



# Exploring Knowledge and Perceptions of Clare's Law, A Domestic Violence Disclosure Framework

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## CLARE'S LAW

- Originated in the UK following the murder of Clare Wood by her ex-partner, George Appleton
- Led to public calls for reform, which revealed systemic errors
- Advocates (including Clare's father) argued prior knowledge of Appleton's violent history would have prevented her death







## **RIGHT TO KNOW**

Those at risk of DV can request information from law enforcement about their partner's history and future risk



## **RIGHT TO ASK**

Law enforcement can contact those at risk of DV and provide information about their risk

# CONCERNS AND CONSIDERATIONS

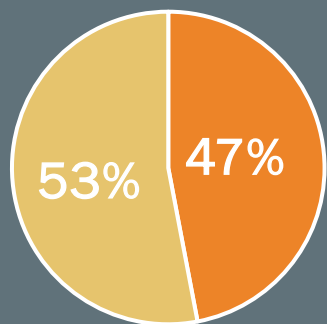
## Trust in Police

8/10

Domestic violence cases are never reported to the police

(Conroy, 2021)

- Confidence in Police
- Not Confident in Police

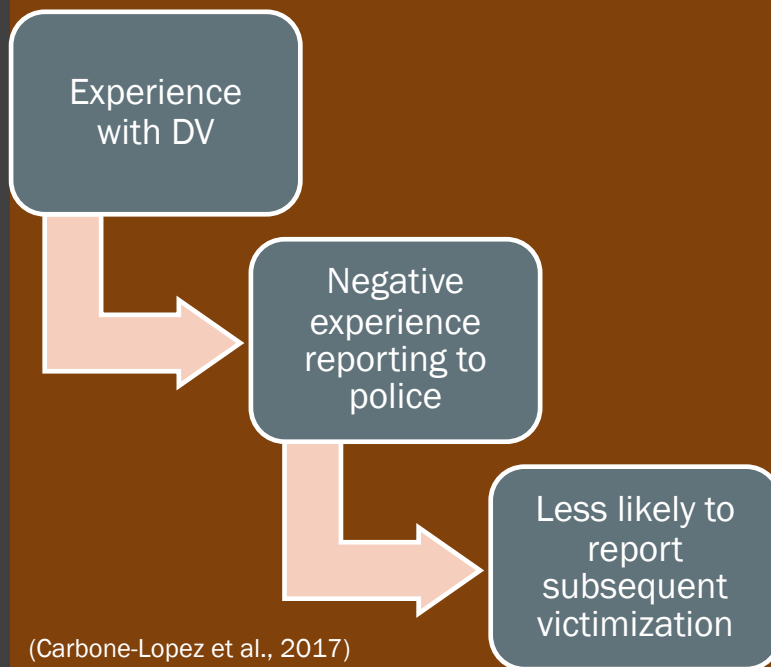


(Angus Reid Institute, 2022)

## Lived Experience

Survivors may have a hesitancy to report DV due to a fear of repercussions

(Weisz et al., 2000)



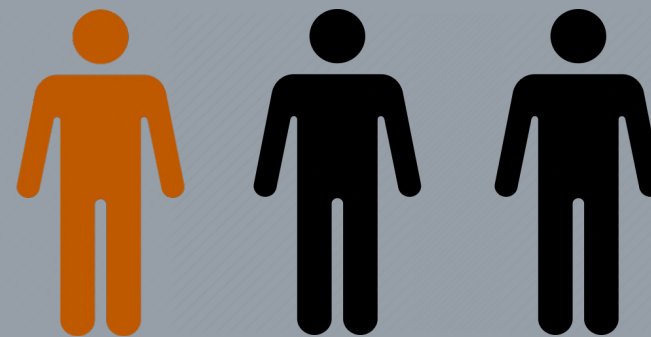
(Carbone-Lopez et al., 2017)

## Victim Myths and Blame

60%

of people endorse statements such as "she asked for it"

(Zidenberg et al., 2021)



More than 1/3 of first responders believe victim is responsible

(Donnelly et al., 2016)

# CURRENT STUDY

## Research Questions

- What proportion of Canadians are aware of Clare's Law Legislation?
- Which factors are associated with the belief that Clare's Law can reduce violence?
- What factors are associated with the likelihood of using Clare's Law?
- Which factors do people foresee as barriers to using Clare's Law?





