Trust in Police, Victim Blame Attitudes, and Lived Experience with Violence as Predictors of Perceptions of Clare's Law in a Canadian Sample

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Background

Domestic Violence (DV) Disclosure Framework **(Clare's Law):** legislation that allows people in intimate relationships to request information from the police about their partner's history of domestic violence and risk for future violence.

- Limited research on its efficacy/public perceptions
- Concerns about unintended consequences (e.g., barriers, victim-blaming)

Research Questions

1. What factors influence the likelihood of using Clare's Law?
   a. Trust in Police?
   b. Support for victim blame attitudes?
   c. DV myth acceptance?
   d. Lived experience with domestic violence?
2. What factors do the public foresee as barriers to using Clare's law?

Method

Mixed Methods

- MTurk survey of Canadian perspectives of Clare's Law, *N* = 184
- Victim Blame Scale – IPV (Martin-Fernandez et al., 2018)
- Domestic Violence Myth Acceptance Scale (Peters, 2008)
- Trust in Police Scale (Giacomantonio et al., 2019)
- IPV victimization survey (Cotter et al., 2021)

Quantitative Results

17.4% of participants had heard about Clare's Law before participating; majority of which were from Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia
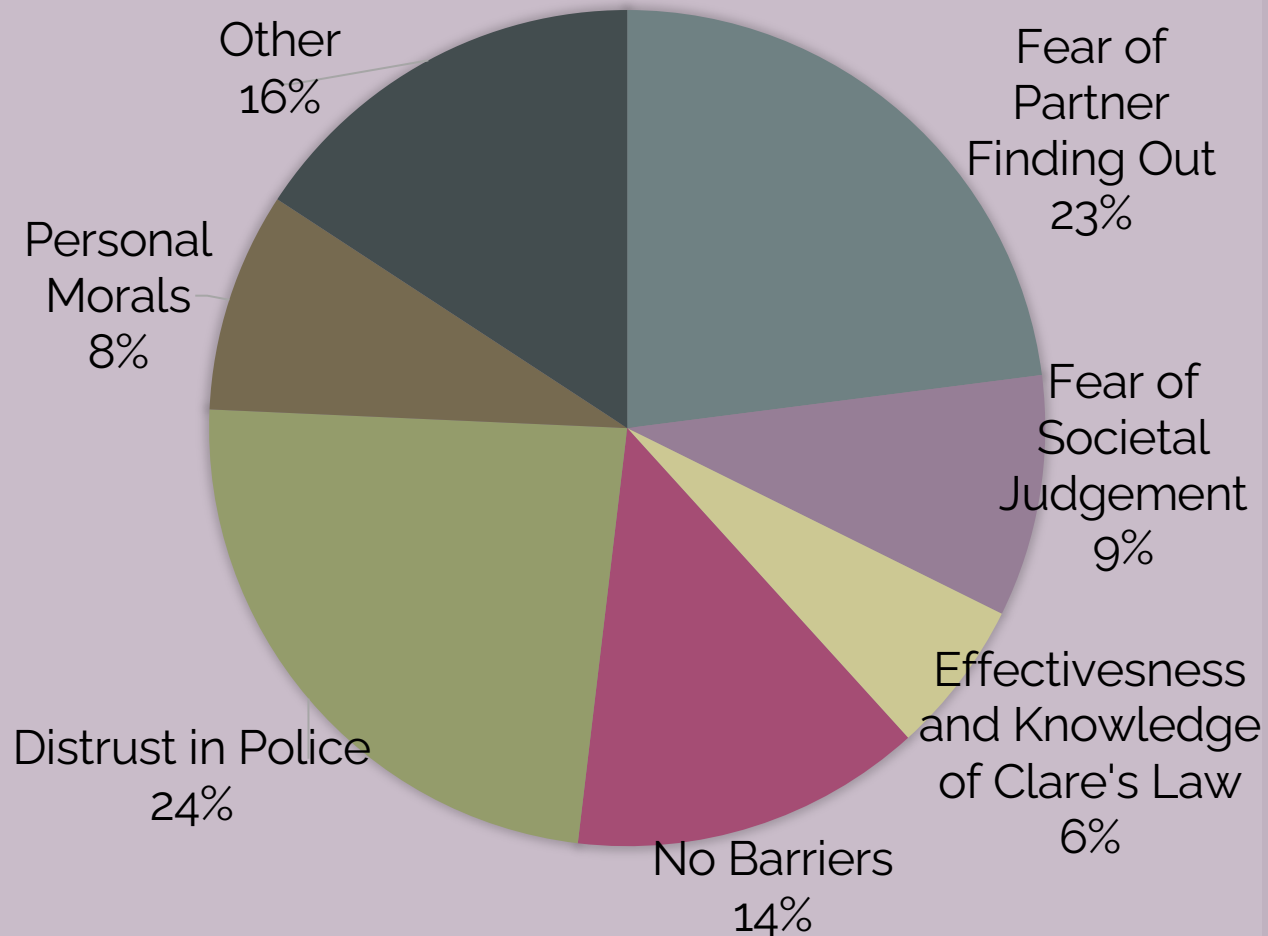
	Willingness to use Clare's Law	Belief that Clare's Law can reduce DV
DV myth acceptance	✓	X
Lived experience with DV	✓	X
Trust in police	X	✓
Support for victim blame attitudes	X	X

Logistical regression analyses were used for the quantitative results above

Qualitative Results

What are barriers to using Clare's Law?

Other
16%

Fear of
Partner
Finding Out
23%

Personal
Morals
8%

Fear of
Societal
Judgement
9%

Distrust in Police
24%

Effectivesness
and Knowledge
of Clare's Law
6%

No Barriers
14%

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 (21.88%)

- Distrust in police (15.63%)

- Don't care about partner's past (12.5%)

- Effectiveness and limitations of Clare's Law (28.16%)

- It is a privacy violation (6.25%)

Thank you!

Additional questions/comments can be directed to:

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