ESRC SDAI Application - Understanding domestic abuse using Big Data

1   Objectives

List the main objectives of the proposed research [up to 4000 chars]

1) To conduct the first large-scale, quantitative exploration of the individual- and neighbourhood-level risk factors of domestic abuse victimisation. Rigorous validation of insights from existing, mostly quantitative investigations using an UK-wide dataset, providing a deeper understanding of the environments perpetuating domestic abuse. While we will only use UK data, these findings will likely to be relevant for researchers outside the UK.

2) To translate our research into impact by delivering applicable insights for the relevant agencies. Police (improving recording practices, understanding domestic abuse reporting demand characteristics over time for a better allocation of resources), government (temporal/geographical planning of targeted campaigns, intervention programmes), shelters (temporal/geographical allocation of resources), academia (publications)

2   Summary

Describe the proposed research in simple terms in a way that could be publicised to a general audience [up to 4000 chars]

I'm really bad at this. I don't really understand what should go in here

Concern about domestic abuse is widespread, and it is rightly identified as a serious societal issue. However, the true severity is still often underestimated, and hard to comprehend: in the year ending 2018 March, 2 million adults in England and Wales (7.9% of women and 4.2% of men) have experienced some form of domestic abuse (?, ?), and 41% of all women murdered in England and Wales in the same period were victims of domestic homicide. The long-lasting effect of domestic abuse are not limited to the direct target of abuse, as it can have severe developmental impacts on children witnessing the abuse. The economic cost of domestic abuse in England and Wales between April, 2016 and March, 2017 was estimated to be £66 billion (?, ?).

Despite the extent of the problem, there is relatively little academic research focusing on domestic abuse in the context of the UK, perhaps due to the lack of data sources. Using police data is problematic due to the vast levels of underreporting, while insights from qualitative approaches are hard to generalise. In the UK, the most reliable source of data on domestic abuse is the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), an annual, cross-sectional representative survey collecting information on experiences of domestic abuse (?, ?). While the Office for National Statistics (ONS) regularly publishes findings from the CSEW, these are mostly exploratory and descriptive in nature. In spite of the rich information provided by this survey, only a limited number of studies have utilised the CSEW (e.g., ?, ?) to understand domestic abuse.

Our project takes advantage of the rich information contained in the CSEW, and draws on other data sources to characterise domestic abuse in England and Wales. We will identify the individual and neighbourhood-level predictors of domestic abuse victimisation, and the factors affecting victims' willingness to contact the police. We will also explore whether there is any evidence that the police's response depend on the individual victim characteristics. We will quantify the causal effect of domestic abuse on the behavioural outcomes of child and the socio-economic outcomes of adult victims. Finally, we will explore

how alcohol consumption, spending on gambling, and changes in benefit receipts affect the prevalence of domestic abuse.

para on implications (500 chars) Our work will have implications for the police and policy-makers. The police will benefit from insights regarding the individual- and neighbourhood-level characteristics of particularly vulnerable victim groups (in terms of domestic abuse victimisation, reporting behaviour, and mis-recording of reported crimes), predictors of serious cases, and times of the year when the number of reported cases is likely to be higher. Policy-makers will be able to design more effective awareness campaigns using information on the geographical and temporal characteristics of domestic abuse victimisation, and better understand its far-reaching societal implications, with particular focus on the effect of domestic abuse victimisation on propensity to violence in young adulthood and socio-economic outcomes in later life.

3 Academic Beneficiaries

Describe who will benefit from the research [up to 4000 chars].

4 Staff Duties

Summarise the roles and responsibilities of each post for which funding is sought [up to 2000 characters]

5 Impact Summary

(please refer to the help for guidance on what to consider when completing this section) [up to 4000 chars]

6 Ethical Information

Please explain what, if any, ethical issues you believe are relevant to the proposed research project, and which ethical approvals have been obtained, or will be sought if the project is funded? If you believe that an ethics review is not necessary, please explain your view (available: 4000 characters)

7 Attachments

Instructions for attachments
    * Case for support (6 page limit, 11 points, A4, 1" margins)
    * References
    * Pathways to Impact (2 sides of A4)
    * Justification of Resources (2 sides of A4)
    * Letter of support from WMP
    * Data management plan (modify from lab plan
    * Accumulating to choose progress report
    * NIBS2 progress report