## Victim Blame Scale- DVAW

(Martin-Fernandez et al., 2018)

## Domestic Violence Myth Acceptance Scale

(Peters, 2008)

## Attitudes Toward the Police Scale

(Giacomantonio et al., 2019)

## Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces- Modified

(Cotters, 2021)

## Opinions About Clare's Law

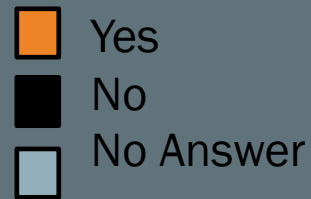
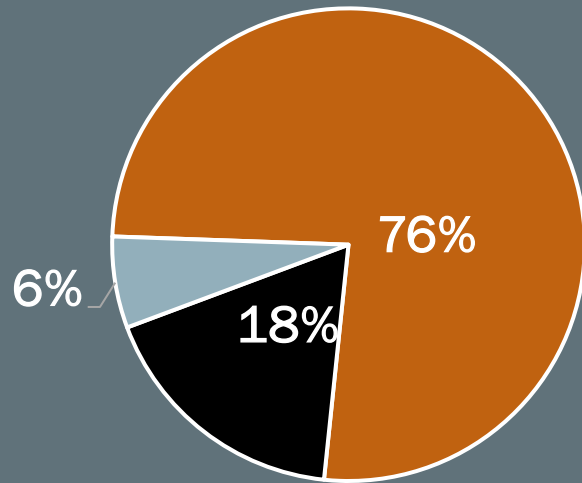
Open Ended Questions- Developed by research team

# METHOD

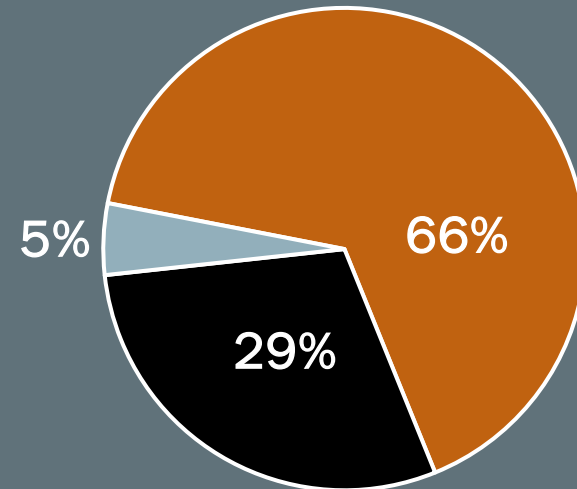
- Participants were those living in Canada and were recruited via Amazon Mturk ( $N = 272$ )
- Analyzed using SEM Path analysis, Chi-Squares, t-tests, and content analysis

# Research Question 1

Can Clare's Law prevent future DV?



Would you consider using Clare's Law?



