A Study of the Relationship Between Unemployment, Intimate Partner Violence, and Child Maltreatment in the United States

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ABSTRACT

Criminal justice and social policy processes in the United States have suffered from poor analysis of the problems underlying proposed policies. At times, social issues such as the stability and support of families and unemployment interact with criminal justice issues such as intimate partner violence (IPV) and child maltreatment (CM). This juncture requires a careful and thorough evaluation of the interrelated problems at the outset of the policy process so as not to derail its success.

This study seeks to inform the initial phase of the policy process by evaluating the concepts of unemployment, IPV, and CM and their relationships. These concepts have large effects on the economic and social aspects of society in the United States and the world. This study hypothesized that fluctuations in the unemployment rate in the United States were positively correlated, to a significant degree, with occurrences of IPV and CM.

This study did not, however, seek to portray or establish unemployment as the singular trigger for IPV and/or CM. Rather, it identified and attempted to focus on unemployment as one of several, if not many, possible triggers for IPV and CM. For context, this study identified and discussed some other suspected triggers for IPV and CM, such as alcoholism, prior victimization, and psychopathy.

The unemployment rate from 1980 to 2012, inclusive, was compared to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) record for arrests for offenses against families and children for the same period. The unemployment rate was also independently compared to the National Crime Victimization Survey's (NCVS) record of victimizations related to people arrested for offenses against families and children. The UCR data identified the

number of arrests for non-violent offenses on a monthly basis, which allowed for an in-depth analysis of unemployment spikes that occurred within the study period. The NCVS data provided annual information that included violent victimizations as well as distinctions in ages of the victims, which allowed for a more relevant analysis of CM. Combined, analysis of these variables provided a clearer understanding of the relationship or absence of a relationship between unemployment and IPV/CM.

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DEDICATION

I am dedicating this dissertation to my Mother and Father, Dr. Peter McFarlane and Mrs. Bertha McFarlane. Without their incredibly selfless love for all of their children (I am the last of 12) and their devotion to the fascination of learning, I would not have even begun this challenge. There is no way to describe my parents completely, but, I would like to share a short story.

When I was a senior in high school my parents were in their late 60s and early 70s. I came home from school one day to find these two pillars of the community chasing each other around the house with cream pie all over their faces and pies in their hands. They were laughing hysterically and could not care less that I was standing there with my jaw on the floor. I stood there too long because before I knew it, I was pummeled with pie. Thanks Mom and Dad.

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Overview

The relationship between intimate partner violence (IPV), child maltreatment (CM), and the unemployment rate in the United States is the focus of this study. IPV and CM create a substantial policy concern in the United States and exact a significant cost on the social fabric of society as well as a large financial burden. Understanding the potential causes and identifying potential remedies to these problems could help to inform a more effective policy process, which would hopefully save money and improve the lives of children and families.

Importance

One of the most critical steps in the policy evaluation and development process is the initial assessment of the problem. In this step, a critical review of the suggested problem that is providing the impetus for the policy evaluation was undertaken. Part of this review involved questioning whether there is really a problem or if the push for new or changing policy is the product of hidden agenda(s) or ill-informed concerns.

The United States has seen the implementation of national policies with massive social and financial implications that were unfounded or poorly founded in evidence-based research. One example is the general policy of increasing the use of incarceration to combat crime. This perspective began in the early 1970s with Dr. Robert Martinson's assertion that nothing works with regard to rehabilitative prison programs (Martinson,

1974). Fueling a punitive ideology in corrections, this focus on incarceration continued and was augmented by the 1994 Crime Bill. This bill provided for mandatory minimum sentencing, mandatory life sentences for certain crimes, and more police, among other provisions (Palmiotto, 1998). As the problem of incarceration began to become expensive and socially destructive, more attention was paid to the research that was conducted over the years to evaluate the incarceration practice. Researchers found there was little evidence to support the possibility of success of increased incarceration in the first place (Byrne, 2013).

Why would that happen? One explanation is that political agendas and attempts to expediently resolve problems that are priorities for constituents lead to hasty decisions by politicians (Gould, 2014). Time to conduct research is perceived as unavailable, and the proposed solution often appears to make sense. This costly misperception is credited with a mass incarceration problem that is causing fiscal stress and social turmoil in the United States (Gould, 2014).

Costs of IPV and CM

IPV accounts for $727.8 million dollars annually in lost productivity for employers and 7.9 million lost workdays each year (Santry, 2012). Additionally, the health costs related to assaults, rape, homicide, and stalking by intimate partners exceeds $5.8 billion annually (Santry, 2012). Of all women in the United States, 31.5% (about 38 million) and of all men, 27.5% (about 31,331,000) have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner. Of women, 47.1% (about 57 million) and of men, 46.5% (about 53 million) in the United States have been victims of some form of psychological aggression from an intimate partner (Breiding et al., 2014).

The prevalence of CM in the United States from 2010 to 2014, inclusive, averaged 3.5 million total referrals to child protection agencies per year. The number of active investigations derived from those referrals (screened in referrals) averaged 1.8 million per year. The number of victims was then determined through an investigation of screened in reports. In 2014, 702,000 victims of CM were recorded (Department of Health and Human Services, 2014).

CM has been estimated to cost $212,012 per victim over the life of the victim (Fang, Brown, Florence, & Mercy, 2012). Coupling this cost with the Department of Health and Human Services record of 702,000 CM victims for 2014, the lifetime costs for the 2014 victims was $1.49 billion.

Costs Beyond Dollars

These figures only represent the dollar costs related to IPV and CM. As a central component of society, families serve to provide role models for children and a secure environment in which to develop and maintain healthy societal perspectives for all members of the family. The disruption of this environment can lead to behavioral problems, mental health issues, delinquency, adult criminality, and violent behavior (Fang et al., 2012). Any one of these problems may be sufficient to disrupt an individual's ability to achieve personal and financial success.

Employment can be a factor in shaping gender and relationship identities (McMillian & Gartner, 1999). As such, it is connected to feelings of self-efficacy and self-esteem (Gecas, 1989). Consequently, when employment is lost, people are at risk for diminished self-esteem and their role or status in their family may be jeopardized. These feelings of loss coupled with social and economic stress, anxiety, and fear, may combine

to create a toxic personal disposition conducive to IPV and CM (Benson, Fox, DeMaris, & Van Wyk, 2003; Dutton, 2006; Gecas, 1989; McMillian & Gartner, 1999; Raissian, 2015; Sherman & Smith, 1992).

On its face, the relationship between unemployment and IPV/CM seems to make sense. It seems natural to expect that someone who loses a job and incurs emotional and economic hardship might resort to violence out of frustration and anger. In fact, this expectation has theoretical foundations in general strain theory (Merton, 1938) and frustration-aggression theory (Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer, & Sears, 1939). The goal of this study was to go beyond expectations that are accepted because they seem to make sense and provide empirical support for a potential causal relationship or the absence of a relationship.

IPV, CM, and unemployment are complex issues. Most of the literature reviewed in this study suggested a positive association between these variables. Several theories and study results have supported the positive relationship. Various authors have asserted their views about the appropriate scope and breadth of the relationship and whether the potentially causal effect is economic, biological, or psychosocial. Almost all of these studies support the hypothesis for this study that there is a positive correlation between unemployment and arrests for offenses against families and children.

All of the assertions of a positive relationship between the two variables, however, would be best supported by the existence of an observable and measurable relationship, particularly since all of these variables may be affected by other factors, hence the complexity. The purpose of this study was to determine whether an observable relationship between unemployment and IPV/CM existed. The relationship, or lack of a

relationship, was represented by the correlation between unemployment and arrests and victimizations for offenses against families and children.

In seeking to address the issues of unemployment, IPV, and CM, this study attempted to inform the policy development process by providing information that would assist in the assessment of existing policies and the development of new policies. By providing evidence that more clearly identifies the nature of the relationship between unemployment and the problems of IPV and CM, this study aided the policy process in the analysis and identification of relevant problems for the purpose of formulating an effective policy foundation.

Measurements

To that end, this study used data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) databases related to the number of monthly arrests in the United States for offenses against families and children. The study then compared that data to the monthly and annual unemployment rates as compiled and recorded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL). This comparison spanned 33 years (396 months) of data from 1980 to 2012. Within this period, there were four recorded periods of recessive economic environments that featured sharp spikes in unemployment. This study tested for correlations between the two databases and unemployment separately. That is, the study tested for correlations between the UCR arrests for offenses against families and children and the unemployment rate, and between victimizations related to the NCVS arrests for offenses against families and children and the unemployment rate.

The UCR arrest data include information about the number of arrests made by police departments across the country. The database distinguishes arrests for various categories of crime (e.g., violent crime, property crime, and offenses against families and children). The FBI collects the UCR data on a monthly basis from police departments across the country, which allows for a monthly comparison of arrests with the monthly unemployment rate. This monthly comparison allows for a detailed analysis of the four recessive unemployment spikes that occurred during the study period from 1980 to 2012. The UCR/unemployment rate analysis was comprised of five bivariate analyses, one analysis for the entire 396-month study period and one for each of the periods of recessive spikes in unemployment.

> The FBI's UCR definition of arrests for offenses against families and children is:
>
> Offenses against the family and children—Unlawful nonviolent acts by a family member (or legal guardian) that threaten the physical, mental, or economic well-being or morals of another family member and that are not classifiable as other offenses, such as Assault or Sex Offenses. Attempts are included. (FBI Uniform Crime Report, n.d.)

The NCVS arrest data focus on collecting information related to the victims and perpetrators of various crimes. These data provide a breakdown of information related to the victims (e.g., age, sex, family income). The information is obtained by the NCVS through the use of surveys of a sample of homes in the United States. The surveys are conducted biannually, and the results are reported annually. The NCVS data allow for a comparison of victims under 18 years of age and 18 years of age and above and include violent victimizations. This analysis was more reflective of the distinction between IPV

(18 and above) and CM (under 18). The NCVS data analysis is comprised of three bivariate analyses related to the data for the study period from 1980 to 2012. One analysis for all victims, one for those victims 18 and above, and one for those victims under 18. Comparing both the UCR and NCVS databases to the unemployment rate gave a fuller picture of the relationship between unemployment and arrests for offenses against families and children. Differences between the UCR and NCVS databases are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Some Differences Between UCR and NCVS

	UCR	NCVS
Geographic coverage	National and state estimates, local agency reports	National estimates
Collection method	Reports by law enforcement to the FBI on a monthly basis	Survey of as many as 77,200 households and 134,000 individuals age 12 or older.
Measures	Index crimes reported by law enforcement	Reported and unreported crime; details about the crimes, victims, and offenders

Note. (Bureau of Justice Statistics website, n.d.)

To address whether unemployment has a potential causal effect on IPV and CM, the following research question was developed for this study:

> What is the effect of unemployment on the occurrences of IPV and CM as measured by arrests and victimizations related to the UCR and NCVS offense category of offenses against families and children?

Summary

Administrators face difficult questions about how and where to spend precious tax dollars to address the problems of IPV and CM. The information provided in this study could be used to inform their decisions. Unemployment, IPV, and CM are important,

costly, and potentially destructive elements of society. The proper development and evaluation of policies designed to address these problems may lessen their effects, save money, and improve lives. Using a large volume of statistical data, this study evaluated the relationship between unemployment and arrests for offenses against families and children. The study also addressed the possible interconnectedness of other factors (i.e., alcoholism, psychopathy, and prior victimization) that may complicate the relationship between IPV, CM, and unemployment. This discussion acknowledged the facets of the problems of IPV and CM beyond their relationship to unemployment. The results of the study inform the policy process in the initial problem assessment phase and help to provide a stronger, evidence-based foundation for such policies.

Chapter II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Overview

This study's goal of exploring the relationship between the unemployment rate and IPV and CM required an understanding of all three concepts. They all have large and powerful contexts within society; employment because of its central role as a driver of the economy in the United States, and in the world, as well as its psychosocial effects on peoples' perceptions of themselves and how they are perceived by others; IPV and CM because of their destructive and lasting influences on individuals, families, and society in general.

IPV and CM are social problems that affect the functioning of the family by disrupting the environment that fosters prosocial behaviors from family members. From society's perspective, this disruption weakens the viable workforce, stresses social services and the Criminal Justice system, and is generally unhealthy for society (Breiding et al., 2014; Cuadra, Jaffe, Thomas, & DiLillo, 2014; Liu et al., 2013; Sherman & Smith, 1992). On an individual basis, family members victimized by violence at the hands of another family member suffer losses of potential earnings over their lifetime. These victims may be more prone to victimize others as juveniles and adults and may suffer emotional problems such as depression, anxiety, and identity degeneration (Currie & Widom, 2010; Fang, Brown, Florence, & Mercy, 2012).

Defining these variables and linking them in various theoretical contexts forms the foundation for establishing their comparison as a potential behavior predictor that has valid and reliable applications. These variables are not only prominent features in the social and economic landscape; they are complex concepts that have different applications in different contexts. They are also dependent on differing stimuli that may cause fluctuations in how they affect individuals, families, and society, at any given point in time.

Focusing on the relationship between IPV, CM, and unemployment does not mean the study is negating the effects of other competing factors. Connecting IPV, CM, and unemployment to a theoretical foundation supported this study's particular view of the relationship. As this study explored the applicable literature related to these concepts and some of the stimuli that affect them, the relationship between them that gives sound support to the hypotheses in this study became evident.

Theoretical Relationship

The theoretical foundation for the hypotheses in this study link unemployment, IPV, and CM; unemployment because it is suspected of creating economic stress and leading to negative emotions and self-perceptions that are seen as contributors to expressions of violence (Agnew, 2006 and 2012; Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer, & Sears, 1939; Merton, 1938) and CM and IPV because they are seen as the result of those expressions of violence (Benson, Fox, DeMaris, & Van Wyk, 2003; Currie & Widom, 2010; Douglas, 2013; Douglas, & Mohn, 2014; Dutton, 2006; Frioux, Wood, Fakeye, Luan, Localio, & Rubin, 2014; Gecas, 1989; Gelles, 1980; Hattery & Smith, 2012; Liu, Croft, Chapman, Perry, Greenlund, Zhao, & Edwards, 2013; Macmillan & Gartner, 1999;

Sherman & Smith, 1992; Van Dolen, Weinberg, & Ma, 2013). There are also indications that the relationship between unemployment and IPV/CM is inverse (Raissian, 2015) or possibly mitigated by other factors (Berkowitz, 1989; Clark, 2003; Dill & Anderson, 1995; Schaufeli & VanYperen, 1992).

General Strain Theory and Frustration-Aggression Theory

Two discussions of strain theory are relevant for this study and are related to the application of frustration-aggression theory. Early versions of general strain theory (GST) explained a type of frustration associated with the inability to attain desired goals through socially accepted methods (Merton, 1938). GST has survived as a foundational theory for criminal behavior and has evolved as society has evolved. Its continued relevance is because of its general premise that social strains and stressors create feelings of anger, frustration, and depression, which may be expressed through criminal coping mechanisms and aggression (Agnew, 2006).

The durability of the GST does not mean there have not been credible criticisms to some of its central tenets. Part of GST is the assertion that criminal behavior would be committed by persons who did not expect to achieve their educational or occupational goals. Instead, some research has suggested that persons with low educational and occupational goals were more likely to engage in crime (Agnew, 2012). This suggests the contrary view that persons without strong aspirations are more likely to engage in criminal behavior.

Another criticism of GST came with the realization that crime rates tend to peak in adolescence. GST suggests that the strains related to the inability to achieve educational and occupational goals, particularly with regard to unemployment, are more relevant to adults (Agnew, 2012). These criticisms led Agnew (1985) to revise his view

of GST to suggest that criminal behavior results from strains and stressors that prevent an individual from escaping painful or aversive situations rather than the failure to achieve goals. This revision explained the peak in criminal behavior in adolescence by suggesting that adolescents have little control over their lives because of parental restrictions and lack of resources to realize their goals.

In either version of GST, the strain and frustration of unemployment fit as a trigger for IPV and CM. In the original version of GST, the lack of control related to losing a job or finding another suitable job creates a blockage in the ability to achieve one's goals. In Agnew's (1985) revised GST, losing a job and the subsequent inability to find suitable employment prevent one from escaping the painful and adverse circumstance of unemployment. Both interpretations of GST create a viable trigger that could lead to criminal behavior or aggression.

Frustration-aggression theory asserts that people who are blocked from attaining the desired goal may act out aggressively. Further, the theory asserts that aggression always follows frustration (Dollard et al., 1939). This initial formulation of the hypothesis has given rise to testing and reformulations and has endured with some modifications. One such modification suggests frustration is an aversive event and generates an instigation to aggression only to the extent that it produces a negative effect. Unexpected failures or frustrations, such as unemployment, which is seen as out of the unemployed person's control, may not instigate aggression (Berkowitz, 1989).

Consistent with Dollard et al. (1939) and Berkowitz (1989), aggression that is generated from frustration may be directed at the source of the impediment to the goal or may be displaced onto a suitable and available target. This theoretical application is

relevant to this study since the unemployed are often faced with a situation in which they may experience stress and anger from many sources when they lose a job. They may have lost the legitimate ability to earn the income needed to achieve desired goals, lost status in their family, unable to find work, or experienced a degeneration of their perception of their identity (Schöb, 2013).

