WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS INFORMATION?

Canadians' Opinions on Clare's Law In Reducing Domestic Violence

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Background & Current Study

Clare's Law (AKA a Domestic Violence Disclosure Framework) allows police to disclose information regarding a person's history of domestic violence, and their risk of perpetuating future violence, to that person's intimate partner.

The intention is to reduce DV by providing individuals with information regarding risk. Little empirical support available.

Current study: What is Canadian knowledge this legislation? Would they use it? Does it reduce violence? Barriers?

Online survey (participant pool + social media recruitment). Canada-wide sample (N = 319) – mostly women who have been in relationships.

Results

- 93% of Canadians have never heard of Clare's Law. Once explained, 56% of Canadians said they would use the disclosure framework (20% maybe).

- CL disclosure outcomes only informative if medium or high risk.

- Barriers that may prevent seeking a disclosure: **Fear of perpetrator finding out/retaliation**; distrust in police; shame, embarrassment, or guilt; systemic prejudice; financial dependence on abuser; children.

Bar chart with y-axis from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree):

- CL will help keep victims of DV safe: 3.3
- CL will prevent future DV: 3.2
- CL would help me make decisions about my life: 3.9
- I trust police not to tell my partner about the disclosure: 3.7
- Any violence they experience in the future is their own fault: 1.6
- Victims can trust police will be fair if they make a future DV call: 3.3