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Spouse Violence in Case of Police Officers in Puerto Rico: Violence in Police Families

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Spouse Violence in Case of Police Officers in Puerto Rico:
Violence in Police Families


by
Jorge I. Suárez-Cáceres


An Applied Dissertation Submitted to the
Abraham S. Fischler College of Education
and School of Criminal Justice in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

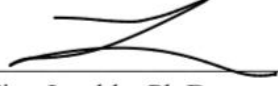
Nova Southeastern University
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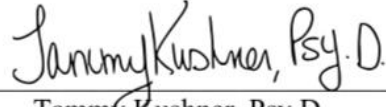
Approval Page

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Abstract

Spouse Violence in Case of Police Officers in Puerto Rico: Violence in Police Families. Jorge Suárez-Cáceres, 2024: Applied Dissertation, Nova Southeastern University, Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice. Keywords: domestic violence, violence, police officers, police families, Puerto Rico, factors, burnout, authoritarian spillover, alcohol, department withdrawal, aggressive behavior, control, stress, victims

This applied dissertation was designed to explore the relationship between factors related to police work and whether these factors help predict domestic violence in a sample of officers of the Puerto Rico Police. The following factors were explored in this study: external burnout, alcohol abuse, department withdrawal, and authoritarian spillover. This study was based on a previous study by Johnson et al. (2005), which revealed that violence exposure and domestic violence among police officers are linked according to four mediation chains. The mediation chain was a model implemented by the authors to determine the influence of burnout, authoritarian spillover, alcohol use, and department withdrawal as factors inducing or involved in domestic violence by police officers.

The current study aimed to replicate the Johnson et al. (2005) study by looking at similar factors in a sample of active police officers in Puerto Rico. One hundred active officers of both genders, from agent to inspector ranks and with a minimum of 5 years of seniority, belonging to the police force of the Humacao and Caguas regions, municipalities of Puerto Rico, agreed to participate. This region was selected due to the population increase compared to the other 13 regions, as well as the need for agile and properly trained police officers, with a 30-percentage rate of complaints of domestic violence in the police. Participants were officers of the ranks from agent to inspector, leaving out those above these ranks to avoid any interference in the answers to the questionnaires. The ages of the participating officers were between 26 and 55 years of age, as some variables require experience due to the nature of what is required, in addition to the fact that the regulations of the Puerto Rico Police Bureau establish 55 years as an average retirement age. Future research could benefit by building on the implications of this study on families' behavior that can help understand the control issues.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Statement of the Problem

Acts of domestic violence by a police officer against a partner are estimated to be at least as common as acts committed by the general population. Recent limited research indicates the possibility of higher incident rates of domestic violence among law enforcement professionals. Domestic violence most frequently causes injury to women, based on a 2016 study by the National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This study reflected that, for every 12 women, almost 25% of them are affected by domestic violence incidents over their lifetime. Domestic violence is a serious problem that attacks society at all levels. In recent years, domestic violence has become very relevant and has ceased to be a problem of the private sphere, since it was given within the home, to become a problem of public order, the importance of which is recognized at the social level. Domestic violence is a major public health problem as well and needs to be handled with high priority, as established by Waalen et al. (2000). If this issue of domestic violence is centered in police families, more than 40% of our officers reported that they had gotten out of control and behaved violently towards their spouse, according to a study on violence in police families that was conducted by Maple and Kebbell (2021).

Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in cases of gender-based violence, as well as in tragedies occurring due to violent deaths in circumstances where there was a relationship (Graham et al., 2022). The current study was a replica of a study entitled “Violence in Police Families: Work-Family Spillover” by Johnson et al. (2005). In Puerto Rico, there is a rising trend of domestic violence crimes involving police officers. It should be evaluated which factors are related and which are those that

promote violent behavior among police officers and their partners. The current study examined the relationship between violence exposure and domestic violence among police officers and the use of alcohol, work burnout, authoritarian spillover, and department withdrawal as part of the police officer's daily experiences. The researcher wanted to know what Puerto Rican police officers thought about the reasons for factors that may affect the behavior that induces domestic violence (Graham et al., 2022).

The Research Problem

The problem in question was the domestic violence in case of police officers in Puerto Rico and its relationship with violence in police families. This study was based on the recognition that police officers and their families are also victims of multiple circumstances and stressors related to work or previous experiences, which often cause aggressive behavior. The focus should also be placed on helping victims of criminal acts or behaviors that lead to a crime, including those who ensure compliance with the law and prevent the development of crimes. Experiencing a crime can upend our lives, our dignity, and our families. It can have severe physical, psychological, social, and cognitive consequences that can cause someone to lose hope that recovery is possible (Johnson et al., 2005).