Displaced aggression that results from the frustration of becoming unemployed may be redirected to a scapegoat. Three circumstances necessary for the imposition of displaced aggression to a scapegoat include a suitable substitute for the person or entity blocking the goal attainment; a harmless target; and a target that is available and easy to locate. This describes an individual who has lost his or her job or cannot find one and turns to his or her spouse, intimate partner, or child as a target for displaced aggression. The former boss or the economy may not be viable targets, so the intimate partner or child is suitable, often harmless, and available (Tiemann, 2014).

Regardless of whether an unemployed person is frustrated because he or she lost a job, cannot find a job, or because he or she cannot find an escape from unemployment; the frustrating motivation exists and may cause an aggressive reaction consistent with frustration-aggression theory. The setting that gives rise to the occurrence of IPV victimizations, as hypothesized in this study, is consistent with the conditions fundamental to frustration-aggression theory and GST.

Resource Theory

Unemployment and its effects on the family unit have also been characterized in a resource theory of family interaction. In this theory, family members operate in an environment that functions as a form of transaction economy. Resources within this environment include love, prestige and respect, economic resources (money), likeability,

and force (or threat of force; Goode, 1971). The idea of this theory is that each member of the family brings resources to the family. Children may bring love and respect for their parent(s) and receive love and economic support, which would constitute a transaction within this environment.

When the ability to acquire resources is restricted because of poverty or unemployment, the economy within the family is upset. The person responsible for that commodity in the environment may resort to an alternate resource (force) to maintain his or her status in the family. Violence has been seen as the last resort and has been posited as one reason IPV and CM are more prevalent in poor communities (Goode, 1971; Hien & Hien, 1998).

Social Control Theory

Social control theory is a broadly used concept that generally asserts that social institutions exert controls over individuals to control deviant behavior (Innes, 2003). Innes (2003) provided an overview of the evolution of the concept from the time of Aristotle to more current views. His description of the structure of social control suggests it is born out of fear of the loss of safety by the more powerful members of society. The function of the social structure is, in part, like a prison designed to keep those closest to chaos, the poor and unemployed, "locked away" from those desiring security (Innes, 2003, pp. 100-109).

We see that description playing out today in cities where habitually impoverished people with little employment opportunity express their frustration, in part, through violence and aggression. The question arises as to whether the structure of social control functions more as a repressive structure for some rather than an opportunity to bond with society. This question is relevant to the current study since Innes (2003) included

unemployment as one of the characteristics of the people near the edge of chaos. Also, if Innes (2003) was correct, that structure would create more of an opposition to social controls than an opportunity for adherence to them. This frustration and opposition may create an opportunity for displaced aggression since society as a whole is difficult to assault. Family members may become an alternate target or scapegoat as a result of the unemployed person feeling ostracized rather than included in society (Tiemann, 2014).

Social controls only work to the extent that individuals have a stake in the society that provides those controls. The smaller the stake, the less likely an individual may be to comply with those controls (Sherman & Smith, 1992). Someone with no job, no family, and no home would theoretically be less likely to comply with social controls than those who have those social connections. Unemployment may then weaken the influence of social control and lessen the stake a person feels he or she has in society.

It must be said that unemployment and socioeconomic stresses are not the only influences on the weakening of social controls. Alcoholism that may act as a disinhibitor to social controls, and prior witnessing or victimization as a child that may distort a person's understanding of accepted norms, also undermine social controls (Onigbogi, Odeyemi, & Onigbogi, 2015). It bears restating that simply because the focus of this dissertation is on the relationship between IPV/CM and unemployment, unemployment is not the only causal factor for IPV and CM.

Psychopathy

The focus on socioeconomic, cultural, and emotional factors related to unemployment as potentially causal factors in IPV and CM may be incomplete. Biological factors have also been studied and suggested to have causal relationships with violent and antisocial behavior. As mentioned, an individual's stake in society is what

anchors the ability of social institutions to control behavior (Sherman & Smith, 1992). If an individual is incapable of forming that link to social institutions or social status because of a biological abnormality, then that individual may have a type of biological immunity to social control.

The *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, fifth edition (DSM-5) identified a cluster of set of criteria (Cluster B) that support a diagnosis of an antisocial personality disorder (APD) that is consistent with psychopathic PD and behaviors relevant to IPV and CM. Within Cluster B personality disorders, APD is defined by the American Psychiatric Association (2013, pp. 659) as:

A. A pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others, occurring since age 15 years, as indicated by 3 or more of the following:
    1. failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviors, as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest;
    2. deceitfulness, as indicated by repeated lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure;
    3. impulsivity or failure to plan ahead;
    4. irritability or aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults;
    5. reckless disregard for the safety of self or others;
    6. consistent irresponsibility, as indicated by repeated failure to sustain consistent work behavior or honor financial obligations; and
    7. lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from another.

B. The individual is at least 18 years of age.

C. There is evidence of conduct disorder with onset before age 15 years.

D. The occurrence of antisocial behavior is not exclusively during the course of Schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. (American Psychiatric Association, 2013, p. 659)

The connection between APD, as defined in the DSM-5, and psychopathic PD was shown in a comparison of the results of a study involving 299 violent, incarcerated felony offenders. These offenders were measured for characteristics related to the cluster B criteria of PDs in the DSM-IV (The PD categories in Cluster B did not change between the fourth and fifth edition of the DSM) using the structured clinical interview for DSM-IV (SCID-II). The offenders were also scored on the psychopathy checklist screening version (PCL-SV) (Hart, Cox, & Hare, 1995), and the results were compared. The comparison revealed significant correlations between the SCID-II scores for APD and the PCL-SV factor II responses for psychopathy (Huchzermeier et al., 2007). This is relevant to the current study because the study substantiated the link between psychopathic PD and APD and added credibility to the argument that biological abnormalities may cause psychopathic behaviors.

Research has suggested that psychopathic behaviors may be caused by biological abnormalities in individuals who exhibit such behaviors. These studies are bolstered by recent advances in imaging technology that are able to show brain abnormalities in individuals diagnosed with PDs. The abnormalities shown by this technology have similarities in the affected area of the brain of persons with PDs, suggesting a possible relationship between those abnormalities and PDs (Herpertz & Sass, 2000).

Characteristics of psychopathy could also be seen as reasons for unemployment of individuals suffering from these disorders because psychopathic characteristics are measurable and present in many violent offenders (Huchzermeier et al., 2007). It is not difficult to imagine that a person with an inability to maintain a lasting relationship, lies, is deceitful, impulsive, and often inappropriately angry would have trouble holding a job. In fact, inability to sustain consistent work behavior is a criterion for diagnosing APD (American Psychiatric Association, 2013, p. 659). The presence of these characteristics in the population complicates the analysis of the effects of unemployment on IPV and CM. Is the unemployment triggering the violence or is the PD?

The National Institute of Mental Health (n.d.) estimated the number of persons in the United States with APD to be approximately 1% of the population. Based on a current United States population of 324,547,332 ("US population information," n.d.), the number of antisocial PD-affected people in the United States is about 3,245,473.

Even though the percentage of people with antisocial and psychopathic PDs is small, their population may be disproportionally represented in the population of violent offenders (Coid & Yang, 2011). Psychopathic behavior has also been found to increase the likelihood of IPV in men (Mager, Bresin, & Verona, 2014). These findings suggest a relationship between psychopathic PDs, IPV, and CM. The assertion that biological abnormalities may have some causal relationship with IPV and CM is plausible.

The relevance of these findings to the current study is the establishment of psychopathic/biological characteristics as a possible and plausible causal factor in the commission of IPV and CM. These biological and/or psychopathic characteristics suggest a possible explanation for IPV and CM that is separate from stress and frustration-

induced aggression theories discussed earlier. A lack of meaningful connection to social controls and a predisposition to become angry and aggressive suggest the psychopath may commit IPV and CM because of the PD rather than frustration over the loss of a job.

However, the characteristics of psychopathic PD could also support the assertion that unemployment could act as a trigger for anger and aggression in people with psychopathic PD. Antisocial personality characteristics such as relationship problems, dishonesty, tendency to blame others, hostility, being self-absorbed, and aggression (Comer, 2007) could all be aggravated by the loss of a job and result in aggression toward family members.

In sum, aggression in the form of IPV and CM that may be triggered by unemployment is plausible, as is the assertion that IPV and CM may be triggered by PD abnormalities. This contrast is fertile ground for further study. For the purposes of this study, the focus remained on trying to establish whether a significant relationship existed between unemployment and arrests for offenses against families and children whether triggered by psychosocial, economic, or biological factors.

Child Maltreatment (CM) and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

CM

CM is an act of abuse or neglect against a child by a family member or caregiver (Raissian, 2015). CM is a particularly deplorable crime in our society. In 2014, children less than 1 year of age comprised the largest group of victimized children at the rate of 24.4 per 1,000. In 2008, 1,740 child fatalities because of child maltreatment were reported. Of these fatalities, 45% (696 children) were children under 1 year of age. Of all of the 702,000 victims in 2014, 78.1% of the perpetrators (548,262 perpetrators) were parents of the victim (Department of Health and Human Services, 2014).

Police have been a main source of referrals for incidents of CM. In 2014, 62.7% of all CM referrals came from professionals such as law enforcement, teachers, and doctors. The largest percentage of referrals in this group (18.1%) came from law enforcement (Department of Health and Human Services, 2014). The integral role of police in identifying and dealing with IPV and CM supports the current study perspective of comparing unemployment rate to arrests and victimizations related to offenses against families and children.

The Child Abuse and Prevention Act (CAPTA; 2010) is a federal law that provides the legal structure and funding parameters for state programs related to the prevention and investigation of child abuse. CAPTA is funded under the Social Security Act (SSA), which also funds many other child welfare programs. Annual funding for CAPTA in 2016 was $98 million. Other sources of child welfare and abuse prevention funding under the SSA in the United States budget for 2016 equaled about $45 billion. Combined, the CAPTA and other child and family welfare funding under the SSA equaled nearly $45 billion, which was 1.13% of the estimated $3.951 trillion in total expenditures for the U.S. government in 2016 (CWLA, 2015; Office of Management and Budget, n.d.).

The other programs funded under the SSA include training for child welfare workers, programs designed to strengthen families, early childhood education, and temporary assistance to needy families. All of these programs have direct and/or indirect effects on CM and its influence on children. This level of financial commitment to the protection and support for children and their development underscores the importance of developing effective policies to treat and prevent CM.

CAPTA (2010) recognized the vulnerability of infants and young children and the importance of trying to provide a stable and prosocial environment for them. The federal government also has recognized the vulnerabilities and disadvantages of adolescents. The Supreme Court has acknowledged the difference between children and adults by citing children's reduced culpability, the potential for change, immaturity, vulnerability, and capacity for rehabilitation (*Miller v. Alabama*, U.S., 2012). In identifying these differences, the court also offered the predicament of adolescents being trapped in a brutal or dysfunctional family or neighborhood environment without the ability to escape their influences as a mitigating factor in adolescent criminal cases. This assertion by the court, whether intended or not, seems to support Agnew's (1985) revision of GST. Agnew (1985) identified the frustration and anger experienced by adolescents because of their inability to escape their dysfunctional home and school environments as an example of the blockage of pain-avoidance, which instigates aggression.

CAPTA and Supreme Court rulings are some additional examples of the government's commitment to protecting children. The Miller v. Alabama, 565 U.S. 1013 (2012) decision supported Agnew's (1985) assertion that delinquent behavior could be influenced, in part, by a dysfunctional home. The decision also represents an acknowledgment by the highest court in the United States supporting one aspect of GST. These findings support the notion that a stable home is an important part of a healthy society (Benson et al., 2003; Breiding et al., 2014; Cuadra et al. 2014; Cunradi et al., 2009; Douglas 2013; Douglas, 2014; Dutton, 2006; Frioux et al., 2014; Gecas, 1989; Gelles, 1980; Hattery & Smith, 2012; Liu, et al., 2013; McMillian & Gartner, 1999; Sherman & Smith, 1992; Van Dolen, Weinberg, & Ma, 2013).

CM is not singularly related to unemployment. Studies have also suggested the occurrence of CM could be the result of a combination of factors and that treatment and policy remedies should focus on a multi-faceted approach that addresses more than one factor. Alcoholism has been suggested, in a family context, to increase family stress, increase aggression toward other family members, and reduce attention on children's needs. More broadly, it has also been suggested to contribute to poor job performance, low income, and poor health of family members. In an individual context, persons likely to commit CM who are alcoholics may have a history of maltreatment in their life, suffer from a PD, and lack social support (isolation; Famularo, Stone, Barnum, & Wharton, 1986).

In an Australian study looking at the recidivism rate of CM, researchers found that children were significantly more likely ($p < .001$) to experience recidivistic acts of CM during a 5 year period when alcohol abuse was reported, and depressed socioeconomic conditions were present (Laslett, Room, Dietze, & Ferris, 2012). Cases such as these have led some practitioners to call for a remedy that addresses the inter-related nature of these problems and conditions (Timko & Moos, 2012).

Capturing the multi-factor causal hypothesis for CM, Solomon, Åsberg, Peer, & Prince (2016) described the condition as a cumulative risk suggesting CM is more likely caused by many factors rather than just one. Solomon et al. (2016) chose several factors that had been suggested in research to have a relationship to CM. These included having many children, unemployment, substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health problems. The researchers found that only unemployment and substance abuse were significantly ($p < .05$) related to CM recidivism in their study. The researchers suggested

the non-significant variables act in concert to create an impetus to commit CM without having an individually significant relationship to CM.

Poverty and unemployment have been widely accepted as potentially causal factors of CM. So widely, in fact, that the two factors sometimes have been strongly emphasized as potential causes in studies (Hattery & Smith, 2012, 159). The National Incidence Study on Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-3, 1998) suggested poverty and stress were two possible reasons for CM. Coupling that information with the effects of unemployment on both economic stability and stress, Hattery and Smith (2012) asserted a strong relationship between CM and unemployment.

The information in the NIS-3 report suggests children in households with an income of $15,000 or less were 22 times more likely to experience CM than households with an income of $30,000 or more (NIS-3, 1998). Based on the perception of a strong relationship between CM and unemployment, Hattery and Smith (2012) predicted a spike in CM would result from the 2007 recession in the United States that featured high unemployment and was occurring at the time their book was being written. This prediction reflects a portion of one hypothesis in this study, which asserts a positive relationship between arrests for offenses against families and children and the unemployment spike that began in 2007.

Looking at the problem of CM from the child's perspective and attempting to measure it brings the concept of proper operationalization into view. A helpline for adolescents and children in the Netherlands was used as the information source for a study attempting to measure the effects of unemployment and the divorce rate on child

help-seeking behavior. The calls to the helpline were operationalized to represent CM and CM-related concerns of children.

The volume of calls to the helpline was measured and compared to the divorce and unemployment trends in the Netherlands during the study period from 2003 to 2008. The study found that as the unemployment rate rose, helpline conversation including violence and relationships rose also. When the divorce rate rose, call volume rose, but topics related to violence and relationships decreased (Van Dolen et al., 2013). Here again, the study suggests the relationship between unemployment and violence related to children exists. The study seems to reach for the relationship in the sense that the assumption that the violence concerns of the children calling in are related to the rise in unemployment. There may be intervening concerns related to unemployment that are driving the children's concerns. Nonetheless, the relationship between violence and unemployment is plausible, and this study supports the hypotheses of the current study.

In a twist on the relationship between unemployment and CM, some research has suggested that CM may have a causal relationship with unemployment. A study was conducted in which 338 felony-adjudicated men were administered a questionnaire related to their childhood CM experiences. Their answers reflected positive relationships between offenses perpetrated on them as children and offenses they committed as adults. The study asserted that the experience of CM creates an environment that fosters criminal thinking that leads to criminal behavior in adulthood (Cuadra et al., 2014). While the Cuadra et al. (2014) study did not link CM-related criminal thinking to unemployment directly, Liu et al. (2013) found a significant correlation ($p < .05$) between adverse childhood events and unemployment later in life.

While the bulk of the literature reviewed in this study supported the positive relationship between unemployment and CM, some studies did not. In county-level studies in New York and Pennsylvania, CM rates dropped during measured periods of unemployment. In the New York study, CM rates dropped in counties that were deemed to be metropolitan areas during periods of rising unemployment. Rural areas saw a positive relationship between unemployment and CM, but the results were not significant (Raissian, 2015).

In calling for future research, Raissian (2015) stated it would be a normal progression of the study to determine if similar outcomes were found during periods of high or very high unemployment. Building on that suggestion, the current study examined the relationship between CM and unemployment during four periods of high or very high unemployment.

The Pennsylvania study examined unemployment and mortgage foreclosures and compared them to CM investigations and substantiated CM claims between 1990 and 2010. The study found that unemployment and mortgage foreclosures were significantly, positively correlated with CM investigations. In spite of the increased number of CM investigations, the study found that the substantiated claims dropped during the study period. One explanation offered for the apparent conflict between investigated and substantiated cases was that the acceptance and referral criteria for substantiating a case may have changed. Administrative changes in fiscal or procedural policies may have diverted what would have been a substantiated case to another designation (Frioux et al., 2014). This study showed an example of the effects of administrative policy on statistical

outcomes and highlighted the need for careful planning and research in policy development.

Child fatalities are a tragic occurrence in our society. Looking at the problem from the perspective of a CWW may provide some context within which an understanding can be gained about the conditions within the child's environment that may predictably give rise to CM. A study that surveyed 135 CWWs from 16 states was designed to identify some of the conditions present in the family units in which a child had died from CM. Each of the 135 CWWs had a child who died who was on their caseload. The CWWs reported 63.25% of the families experiencing a CM fatality experienced prolonged or frequent unemployment (Douglas, 2013, 2014). The unemployment in the family was seen as a stress condition that may be a trigger for CM.

