

## **Research Assessment #7**

**Date:** November 17, 2017

**Subject:** Deportation Affecting Domestic Violence Reports

**MLA Citation:**

Sinclair, Harriet. "Domestic Violence Seems to Be Going Unreported Because of Deportation Fears." Newsweek, 9 Oct. 2017, [www.newsweek.com/deportation-fears-stopping-undocumented-immigrants-reporting-domestic-violence-681050](http://www.newsweek.com/deportation-fears-stopping-undocumented-immigrants-reporting-domestic-violence-681050).

**Assessment:**

This week, I specifically wanted to pick an article about domestic violence in immigrants because I recently interviewed Ms. Anna Rupani from Mosaic Family Services, who primarily works with women in domestic violence cases, usually immigrants. The article was specifically about how undocumented immigrants fearing deportation stopped reporting domestic violence in their community out of fear that it would cause them to be deported.

Overall, I thought the article was incredibly fascinating. Based on the quotes taken from ICE, there seemed to be a disconnect between the immigrants and the U.S. government in terms of how to deal with the undocumented immigrants. I was particularly surprised to learn that ICE makes special exceptions with immigrants struggling with domestic abuse because based on the falling numbers of reported domestic violence, the actual victims didn't realize this and were still scared enough of being deported that they didn't report any issues. This makes me wonder, what has to happen to prevent the lack of reporting? Because obviously domestic violence cannot go unreported, so what has to be done by the officials of these communities to convey that things will be okay even if they report these crimes and what has to be done on a larger scale by the government for ICE not to instill so much fear in people who don't pose a true threat and who they themselves are victims? I am so shocked to learn that things have gotten so bad that domestic violence can go largely unreported in some places just

because of legal residency status within America. It's upsetting to me and very disturbing in terms of what could be happening and going unnoticed by the police and other town officials.

I was also really shocked to learn about the numbers. Because there wasn't a real decrease in domestic violence reports among non-Latino races, it leads me to believe that the connection to deportation is valid. If this decrease is only seen in groups threatened to be deported, then isn't there a correlation? This once again brings up the old question of where government officials have to draw in the line in keeping the nation safe and free of hoards of undocumented immigrants, and threatening the safety of women that are now forced to submit in the face of domestic violence and abuse just to remain in this country, which logically they already came to in trying to get out of a bad situation. It's just a very upsetting topic and one that, although complex, needs to be considered as this nation cracks down on immigration and undocumented immigrants.

In all, this was a very fascinating article about the new problem that has arisen due to a nationwide focus on reducing the populations of undocumented immigrants and stressing the importance of deporting people that are seen to be a threat. I hope to continue researching about this topic because not only is it quite multi-faceted, but also something that needs to be thought about and a situation where solutions need to be brainstormed and considered. I hope that this information will open up the different issues with domestic violence and immigration to me, and I can continue to expand upon my research of it this year.