As mentioned, the current study was a replica of one completed by Johnson et al. (2005). The authors conducted an investigation into violence in police families. Their goal was to visualize how exposure to violence affects them. It was in this sense that it was indeed about authoritarian overflow and that 40% of policemen had engaged in violent behavior towards their partner and could be controlled in some cases and in others not. Other factors that prevail and influence, according to this research, involved exhaustion and alcohol consumption. In this way, the consumption of alcohol outside of

work, in response to the stress of police officers, is, for several policemen, a common fact that, in many cases, leads them to alcoholism.

It was imperative to determine if the factor of upbringing in the home could be one of the main factors that causes domestic violence in the case of police officers. It was very important to establish how effective the state can be in preventing criminal behavior in relation to domestic violence, as the number of complaints and cases sustained have increased over the years. Many of the situations that occur about violence or missed conduct in the police force cannot necessarily be statistically reflected. The issue of the code of silence is one that permeates in the way the police officer acts. This mechanism is a way to control information about incidents involving police officers. These are officers who refuse to talk about what happens or what other officers do. Officers have reported feeling more vulnerable when responding to a call of domestic dispute than to a call of robbery (Waalén et al., 2000). The purpose of this investigation was to determine which are the organizational factors or social stressors that affect or cause incidents of domestic violence among Puerto Rico's police officers. Police officers are human beings who face different situations in their work and in family life, in addition to the upbringing process. What are the principal elements that cause incidents of this kind and behavior for those who are called to establish order in society?

Background and Justification

In Puerto Rico, the police force as of 2022 were composed of 9,264 men and 2,798 women. Of those, about 7,000 were active. This number implies more responsibility to work on security, pandemic issues, crime issues, and other issues involved in police duties. Stress for police officers is greater, with few free days, and many hours of work. Ethical dilemmas are important in the criminal justice system

because criminal justice professionals are often faced with having to make decisions that involve ethical issues. A system of rules and principles is needed to help guide in the making of difficult decisions when moral issues arise. One of the main situations facing police around the world, on the issue of trust, is aimed at racial issues, discrimination, and stigmas towards society. How can we establish the issue of trust when what is largely reflected is distrust on both sides for behaviors that are inherited over time? The most striking issue of social injustice is precisely racial injustice. Unfortunately, it has been characterized by illegitimate or irregular convictions, a situation that becomes a disgrace and that goes directly to the conscience of those who execute it because they miss recognize about rights, making them think that it is the right thing to do or perhaps the noble cause of completing a work, which is not substantiated (Graham et al., 2022).

One of the fundamental questions to address this type of behavior is as follows: How trained are the policemen on the issue of human rights? Manning and Vanmaanen (1978) explained that police were victims of an irrational society. Officers must fight crime to keep the peace, act to control private events, and prevent crime, which involves new forms of crime for which they often have no knowledge, training, or tools to combat them. Discussion takes place within the framework of police misbehavior and metrics for assessing such behavior with technology, complaints, and many others, causing citizens not to trust the police. Lack of oversight and corrective action is tied to the justifications for inappropriate conduct. Domestic violence has multiple ways of being interpreted, including physical violence that can cause injuries such as bruises or fractures and even death. In addition, there are types of violence, such as sexual violence and emotional abuse, which can include threats, insults, humiliations, and contempt.

Abuse also involves controlling behavior, such as telling the victim how to act or dress and manipulating the victim's life, and it is also reflected in economic abuse, harassment, or stalking. Several cases in the courts of Puerto Rico related to domestic violence testimonies bring up that, in some reasons for violent acts, the defendants only comment that they do not understand the reason for their partner to be upset because his father acted violently with his mother and she never complained, so she understands it is a correct act of coexistence. Within domestic violence, society plays a fundamental role in the right behavior, in establishing what is known and not known according to the laws and the social order imposed. However, maintaining a bulleted society is difficult; therefore, deviations and parenting are much to see in the performance of each individual (Sun et al., 2022).