The visitation records for the CWWs showed that 85% of families experiencing a CM fatality were seen within one month prior to the fatal incident (Douglas, 2013). These statistics suggest a potential link between unemployment and CM and suggest a potential need for training of CWWs. With 85% of families being seen within a month of a fatal incident, administrators may likely wonder what it is that their CWWs are not seeing. This also presents another potential policy evaluation or development need related to CWW procedures.

The Douglas (2013) study identified conditions present in the households of the CWWs in the study and presented unemployment as one of the more largely present factors (63.25%). However, unemployment is only one of four factors about which Douglas (2013) called for future research. Other factors included mental illness, major life event in the family, and unrealistic expectations for children. The current study has

focused on the unemployment factor but acknowledges the importance of remembering it is one of many factors related to CM.

IPV

IPV is defined as physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former intimate partner or spouse (Fang et al., 2012). Intimate partners include boyfriends, girlfriends (present or past), and same-sex partners. Arrests for offenses against families and children involve non-violent unlawful acts. The non-violent context of this arrest category focuses on the psychological and physical intimidation of intimate partners. This focus also includes abandonment, moral degeneration, and economic deprivation that can cause lasting damage to intimate partners and disrupt the prosocial family environment (Fang et al., 2012).

Arrests in this non-violent context may represent the interruption of a violent IPV event. Violence is often preceded by arguments and threatening behavior. Non-violent IPV may occur over a long period and ultimately erupt into violence. Psychological violence can become a pattern of behavior that becomes accepted and rationalized in an intimate relationship (Shortt, Capaldi, Kim, & Tiberio, 2013; Smith & Segal, 2016). Further, external relationship stresses (e.g., unemployment) can magnify the volatility of violence in a relationship. A typically non-violent, yet abusive, relationship may be accelerated into a violent one as a result of stress (Shortt et al., 2013).

While UCR arrests for offenses against families and children are limited to non-violent acts, the NCVS data include violent as well as non-violent victimizations. The NCVS defined victimization as:

> A crime as it affects one individual person or household. For personal crimes, the number of victimizations is equal to the number of victims involved. The number

> of victimizations may be greater than the number of incidents because more than one person may be victimized during an incident. Each crime against a household is assumed to involve a single victim, the affected household. (n.d., p. 45)

Properly identifying the construct of IPV has become increasingly important as the dimensions of the types of intimate partners become known. Early notions of a husband beating a wife is a more one-dimensional view than what we now know of the scope of IPV. Intimate partners include same-sex couples, boyfriend/girlfriend relationships, and former relationship partners. The evolution of understanding is not limited to the types of victims or perpetrators. The prevalence of violence perpetrated in relationships by women, for example, has also broadened the study of IPV. Some studies have suggested the prevalence of women-initiated IPV is nearly equal to that of male-initiated IPV. Expansion of the construct of IPV now demands studies that explore the possible causes related to the newer dimensions of IPV (Mchugh & Frieze, 2006).

An example of the Mchugh and Frieze (2006) discussion is the effect of unemployment on the family in which women have assumed the previously male-dominated role of breadwinner. These women came to exhibit similar levels of aggression as their male breadwinner counterparts. When the women's ability to provide financial support for their family because of unemployment is gone; depression, substance abuse, and family violence at the hands of the women increased. Between 1982 and 1991, the number of women arrested for offenses against families and children increased 191.6%. For the same period, the rate of arrests for men for the same offense increased 62.8% (Hien & Hien, 1998).

The Hien and Hien (1998) study called for future research to broaden the body of data; address the issue of women as perpetrators of violence; the relationship alcohol has in the IPV occurrence; and the social contexts that add stress to a relationship that may instigate violence. We see again in this study that multiple factors may be at play in the instigation of IPV. Interestingly, while possibly combined to instigate IPV, these factors seem to have distinct identities and may, or may not, be present in all cases of IPV.

The Hien and Hien (1998) study used UCR data and the crime category of offenses against families and children, as does the current study. Their study focused on a smaller period, 1982 to 1991, than the current study and was focused on female perpetrators of IPV and CM. The current study expanded upon the Hien and Hien (1998) study by including NCVS data, broadening the focus to include all perpetrators, focus on the social context of unemployment, and extending the study period by 23 years.

Similar to the Solomon et al. (2016) cumulative risk hypothesis, some studies suggest IPV is also instigated by a multi-factor condition in the perpetrator. One such study was testing for the effects of anger and alcohol use on the perpetration of IPV in women and men. The study hypothesized IPV would be facilitated by a multiple component process: instigation, an impeller, and a disinhibitor. Since prior studies have shown IPV victimization to be a strong indicator of IPV perpetration, IPV victimization was seen as the instigator. Alcohol was seen as the disinhibitor, and anger was the impeller (Sprunger, Eckhardt, & Parrott, 2015).

The study found that IPV victimization was a strong predictor of IPV perpetration for both men and women, but alcohol abuse was more related to men than women and anger was more related to women than men. Apart from supporting the multi-factor, IPV

causal notion, the study suggested a possible gender-related distinction in the perpetration of IPV.

Psychopathy showed a strong relationship to the commission of IPV among men and women. One study conducted two tests: one consisting of clinically diagnosed psychopathic individuals and the other involving college students. Controlling for gender and alcohol use, the researchers found a more robust relationship between IPV and psychopathy than IPV and alcohol use (Okano, Langille, & Walsh, 2016). The results of the study led the researchers to call for future research on the relationship between psychopathy and IPV risk.

Employment/Unemployment

Unemployment is an unavoidable part of the economic cycle in the United States and much of the rest of the world (Raissian, 2015; Salem, 1999). In fact, the long-run path of the United States economy tracks the path of the concept of full employment, which is an assumption of the United States employment/unemployment rate used for economic projections (Byun & Nicholson, 2015). Baker (2016) described employment as the backbone of the world's economy. This large and powerful economic force has an individual effect on most Americans. However, employment is interwoven into the fabric of society in many more ways than its economic effects.

The USDOL Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) measures and compiles the unemployment rate each month. The information is obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS) and measures the percentage of people within the population of Americans who are jobless, looking for a job, and available to work.

The CPS survey personnel contact approximately 77,000 households each month to assess the work status of household members. Information is collected via a phone

interview from a population sample designed to represent all 50 states and include rural and urban areas as well as industrial or farming regions. The questions asked were designed to determine whether the individual being interviewed was jobless, looking for a job, and available to work (e.g., some people may have left the workforce because they retired or went back to school). These people are not available and not looking for work and, therefore, do not meet the criteria for the survey population (USDOL BLS, n.d.).

High Unemployment

In 1992, the Congress passed the *Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1992* (P.L. 102-318), which laid out provisions for the extension of unemployment compensation benefits during long periods of unemployment and periods of high unemployment. The law identified conditions that would act as triggers for initiating extended unemployment compensation benefits (USDOL, 1992).

In this context, the triggers for extended unemployment compensation (EUC) benefits were described as:

> the average rate of seasonally adjusted total unemployment for the period consisting of the most recent 3 months, for which data for all States are published, before the close of such week equals or exceeds 6.5 percent and; the average rate of seasonally adjusted total unemployment in a State for the same 3-month period equals or exceeds 110 percent of such average rate for either (or both) of the corresponding 3-month periods ending in the 2 preceding calendar years. (USDOL, 1992)

Based on this formula, high unemployment was defined as the same conditions described in the prior paragraph for the initiating trigger for EUC, with the exception of exchanging 8.0% for the 6.5% unemployment rate (USDOL, 1992).

Economic pressures related to unemployment involve the loss of income, which can lead to the inability of the household breadwinner to provide for the family. The absence of income is thought to create economic stress for an individual and, consequently, for the family (Benson et al., 2003; Cunradi et al., 2009; Douglas, 2013, 2014; Gelles, 1980; McKee-Ryan, 2005; McMillian & Gartner,, 1999; Raissian, 2015). When IPV or CM occurs, the aggression is thought to originate in frustration (Agnew, 1985, 2006; Dollard et al., 1939). To the extent the frustration is caused by the loss of employment or the inability to achieve employment, the possible causal connection is made between unemployment and IPV/CM.

Frustration and aggression, as an inherent result of unemployment, is questioned in some studies, which suggest other prominent factors may be involved in the expression of aggression. Specifically, unemployment creates the opportunity for the formerly employed family member to be more present in the home. This increased presence could possibly lead to an increased opportunity for arguments between family members, which may lead to IPV and CM. Persons with a psychopathic PD, for example, would have more opportunity to act out violently because of their disorder (Benson et al., 2003). The relevant question becomes: Is the aggression the result of frustration from unemployment, the logistical factor of increased time and presence in the home, or is it the result of a biological abnormality causing the psychopathic PD?

An opposite view of the same heightened presence in the home phenomenon suggests that unemployment has freed up an asset for the family. Time for interaction with the family may be viewed as a resource that reduces some types of stress and increases the opportunity for positive family bonding. The additional time spent with the

family is suspected to have a positive effect on its members and decrease IPV and CM occurrences in a family (Raissian, 2015).

After reading numerous studies, one might get the impression that people are pawns for the external environment and internal biological processes that allegedly control them. Questions about a person's ability to adapt and how that ability interfaces with the external and internal forces come to mind. Agnew (2006) alluded to a person's choice when he described a person's decision to cope with stress and frustration through criminal behavior. He asserted that criminal coping by an individual occurs when the possible benefits of doing so are likely, and less likely when the possibility of benefit is low. This assertion suggests an evaluation and choice by the frustrated (unemployed) person. This evaluation is affected by the person's perceptions of the total picture of his or her unemployment circumstance and the level of frustration it generates.

When people face unemployment, an evaluation of the conditions related to the unemployment occurs and is instrumental in determining how that person reacts to the unemployment. If a person believes the unemployment was somehow justified, that person may feel less frustration and, consequently, less compelled to act out aggressively. Alternatively, if the unemployment was unjustified in the mind of the person, then the resulting frustration would be greater, and the likelihood of aggression would then be greater (Berkowitz, 1989; Dill & Anderson, 1995; Pastore, 1952).

The discussion of justified versus unjustified unemployment implies an assessment of the level of control the person or entity imposing the unemployment has over the individual's employment fate (Berkowitz, 1989; Dill & Anderson, 1995; Pastore, 1952). For example, if the economy crashes and the entire industry the unemployed

person was engaged in suffers massive job loss, the unemployment may be perceived as out of the control of the employer or supervisor who terminated the individual and, therefore, seems justified. Conversely, if there was a perceived personal conflict between a supervisor and an individual that resulted in the individual getting fired, the supervisor may be perceived as having been able to prevent the unemployment but did not. This circumstance may lead to higher frustration and a greater likelihood of aggression (Berkowitz, 1989; Dill & Anderson, 1995; Pastore, 1952).

Another facet of frustration mitigation related to justified and unjustified perceptions of unemployment is the perception of the larger community of employed and unemployed people. Peoples' feelings of well-being are reduced when they are employed, but unemployment is high. This suggests an empathetic feeling for the unemployed or possibly the fear that they may be next to lose their job. However, people who are unemployed tend to have increased feelings of well-being when unemployment is high. This finding supports the notion that unemployed people are less frustrated (greater well-being) when others are also unemployed, which provides justification for their own condition (Clark, 2003).

If the perception of unemployment in a community is one that is accepting of the condition as a normal part of life, the likelihood of stress may be reduced. Part of the acknowledgment of the normalcy of unemployment may be shown through community policies that support people through periods of unemployment. For example, Norway has a generous unemployment support payment plan and is seen as having a culture that attaches little stigma to unemployment. Norwegian participants in a study designed to

measure unemployment stress did not view unemployment as a stressful event (Schaufeli, & VanYperen, 1992).

Summary

In summary, the literature review supports the notion that stressors may have some instigating effect on IPV and CM. Many stressors may affect individuals to different degrees and in different combinations. Whether acting individually, in concert, or at the mercy of the distinct characteristics of each person, unemployment appears to be one of the prominent factors in the instigation of IPV and CM.

This literature review does not suggest that unemployment is the most prominent or most important factor in the instigation of IPV and CM. It does suggest that focusing on the relationship between one of the apparent instigators of IPV and CM, unemployment, one might gain some insight into the larger picture of the interrelationships between other suspected instigating factors and IPV and CM.

Finally, the literature review identifies several studies that suggest the importance of this research. Raissian (2015) called for further investigation into the effects of high or very high unemployment on CM. The current study evaluated four such periods during the 33-year timeframe of the study. Solomon et al. (2016) called for future research to test for the potential causal effects of unemployment on the occurrence of CM after asserting in their study that unemployment is a situational risk factor in CM. Dutton (2006) predicted in his book, *Rethinking Domestic Violence*, that wife assault would increase immediately following periods of economic downturns. His prediction begs a study that hypothesizes that very prediction, like the current study. Last, the Sprunger et al. (2015) study and the Onigbogi et al. (2015) study both identified childhood exposure to IPV, which is a form of CM, as a strong predictor of IPV perpetration as an adult.

These studies, coupled with the findings from the Cuadra et al. (2014) and Liu et al. (2013) studies, suggest the adverse effects of CM on a victimized person's ability to become a fully successful member of society and highlight the cycle of violence and dysfunction these two phenomena (i.e., IPV and CM) proliferate in society.

Hypotheses

The research question for this study was: What is the impact of unemployment on the occurrences of IPV and CM as measured by arrests and victimizations related to the UCR and NCVS offense category of offenses against families and children? As complex as the relationship is, most of the literature supports the idea that the positive relationship exists. Most important to this study, the literature review has provided a theoretical basis, support for the relevance of the information to be studied, and a sufficient research history to advance several hypotheses:

> Hypothesis 1: The number of arrests for offenses against families and children in the FBI's UCR database from 1980 to 2012 will be positively correlated, to a significant degree, with the unemployment rate.
>
> Null hypothesis: The unemployment rate will have no significant effect on the number of arrests in the FBI's UCR database for offenses against families and children.
>
> Hypothesis 2: The number of arrests in the FBI's UCR database during the first unemployment spike during the study timeframe will be positively correlated, to a significant degree, with the unemployment rate.
>
> Null hypothesis*:* The unemployment rate will have no significant effect on the number of arrests for offenses against families and children in the FBI's UCR database during the first spike in unemployment in the study period.

Hypothesis 3: The number of arrests in the FBI's UCR database during the second unemployment spike during the study timeframe will be positively correlated, to a significant degree, with the unemployment rate.

Null hypothesis: The unemployment rate will have no significant effect on the number of arrests in the FBI's UCR database for offenses against families and children during the second spike in unemployment in the study period.

Hypothesis 4: The number of arrests in the FBI's UCR database during the third unemployment spike during the study timeframe will be positively correlated, to a significant degree, with the unemployment rate.

Null hypothesis: The unemployment rate will have no significant effect on the number of arrests in the FBI's UCR database for offenses against families and children during the third spike in unemployment in the study period.

Hypothesis 5: The number of arrests in the FBI's UCR database during the fourth unemployment spike during the study timeframe will be positively correlated, to a significant degree, with the unemployment rate.

Null hypothesis: The unemployment rate will have no significant effect on the number of arrests in the FBI's UCR database for offenses against families and children during the fourth spike in unemployment in the study period.

Hypothesis 6: The number of victimizations related to arrests for offenses against families and children recorded in the NCVS will be positively correlated, to a significant degree, with the unemployment rate.

Null hypothesis: The unemployment rate will have no significant effect on the number of victimizations recorded in the NCVS for offenses against families and children.

Hypothesis 7: The number of IPV victimizations for people over 18 related to arrests for offenses against families and children recorded in the NCVS will be positively correlated, to a significant degree, with the unemployment rate.

Null hypothesis: The unemployment rate will have no significant effect on the number of IPV victimizations for people over 18 related to offenses against families and children recorded in the NCVS.

Hypothesis 8: The number of CM victimizations for people under 18 related to arrests for offenses against families and children recorded in the NCVS will be correlated positively, to a significant degree, with the unemployment rate.

Null hypothesis: The unemployment rate will have no significant effect on the number of CM victimizations for people under 18 related to offenses against families and children recorded in the NCVS.

Chapter III

METHODOLOGY

Study Description

The population of interest in this study is the entire population of the United States. The sample populations for the correlational variables in this study rely on the sampling procedures employed by the USDOL, the FBI, and the BJS. All of the data used in this study are derived from secondary data sources provided by those United States government agencies.

The study design was a longitudinal, correlational study that compared specific information extracted from government databases for the period of 1980 to 2012, inclusive. The independent variable in this study was the unemployment rate. The dependent variables were arrests for offenses against families and children in the United States; and the number of victims of individuals arrested for offenses against families and children in the United States.

This study was exploratory in nature in the sense that it sought to identify the relationship, or lack of relationship, between the variables in an effort to inform future research and policy development better. By using large datasets that span a relatively long period (33 years), the results of the study provided valid and reliable data on which future researchers and policymakers can rely.

The independent variables in this study were chosen because they represented two of the more prominent sources of criminal research data (i.e., UCR and NCVS) and

because the analysis of the relationship, or lack of relationship, provides a fuller scope of the problems of IPV and CM. The BJS presents the UCR and the NCVS as, "The nation's two crime measures" and describes them as complementary to one another (USDOL BJS, n.d., p. 1).

