

PERU

Can a police home visiting program improve the justice sector's response to intimate partner violence survivors in Peru

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BACKGROUND

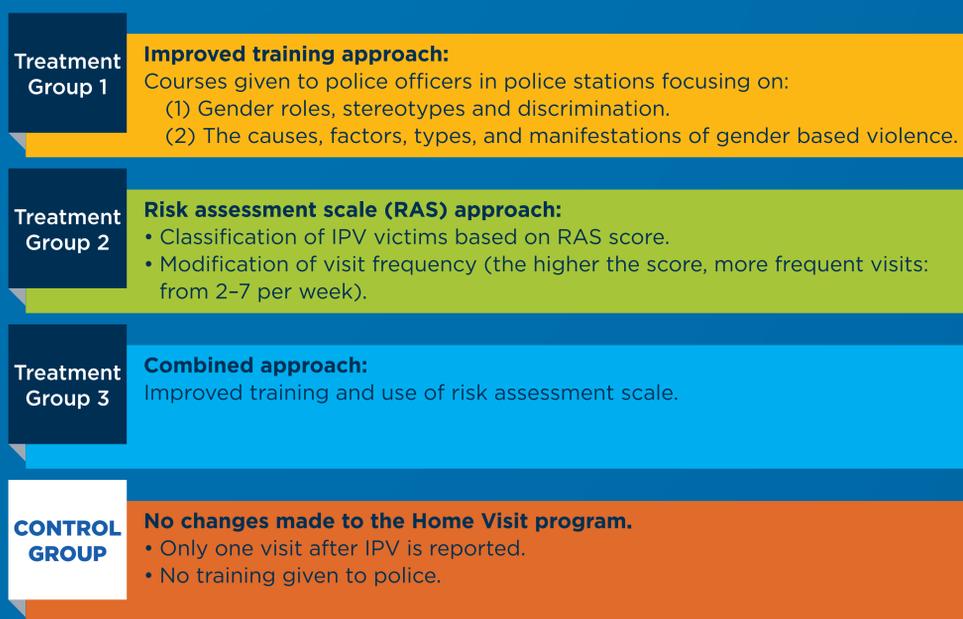
Few women who report incidences of intimate partner violence (IPV) receive justice or adequate protection from the police, leading to an increase in their vulnerability in low and middle-income countries. Through a focus on Peru, a country with one of the highest rates of IPV in Latin America (Boot, Guedes & Goodwin, 2012), this study evaluates if improved policing practices will reduce incidences of IPV after reporting it to the police. To our knowledge, this is the first project of its kind.

Peru's Home Visits Initiative

The intervention being evaluated is the Peruvian Police's "Home Visits" initiative, in which female police officers are trained on gender sensitivity and gender based violence (GBV) and are then tasked to visit IPV survivors in their homes after reporting the crime at a police station.

discrimination and (2) the causes, factors, types and manifestations of gender based violence. All police officers in the treatment stations will be involved in the training of up to two sessions. The second treatment group incorporates the use of risk assessment scales. Women who report IPV will be classified based upon the potential risk they face in being re-victimised. Depending on the level of risk these women face, home visits will increase from twice up to seven times a week. The third treatment group will incorporate both police training and the use of risk scales. To better interpret the quantitative data, interviews will be carried out with four survivors from each treatment and control group. The effects of the Home Visits program will be estimated with a panel with fixed effects. Potential selection bias will be controlled with a large set of individual level variable concerning the women as well as district characteristics.

Figure: Experimental Design



The Study

In 2017 alone, the 104 police stations in Lima received more than 48,000 reports of IPV. Over a period of 12 months, this research will follow 1,600 women who reported IPV (400 in each experimental and control group). This is a longitudinal study. Cluster randomization will allow us to choose 16 out of 104 police stations in Lima in order to assign them to one of the experimental groups.

Three treatments are designed. The first treatment group incorporates gender sensitivity and GBV police training. This training will be based upon local and international police training courses and be divided into two modules (1) gender roles, stereotypes and

Why is this project important?

At the end of this 18-month long project we expect:

That the Home Visits program will result in a reduction of the prevalence of IPV (psychological aggression, physical assault, sexual coercion and injuries).

The quality of the police service response to IPV survivors will improve as a result of the GBV and gender sensitivity training.

Due to the fact that this proposal is fully supported by the Peruvian National Police and Ministry of Interior, that the possibilities of scaling up the programme if found effective is highly likely.