Graham et al. (2022) reported that the 2019 Puerto Rico Police Department's statistics for domestic violence (for the entire territory of Puerto Rico) involved 7,021 complaints. The report also showed 4,344 arrests. Of these arrests, 3,921 were filed with criminal charges, but only 214 served sentences, meaning that 0.03% of the defendants were serving convictions. Similar studies conducted by Puerto Rico's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation between 2013 and 2014 reflected that 605 people were admitted to the prison system for domestic violence, 361 for mistreatment, 172 for assaults, and 233 for threats, reflecting an increase of 40 convicts per year. The level of custody was mostly medium, and sentences were mostly between 1 and 5 years for the most part. Of the total number of 1,556 convicts for all domestic violence crimes in Puerto Rico during 2014, 1,452 were men compared to 104 women, which means that 93% were committed by men. The Puerto Rico Police showed that the highest number of complaints came from internal affairs, specifically from the Negotiated Anti-

Discrimination Division. The full report of the Puerto Rico Police reflected 40 complaints of domestic violence to police officers, of which only six had been investigated; this represented 15% of the complaints. The highest number of complaints were reflected during the months of March and April 2020, in which the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown took place in Puerto Rico. The year 2019 reflected a total of 66 complaints of domestic violence, of which 43 were investigated; this represented 65% of the total number of complaints (Graham et al., 2022).

Although the public policy of the Police Bureau is zero tolerance for domestic violence, in practice, this manifesto fell short in 2021 because, of the 78 instances in which agents were charged with this crime, no case prospered in court. According to Lieutenant Aimée Alvarado, director of the domestic violence Division of the Police in Puerto Rico, there are very few cases filed against members of the uniformed force that end in a conviction. This claim was supported by a report by former federal monitor, Arnaldo Claudio, who pointed out that, of the 99 complaints filed against agents between June 10, 2017, and March 31, 2018, not a single conviction was achieved. Similarly, another report by the former federal monitor for the period from August 1, 2018, to February 28, 2019, pointed out that, of the 88 complaints of domestic violence against police officers, only 13 cases were filed, and only one police officer was convicted. The lack of confidentiality and the absence of public data are some of the obstacles faced by entities that deal with situations of domestic violence within the uniformed force.

According to the statistics offered by the police, in the previous 3 years, there had been a slight decrease in the number of domestic violence complaints against agents because, in 2019, there were 103 reported; in 2020, 87 were reported; and, in 2021, there were 78 (Graham et al., 2022).

In a study carried out by Proyecto “Matria” and “Kilómetro Cero,” it was estimated that, in Puerto Rico, one femicide occurs every 7 days. Likewise, the Gender Equity Observatory of Puerto Rico detailed in its report on feminicides and gender violence that, in 2020, in Puerto Rico, there were 60 feminicides and six trans-feminicides. At that time, in 2021, there had been 21 direct and indirect feminicides, which showed an increase of 62% compared to the figures of 2019. The data on the incidence of domestic violence in Puerto Rico did not match. According to the Police Department, in 2020, 23 women had been murdered, whereas the Office of the Women Procurator indicated there were 25 women murdered, at a rate of one every 2 weeks (Graham et al., 2022).

According to the Office of the Women Procurator, 52 women were victims of domestic violence every day. Thirty percent of the women who visited hospital emergency rooms during that year were victims of domestic violence; however, lack of reliable information is just one aspect of the problem that is faced in Puerto Rico, where agencies that collect statistics, the most prominent being the Police Department, further minimize the already small proportion of incidents that are reported. In proportional terms, it could be concluded that it is possible that 91.3% of cases of gender violence that culminated in femicide did not go through a judicial process before the courts (Graham et al., 2022).

Deficiencies in the Evidence

A family member of a law enforcement officer may recognize some indicators or signals of violent behavior, such as issues of power and control. Some of those are requiring the partner to turn over the paycheck, limiting activities with friends, family, or outside the house, checking on work by dropping off, or making phone calls. Other issues

for the victim in cases of domestic violence, as established by Wolf et al. (2003), include the fear of the repercussion and the financial dependency from the perpetrator. What could happen with the children? They can be removed from the home by file charges of neglected conduct by Child Protective Services. The National Law Enforcement Policy Center (as cited in Russell & Pappas, 2018) reported that the police department must check to see if a police officer is involved in domestic violence by engaging in inappropriate activities that either interfere with or protect fellow officers in cases of harassment, stalking, intimidation, witnesses, surveillance of victims, and other types of related activities. The Center also recommended that police departments need to have a Post-Incident Administrative and Criminal Decisions Division. Administrative investigations and domestic violence issues are needed. If there are consequences, behavior must change; however, if the silence and blue code keep ruling, this thing may be difficult to stop (Russell & Pappas, 2018).