The UCR provides monthly data that can be tested for correlation with the monthly unemployment data. This comparison allowed for a more robust analysis of the study period (396 months) and of the four spikes in unemployment that occurred during the study period. The NCVS data provide age distinctions in the data, which allowed for individual comparisons for children and adults. This comparison addressed the age distinction in CM.

Instruments/Measures

The instruments used in this study include the USDOL's archived unemployment rate information, the FBI's UCR database, and the BJS's NCVS data. Each data source has its own method of obtaining data that is compiled into the databases, which are publicly available for use in this type of research.

Unemployment Rate

The BLS, a bureau within the USDOL, calculates the unemployment rate that is published each month. They use the CPS survey, which is administered to approximately 77,000 residences in the United States and which yields approximately 132,000 individual contacts. The sample population was selected from a probability sample of residences across the country, which had been stratified to try to be representative of the entire population of the United States. Approximately 800 sampling units were selected from a total stratification of the United States into approximately 2,000 strata. These

strata were designed to include all 50 states, both agricultural and industrial regions, and rural and urban areas of the United States (USDOL BLS, n.d.).

From this sample population, the CPS seeks to identify unemployed people who fit three specific criteria:

- unemployed,
- looking for work, and
- available to work.

From the data obtained in the CPS, the USDOL calculates the percentage of people in the United States who meet the required criteria and maintains records of monthly and annual unemployment rate percentages.

In this study, the unemployment rate was compared with both the UCR arrest data and the NCVS data. The UCR data were measured at monthly intervals and were compared to the monthly unemployment rate. In a separate analysis, the NCVS data were compared to the annual unemployment rate since the NCVS data are only available in the annual format.

FBI UCR Data

The UCR is a compilation of arrests in the United States as reported by approximately 18,000 police departments and other law enforcement agencies across the United States. In an attempt to promote uniformity in reporting among the participating agencies, the FBI provides a handbook and training on the required crime classifications. The classifications of crime include violent and property crimes as well as some more specific crimes that reside within the broader categories. Arrests for offenses against families and children is an example of such a designation (FBI Uniform Crime Report,

n.d.). The UCR provides quantitative data on a monthly basis in the form of numbers of arrests. For this study, UCR arrest data are one of two operational definitions for IPV and CM.

The UCR data used in this study included the entire population of individuals arrested for offenses against families and children between 1980 and 2012, inclusive. The inclusion of all known values for the entire population reduced sampling error concerns for this study. Sampling errors related to the submission of information by a large number of law enforcement agencies (approximately 18,000) to the UCR was mitigated by the large volume of submission sources.

NCVS Data

The NCVS focuses on identifying victim information about various crimes. The NCVS is a survey of persons in the United States in which survey participants are asked about the number and characteristics of victimizations they have experienced within the previous six months. The NCVS includes persons 12 years and older in the survey. In 2012, 92,390 households were contacted, which yielded 162,940 participants who were age 12 or older (Truman, Langton, & Planty, 2012).

The persons surveyed were selected from a sample population obtained by using probability sampling from an address-based sampling dataset (Kinsey, Iannacchione, Shook-Sa, Peytcheva, & Triplett, 2013). The NCVS provides quantitative data (number of victimizations) from the qualitative self-report of contacted individuals related to the type of offense, age, police involvement, relationship to the offender, economic consequences, etc. (Truman, Langton, & Planty, 2012). The NCVS data reflecting victimizations related to arrests for offenses against families and children is the second operational definition of IPV and CM in this study.

In 1992, changes were made to the NCVS. Because of concerns related to under-reporting of crimes by survey participants and accuracy of the data received, the BJS added additional cues in the interview questions to assist in stimulating recall of victimizations. BJS also attempted to more specifically identify types of victimizations and asked more questions about the nature and results of the victimization. The ultimate purpose of the changes was to increase the accuracy of the information (Cantor & Lynch, 2005; Hubble & Wilder, 1988). Studies exploring the effects of the changes on reporting trends suggested the changes achieved the goal of increased reporting. Early studies suggested a 40% increase in reporting (Cantor & Lynch, 2005) while showing minimal effects to existing victimization trends (Hubble & Wilder, 1988).

Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis of the data in this study was completed by organizing the data and inputting it into a statistical analysis software program called Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). All of the datasets in this study consisted of quantitative data compatible with bivariate correlation analysis. Each of the dependent variables, UCR arrests for offenses against families and children and NCVS victimizations, have subset data that will be compared with the corresponding unemployment data.

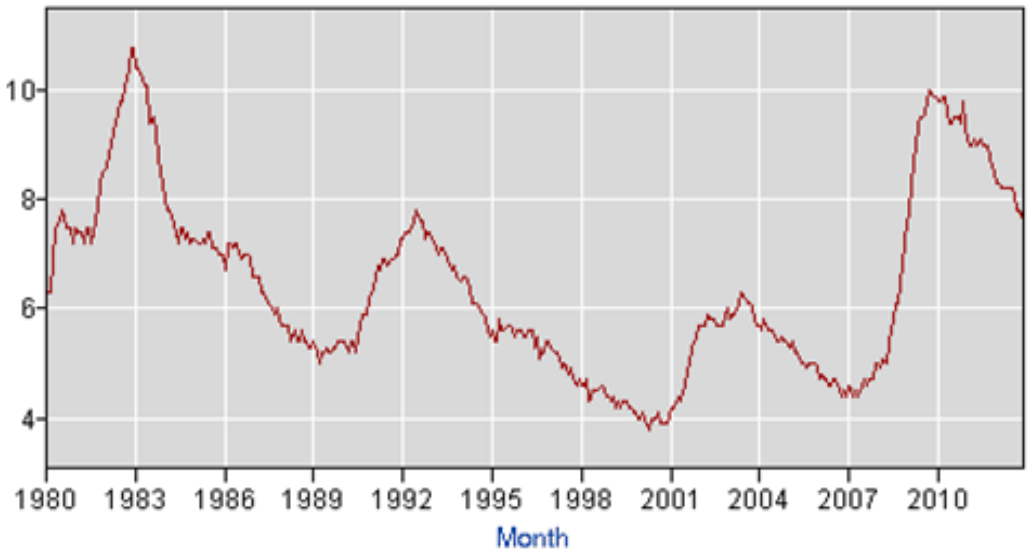

Figure 1. Unemployment Rate Chart (1980 to 2012; USDOL, n.d.).

Within the UCR data, the arrest rates that correspond to the four spikes in unemployment during the study period (Figure 1) were compared in separate bivariate analyses. Additionally, a bivariate analysis comparing arrests to the unemployment rate for the entire study period was conducted. This resulted in five bivariate analyses comparing UCR and unemployment data.

The four spikes in unemployment during the study period, which are visible in Figure 2, provide an opportunity. Two of the spikes (the second and third spikes moving from right to left across the figure) do not meet the criteria established by law for high unemployment; yet, they are clearly increases in unemployment.

Within the NCVS data, the number of victimizations for the age distinctions of 18 years of age and above, under 18 years of age, and the combined total victimizations for the study period, were compared to the unemployment rate. This resulted in three bivariate analyses comparing NCVS data and unemployment data. These age distinctions are used in this study to operationally define occurrences of IPV and CM in the NCVS

data. The number of under 18 years of age victimizations represents a specific count of CM occurrences during the study period. The number of over 18 years of age victimizations represents a specific count of IPV occurrences during the study period.

Prior to conducting the bivariate correlation, each dataset was tested for the characteristics of normality, linearity, and homoscedasticity. These characteristics are necessary to determine the appropriateness of the data for bivariate correlation as well as ensuring the results of the correlation are accurate and reliable. The monthly reporting data from the UCR provide an ample number of observations (396) that compare well with the monthly unemployment data. The annual reporting format of the NCVS data provides fewer observations (33) but exceeds the suggested number of observations (30 or more) in the pretest criteria for bivariate analysis.

The correlation computations computed using the SPSS statistical software included the Pearson's *r* test for correlation and significance testing to provide a *p*-value. The significance level for this study was .05. Therefore, any correlation yielding a *p*-value less than .05 ($p < .05$) was considered significant.

A coefficient of determination (COD) calculation (r^2 x 100) was performed on the Pearson's *r*-value. This COD provided an additional descriptive dimension to the context of the correlation. The COD yielded a percentage that indicated what percent of the variance in one variable accounted for the variance in another variable. For example, an *r*-value of −.403 squared is .1624. Multiplying by 100 (.1624 x 100) yields 16.24. That means 16.24% of the variance of the independent variable accounted for the variance in the dependent variable. It also means 83.76% (100 − 16.24) of the dependent variable variance was accounted for by some other variable.

The bivariate correlation design of this study provided the opportunity to independently evaluate the relationships between various aspects of IPV and CM with the unemployment rate. The datasets used in this study were derived from two of the most commonly used data collections for crime statistics (i.e., UCR and NCVS). The independent nature of these correlational analyses may identify the strengths of specific relationships and help to narrow the focus for policymakers.

Study Limitations

This study used UCR arrest and NCVS victimization data as measurements of IPV and CM in the United States. The UCR data for the specific offense of, or offenses against, families and children addressed only non-violent offenses. Violent acts of IPV and CM in the UCR were recorded under other categories of arrests (e.g., assault, sexual assault, rape). Even though those types of criminal acts were represented in the NCVS victimization data, the UCR/unemployment rate correlation analysis may not have represented arrests for IPV and CM as completely as desired.

As the independent variable in this study, unemployment becomes the focal point for the potential causal relationships that may evolve. Since other factors may have as strong or weak a relationship to IPV and CM as unemployment, the focus on unemployment is in danger of being perceived as an inordinately prominent factor in this study. It is important to remember that the instigations of IPV and CM are complex and situation-specific. Unemployment along with alcohol abuse, cultural differences, and prior victimizations, are examples of factors that have been identified in extant research as factors that may affect the instigation of aggression, or more specific to this study, IPV and CM.

While the UCR data were collected from virtually every part of the United States, and the NCVS and USDOL sampling procedures were designed to reflect representative samples of the United States, distinctions between urban and rural arrests and victimizations were not included in the study. The numerous possible combinations of urban vs. rural comparisons were seen as beyond the scope of this study. Future studies featuring state-level comparisons of urban and rural areas of a state would be fruitful since unemployment compensation programs are largely run at the state level. Any policy designed to incorporate objectives into the unemployment system in a state would benefit from study results focused on that particular state.

The NCVS data include information from persons 12 years and older. While this age group was more representative of CM than the UCR data because of the over 18 and under 18 distinctions, it did not include the largest group of CM victims, children under one year of age.

Finally, UCR recorded arrests are just that, arrests. Being arrested for an offense against families and children does not mean that one is convicted of committing an offense against families and children. A charge may be negotiated to a lesser charge during the plea-bargaining process, or a charged individual may be exonerated in the investigation or at trial.

Chapter IV

RESULTS

Overview

The population samples examined in this study were all designed to provide a representative sample of the population of the United States in three categories of individuals: unemployed individuals, persons arrested for offenses against families and children, and persons victimized by perpetrators of offenses against families and children. Three different federal agencies collect the sampled information, and all three sampling and information collection processes are ongoing.

Unemployment data were collected by the USDOL and were meant to sample the population of Americans who were unemployed, looking for work, or available for work. The USDOL uses the CPS survey to collect the information from approximately 77,000 households each month and uses that information to calculate the unemployment percentage each month. For this study, the fluctuations in this percentage of unemployed persons represented a particular type of stressor that had been suggested in prior research to be one of the possible triggers for IPV and CM.

The UCR data collected by the FBI from approximately 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the country provided a count of all of the arrests for various offenses. For the purposes of this study, the number of arrests for offenses against families and children provided a number, on a monthly basis, that represented the occurrence of IPV and CM.

Fluctuations in the number of arrests were compared to the fluctuations in the unemployment rate to determine if a relationship existed between the two variables.

The DOJ collects information related to the number of victimizations that result from the commission of offenses against families and children, among many other types of crimes. This information was collected through the NCVS, which also surveys approximately 77,000 homes in the United States. The NCVS data provide an additional dimension to the data, in that, they identify victims' ages, which could be used to identify whether the offense was IPV (over 18 years of age) or CM (under 18 years of age). These data were reported on an annual basis and provided a fluctuating count of victimizations. This fluctuation was compared to the fluctuations in the annual unemployment rate to attempt to determine if a relationship existed between the two variables.

The independent variable in this study was the unemployment rate. The dependent variables were the UCR arrests and the NCVS victimizations. As illustrated in Table 2, 396 months of recorded values for the unemployment rate and the UCR arrests were compared as well as 33 years of annual NCVS and unemployment rate recorded values.

Table 2

Independent and Dependent Variable Chart Name of Table

Independent Variable	Dependent Variables	
	UCR	NCVS
Unemployment Rate	396 months	33 years

This chapter focused on presenting the results of the analysis of five facets of the relationship between unemployment and IPV/CM:

- the bivariate linear regression analysis of the unemployment rate with the total number of arrests recorded in the UCR for violations against families and children (monthly values);
- the bivariate linear regression analysis of the four spikes in unemployment recorded by the BLS during the study period (i.e., 1980 to 2012) and the number of arrests recorded in the UCR for violations against families and children for the same period (monthly values);
- the bivariate linear regression analysis of the annual unemployment rate with the total number of annual victimizations related to offenses against families and children recorded in the NCVS for the study period;
- the bivariate linear regression analysis of the annual unemployment rate with the total number of annual victimizations of individuals over 18 years of age related to offenses against families and children recorded in the NCVS for the study period; and
- the bivariate linear regression analysis of the annual unemployment rate with the total number of annual victimizations of individuals under 18 years of age related to offenses against families and children recorded in the NCVS for the study period.

The focus on the potential relationship between the unemployment rate and arrest and victimization statistics related to IPV and CM was meant to provide a hyper-focused view of one of the factors linked in extant research to IPV and CM. As the results of this study were reviewed, it was important to remember that these results were related to only one possible facet of the problems of IPV and CM, regarding unemployment.

The SPSS statistical software program requires certain criteria for the data input into the system. The criteria of normality (i.e., symmetric distribution of data values around the mean), linearity (i.e., generally linear distribution of plotted values in a scatterplot graph), and homoscedasticity (i.e., same or similar variance of plotted values from the independent variable) were required for optimally robust results from the regression analysis. All three criteria were visually evaluated from graphs generated by SPSS, so the estimation of these values was approximate. In this study, all three criteria were met for each of the bivariate analyses.

Unemployment Rate and Total Arrests for offenses against Families and Children in the UCR

The total number of arrests in the UCR for offenses against families and children for the 396 months between 1980 and 2012, inclusive, were plotted with the monthly unemployment rate in SPSS. The trend line through the plots in Figure 5 indicates a negative correlation between the unemployment rate and the number of arrests for offenses against families and children. Table 3 displays the strength and significance of the correlation as calculated by SPSS.

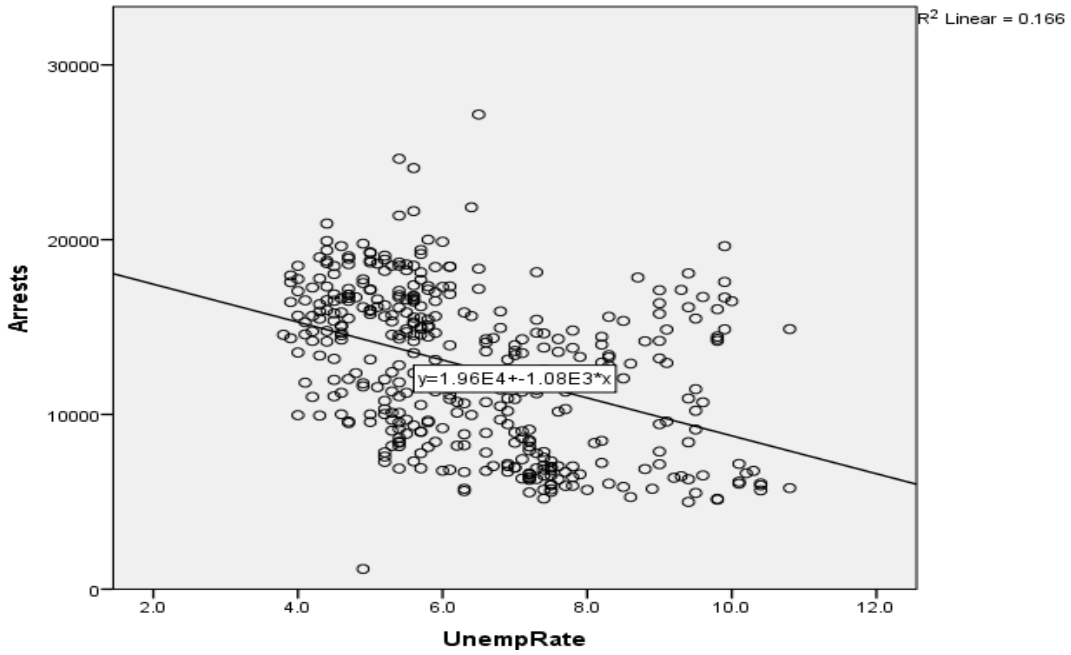

Figure 2. Scatterplot—Total Arrests and Unemployment Rate.