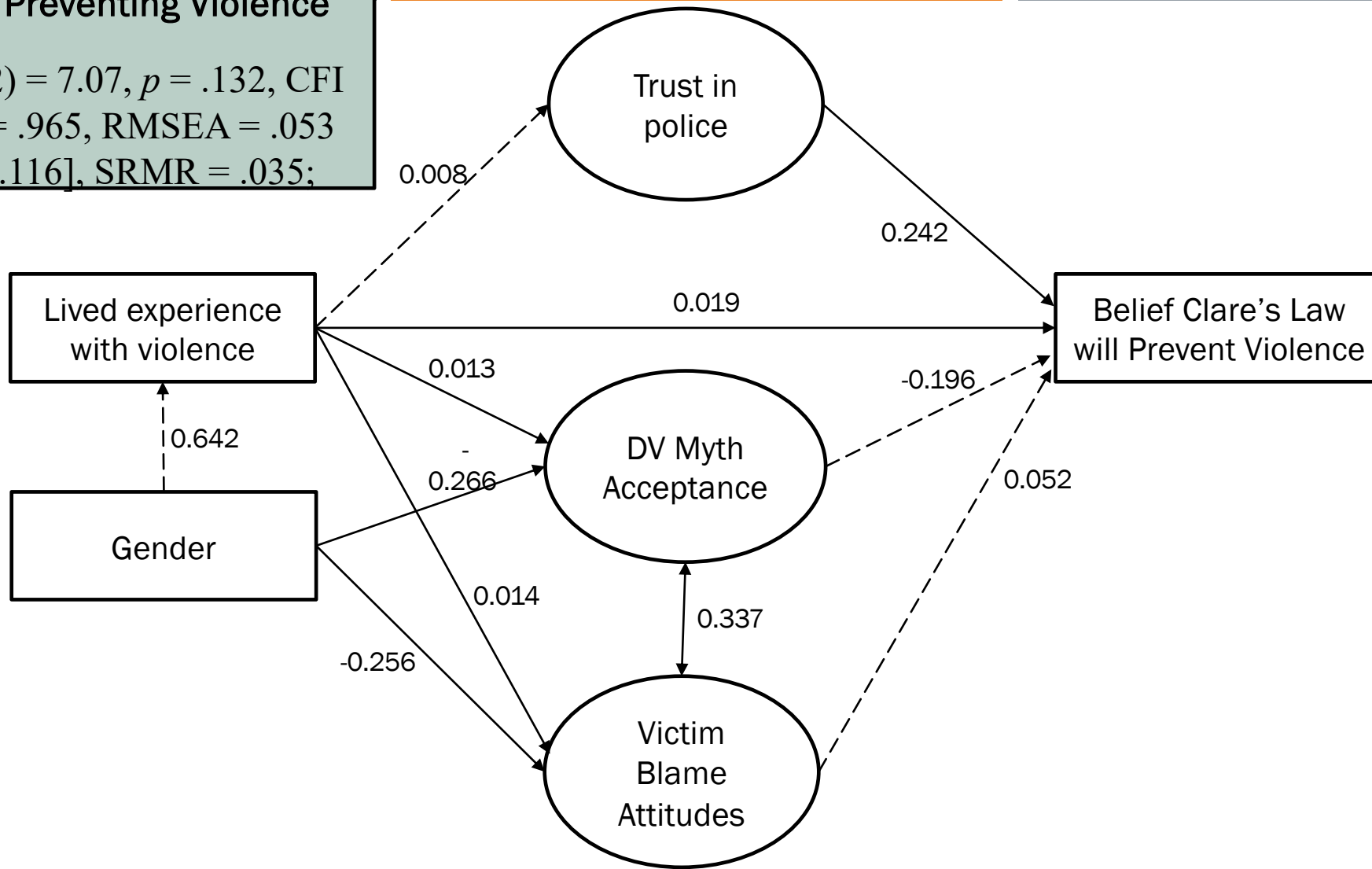
# RESEARCH QUESTION 1

Descriptive Information				
Demographic	Knowledge of CL (% of total)	No Knowledge of CL (% of total)	$\chi^2$	$p$
<b>Age</b>				
<30	3.9%	24.6%	8.927	.178
31-50	11.9%	46.9%		
51-70	2.7%	9.6%		
71+	0.4%	0%		
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	9.6%	41.5%	1.409	.494
Female	8.9%	38.1%		
Other	0.7%	1.1%		
<b>Relationship Status</b>				
Married	10.9%	24.0%	13.859	.008
Common Law	2.7%	17.8%		
Divorced	0%	1.9%		
Separated	0.8%	3.9%		
Single	4.7%	33.3%		
<b>Parenting</b>				
Have children	9.8%	30.7%	3.92	.048
Does not have children	8.7%	50.8%		