With reference to the relationships with co-workers, a sense of loyalty generally develops, which can lead to police officers not committing to the victim when a partner is reported of engaging in domestic violence but law enforcement officers did not primarily visualize the incident. Jaffe et al. (as cited in Horwitz et al., 2011) indicated that most of the factors are also barriers to police and victims. Felson et al. (2002) brought to attention that victims want empathy from law enforcement officers. Victims will call police if the perpetrator has a history of violence, injures the victim, uses weapons, or consumes alcohol by the time of the offense. Other factors less influential are age, gender, race, marital status, employment, and education. However, in these investigations, the upbringing factor and the social stressors are not considered. This is why it was important

to explore the potential organizational factors or social stressors that affect or cause incidents of domestic violence among Puerto Rico's police officers.

Diverse studies have addressed the impact of urban police officers presenting criminal charges in cases of wife abuse. Follow-up data from abused women and police officers were collected to identify the long-term consequences of this police policy that began in 1981, including negative or unintended side effects. Compliance stress levels are factors that increase levels of nonconformity in families and couples. Logan et al. (2006) established that nature developed a system where central control was not necessary when natural systems reached critical levels of instability. Job changes and environmental changes are not visual stress factors. These issues are the ones that cause disability in the familial nucleus and cause sudden changes that lead to discussions of uncertainty, which can lead to aggression. Children can be involved in events that cause situations that drive violence; however, silently, they see the claims, as well as the actions, concerns, and situations that are lived in the home where they are with their parents. The upbringing factor and stressors can be combined to provoke reactions that may later be reflected in children's behavior.

Police departments may be faced with domestic violence situations where the victim is a police officer. If this occurs, standard domestic violence response and investigation procedures should be followed. The police department should take steps to protect the privacy of the officer and make referrals to confidential counseling services with social workers or psychologists. The police department should not allow the reported incident to negatively impact the job's assignments and evaluation of the victimized officer. These strategies should be a very valuable tool in achieving the proposed goals to attack the problem of domestic violence in the Puerto Rico Police

Department. These strategies will give a more real perspective on the behavior of police officers and on the gradual changes that are necessary for the achievement of the goals. It is important to establish a wellness education program that, at the end of the day, manages to reduce the complaints of domestic violence in the Puerto Rico Police and determines whether ethics in the behavior of other officers succeed in prevailing as a moral issue instead of codes of silence (Russell & Pappas, 2018).

Some police officers use factors around the incident to determine a way to behave. What are the general attitudes toward domestic dispute and perception of the cases, people involved in the cases, and who are they? Gender, characteristics, and job experience also are part of the considerations taken by police officers to get involved in the arrest of the perpetrator. Police are more likely to make an arrest when a crime is committed using a weapon that results in an injury. Ethical dilemmas are important in the criminal justice system because criminal justice professionals are often faced with having to make decisions that involve ethical issues. We all need a system of rules and principles to help guide us in making difficult decisions when moral issues arise. One of the main situations facing police officers around the world, on the issue of trust, is aimed at racial issues, discrimination, and stigmas towards society. How do we establish the issue of trust when what is largely reflected is distrust on both sides for behaviors that are inherited over time? The police have to serve the community well, but, with all that running a parallel line, they have also to establish a working relationship with the community. Many criminal lawyers think the laws are made to protect the police more than the citizens who may be victims of the police. This national discussion takes place within the framework of police misbehavior and metrics for assessing such behavior with technology, complaints, and many others, causing citizens not to trust the police. Lack of

oversight and corrective action is tied to the justifications for inappropriate conduct (Gracia et al., 2011).

The question is whether we know as citizens the law well enough to establish if the behavior of the police is legal or not within the law. Sutherland (1934) established the concept of differential association to try to explain that, basically, criminal behavior is learned by interacting with other people from a process of communication and learning that the individual is of an interpersonal ration. The same thing happens to police officers, as they learn from their peers. Cops are largely trained to enforce law and order but not to protect themselves from the events or conflicts they may face in their duties. Cops are heads of families; they are often married and have children, and they experience an additional stressor to work, making sure to return home safely at the end of the work shift. Through the studies and the stitches that have been used for investigations, several points related to research questions can be established. First, there is a link in the upbringing and events of children and the learned behavior of the human being. Sutherland established it as a starting point, just as O'Leary (1988) later stipulated that there was an intergenerational transmission of aggression in the partner. In other words, this type of violence comes from behavior where the family projects aggression in different ways. The rewashing point of what was analyzed is that this behavior may have been learned by the child because of a satirical lagoon that provoked a reaction from the father. The level of stressors the policeman lives with can make changes to his behavior. The economic issue, such as having more than one job to fulfill as a supplier of the home, involves responsibilities, tiredness, consumption of alcoholic drinks, and the low tolerance that a police officer can have (Flood & Pease, 2009).