Table 3

Correlation Chart for Unemployment and Total Arrests

		Unemployment Rate	Arrests
Unemployment Rate	Pearson's correlation	1	−.407
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	396	396
Arrests	Pearson's correlation	−.407	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	396	396

In Table 3, the Pearson's correlation (*r*-value) of −.407 suggests a moderate negative correlation between the variables in the graph. The significance value, or *p*-value, of the correlation represented in Table 3 of .001 indicates the correlation is significant since it is less than the significance value established for this study of $p < .05$. The *N* value in Table 3 indicates the number of values in the correlation. Squaring the *r*-

value to obtain the COD obtains .1656, which when multiplied by 100 shows that 16.56% is the percent chance that the variance in the number of arrests was attributed to the fluctuations in the unemployment rate.

This bivariate regression analysis suggests a significant and moderate negative correlation between the number of arrests for offenses against families and children recorded in the UCR between 1980 and 2012, and the unemployment rate for the same period. This negative correlation suggests that as the unemployment rate increased, the number of arrests decreased.

Unemployment Spikes and Arrests for Offenses Against Families and Children in the UCR

The first employment spike during the study period occurred between August 1981 and May of 1984 (Figure 6). This employment spike meets the DOL criteria for high unemployment since the average of the 3 month period ending with the peak rate of 10.8 % in December 1982 exceeded or equaled the prior year's corresponding 3 month average; the unemployment rate exceeded 8.0% (USDOL, 1992).

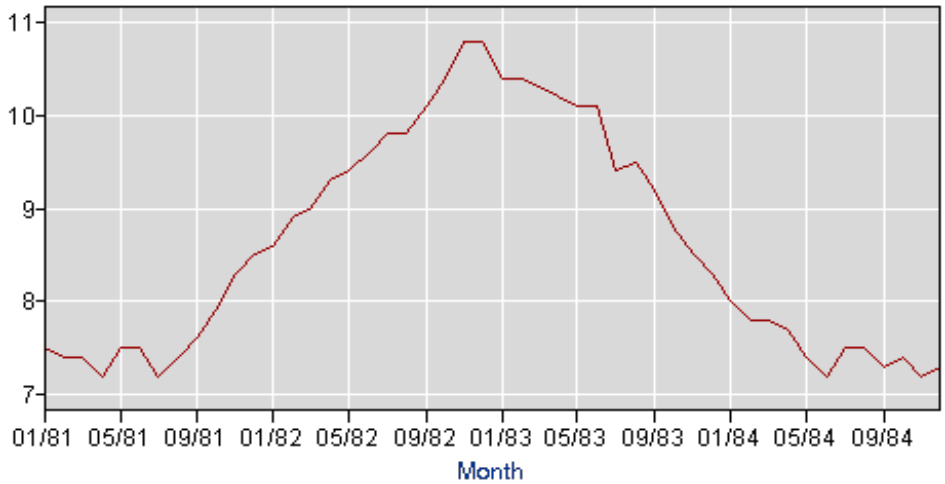

Figure 3. Unemployment Graph for Spike One.

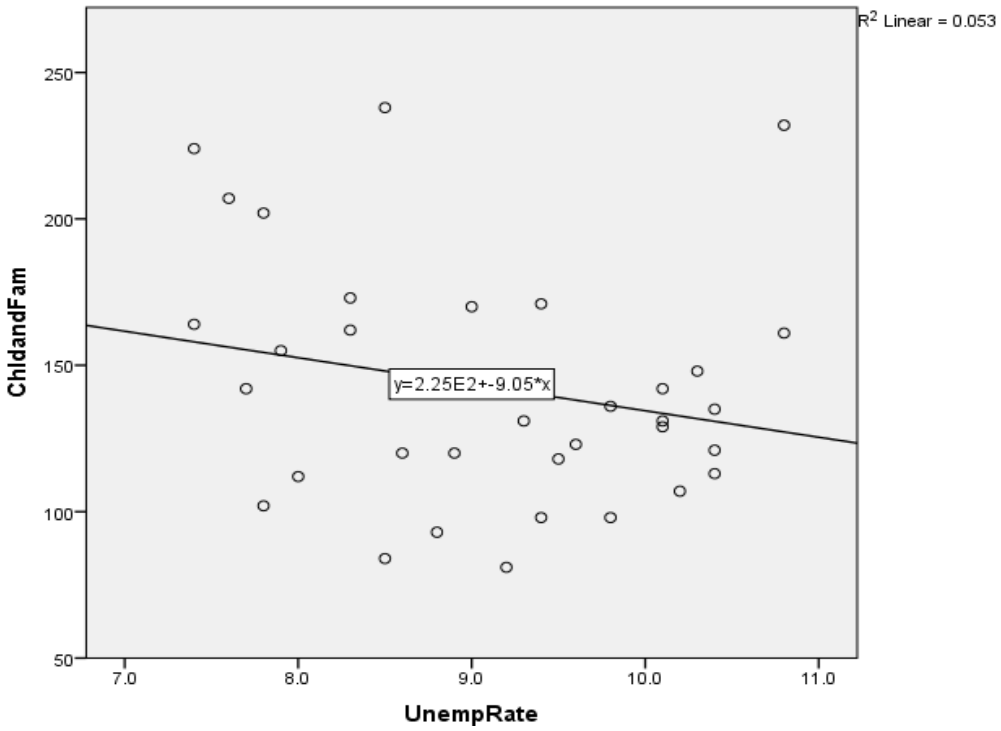

Figure 4. Scatterplot—Spike One.

The correlation analysis in Table 4 shows a Pearson's *r*-value of −.230 suggesting a weak negative correlation between the variables in this analysis. The *p*-value of .191 is larger than .05 indicating the lack of a significant relationship between the variables. Squaring the *r*-value to obtain the COD obtains .0529, which when multiplied by 100 shows that 5.29% is the percentage of the variance in the number of victimizations that was accounted for by the fluctuations in the unemployment rate. The trend line in Figure 7 shows the negative alignment of the plotted values. As the unemployment rate rises, arrests decrease.

Table 4

Correlation Chart for Spike One

		Unemployment Rate	Child and Family
Unemployment rate	Pearson'scorrelation	1	−.230
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.191
	N	34	34
Child and family	Pearson's correlation	−.230	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.191	
	N	34	34

The second unemployment spike during the study period occurred from July 1990 to December 1994 (Figure 8). This spike failed to meet the USDOL criteria for high unemployment since the peak unemployment rate did not exceed 8.0% (USDOL, 1992). However, the spike does represent a consistent increase in unemployment that was sustained for 24 months.

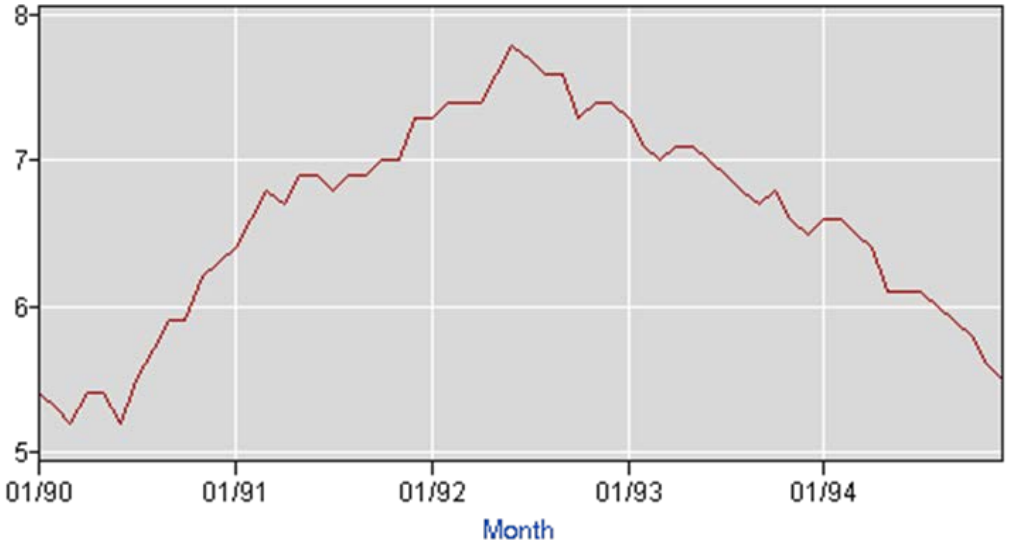

Figure 5. Unemployment Graph for Spike Two.

The correlation analysis in Table 5 shows a Pearson's *r*-value of −.019 suggesting a weak negative correlation between the variables in this analysis. The *p*-value of .893 is

larger than .05, indicating the lack of a significant relationship between the variables. Squaring the *r*-value to obtain the COD obtains .0003, which when multiplied by 100 shows that .036% is the percentage of the variance in the number of arrests attributed to the fluctuations in the unemployment rate. The trend line in Figure 9 shows the slightly negative alignment of the plotted values. The trend line is nearly horizontal, indicating a weak correlation.

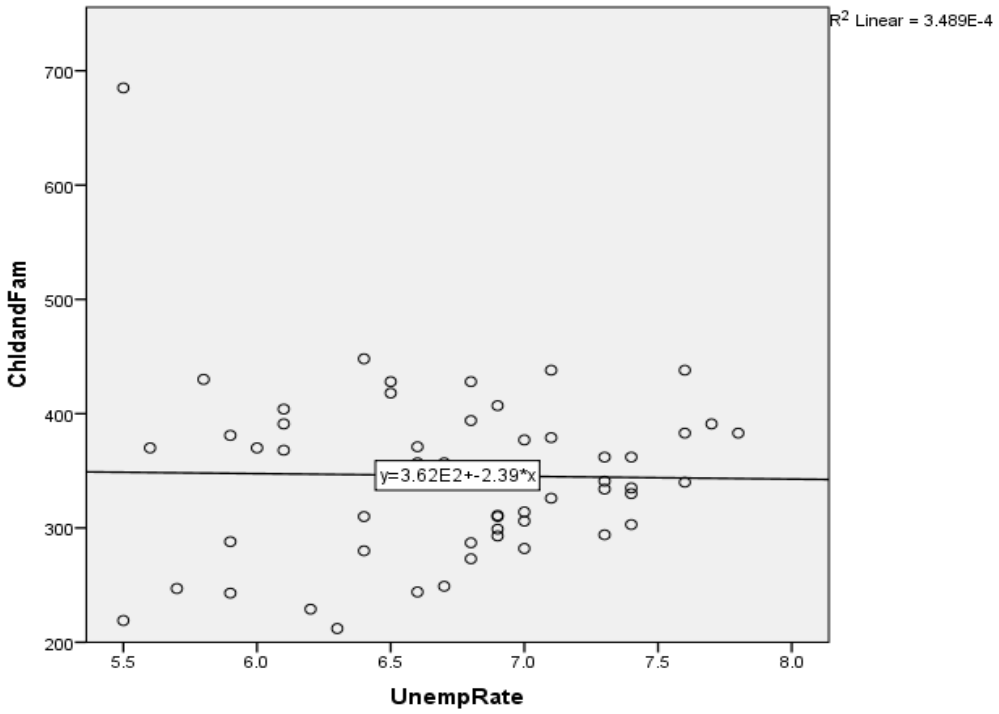

Figure 6. Scatterplot—Spike Two.

Table 5

Correlation Chart for Spike Two

		Unemployment Rate	Child and Family
Unemployment rate	Pearson's correlation	1	−.019
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.893
	N	54	54
Child and family	Pearson's correlation	−.019	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.893	
	N	54	54

The third unemployment spike during the study period occurred from June 2001 to September 2006 (Figure 10). This spike failed to meet the USDOL criteria for high unemployment since the peak unemployment rate did not exceed 8.0% (USDOL, 1992). However, the spike does represent a 12-month consistent increase in unemployment and another 18 months of rising fluctuation until the peak of 6.3% was reached.

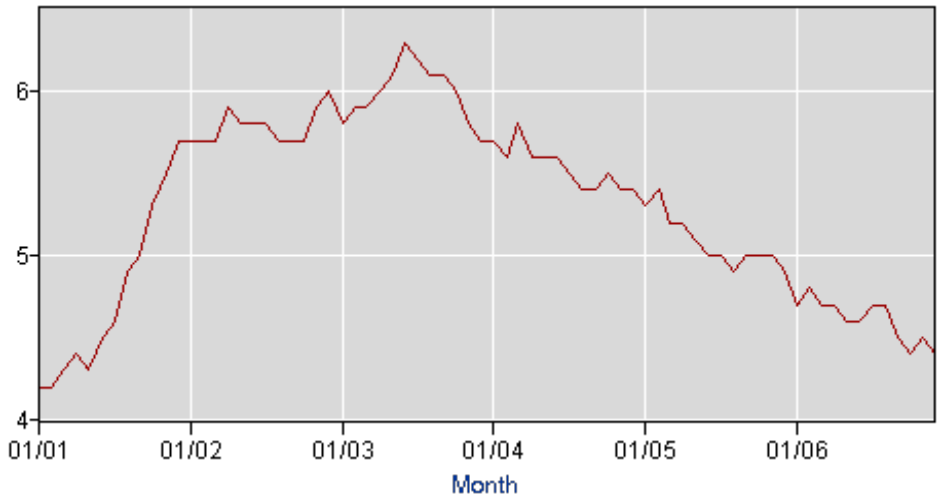

Figure 7. Unemployment Graph for Spike Three.

This 6.3% peak in unemployment is the weakest of the four spikes during the study period, but it took 64 months to return to pre-spike unemployment levels. The correlation analysis in Table 6 shows a Pearson's *r*-value of .380 suggesting a moderately weak correlation and a *p*-value of .002. The analysis suggests a significant positive correlation during this spike in the unemployment rate and the number of arrests for offenses against families and children. Squaring the *r*-value, the COD obtained was .1444, which when multiplied by 100 showed that 14.44% was the percentage of the variance in the number of arrests accounted for by the fluctuations in the unemployment rate. The scatterplot graph in Figure 11 shows this positive correlation. The trend line in

Figure 11 indicates that as the unemployment rate rises, the number of arrests for violations against families and children also rises.

Table 6

Correlation Chart for Spike Three

		Unemployment Rate	Child and Family
Unemployment rate	Pearson's correlation	1	.380
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.002
	N	64	64
Child and family	Pearson's correlation	.380	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002	
	N	64	64

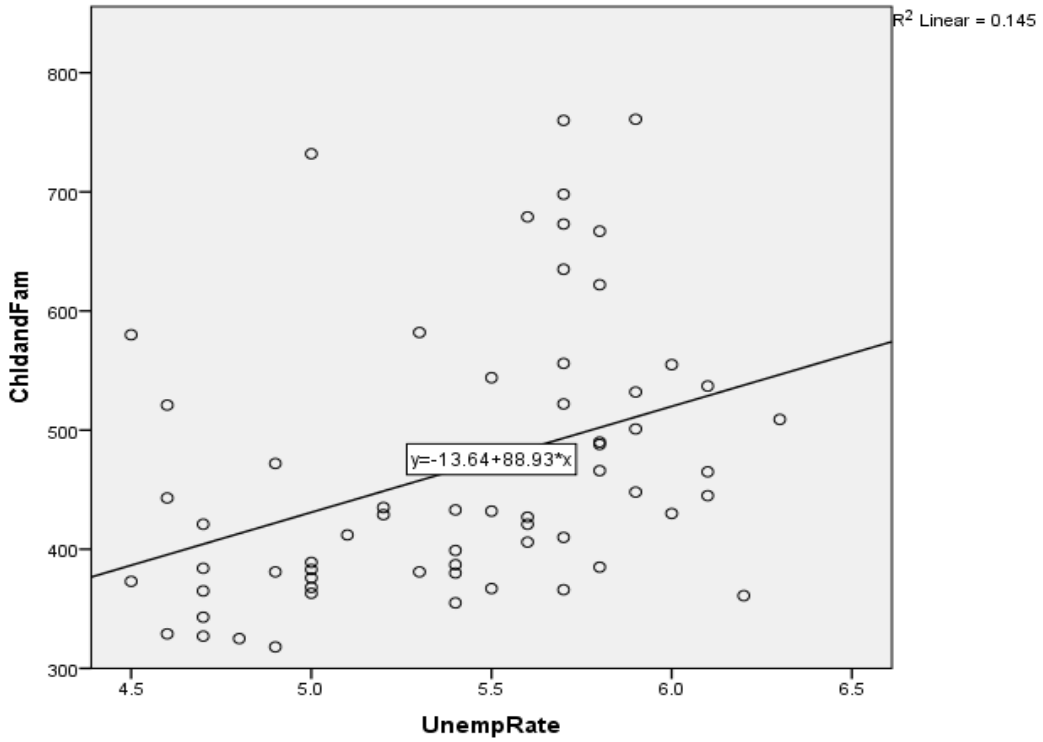

Figure 8. Scatterplot—Spike Three.

The fourth, and final, spike in unemployment during the study period occurred from August 2007 to December 2012 (Figure 9). This employment spike meets the USDOL criteria for high unemployment since the average of the 3 month period ending with the peak rate of 10.0% in October 2009, exceeds or equals the prior year's corresponding 3 month average; and the unemployment rate exceeded 8.0% (USDOL, 1992).