## Belief in CL Preventing Violence

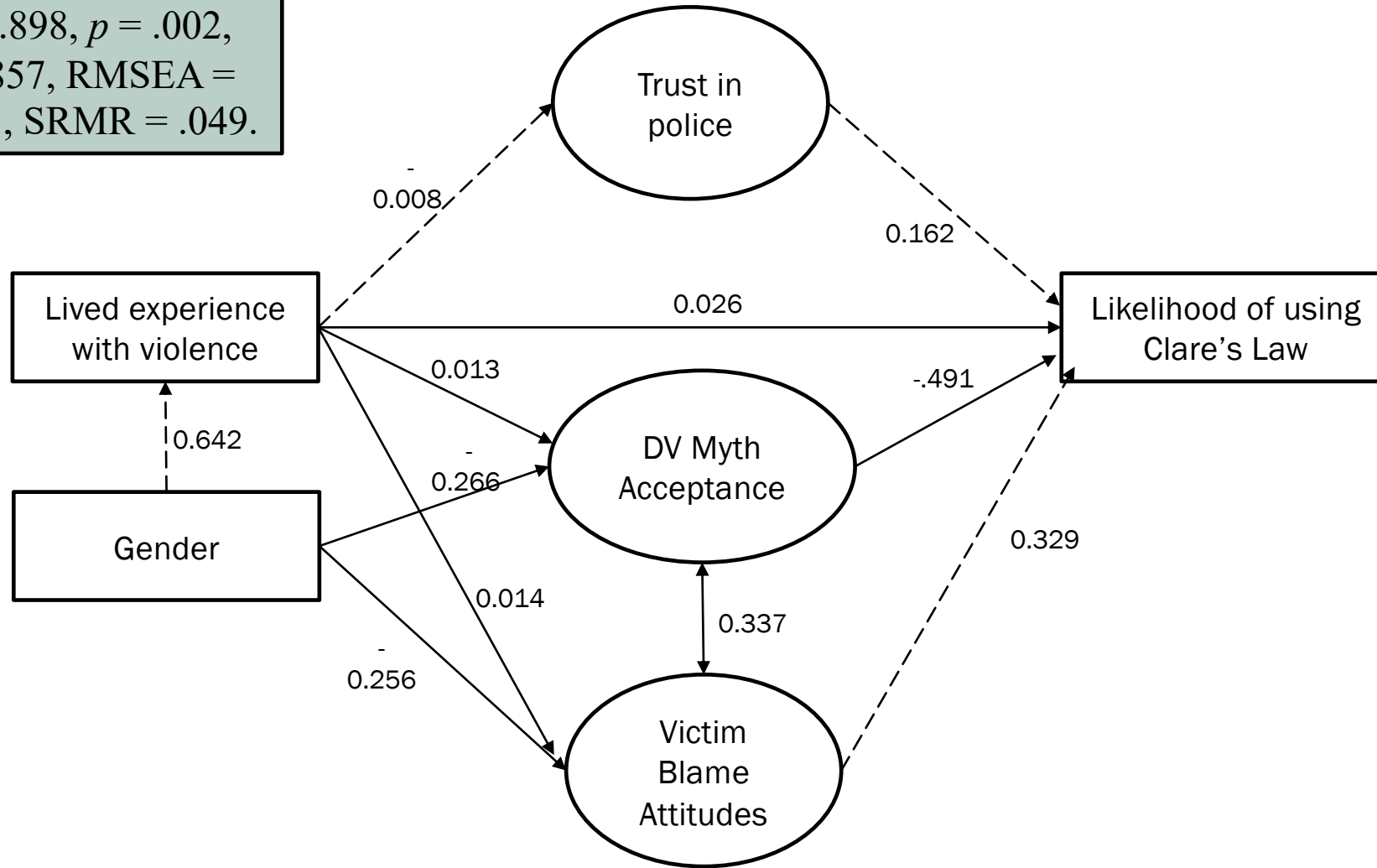
$\chi^2(5, N = 272) = 7.07, p = .132, CFI = .991, TLI = .965, RMSEA = .053$   
[CI = .000, .116], SRMR = .035;



