

Using Multiple Data Sources To Inform Violence Against Women Policy, Service & Prevention Efforts

The challenge of assessing prevalence at the state level

David J. Laflamme, PhD, MPH

Sharyn J. Potter, PhD, MPH (Presenter)

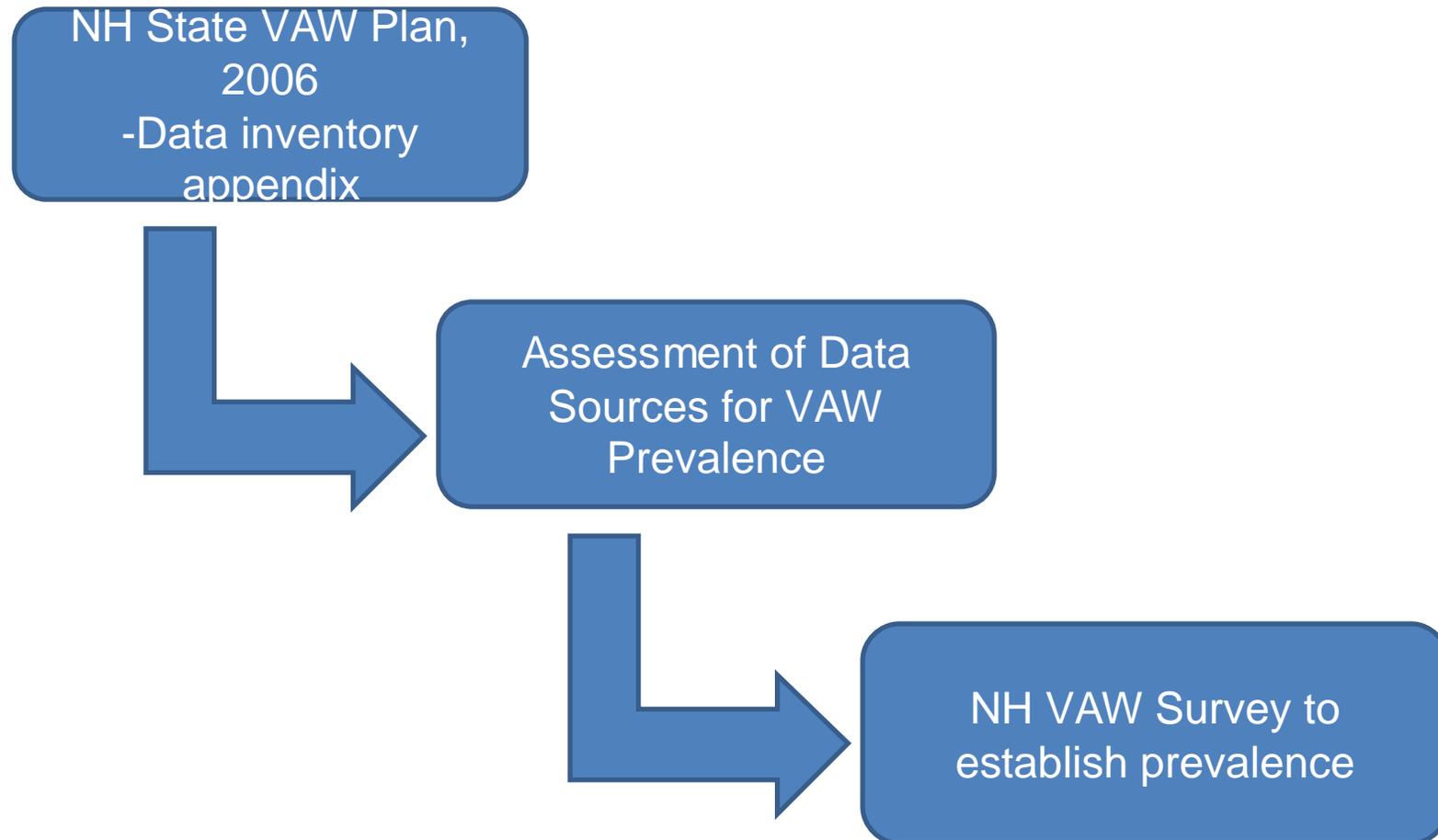
Mary M. Moynihan, PhD

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Learning Objectives

- Identify at least 8 state-based violence against women data sources
- Discuss the strengths and limitations of at least 4 state-based violence against women data sources

Background



Today's Presentation

- Overview of available data sources
 - Strengths and limitations
 - Discussion of measurement issues
- Comparison of NH BRFSS and NH VAW Survey
 - Findings
- Conclusions and Recommendations

Primary Research Question

- Which of the violence against women (VAW) data sources available in NH can be used in assessing prevalence of sexual assault?