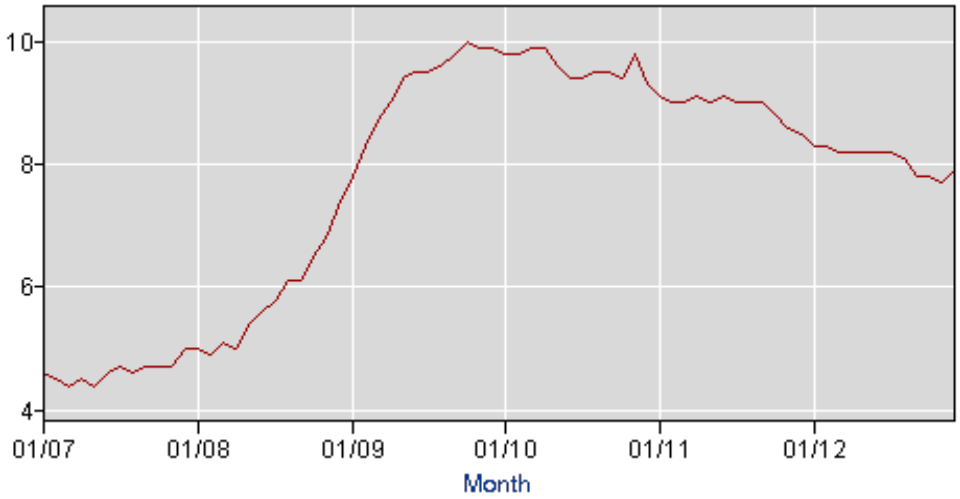

Figure 9. Unemployment Graph for Spike Four.

The length of this spike extends beyond the end of this study period, 65 months after its beginning (Figure 9). The correlation analysis in Table 7 shows a Pearson's *r*-value of −.623 suggesting a strong negative correlation and a *p*-value of .001. Since the *p*-value is less than .05, the correlation is significant. Squaring the *r*-value, the COD is .3881, which when multiplied by 100 shows that 38.81% is the percent chance that the variance in the number of arrests was attributed to the fluctuations in the unemployment rate.

Table 7

Correlation Chart for Spike Four

		Unemployment Rate	Child and Family
Unemployment rate	Pearson's correlation	1	−.623
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	65	65
Child and family	Pearson's correlation	−.623	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	65	65

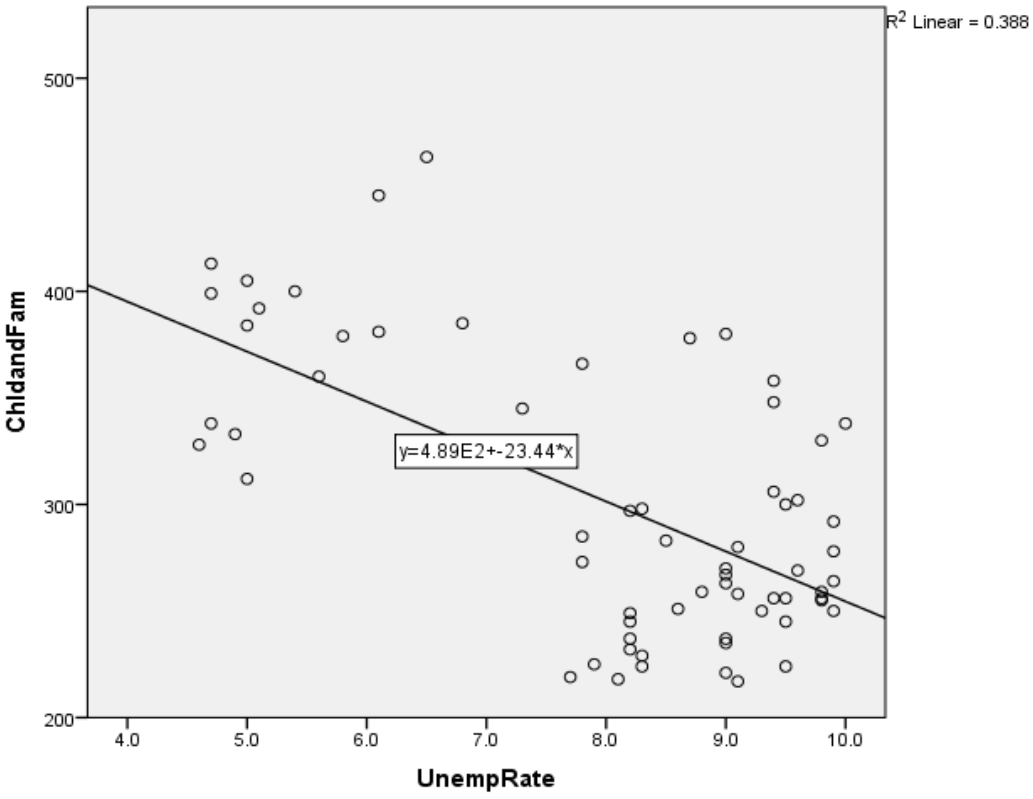

Figure 10. Scatterplot—Spike Four.

The analysis suggests a significant negative correlation during this spike between the unemployment rate and the number of arrests for offenses against families and children. The scatterplot graph in Figure 13 shows this negative correlation. The trend

line in Figure 13 indicates that as the unemployment rate rises, the number of arrests for violations against families and children decreases.

Total Victimizations Recorded from the NCVS and the Unemployment Rate

Victimizations are collected bi-annually by the Department of Justice in the NCVS, but, are reported on an annual basis. The total number of victimizations per year was compared to the annual unemployment rate. The national annual unemployment rate is the average of the 12 monthly unemployment rate values for each year (USDOL, n.d.).

The SPSS bivariate linear regression analysis of the annual NCVS victimization totals compared to the unemployment rate for the period between 1980 and 2012, inclusive, showed a moderately strong and significant negative correlation. Table 8 shows a Pearson's *r*-value of −.550 and a significance (*p*-value) of .001. Since $p < .05$, the correlation is considered to be significant. Squaring the *r*-value, the COD obtained is .3025, which when multiplied by 100 shows that 30.25% is the percentage of the variance in the number of victimizations accounted for by the fluctuations in the unemployment rate. The graphic representation of this correlation is shown in Figure 14.

Table 8

Correlations for Unemployment and Total Victimizations

		Annual Unemployment Rate	TtlF and C Arrests
Annual unemployment rate	Pearson's correlation	1	−.550
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	33	33
TtlF and C arrests	Pearson's correlation	−.550**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	33	33

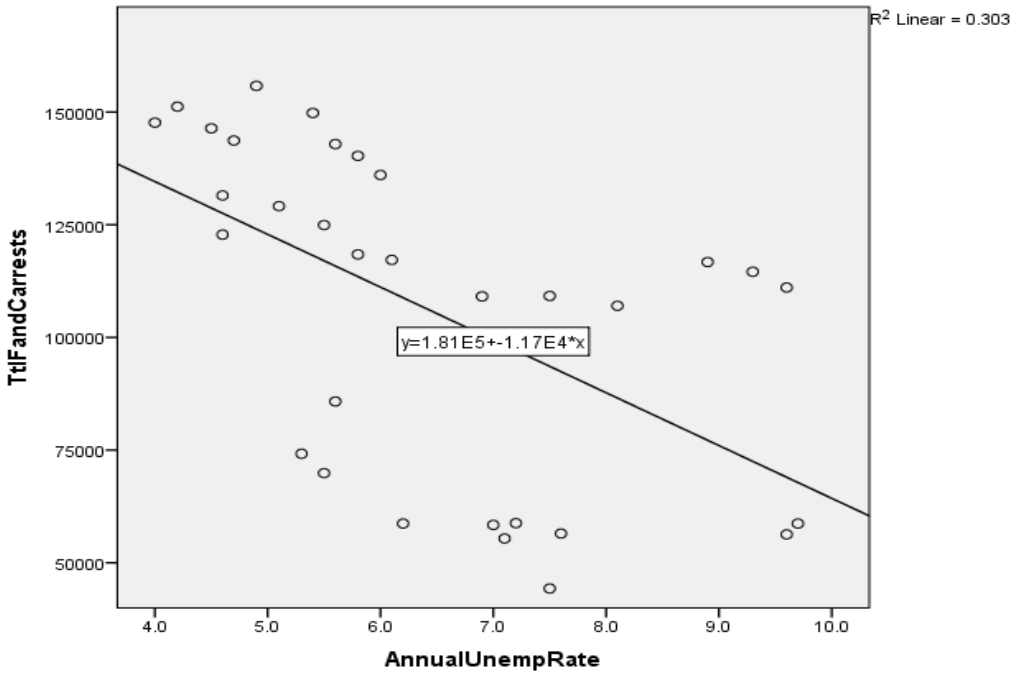

Figure 11. Scatterplot—Total Family and Children Victimizations.

Unemployment Rate and Over 18 Years of Age Victimizations

In an attempt to gain insight into the adult nature of IPV and the adolescent nature of CM, this study conducted comparative analyses of the annual victimizations of those over 18 victims as a measure of IPV; and victims under 18 years of age as a measure of CM. Both of these age groups were compared to the annual unemployment rate in separate bivariate regression analyses. The analysis of the comparison between victimizations involving victims over 18 years old and the annual unemployment rate for the 33-year period between 1980 and 2012, yielded a moderately strong, significant, negative correlation. Table 9 shows a Pearson's correlation value of −.536 and a significance (*p*-value) of .001. Since $p < .05$, the correlation was considered significant.

Table 9

Correlation Chart for Unemployment and Over 18 Victimizations

		Annual Unemployment Rate	Over 18 FC Arrests
Annual unemployment rate	Pearson's correlation	1	−.536
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	33	33
Over 18 FC arrests	Pearson's correlation	−.536	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	33	33

Squaring the *r*-value, the COD obtained was .2872, which when multiplied by 100 showed that 28.72% is the percentage of the variance in the number of victimizations accounted for by the fluctuations in the unemployment rate. The graphic representation of this correlation (Figure 15) shows the trend line reflecting the negative relationship of the plotted values. That is, as the unemployment rate rises, the rate of victimizations of those over the age of 18 (IPV victims) decreases.

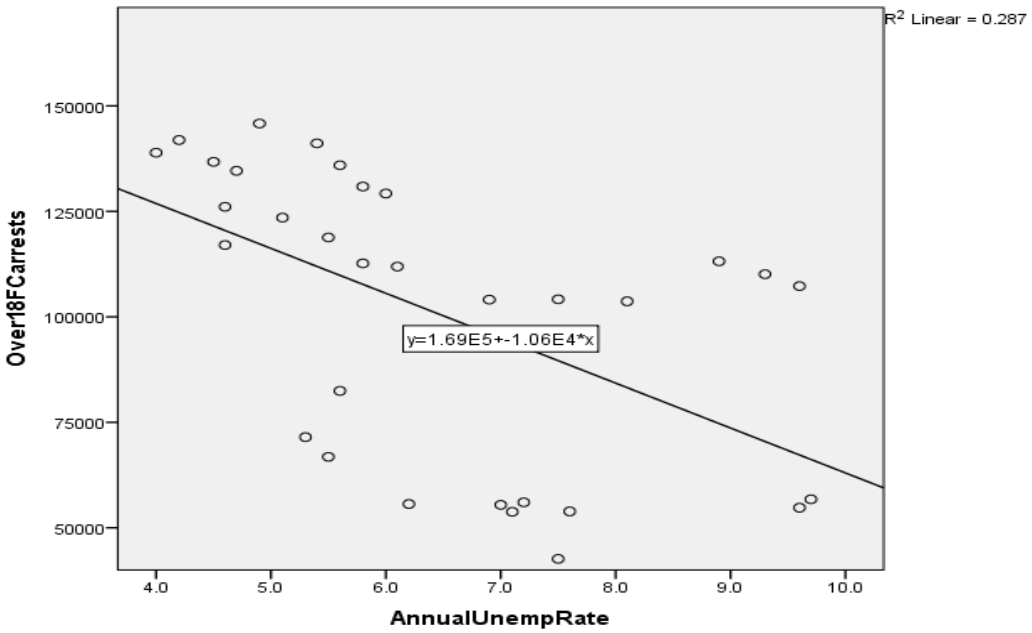

Figure 12. Scatterplot—Over 18 Victimizations.

Unemployment Rate and Under 18 Years of Age Victimizations

The analysis of the comparison between victimizations involving victims under 18 and the annual unemployment rate for the 33-year period between 1980 and 2012, yielded a strong, significant, negative correlation. Table 10 shows a Pearson's correlation value of −.676 and a significance (*p*-value) of .001. Since $p < .05$, the correlation is considered significant. Squaring the *r*-value (−.676), the COD obtained was .4569, which when multiplied by 100 shows that 45.69% is the percentage of the variance in the number of victimizations accounted for by the fluctuations in the unemployment rate.

Table 10

Correlation Chart for Unemployment and Under 18 Victimizations

		Annual Unemployment Rate	Under 18 FC Arrests
Annual unemployment rate	Pearson's correlation	1	−.676
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	33	33
Under 18 FC arrests	Pearson's correlation	−.676	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	33	33

The graphic representation of this correlation (Figure 16) shows the trend line reflecting the negative relationship of the plotted values. That is, as the unemployment rate rises, the rate of victimizations of victims under the age of 18 (CM victims) decreases.

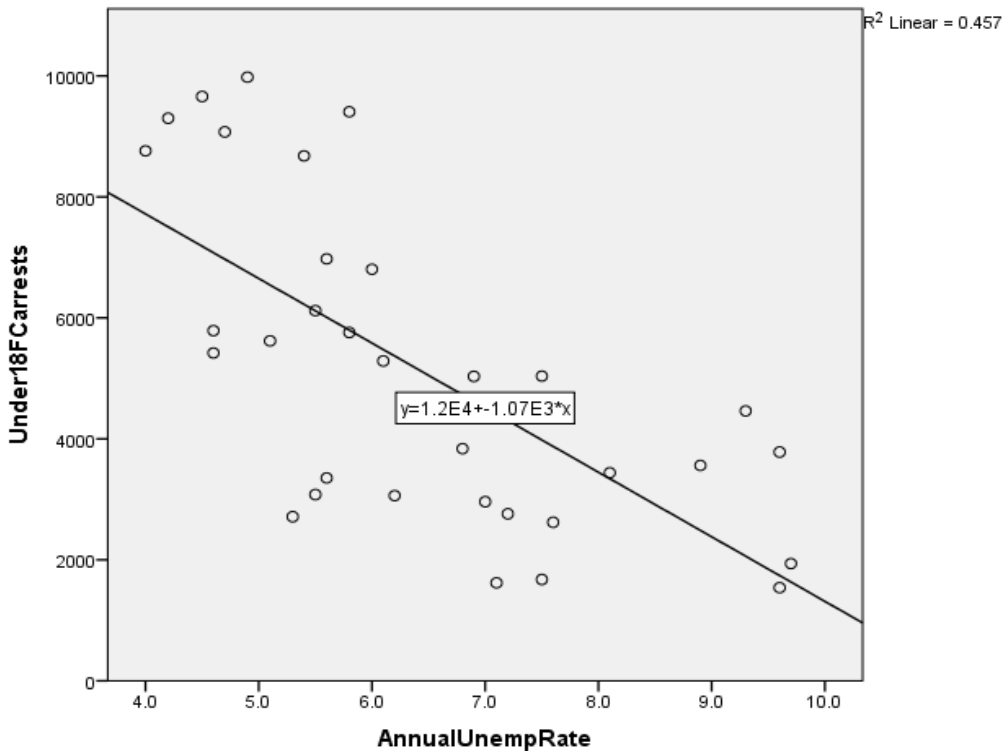

Figure 13. Scatterplot—Under 18 Victimizations.

Summary

The results of this study have provided ample information for analysis and discussion. In addition to the relationships and their applications that will be discussed in the next section; one of the common themes of this study has been illustrated in these results. Throughout this dissertation, the reader has been reminded that the focus of this study was on one of possibly many factors in the instigation of IPV and CM, unemployment. Table 11 presents a summary of the results.

Table 11

Correlation Results Summary Chart

Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	*r*	*p*	COD
Unemployment rate	Total arrests 1980 to 2012	−.407	.001	16.56%
Unemployment rate	First unemployment spike arrests	−.230	.191	5.29%
Unemployment rate	Second unemployment spike arrests	−.019	.893	.036%
Unemployment rate	Third unemployment spike arrests	.380	.002	14.44%
Unemployment rate	Fourth unemployment spike arrests	−.623	.001	38.81%
Unemployment rate	Total victimizations 1980 to 2012	−.550	.001	30.25
Unemployment rate	Over 18 victimizations 1980 to 2012	−.536	.001	28.72%
Unemployment rate	Under 18 victimizations 1980 to 2012	−.676	.001	45.69%

The combination of IPV and CM was chosen to represent offenses related to, and occurring in, family environments. The UCR and NCVS databases were chosen to represent records of IPV and CM violations in the broadest context of available statistical records. UCR arrests and NCVS victimizations for offenses against families and children cover violent and non-violent IPV and CM offenses. The analysis of the comparison of these independent variables with the dependent variable, unemployment, coupled with the size and choice of the sample, should provide valid and reliable results.

Six of the eight bivariate regression analyses showed a significant correlation between the unemployment rate and the dependent variable. Some of the significant correlations were stronger than others, ranging from .380 to −.676 in Pearson's *r*-values. Even the strongest, significant correlation ($r = -.676$) had a COD of 45.69%, which was the percentage of the variance in the number of victimizations that was attributed to the fluctuations in the unemployment rate. That means that 54.31% of the variance in victimizations was left to be accounted for by an unknown variable(s). The COD was helpful in illustrating that unemployment was only one factor, or part of a combination of factors, potentially capable of instigating IPV and CM.

The results of this study are intended to provide a deeper understanding of the relationship between unemployment and the occurrence of IPV and CM. As reflected in the hypotheses, the bulk of the research on the relationship suggests unemployment may have a potentially causal effect on IPV and CM within the context of a stressor. Though contrary, in large part, to the asserted hypotheses, an evaluation of the hypotheses shows many significant relationships exist.