Being a law enforcement officer is all about decision making, organization, and morality. Ethics, which for the researcher is the science that is responsible for the study of behavior, is assigned to the police officers who have to deal with the reasonableness of rules of conduct of the bodies in charge of ensuring the maintenance of public order. The police officers are the bodies in charge of ensuring the order and security of the citizens with integrity. These elements must be united and work together, acting in the same way, with impartiality, to be an element worthy of wearing the uniform in the service of the municipality, county, state or nation. Once we talk about the police state of morality, it is to establish the good from the bad. How does the officer know to distinguish between the established and correct thing to do and doing something outside the law to achieve a correct result (Russell & Pappas, 2018)?

Analyzing the personal and social impact of domestic violence is important because we can identify some areas of harm produced by domestic violence. Scholars of the subject recognize domestic violence as one of the most serious obstacles to human development, and these effects lead mental health professionals to the prevention-attention of the phenomenon. We can refer to the serious damage generated by domestic violence at an early age, to the difficulty of breaking the silence, of those who are called to ensure order when it comes to deviating from situations that may trigger inappropriate or violent behavior against their consensual partner and face the effects of this deep hopelessness learned. Part of the consequences of this behavior is the impact on children, which reflects substantial negative emotional and behavioral consequences from being exposed to domestic violence.

According to Quirós (2013), the experience of living in a society that does not face inequities and inequalities, the lack of social responses to stop domestic violence,

having little or no access to personal resources, and the unpredictable, intermittent, and repetitive experience of domestic violence, can be devastating for abused people. The abuse requires the people affected by it to use a large amount of personal energy that allows them to face the continuous state of fear in which the aggressor exposes frustration and impotence in the absence of support, alertness, and constant vigilance in the face of an imminent danger both for them and for their immediate relatives.

It is important to start from the premise of fear's effect of the reaction on a person of authority who may well persecute, restrict, attack, fabricate cases, manipulate his subordinates or co-workers, subject them to constant exposure to abuse and negative behavior, and above all be the image of the figure of law and order before the community and society. Is this a choice of the way of living? Which is the role of police officers in domestic violence cases? The U.S. Department of Justice published a six-step best practice model in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Law Enforcement Bulletin in December 2013. First-responding police officers operate within and are supported by the law enforcement organization that employs them. There is a five-step organizational best practice that derives from the six-step investigative best practice. These five steps correspond to rank and responsibility within police organizations. These steps include taking photographs, finding witnesses, obtaining protective orders, making arrests, listing multiple crimes and submitting reports quickly. The question is: Have these steps been taken?

Audience

Through the research study's findings, leaders of public safety organizations in Puerto Rico, as well as the employees and individuals served by such organizations, will benefit from this study. Additionally, scholars and enthusiasts in criminology and human

behavior will find value in these discoveries.

Setting of the Study

The investigation procedure was implemented in the population consisting of police officers of the Puerto Rican police force. These officers worked in the Humacao and Caguas regions, which are municipalities of the island.

Research's Objectives

The purpose of this investigation was to determine the organizational factors or social stressors that affect or cause incidents of domestic violence among Puerto Rico's police officers. The general objective was to describe the possible causes and consequences associated with domestic violence in the case of police officers in Puerto Rico. Associated with this objective, the following specific goals were proposed: (a) to describe the existence and level of burnout syndrome, (b) to describe the existence and level of alcohol use, (c) to identify the department withdrawal, (d) to identify the violence exposure, (e) to identify spouse violence, and (f) to describe the factors of aggression in the police officers.

Definition of Terms

Blue code of silence is the informal prohibition of reporting misconduct by fellow police officers, which has long been viewed as a serious obstacle to control of police misconduct and achievement of police accountability (Kutnjak et al., 2018).

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior in which the partner or former partner uses physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and/or financial abuse (U.S. Department of Justice, 2023).

Domestic violence by police officers refers to any act of violence (threatened or actual) perpetrated by a police officer (on or off duty) or any police department employee

upon his or her intimate partner (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2003).

Gender violence is any conduct or threat that is done in a manner that is done in a manner that causes physical, psychological, sexual, or economic harm (Council of Europe Portal, 2023).

Law enforcement officer is a government employee appointed to enforce the law, such as a police officer or sheriff (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2023).

Organizational factors are those elements that influences the way that the organization, and everybody within it, behaves (Roszkowska & Melé, 2023).

