
- Monitor & collect the data after a period of two years (# of forcible rapes per 100,000)

Works Cited

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U.S. and World Population Clock. United States Census Bureau. (n.d.). Retrieved November 26, 2021, from <https://www.census.gov/popclock/>.