Hypothesis Analysis

In H1, the assertion was made that over the entire study period (396 months) the unemployment rate would have a statistically significant and positive relationship between the number of arrests for offenses and families and children. The null hypothesis stated unemployment would have no significant effect on the number of arrests. Based on the results of this research, the null hypothesis must be rejected even though the hypothesis incorrectly asserted there would be a positive correlation. The significant (p = .001) negative correlation ($r = -.407$) led to the rejection of the null hypothesis.

H2 asserted a statistically significant, positive correlation between the unemployment rate and the number of arrests for offenses against families and children during the first spike in unemployment during the study period (August 1981 to May 1984). The null hypothesis stated the unemployment rate would have no significant effect on the number of arrests. For this hypothesis, the null hypothesis could not be rejected because unemployment had no significant effect on the number of arrests. The analysis showed a weak negative correlation ($r = -.230$) and a p-value larger than .05 ($p = .191$).

H3 also asserted a statistically significant, positive correlation between the unemployment rate and the number of arrests for offenses against families and children during the second spike in unemployment during the study period (July 1990 to

December 1994). The null hypothesis stated the unemployment rate would have no significant effect on the number of arrests. This null hypothesis could not be rejected because unemployment had no significant effect on the number of arrests. The analysis showed a weak negative correlation ($r = -.019$) and a p-value larger than .05 ($p = .893$).

Related to the third unemployment spike during the study period (i.e., June 2001 to September 2006), H4 asserted a statistically significant, positive correlation between the unemployment rate during the spike and the number of arrests for offenses against families and children. The null hypothesis stated there would be no significant correlation between the variables. The research showed a moderately weak positive correlation ($r = .380$) and a statistically significant p-value ($p = .002$). For this hypothesis, the null was rejected.

H5 addressed the final spike in unemployment during the study period (August 2007 to December 2012). H5 asserted a statistically significant positive correlation between the unemployment rate and the number of arrests for offenses against families and children. The null hypothesis stated unemployment would have no effect on the number of arrests. The research results showed a somewhat strong negative correlation between the variables ($r = -.623$) and a statistically significant p-value ($p = .001$). Based on these findings, the null hypothesis was rejected.

H6 asserted the unemployment rate would be positively correlated to a statistically significant degree with the number of victimizations recorded in the NCVS from 1980 to 2012. The null hypothesis stated the unemployment rate would have no significant relationship with the number of victimizations. The research showed a statistically significant negative relationship between the two variables, producing an r-

value of −.550 and a *p*-value of .001. Based on these results, the null hypothesis was rejected.

H7 hypothesized there was a statistically significant and positive correlation between the unemployment rate and the number of NCVS victimizations for individuals over 18 years of age during the study period. The null hypothesis stated there was no significant relationship between the variables. Based on the research results, which showed a statistically significant ($p = .001$), negative ($r = -.536$) correlation between the variables, the null hypothesis was rejected.

H8 hypothesized there was a statistically significant and positive correlation between the unemployment rate and the number of NCVS victimizations for individuals under 18 years of age during the study period. The null hypothesis stated there was no significant relationship between the variables. Based on the research results, which showed a statistically significant ($p = .001$), negative correlation between the variables ($r = -.676$), the null hypothesis was rejected.

Chapter V

DISCUSSION

Overview

In examining one piece of the puzzle of the potential cause of IPV and CM, this study focused on the relationship between unemployment and IPV and CM. This study further subdivided the examination of the relationship into long-term trends, shorter duration spikes in unemployment, victimization under 18 years of age (CM), and victimization over 18 years of age (IPV). The purpose of looking at the populations generally rather than at more specific groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, and race) was to be inclusive of all parts of society. This broader focus directly addresses the opportunity for policymakers to assess, on an aggregate population level, what might be expected from any policy implemented for an entire population.

Before looking at the implications of the results of this study in the context of the four focal categories, the overall contradiction of the hypothetical assertions needs to be discussed. The literature review for this topic suggested some type of positive correlation between unemployment and the occurrence of IPV and CM; not as a singular cause, but, as one of several potentially causal factors acting individually or in concert with one another. Rather, five of the eight correlations, including both long-term trend analyses and all of the victimization analyses, showed statistically significant negative correlations. These findings that suggest that as unemployment rises, IPV and CM

occurrences decrease, seem contrary to common sense and are contrary to much of the reviewed literature.

In many of the studies in the literature review, unemployment was identified as a stressor that initiated a frustration or anger reaction that resulted in aggression, often toward family members. This critical point (the loss of employment) may be distorted to some degree possibly by a *woozle* effect (Gelles, 1980). That is, an evolution of an idea into a truth when the pattern of research is cited without properly assessing the findings. One example in the research is the equating of low socioeconomic status with unemployment. If one is unemployed, one then must be poor. In the Hien and Hien (1998) study, the results of the stresses of poverty and disadvantage were cited as having a role in feelings of depression and substance abuse. Later, unemployment was added to the factor set that contributed to those problems, presumably under the assumption that the loss of income caused financial stress equivalent to socioeconomic disadvantage.

In the Hattery and Smith (2012) study, the findings related to families with lower income experiencing more CM led to the prediction that the 2007 recession would produce a spike in physical and emotional child abuse. Using the variables as operationally defined in this study and the calculated correlation to unemployment, the results of the current study did not bear the prediction out. That is not to say these two studies were wrong, but the presumption seems to be that unemployment leads to being poor, which is the same as being socioeconomically disadvantaged. This assumption may not be accurate.

A person who is unable to sustain a consistent work relationship because he or she is psychologically impaired, or an addicted substance abuser, or has a low education

level, is not necessarily affected by unemployment the same way as an educated, non-addicted, and non-impaired individual. The suggestion posited by this research goes back to the admonition sounded throughout this study: there are many factors in this complicated relationship, and none can be taken for granted. At the critical juncture in which an individual experiences unemployment stress, the objective should be to identify whether gender/cultural issues, substance abuse, biological issues, or economic factors are prominent or have been activated, and why.

Long-Term Trends

The correlation analyses for the 33-year (396 months) study period were selected as a relatively large period of time and data. As it turned out, the period was longer and wider in scope than any discovered in the literature review. It also provided for results that were difficult to apply in a more microenvironment such as states and cities. At any rate, the relationship between unemployment and UCR arrests provided 396 months of compatible data with which to measure and enter into the SPSS software program.

The resulting correlation ($r = -.409$) and p-value ($p = .001$) reflect an inverse (negative) relationship between unemployment and IPV and CM. More specifically, as the unemployment rate rises, the occurrences of IPV and CM would be expected to decrease since the probability of obtaining that r-value would be unlikely if the null hypothesis were true. The COD value of 16.56% tells the percentage of variance explained by unemployment in IPV and CM, while another variable(s) accounts for 83.44% of the variance.

The relationship between unemployment and NCVS victimizations provided 33 annual values of compatible data with which to measure and enter into the SPSS software

program. The resulting correlation ($r = -.550$) and p-value ($p = .001$) reflect an inverse (negative) relationship between unemployment and IPV and CM. More specifically, as the unemployment rate rises, the occurrences of IPV and CM victimizations would be expected to decrease since the probability of obtaining that r-value would be unlikely if the null hypothesis were true. The COD value of 30.25% tells of the percentage of variance explained by unemployment in IPV and CM, while another variable(s) accounts for 69.75% of the variance.

While contrary to the assertion of the hypotheses for these two correlations, these results suggest a potentially inhibiting effect of unemployment on arrests and victimizations related to offenses against families and children (IPV and CM).

The chart in Figure 2 shows the unemployment levels in the United States for the entire 33-year study period. The spikes in unemployment that are visible on the chart appear to represent a cyclical pattern of unemployment over the study period. Recalling that unemployment has been described as a normal and cyclical aspect of our economy (Salem, 1999; Raissian, 2015), visualizing the trend adds confidence to the reliability of the data. Analyzing the trend of the relationship between unemployment and arrests and victimizations over the study period, which captures several iterations of a normal cycle, suggests the effects of unemployment may have stronger validity.

Spikes in Unemployment

Spike One

The spikes in unemployment during the study period show the most diverse results in the study. These spikes incorporate considerations related to the DOL's definition of high unemployment, different industries that were seen to have instigated

the recessive environment, and varying extremes in the correlation analyses between unemployment and IPV and CM.

The first spike in unemployment occurred between August of 1981 and May of 1984 and reached the highest unemployment rate in the study period (10.8%). The results of the analysis showed a weak negative relationship ($r = -.230$) that was not significant ($p = .191$). The COD suggests that unemployment is responsible for 5.29% of the variation in arrests and victimizations (IPV and CM). This spike in unemployment met the DOL definition of high unemployment. The expectation of this study, as expressed in H2, is based on the expectation that the spike in unemployment would highlight any effects unemployment may have on IPV and CM. The non-significant, weak, negative correlation means we cannot reject the null hypothesis that unemployment has no significant effect on IPV and CM.

This first spike in unemployment is thought to have been caused by the Iran oil embargo, which caused oil prices to decrease and gasoline shortages in the United States (Amadeo, 2016). As a central commodity traded in the U.S. economy and a large industry in the United States, the combination of a broad impact and high unemployment is another reason to expect that downstream effects of unemployment, such as IPV and CM, would be more pronounced.

Spike Two

The second unemployment spike occurred from July 1990 to December 1994 and reached an unemployment peak of 8%. The analysis for this spike also met the criteria for high unemployment and had the weakest *r*-value (−.019), *p*-value (.893), and COD (.036%). These findings suggest only a very slight negative relationship that is non-

significant. The values also consistently show that the two variables in this analysis have almost no correlation.

This recessive period is thought to have been caused by the savings and loan crisis (Amadeo, 2016). Here again, what is notable is the high unemployment, albeit less than the previous spike, shows less of a correlation between the variables. There is a difference in the type of industry that is thought to be the instigator of the recessive period. Salem (1999) pointed out that the cyclical nature of unemployment is not static or equal. Even though the cycle is recurring, unemployment in different recessions may hit some industries harder than others.

Spike Three

The third unemployment spike, which occurred from June 2001 to September 2006, posits, what appears to be, an anomaly in the results data. The high unemployment point during this spike reached 6.3%. The analysis of this spike showed a positive (r = .380) and significant (p = .002) relationship between unemployment during the spike and arrests and victimizations for offenses against families and children (IPV and CM). The COD showed that 14.44% of the variance in the number of arrests and victimizations was explained by the fluctuations in the unemployment rate. While not a high percentage, the COD is consistent with the strength of the r-value.

This recessive period was thought to have been caused by the y2k fears and the bursting of the dot.com bubble (Amadeo, 2016). The results of this spike analysis support the hypothesis in this study, but are contrary to the trend of negative relationships in the prior analyses. This period is also interesting because the unemployment rate does not meet the DOL criteria for high unemployment since the overall rate did not exceed 8%. In fact, in the context of full employment, which describes a theoretical estimate of a

fully utilized workforce, an unemployment rate of 6.3% might be at, or near, full employment in some years (Bernstein, 2002). Still, Bernstein (2002) explained that even small increases in the unemployment rate (< 1%) can meaningfully affect productivity in the more financially strapped sectors of the economy.

In this third spike, we see the smallest rise in unemployment, and the only positive relationship between the variables analyzed. On their face, the results for this spike suggest that during moderate periods of unemployment, that are not considered high unemployment, arrests and victimizations might increase as unemployment increases. This individual analysis also suggests that there may be a point of diminishing returns, meaning that if unemployment rises to a certain point, arrests and victimizations may decrease. This scenario seems unlikely since the tests for linearity conducted in preparation for the bivariate analysis did not indicate any curvilinear relationships in the data.

Spike Four

In the fourth spike in unemployment during the study period, which occurred from August 2007 to December 2012, the results of the analysis showed a moderately strong negative correlation ($r = -.623$), which was statistically significant ($p = .001$). The COD value (38.81%) was consistent with the strength of the correlation and indicated that 38.81% of the variation in arrests and victimizations (IPV and CM) was explained by the fluctuations in the unemployment rate.

The peak in the unemployment rate during this period reached 10%, and the recessive environment was attributed to the lending practices of the subprime lending industry (Amadeo, 2016). This period of unemployment met the criteria for high unemployment and had the distinction of the largest percentage increase in

unemployment, (5.6%) from 4.4% to 10%, from the low just prior to the spike to the peak of the spike.

These findings are consistent with the few articles in the literature review that suggested unemployment may have the opposite effect of the commonly held notion that unemployment is a stressor that accounts for some degree of frustration and aggression. While Cunradi et al. (2009) and Raissian (2015) recognized unemployment as a stressful life event, they all also suggested that the presence of the unemployed family member in the home may offer a positive benefit to the family: extra bonding time with the family, child care, providing a break for the normal caregiver, are all prosocial and pro-family benefits of having a formerly employed family member in the home. Benson et al. (2003) acknowledged the increased presence in the home of the unemployed family member but suggested the increased presence might generate more friction than goodwill in the family.

Table 12 shows the increases in unemployment from the low just before the peak of the spike to the highest unemployment rate at the peak of the respective spike. The only significant correlations in the unemployment spikes were in the analysis of spikes three and four. Spike three had a significant positive correlation and the smallest increase in unemployment rate. Spike four had a significant negative correlation and the highest percentage increase in unemployment rate through the spike. Since spikes one and two resulted in non-significant negative correlations, the effect of the size of the percent increase may be a factor. However, given the variety of industries directly affected and the types of downstream industries affected, other factors may couple with the size of the increase to produce some meaningful effects on IPV and CM.

Table 12

Percent Increase in Unemployment in Each Unemployment Spike

Spikes in unemployment	1	2	3	4
Increase in unemployment from dip prior to peak, to the peak.	3.6%	2.6%	2.5%*	5.6%*

*Significant ($p < .05$)

Over 18 Years of Age Victimizations (IPV)

An analysis of the relationship between the unemployment rate and the number of NCVS victimizations related to offenses against families and children for individuals over 18 years old was conducted for the entire study period (33 years). The correlation analysis yielded a moderately strong negative *r*-value ($r = -.536$) that was statistically significant ($p = .001$). The COD suggests that fluctuation in unemployment accounted for 28.72% of the variation in the number of arrests and victimizations. .

Under 18 Years of Age Victimizations (CM)

An analysis of the relationship between the unemployment rate and the number of NCVS victimizations related to offenses against families and children for individuals under 18 years old was conducted for the entire study period (33 years). The correlation analysis yielded a moderately strong negative *r*-value ($r = -.676$) that was statistically significant ($p = .001$). The COD suggests that the fluctuation in unemployment accounted for 45.69% of the variation in the number of arrests and victimizations..

These last two categories show compelling evidence of the presence of the effects of unemployment in the occurrence of IPV and CM, even though unemployment appears to act as an inhibitor rather than a trigger for IPV and CM. These results also show evidence that there are other unidentified variables in the inhibition of IPV and CM.

Relationship to Other Studies

In furtherance of other related studies reviewed in the literature review, this study extends their findings and sheds some light on questions raised in their studies. Many of the studies calling for further research did so after finding in their studies a possible positive relationship between unemployment and IPV, CM, or both. The Raissian (2015) study is the exception to this circumstance. Raissian (2015) found mixed relationships in her study of New York State counties between unemployment and CM. The study found significant negative relationships in urban counties and non-significant positive relationships in rural counties. The study called for future research on the relationship between CM and unemployment during periods of high unemployment.

The current study focused on four spikes in unemployment that occurred during the study period. Three of the four periods of unemployment found negative relationships between unemployment and IPV and CM. however, only one was significant, the final spike. The third spike showed a significant positive relationship and had the lowest unemployment rate. The long-term trend (33 years) of the relationship between unemployment and CM showed a significant negative relationship. The predominantly negative relationships in the spike and long-term analysis lend support to Raissian's (2015) assertion that unemployment may have the opposite effect on CM than the more typically accepted view that unemployment is a trigger for CM.

Solomon et al. (2016) conducted a study to determine if the idea of cumulative risk, multiple factors combining to cause CM recidivism rather than just one, could be identified. In this study, unemployment was determined to be a situational risk factor in CM recidivism. After conducting the study, Solomon et al. (2016) found that parental

unemployment and parental substance abuse were the only factors present in a statistically significant and positive relationship. The study called for more research to confirm if the study findings were accurate.

The current study tested for the relationship between unemployment and IPV and CM and found significant, negative, relationships between the variables in five of eight regression analyses. The one analysis that focused on CM showed the strongest negative correlation ($r = -.676$) of all of the analyses. The current study's findings contradict the findings of Solomon et al. (2016), in that, the correlation covered a 33-year period and showed the opposite significant relationship (negative) that the Solomon et al. (2016) study found (positive).

Dutton (2006) asserted that wife abuse is more likely when conditions related to unemployment exist (i.e., more contact between partners, conflict over financial matters, lowered self-esteem of the husband, and redirected aggression). This assertion led Dutton to predict that wife abuse would increase immediately after a period of economic downturn.

The current study looks at IPV exclusively and its relationship to unemployment, which is one of the main factors in an economic downturn. In that comparison of 33 years of unemployment and IPV victimization data, the study found a significant ($p = .001$) negative correlation ($r = -.536$) between the variables. Contrary to Dutton's (2006) assertion, the current study findings suggest that as unemployment rises, IPV occurrences decrease.