NH VAW Data Workgroup Data Inventory Inclusion Criteria

- victims of any age
- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional and psychological abuse
- active and passive violence
- person to person abuse
- any relationship of offender to victim (i.e. stranger, acquaintance, family members, etc)
- violent crimes including muggings and homicides

Bujno, L., Desilets, K., and Stapleton, J., *New Hampshire Violence Against Women State Plan; Concord, NH: New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Section, 2006.*

NH VAW Data Sources

1. Administrative Office of the Courts
 - Case Management Database
2. Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
 - Claims Database
- 3-5. Health Statistics and Data Management Section of NH DHHS
 - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
 - Death Records
 - Hospital Discharge Database

Bujno, L., Desilets, K., and Stapleton, J., *New Hampshire Violence Against Women State Plan*; Concord, NH: New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Section, 2006.

NH VAW Data Sources (cont'd)

6. NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
 - Statewide statistics from service agency network
7. NH Commission for Human Rights
 - Sexual Harassment Complaint and Charges Database
8. NH Department of Corrections
 - Automated Prison Information System

Bujno, L., Desilets, K., and Stapleton, J., *New Hampshire Violence Against Women State Plan; Concord, NH: New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Section, 2006.*

NH VAW Data Sources (cont'd)

9-10. NH Department of Education

- School Profiles
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

11. NH Department of Justice

- Homicide Statistics

12. NH Department of Safety

- Uniform Crime Reporting Data

13. NH Division of Children, Youth & Families

– National Child Abuse & Neglect Data System
Bujno, L., Desrosiers, K., and Stapleton, J., *New Hampshire Violence Against Women State Plan*, Concord, NH: New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Section, 2006.

NH VAW Data Sources (cont'd)

14. NH Division of Elderly & Adult Services
 - Adult Protective Services Database
15. Office of Postsecondary Education
 - Security Statistics
16. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)
 - SANE Database
17. UNH Teen Assessment Project
 - Survey

Bujno, L., Desilets, K., and Stapleton, J., *New Hampshire Violence Against Women State Plan; Concord, NH: New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Section, 2006.*

Limitations of Available Data Sources

- Administrative databases only deal with reported incidents, so cannot provide comprehensive prevalence data
- Not all surveys used random sampling
- Lack of consistency in definitions across the two largest surveys (BRFSS and YRBS)
- Questionable measures

Strengths of Available Data Sources

- Track legal consequences
- Track reporting rates
- Trends over time
- Describe services
- All reported cases vs. Sample
 - Some available at less than State level (e.g. County)

Some Measurement Issues

- Recruitment script for survey entry
 - Screening questions
 - Cueing questions
 - **Behavioral specificity of items**
 - **Single versus multiple items**
 - Standardization of items
 - Definition of sexual assault
 - Gender of Interviewer
 - Sampling
- } Today's focus

Key Findings of Previous Research

“Multiple, behaviorally specific questions are associated with greater disclosure by study participants.”

“...respondents in surveys were more likely to refuse to answer questions about income than they were to refuse to answer questions about sexual assault.”

-Crowell & Burgess, 1996

Crowell, Nancy A., and Ann W. Burgess. 1996. *Understanding violence against women*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.
(p.38 & p. 35, respectively)

Focus on NH BRFSS and NH VAW

- The best source available for statewide sexual assault prevalence was the NH BRFSS until the recently completed NH VAW Survey
- Compare measures and estimates between these two sources

NH BRFSS

(National Sexual Assault Module)

1. Has anyone EVER had sex with you after you said or showed that you didn't want them to or without your consent? (10.3%)
2. Has anyone EVER ATTEMPTED to have sex with you after you said or showed that you didn't want to or without your consent, BUT SEX DID NOT OCCUR? (12.1%)

Source: NH BRFSS Coordinator, Susan Knight, NH DHHS DPHS (email 6/6/2007)

NH VAW Items

- 5 items make up the full composite measure.
- 4 of these 5 items make up the “with penetration” measure.
- Items based on:

National Women’s Survey

- Kilpatrick, 1992: Rape in America – A Report to the Nation

National Violence Against Women Survey

- Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000: Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women

NH VAW Sexual Assault Items

1. Regardless of how long ago it happened, has a man or boy ever made you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you? Just so there is no mistake, by sex we mean putting a penis in your vagina. (16.8%)

NH VAW Sexual Assault Items

2. Has anyone, male or female, ever made you have oral sex by using force or threat of harm?
(5.3%)

Just so there is no mistake, by oral sex we mean that a man or boy put his penis in your mouth or someone, male or female, penetrated your vagina or anus with their mouth or tongue.

If this has happened multiple times please tell us about the most recent incident.