Partner/Spouse refers to any individual (opposite or same gender) with whom the officer has dated, cohabitated, married, and/or had a child in common (Krueger, 2023).

Police ethics are the rules for behavior that guide law enforcement officials based on what society deems as right and wrong (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2023).

Police officer domestic violence refers to any reported, founded, and/or prosecuted incident of domestic violence wherein a sworn police officer is the suspected offender (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2023).

Policing is the maintenance of law and order by a police force. The enforcement of regulations or an agreement (Fagan & Tyler, 2004).

Social stressors are something that causes a state of strain or tension; they are behaviors and situations that are social in nature and that are related to physical and psychological strain (Schneiderman et al., 2005).

Upbringing is the treatment and instruction received by a child from its parents throughout its childhood (Lieneman et al., 2017; Wilder, 2020).

Chapter 2: Literature Review

This literature review explores the relationship between violence exposure and domestic violence among police officers. Despite the fact that Puerto Rico has one of the most advanced laws in the matter (Law 54 of August 15, 1989, as cited in Rodríguez, 2017), there are few studies that analyze the specific subject, investigations that were developed in foreign countries. Some studies have established that the aggressive behavior of a police officer is a result of internal and subjective problematics produced by prior mental health issues. Nonetheless, police work is considered a high-risk one. The characteristics of this labor could influence the violent behavior towards the police officer's family, partner, or spouse. The next studies reflect the results of this hypothesis.

Probable Causes and Factors Involved in Violent Behavior of Police Officers

According to García (2019), male police cadets showed high levels of physical aggression and cognitive impulsiveness in a study about the levels of aggressiveness and impulsivity in police cadets of San Luis, Argentina. These results also showed that female police cadets expressed higher levels of hostility. It is important to consider that the investigation was focused on 58 students attending the second and third year of a training institute. In students in the last year of training, the tests administered revealed elevated levels of motor impulsiveness, verbal aggression, and wrath. According to Russell and Pappas (2018), the information about officer-involved domestic violence (OIDV) is rare. However, the International Association for Chiefs of Police admits that OIDV is a frequent issue, for which the organization developed model policies. There has been no recent news about the agencies that adopted the policies across the United States, and training on OIDV of police officers has been infrequent.

Contreras (2014) linked this police behavior (OIDV) with the police function and role, which are elements that affects the family's bond. The environment in which police officers do their work influences their overall health and well-being, as well as their identity and the bonds they maintain with others, especially in their family group. Contreras indicated that some of the diseases present in police officers are nervous disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, sleep disturbances, cardiovascular disorders, loss of appetite, and personal dissatisfaction at work, which could be shown alongside difficulties in responding to specific tasks. Some difficulties mentioned were decreased control capacity or impulsiveness and increased number of errors, reduced performance, absenteeism, and an increased number of accidents at work. Police officers were also affected in their social lives by impoverishment of relationships (social and family), loss of friendships, and difficulty enjoying leisure. The interviews provided personal perceptions about the impact of police functions and roles that could be linked to aggressive behavior or violent conduct of the police officers, such as a nervous disorder, impulsiveness, and impoverishment of relationships.

A similar result was established in the study conducted by Corbo (2014), in which it was indicated that the existence of domestic violence perpetrated by police officers did not refer to a precise profile of agents of the force, but it was associated with subjective issues with the father figure (male parental figure). The interviews showed that violence exposure in the workplace was only admitted in extreme cases of domestic violence perpetrated by police officers. However, authoritarianism and unfair treatment (injustice) were mentioned as frequent experiences in the work environment. Another factor associated with violence is the social isolation perceived by the officers as a product of the criticism towards their function.

According to Roslin (2015), police domestic violence is a secret epidemic because the police institute tends to protect its employees. In the study, 40% of police officers had been involved in domestic violence from 2012 to 2014. The reasons or causes of such behavior from police officers were said to involve stress. However, according to Roslin, stressful jobs often do not generate these aggressive behaviors, so another factor to consider could be control. In relation to control, this author explained that police officers who are violent with their families are maintaining control and that police violence is not a sign of loss of control.

Blumenstein (2009), in his study, indicated that officers may perpetrate domestic violence at a higher rate than the general population, 28% versus 16%, respectively. Traditional police subculture has been identified, in several studies, as contributing to higher work stress and using force on the job; however, this study did not fully analyze the relationship between adherence to the traditional police subculture and officer involvement in domestic violence. In the interviews administered to 250 officers within several departments in Central Florida, it was shown that there was no link found between traditional police culture and physical domestic violence.