In the discussion of the cycle of violence that IPV and CM are suspected of perpetuating unemployment, substance abuse, education level, and exposure to violence

as a child, are linked to various types of IPV (i.e., sexual, physical, and psychological; Onigbogi et al., 2015). Anger, alcohol, and IPV victimization were also identified as aspects that work together to create the environment for IPV (Sprunger et al., 2015).

In focusing on unemployment, the current study was able to isolate one of the major concerns related to the commission of IPV. Even though future researchers will need to address the effects of isolating a variable that may combine with others, the results of the current study enable a clearer study focus. In the IPV-focused analysis in the current study, the significant negative relationship between unemployment and IPV over a 33-year period may be able to act to refocus future research to other identified or suspected triggers for IPV.

The contradictions between the findings of the current study and many reviewed in the literature review are not meant to suggest that unemployment can be eliminated from consideration as a component of IPV and CM instigation. The study does suggest that the relationship warrants closer review when assertions are made related to its trigger effect for IPV and CM.

Recommendations for Future Research

Future research on this topic should focus on specific points where people experience stress; the moment they are fired or laid off, the moment they need to tell their spouse or partner, or the moment they land a new job. At these points, people may be more likely to recall whether they experienced fear, anger, relief, or embarrassment. One might hypothesize that arguments or positive family bonding that occur after these moments, and changes that occur subsequently may evolve from the feelings at those critical moments.

Additional research related to the types of employees that are displaced during an unemployment event may also be insightful. In the y2k/dot-com recession, many technically skilled workers were displaced. The subprime recession affected the construction industry and many blue-collar workers. There were, of course, many other types of workers who were displaced in these recessions. There may be an industry/worker type relationship with aggression and unemployment.

This area of study would also benefit from future research that focused on isolating other suspected triggers for aggression and violence. If a better understanding of the power of the suspected triggers could be achieved, the most appropriate focus for research, policy, and analysis may be established. Factors such as alcoholism, psychopathy, prior experience or exposure to violence, and other types of substance abuse are some examples.

Public Policy Perspective

As an evaluative aid to the policymaker, the current study adds to the current body of information related to unemployment and the occurrence of IPV and CM. Since the majority of findings in this study suggest unemployment may act more as an inhibitor of IPV and CM, the use of the infrastructure of the unemployment insurance system, for example, would likely not be advocated as a means to combat the issue of IPV and CM. Using that system to distribute IPV and CM educational material or require IPV and CM training as criteria for receiving benefits, is not supported by the findings of this study. However, the benefit of this study's findings is that policy direction and funding expenditures may be more appropriately directed to other programs. Given the large number of studies that suggest unemployment is likely a triggering factor in IPV and CM,

it is plausible to think a policymaker may adopt that view, which is not supported by this study.

Using the unemployment insurance system in a different way might involve monitoring periods of low unemployment for increased IPV and CM activity. Possibly instead of using the unemployment insurance system, the policymaker might consider some workplace programs and try to involve employers in the effort to reduce IPV and CM while unemployment is low.

Akin to the idea of careful evaluation of existing research to understand the subject issues better is the need to include monitoring and recording the effectiveness and the events that unfold as the policy is implemented. Well documented policy implementation provides a wealth of information that is useful in furthering the understanding of the concepts at play and expanding the body of knowledge for future policymakers and researchers.

In the event a policymaker and community officials develop and implement a workplace education program or counseling service, questions need to be asked, and people need to be in charge of monitoring the progress or lack thereof. How is it received? What was the IPV or CM rate prior to the implementation? After? Who is in charge of keeping track? All of these questions and many others may lead to a further understanding of IPV and CM. Regardless of whether it works, knowledge is gained.

Again, this study did not presume to eliminate unemployment from consideration as a potential causal factor in the instigation of IPV and CM, just as it did not assert that unemployment is the most prominent factor. It did suggest that the relationship is complex and fraught with assumptions that seem plausible and acceptable when they may

not be. If nothing else, this study should act as an assumption check for researchers and policymakers and cause them to take nothing for granted in their efforts to develop sound policy or conduct quality research.

Conclusion

In the end, this study became a useful example of the underlying policy development concern that spawned the idea for this research. The bulk of the research in the literature review reflected the suspected positive relationship between unemployment, IPV, and CM. Also, it makes sense for someone to believe that a person losing his or her job would be angry, frustrated, or embarrassed enough to become aggressive and even violent.

Considering the agreement of the results of the current study across data sources and in different contexts, the study does not support the assertion of a positive relationship between IPV and CM. While this is only one study, it should give policymakers and researchers pause in confidently assuming that unemployment is related positively to IPV and CM.

Executives, politicians, school officials, and anyone involved in policy development or the research process may embrace the idea of a positive relationship, as I did. More insidiously, people with political or self-serving agendas are able to manipulate this circumstance to influence policy. The current study shows that careful evaluation, research, and publication are necessary for sound policy.

The results almost completely refute the hypotheses in this study. From a policy standpoint, a policymaker would need to carefully asses his or her community to determine whether this study, in comparison to other similar studies, is relevant to his

community. The policymaker should then consider policy approaches to dealing with IPV and CM that are more or less directly related to trends in employment and unemployment.

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APPENDIX A:

Institutional Review Board Protocol Exemption Report

Valdosta State University Graduate School

Institutional Review Board Oversight Screening Form for Graduate Student Research

Project Title: Dissertation

Name: Andrew McFarlane

Department: Public Administration

E-mail: amcfarlane@valdosta.edu

Telephone: 770-298-2418

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Robert Yehl

Please indicate the academic purpose of the proposed research:
- [x] Doctoral Dissertation
- [ ] Master's Thesis
- [ ] Other:

1. ☐ YES ☒ NO **Will you utilize *existing identifiable private* information about living individuals?** "Existing" information is data that were previously collected for some other purpose, either by the researcher or, more commonly, by another party. "Identifiable" means that the identities of the individuals can be ascertained by the researcher by name, code number, pattern of answers, or in some other way, regardless of whether or not the researcher needs to know the identities of the individuals for the proposed research project. "Private" information includes information about behavior that occurs in a context in which an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or recording is taking place or information provided for specific purposes that the individual can reasonably expect will not be made public (e.g., a medical record or student record).

   Note: If you are using data that: (1) are publicly available; (2) were collected from individuals anonymously (i.e., no identifying information was included when the data were first collected); (3) will be de-identified before being given to the researcher, (i.e., the owner of the data will strip identifying information so that the researcher cannot ascertain the identities of individuals); or (4) do not include any private information about the individuals, regardless of whether or not the identities of the individuals can be ascertained, your response to Question 1 should be NO.

2. ☐ YES ☒ NO **Will you *interact* with individuals to obtain data?** "Interaction" includes communication or interpersonal contact between the researcher and the research participant, such as testing, surveying, interviewing, or conducting a focus group. It does not include observation of public behavior when the researcher does not participate in the activities being observed.

3. ☐ YES ☒ NO **Will you *intervene* with individuals to obtain data?** "Intervention" includes manipulation of the individual or his/her environment for research purposes, as well as using physical procedures (e.g., measuring body composition, using a medical device, collecting a specimen) to gather data for research purposes.

If you answered YES to ANY of the above questions, your research is subject to Institutional Review Board oversight. Please discard this form and complete and submit an IRB application. Do not begin your research until your application has been reviewed by the IRB and you are informed of the outcome of the review.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

If you answered NO to ALL of the above questions, your research is not subject to Institutional Review Board oversight. Stop here, sign below, secure your faculty advisor's signature, and submit this form to the Graduate School. Please remember that, even though your project is not subject to IRB oversight, you should still observe ethical principles in the conduct of your research.

STUDENT CERTIFICATION: I certify that my responses to the above questions accurately describe my proposed research.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: 2/7/17

FACULTY ADVISOR CERTIFICATION: I have reviewed the student's proposed research and concur that it is not subject to Institutional Review Board oversight.

Faculty Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: 4.13.2017

Valdosta State University

APPLICATION FOR USE OF HUMAN PARTICIPANTS IN RESEARCH

EXEMPT APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all required information, and check appropriate boxes. Attach all CITI training documents, answers to questions 12-15, and obtain all required signatures before submitting to the Office of Sponsored Programs & Research Administration.

Project Title: Andrew McFarlane Dissertation **Project Dates:** 05/02/2016 to 05/02/2017
mm/dd/yyyy mm/dd/yyyy

Responsible Researcher: Andrew McFarlane
Mailing Address: 1194 Arborhill Dr Woodstock, GA 30189
Department: Public Administration
Email: amcfarlane@valdosta.edu
Telephone: 770-298-2418

Minimum # of Participants: 0
Maximum # of Participants: 9
External Funding: ☐ Yes ☒ No
If Yes, Sponsor:
(Note: If research will be externally funded, include a copy of the proposal or award site. Certificates of human participants t

Supervising Faculty: Dr. Darrell Ross
Supervising Faculty Email: dross@valdosta.edu

VSU Status:
☐ FT/PT Faculty
☐ Adjunct Faculty
☐ Research Associate
☐ Administrator/Staff Member
☒ Graduate Student
  ☒ Doctoral Dissertation
  ☐ Master's Thesis
☐ Undergraduate Student
  ☐ Senior Project
☐ Unaffiliated Investigator

Co-Investigator	Institutional Affiliation	Email Address	*IRB FWA #

Note: Unaffiliated investigators must fill out the last column IRB FWA # and complete the Unaffiliated Agreement form at the link below:
https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/research/office-of-sponsored-programs-research-administration/institutional-review-board-irb-for-the-protection-of-human-research-participants.php

1. ☒ YES ☐ NO **Does your proposed study (a) meet the Valdosta State University Institutional Review Board definition of research (as cited below) or (b) does it involve a condition for IRB oversight as listed below?**

VSU IRB Definition of Research: Valdosta State University describes research as a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.

Conditions: The following conditions may not meet the definition of "research" as provided above, but will cause your research to be subject to IRB oversight:

- Intent to produce results that will be submitted for peer-reviewed publication or presentation
- Include minors (e.g. those under the age of 18)
- Target potentially vulnerable individuals
- May place pregnant women and/or fetuses at risk of physical harm
- Deal with a topic of sensitive nature in a way which anonymity cannot be sustained
- Involve any activity that places the participants at more than minimal risk (see Question 9 for definition of "minimal risk")

2. ☐ YES ☒ NO **Are the human participants in your study living individuals?**

3. ☐ YES ☒ NO **Are you collecting information about deceased persons that may put third parties (i.e., surviving spouses and/or living descendants) at more than minimal risk of harm?**

4. ☐ YES ☒ NO **Will you obtain data through intervention or interaction with living or third party individuals?**
"Intervention" includes both physical procedures by which data are gathered (e.g. measurement of heart rate of venipuncture)
"Interaction" includes communication or interpersonal contact between the investigator and participant (e.g. surveying or interviewing)

5. ☐ YES ☒ NO **Will you obtain identifiable private information about these individuals?**
Private information includes information about behavior that occurs in a context in which an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or recording is taking place. Identifiable means that the identity of the participant maybe ascertained by the investigator.

Note: If you have questions as to whether your research requires IRB oversight, additional information is available at our website.
http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/research/office-of-sponsored-programs-research-administration/institutional-review-board-irb-for-the-protection-of-human-research-participants.php

Updated 07/08/2014

6. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: In accordance with federal regulations, the VSU IRB requires all responsible researchers, co-investigators, key personnel, including unaffiliated investigators, and faculty advising student researchers to complete the CITI educational program. Co-investigators from other institutions are not required to complete this if they have a certificate of completion from their own federally assured IRB.
Please visit https://www.citiprogram.org to complete all of the following mandatory trainings:

1. Introduction
2. History and Ethical Principles
3. Defining Research with Human Subjects
4. The Regulations and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
5. Basic Institutional Review Board (IRB) Registration and Review Process
6. Assessing Risk in Social and Behavioral Sciences
7. Informed Consent
8. Privacy and Confidentiality
9. Valdosta State University Module

Additional modules may be required for specific types of research. Please check all that apply and complete the corresponding modules:

Study population targets	Additional CITI Modules Required
☐ a. Minors (under the age of 18)	Research with Children
☐ b. Public School Children	Research in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
☐ c. Pregnant Women	Vulnerable Subjects
☐ d. Prisoners	Research with Prisoners
☐ e. Potentially vulnerable individuals (those whose consent maybe compromised due to socio-economic, educational or linguistic disadvantage.)	Research with Protected Populations
☐ f. Individuals in foreign countries	International Research
☐ g. Individuals from different cultures or individuals from a particular racial/ethnic group	Group Harms: Research with Culturally or Medically Vulnerable groups
☐ h. Individuals about whom data will be collected from records (e.g., educational, health, or employment records)	Records-Based Research
☐ i. Individuals from or about whom Private Health Information (PHI) subject to HIPAA compliance will be collected	HIPAA and Human Subjects
☐ j. Individuals from whom information will be collected via Internet	Internet Research
☐ k. VSU Employees	Workers as Research Subjects

7. ☐ YES ☒ NO ***Does the primary researcher, co-investigator, or any other key person, have a potential or actual significant financial conflict of interest in performance of the research?*** If YES, it is required that the researcher completes the CITI module "Conflicts of Interest in Research Involving Human Subjects" and complete the VSU Conflict of Interest form available at: [illegible]

8. As a researcher you are expected to follow VSU's code of ethics. Will there be an additional code of ethics followed?
Include organization's name & Web address:

9. Name and location of external organization(s) providing research participants (attach letter(s) of cooperation)

10. ☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ UNCERTAIN **Does the study present more than minimal risk to the participants?**
"Minimal Risk" means that the risk of harm or discomfort anticipated in the proposed research are not greater, considering probability and magnitude, than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests. Note that the concept of risk includes psychological, emotional, or behavioral risks to employability, economic well-being, social standing, and risk of civil criminal liability.

11. Federal Regulations permit the exemption of some types of research from IRB Committee review.
NOTE: Studies involving *fetuses, pregnant women, children, or prisoners* are not eligible for exemption.

☐ Category 1: Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices, such as (i) research on regular and special education instructional strategies, or (ii) research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.

☐ Category 2: Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior, unless: (i) information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; and (ii) any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, or reputation. Note: This category of exemption is not applicable to research involving minors (45 CFR 46.401 b).

Updated 07/08/2016

☐ **Category 3:** Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior that is not exempt under Category 2 if: (i) the human subjects are elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office; or (ii) federal statute(s) require(s) without exception that the confidentiality of the personally identifiable information will be maintained throughout the research and thereafter.

☒ **Category 4:** Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens, if these sources are publicly available or if the information is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that subjects cannot be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.

☐ **Category 5:** Research and demonstration projects which are conducted by or subject to the approval of department or agency heads, and which are designed to study, evaluate, or otherwise examine: (i) Public benefit or service programs; (ii) procedures for obtaining benefits or services under those programs; (iii) possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures; or (iv) possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits or services under those programs.

☐ **Category 6:** Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies, (i) if wholesome foods without additives are consumed or (ii) if a food is consumed that contains a food ingredient at or below the level and for a use found to be safe, or agricultural chemical or environmental contaminant at or below the level found to be safe, by the Food and Drug Administration or approved by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Please answer each question below (12-15) in 1-3 paragraphs - answers to be submitted as a separate document.

12. In lay terms, what are the objectives of the proposed research?

13. Describe how the participants and/or data will be collected. Attach copies of posters, brochures, flyers, and/or signed letters of cooperation. Briefly describe the consent process utilized for this research.

14. Describe the research methodology. Attach all questionnaires, assessments, and/or focus group questions. If questionnaires or assessments will be developed during the research project please indicate the general nature of the questions in an attachment.

15. Describe how you will insure the privacy of participants and the confidentiality of the information about them, including how and by whom the data will be collected, managed, stored, accessed, rendered anonymous, and destroyed.

CERTIFICATIONS AND REQUIRED SIGNATURES

Note: Applications without all required signatures will be not be reviewed.

Statement of Responsible Researcher:

I certify that I have completed required training regarding human participant research ethics and am familiar with the ethical guidelines and regulations regarding the protection of human participants from research risks. I will adhere to the policies and procedures of the Valdosta State University Institutional Review Board (IRB). I will not initiate this research project until I receive written exemption or approval from the IRB. I will not involve any participant in the research until I have obtained and documented his/her informed consent as required by the IRB. I agree to (a) report to the IRB any unanticipated problems or adverse events which become apparent during the course or as a result of the research and the actions taken as a result, (b) cooperate with the IRB in the continuing review of this project, (c) obtain prior approval from the IRB before amending or altering the scope of the project or the research protocol, and (d) maintain documentation of consent and research data and reports for a minimum of three years and in accordance with approved data retention and procedures and confidentiality requirements after completion of the final report or longer if required by the sponsor or the institution. I understand that my department chair/unit director/faculty advisor (if I am a student) will receive a copy of my IRB exemption or approval report.

SIGNATURE: _____ **Date:** 1/28/17
Responsible Researcher

Statement of Faculty Advisor if Responsible Researcher is a Student:

I certify that I am familiar with the ethical guidelines and regulations regarding the protection of human participants from research risks and have completed training required by the VSU IRB. I agree to provide guidance and oversight as necessary to the above named student regarding the conduct of his/her research. I will ensure the student's timely requests for protocol modifications and/or continuing reviews, compliance with the ethical conduct of human participant research, and the submission of the final report. I understand that an IRB protocol cannot be closed until final report is submitted, and I agree that, if the student fails to complete a final report, I will be responsible for timely completion and submission of the report.

SIGNATURE: _____ **Date:** 4-13-17
Supervising Faculty