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IPV Field Research

When all the questions are hard questions

By Ellen Bates-Jefferys and Tvisha Nevatia



Understanding how to keep vulnerable people safe from violence and trauma is critically important, yet violence research is fraught with challenges. IPA's Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Initiative has been generating knowledge and solutions about how to reduce violence against women since 2016. This resource shares some strategies from the initiative on conducting responsible and ethical IPV research.

Globally, an estimated 835 million people experience intimate partner violence (IPV) in their relationships, and in some regions more than half of all women have experienced violence in their lifetime.¹ Despite the prevalence of IPV, evidence on its causes and how to combat it still remains relatively limited. To address this gap, IPA partnered with the International Rescue Committee to launch the [IPV Initiative](#), with the aim to "strengthen the evidence base around the types of programs that are effective in reducing IPV and to broaden the number and diversity of studies which measure IPV as a primary outcome."

As IPA is pushing to shed light on tangible solutions to IPV, we are also consistently butting up against challenges and roadblocks. **Based on our lessons from conducting IPV field research, we are building on existing best practices and protocols to improve IPV research for everyone. Here, we discuss three components of IPV field research and strategies to structure your project for success.**

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, many researchers are wondering how to manage field enumerator teams for remote data collection. To help answer this question, IPA published a post with the Sexual Violence Research Initiative on [Considerations for Doing Intimate Partner Violence Research in the Time of Coronavirus](#).

1. <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/232551485536744935/9ICR17-SP-Gender-based-violence-and-the-law.pdf>

IPV Field Research: When All the Questions Are Hard Questions

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