NH VAW Sexual Assault Items

3. Has anyone, male or female, ever made you have anal sex by using force or threat of harm? (1.0%)

Just so there is no mistake, by anal sex we mean that a man or boy put his penis in your anus.

If this has happened multiple times please tell us about the most recent incident.

NH VAW Sexual Assault Items

4. Has anyone, male or female, ever put fingers or objects in your vagina or anus against your will by using force or threats? (7.5%)

If this has happened multiple times please tell us about the most recent incident.

NH VAW Sexual Assault Items

5. Has anyone, male or female, ever attempted to make you have vaginal, oral or anal sex against your will, but intercourse or penetration did not occur? (10.3%)

If this has happened multiple times please tell us about the most recent incident.

NH BRFSS vs. NH VAW

Strength of Measures		
	<u>NH BRFSS</u>	<u>NH VAW</u>
Number of items	1/1	4/1
Behavioral specificity	Medium	High
Results*		
Completed	10.3% (8.8-11.7)	19.5% (15.6-
Attempted	12.1% (10.6-	10.3% (7.4-12.6)
Combined	15.7% (14.0-	22.7% (18.4-
*Measures were not identical and therefore not directly comparable. They are presented here in the context of this presentation only. See previous slides.		

BRFSS Data Source: NH BRFSS Coordinator, Susan Knight, NH DHHS DPHS (email 6/6/2007)

How do the originally available NH VAW data sources contextually enrich the NH VAW Survey?

- Trends
 - Reporting
 - Services
 - Prosecution
- County-level BRFSS estimates may be useful in estimating prevalence by county based on NH VAW

Conclusions

- Existing NH data sources were insufficient for determining prevalence of sexual assault
- The NH VAW Survey used empirically stronger measures of sexual assault than the NH BRFSS
- Existing data sources can be used to contextually enrich sporadic, but stronger and more specific, measures of sexual assault

Acknowledgements

- NH VAW Advisory Board Members
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Bujno, L., Desilets, K., and Stapleton, J., *New Hampshire Violence Against Women State Plan*; Concord, NH: New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Section, 2006. <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/MCH/default.htm>

Contact Information

- David.Laflamme@unh.edu
- Sharyn.Potter@unh.edu
- marym@cisunix.unh.edu

Introduction to NH VAW Survey

- "Hi, my name is____. I am calling you from the University of New Hampshire.
- We are conducting a statewide survey on personal safety, under a grant from the UNH Vice-President for Research and Public Service Outreach Scholarship.

NH VAW Survey Intro (cont'd)

- "I would like to interview you regarding your relationship experiences.
- The purpose of this study is to learn more about people's knowledge about relationship and community problems to improve community prevention programs and services. Since the interview will address relationships and community problems some of the questions are graphic and sexually explicit.
- Please know that participation in this project is strictly voluntary and you can refuse to answer any questions and can stop the interview at any point.
- All information collected during this interview will remain confidential and will not be used in a manner that will make the participant identifiable with the exception of disclosed information indicating that a child is being or has been harmed.
- State laws indicate that information regarding child abuse cannot remain confidential.
- The interview will take approximately 15 minutes of your time.
- Do you have any questions that I can answer at the present time?
- Would you like to begin?
- Before we begin the interview I would like to clarify that you are in a situation where you are able to talk freely/safely. "

BRFSS SV Module

“Measuring the incidence and prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual violence

With external partners, CDC developed two optional modules for intimate partner violence (IPV) and SV for inclusion in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). The BRFSS is an annual telephone survey that tracks health risk behaviors in the United States. The modules will enable state health officials and policy planners to better understand the prevalence and incidence of IPV and SV. Data may also be used to compare statistics across states and guide policy development and evaluation. For the 2005 BRFSS, 26 states implemented at least one of the modules. A total of 15 states implemented both modules, 10 states implemented the SV module alone and 1 state implemented the IPV module alone. Both optional modules will also be included in the 2006 BRFSS and will be available to all states. “

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/svactivities.htm>

NH BRFSS Item Introduction

- Now, I am going to ask you questions about unwanted sex. Unwanted sex includes things like putting anything into your vagina, anus, or mouth or making you do these things after you said or showed that you didn't want to.
- It includes times when you were unable to consent, for example, you were drunk or asleep, or you thought you would be hurt or punished if you refused.

Introduction to *Sexual Assault* Section

- Now I'd like to ask you about some different kinds of very stressful events that may or may not have happened to you.
- Unwanted sexual advances are experienced by many women even if they are not always reported to police or discussed with others.
- These experiences may happen at any time in a woman's life and the person making the advances may be a friend, boyfriend, or even a family member, or stranger.
- We are trying to learn more about this issue many women face.