# Research Question 2

### Likelihood of Using CL

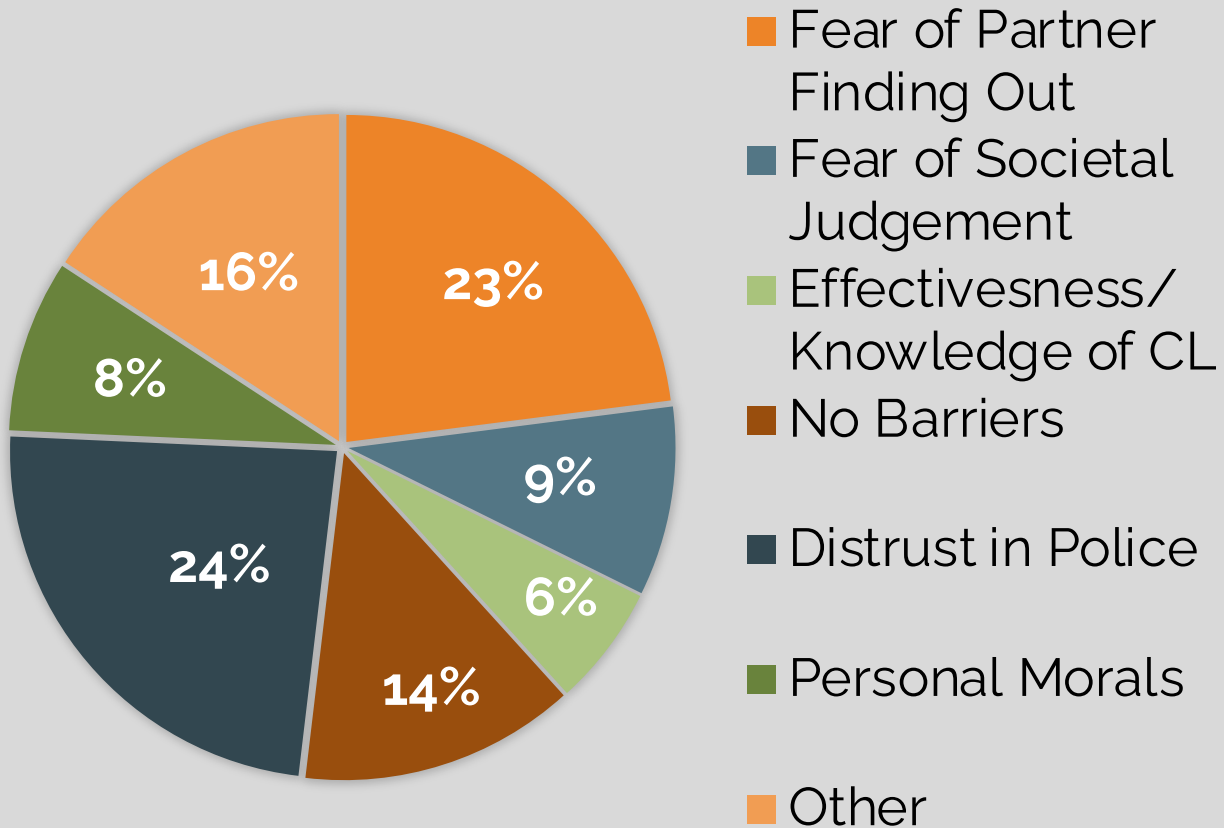
$\chi^2(4, N = 272) = 16.898, p = .002,$   
 $CFI = .962, TLI = .857, RMSEA =$   
 $.109 [CI = .059, .165], SRMR = .049.$



## Research Question 3

# QUALITATIVE RESULTS

## What are barriers to using Clare's Law?



## Those who said they would not use Clare's Law if they experienced DV were asked, why not?

- Cannot imagine themselves as victims of DV (21.9%)
- Distrust in police (15.6%)
- Don't care about partner's past (12.5%)
- Effectiveness and limitations of Clare's Law (28.2%)
- It is a privacy violation (6.3%)



# Implications

- Current lack of awareness and barriers may limit willingness to use Clare's Law
- More research is needed to further understand this expanding legislation and the barriers that the public experiences in accessing CL



# Thank you!

Additional questions/comments can be directed to:

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