Johnson et al. (2005) revealed that violence exposure and domestic violence among police officers could be linked according to four mediation chains. The mediation chain was a model implemented by the authors to determine the influence of burnout, authoritarian spillover, alcohol use, and department withdrawal as factors inducing or involved in domestic violence by police officers. The analysis of data was developed from 413 officers, which provided results that affirmed that the relationship in question was existent and mediated by factors mentioned previously. Many of these studies examined the social representations towards police officers and the assumptions about

police work as a high-risk labor, as had been mentioned previously. In 1999, the International Association Police Center established that the policy about domestic violence must be applied to all department employees, although this policy was tailored by executives according to their specific agency.

Origins of Violence and Social Representations Towards Police Officers

Dunham and Alpert (2015) admitted the existence of the social representation that police work is a high-risk one and creates greater complexity to those who do it. Police officers are largely trained to enforce law and order but protect themselves from the events or conflicts they may face in their duties. Police officers are heads of families; they are often married and have children, which is an additional stressor to work, making sure to return home safely at the end of the work shift. Society and people can label police by their conduct, way of behaving, and relations with their peers and the community members. Variations in criminal social structures may be subject to the characteristics and conditions of each community. It is important to establish what might in some way be related to criminal sociology, which is the study of the relationships that occur between members of society, organizations, or communities, to see demographics that could include economic variables, jobs, schools, and the social environment, among others. Other elements that add to instability involve the confusion caused in the good old days of policing, which include the pressures to adapt to certain aspects of police culture, such as the blue code of silence, by which an American agent can shut up about cultural police mistakes another agent may make. Because police officers are aware that fatal injuries are relatively rare but also know that potential for harm is inherent in the work, they believe that the work is safe and unsafe both at the same time.

Dr. Daniel O'Leary (1988), a professor of psychology and director of the Training Program in Clinical Psychology at Stony Brooks University, New York, explained that marital violence is learned. During his investigations, he stipulated that there is an intergenerational transmission of aggression in the partner. In other words, this type of violence comes from behavior where the family projects aggression in different ways. Starting from the premise of social control, there is the factor of intelligence. Men denigrate women in a great amount, as they usually label them as stupid, brute, clumsy, useless, abnormal, or incapable in order to somehow maintain control over their emotional condition. This behavior causes the status quo to reign in the home, and an act of rebellion does not occur on the part of the victim. The questions that can be asked are as follows: How long do the victims endure the pattern of abuse? How much do the victims fear for their lives in order to take action on time? Why do they allow aggression and mistreatment to continue? What is the reason for the perpetrators to repeat their actions continuously against the same victim or another? What are the factors that predominate in these actions? One of the factors that could be linked to aggressive behavior from police officers towards their families or partners is the need for control, which is also associated with the impulsiveness mentioned in previous studies.

The Role of Controlling Behavior

According to Rimke (2011), the means of social control were established by punitive concepts, looking for everything to stay the same and establishing a degree of immobility. In the same way, the degree of penal compliance in its majority did not have an expiration time, so it was indefinite, and it sought in a certain way to enslave the inmates. It can be interesting to mention a theory about how the male received the power to bring domestic discipline. Rodríguez (2017) explained that men were believed to be

given the right to be in control over the family, including the life of the family component. Culturally, this was approved by the government, so it stayed away from the whole domestic issue. Similarly, this situation caused a degree of rebellion in women before the socially impeded role of the sacrificed housewife. If the woman leaves the established functions or what her behavior should be before society, she must be punished because, in that sexist culture of patriarchy, the husband (i.e., the man) was the humiliated, the offended, and society left him the right to do justice. Where is the social balance?

Rodríguez (2017) also established that some aggressors always have justifications for their actions. Some of them think that their behavior is accepted or justified. Others do not shut their mouths; they always say what they did was part of a ritual. Some others do not feel guilty or ashamed for what they do. Most of the women who are victims of aggression are between 30 and 44 years old and have low self-esteem. Incidents occurred late at night when the women were under protection because law enforcement agencies are closed or have fewer officers on duty. Police officers also have stages in their aggressive behavior. One of those stages is when the aggressor's behavior is out of control. Police officers come into homes and have so much stress or other things on their mind that it does not let them think clearly. Another stage is when the aggressor realizes that he has gone too far and tries to make an amendment in his behavior in front of the victim so he can control her.

