

Pandemic in Unsafe Homes: Covid-19 and Private Violence

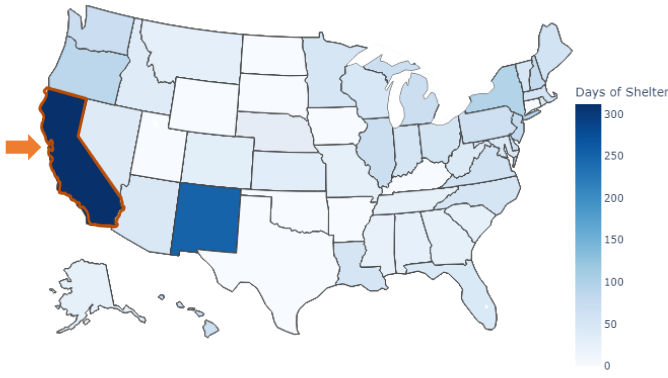
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Stay-at-home orders were crucial in containing the spread of Covid-19, but do these emergency responses disproportionately affect people living in unsafe homes? We found **no direct relationship** between stay-at-home orders and private violence—conflict between domestic partners and family members.

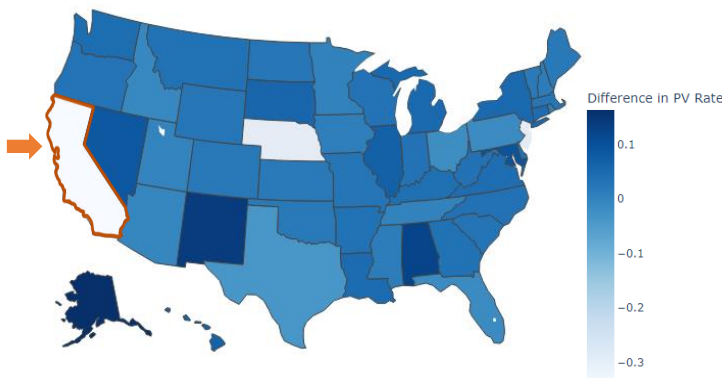
1. OVERALL FINDING:

43 states implemented stay-at-home orders. We expect states with long shelter duration to experience higher change in private violence from 2019 to 2022 but found that **most states either did not experience changes in private violence rates or experienced less private violence**. For example, California’s stay-at-home order was **312 days long**, but its average private violence rate change is **-0.35**.

Length of Stay-at-Home Orders by State

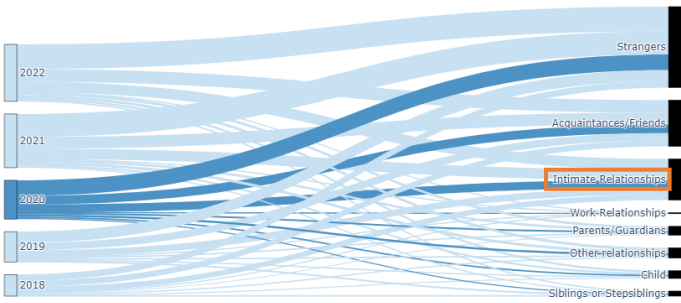


Differences in Average Private Violence Rates by State



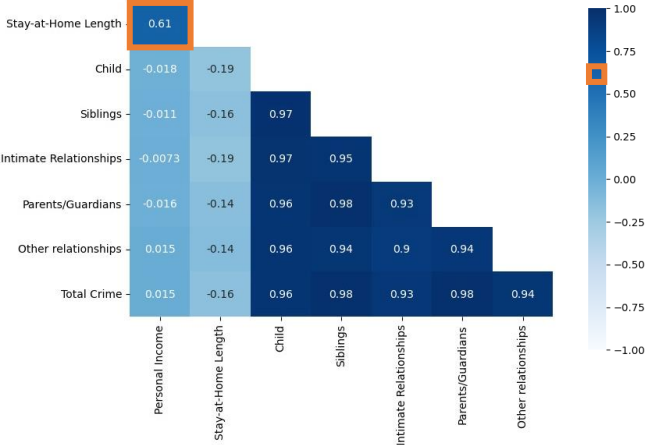
2. FOCUSED ANALYSES:

What were different types of violent relationships in 2020?



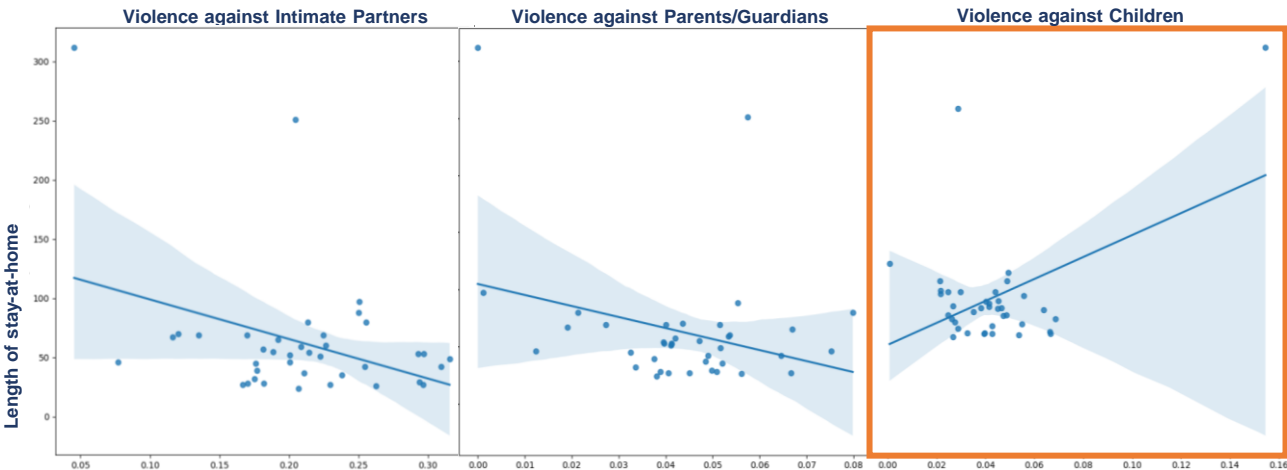
- Most crimes committed in 2020 were between strangers, friends, and acquaintances.
- There are **higher risks of violence** in **intimate relationships** as opposed to other types of private relationships (child/parents, etc.)

Which factor might have confounded the relationship between private violence and stay-at-home order?



- There is a **strong, positive correlation** between stay-at-home order length and personal income level. Both are negatively correlated to all types of private violence.
- **People in higher income households** might experience less private violence and live in cities or states with longer stay-at-home orders.

Is there any interesting correlation between stay-at-home lengths and the types of private violence?



- Consistent with other observations, the regression lines between the length of stay-at-home order and violence against an intimate partner or a parent/guardian are negative.
- However, the **regression coefficient for violence committed against a child is positive**, meaning that **children might have been more vulnerable** to violence during Covid-19.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Private violence is complex and multi-faceted. There need to be **robust research**, such as conducting interviews with victims of private violence, to better understand these stories during the pandemic.
- While stay-at-home orders seem to be effective temporary solutions to infectious diseases, Congress should draft a **national health emergency response procedure** to better prepare for the next crisis.