The concept of differential association or social disorganization has theoretical elements of great importance. The correlation of crime with the state of decomposition, abandonment, crisis, or transitions within society is deduced. Nevares (1996) established in the same way that “the presence of domestic violence at home is a risk factor to crime

in children and adolescents since violence is a pattern of behavior transmitted from generation to another” (p. 73). According to Caguas (2000), the male’s behavior is based on the premises that he must maintain control and power over the woman. The most evident way of doing this is by the use of force, whether it is physical or not. Aggressive behavior from the male is reaffirmed by the social representations of women as vulnerable and nonparticipant in social affairs. The study refers to control as the opposite to weakness, which is an ideology that confronts males and females.

Police Officers and Violence in Context

The behavior patterns in Puerto Rico may be different from those of other countries. Patriarchal society, as presented in the Latino and Hispanic cultures, shows that women are in the background, which is not relevant; they should not be successful when the comparison with men is stipulated. Masculinity is an ideological structure that goes hand in hand with patriarchy. It is expressed through the need to maintain control. The patriarchal status is the main factor in social control measures that reflect behavior in society. Families have an educational and support function in their roles.

It is important to note that, although the Government of Puerto Rico (2019) has statistics about domestic violence produced in 2021, there are no details or percentages indicating the involvement of police officers in domestic crime. Nonetheless, in 2021, there were 7,906 cases reported in all areas of the country. This is a significantly higher rate than the year prior, which reflects the increasing violent behavior in society.

Increasing violence on the island of Puerto Rico was referenced in Nevares (1996), which analyzed the subject of gender violence against children, older adults, and specifically against women.

Berns (as cited in Sharma et al., 2016) established that families as a group provide care; they are aware of the economic responsibility and also the role of the genders. The authority patterns are taken back in history, as a patriarchal one. In a contemporary family, the roles of the members are flexible. Children rarely see their parents because they have outside work. Most of them do not have contact in their daily lives, but the children can see and absorb the right and wrong behavior of their parents. Another role for the woman is to stay home and take care of the children, while the men earn money to support the family. The other patterns that were established by Berns involved the nucleus of a contemporary family. Women's rights have become an awareness for the equality of genders. Contemporary women have civil and legal rights equal to those men. All of these issues bring stress as a factor with which to deal. Dr. Hans Selye (as cited in Sharma et al., 2016) referred to stress as the human ability to adjust to danger signals. There is sociocultural stress, such as traffic, noise, crime, and crowdedness, which plays this factor as a main one such as the psychological one. This may be a reaction to the pressure achieved. Children can face more stress because families have become less stable.

The motivational factors for crime, beyond the individual who does the act, are the incidental factors that coincide with lawfulness. It is as though there is a script to set up motivations: the crime and the state of decomposition, of abandonment, of the problem of social transition as society sees the human being and how human beings adapts to society. Sutherland (1934) developed his theory of behavioral behavior tuning at the learning level, in which crime techniques are man used and channeled by motivations. It establishes in the same way that learning is done within the intimate relationships of the individual with his family and close friends. This explains this aspect

in prize and punishment theories depending on behavior. In domestic violence cases, it has been established that convicts conduct themselves as their parents did, and, on many occasions, it passes from generation to generation.

Evaluating the family life of the police officer, negative emotions and authoritarian behaviors overflow. Anderson and Lo (2010) explained that the personality of the police officers is authoritarian and that they have little tolerance for those who do not submit to their authority, even when it is their partner who resists. The personality of an authoritarian requires unconditional obedience. Corbo (2014) argued in his research in Uruguay that the behaviors and values of the policemen are associated with the traditional role of the male. They are allowed to exercise authority in the home and have as their mandate the protection of their family (safety and provision), while the female role is associated with the care and exercise of motherhood. One of the characteristics of women suffering from domestic violence is the feeling of guilt, generated by not being able to fulfill the mandates imposed on them by society.

In addition, women victims of domestic violence present a disorderly and partial account of what has happened: conflict is ever present, and they live in chaos that causes permanent instability (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2003). The latter has a great deal to do with the contributions of Ferenczi (as cited in Frankel, 2002), who claimed that the victims were in a weak position and subjugated in the face of a threat from which they believed they could not escape. To prepare police officers to receive and respond to complaints made to another police officer is difficult because everything to the end of the day belonged to adherence to a secret code, of the Blue Code, which is the code of silence as a commitment to camaraderie and resistance to external intrusion.

The stress factor also is mentioned as a reasonable cause for violent behavior, but not all employees under stress show aggressive conduct with increasing statistics, such as police officers. Causes of stress in the police work environment are linked to police supervisions. A study by conducted by Shepard (2003), in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice, found that a field supervisor's style may have a profound impact on patrol officer behavior. That is particularly true of the active style of supervision identified by the research. The study uncovered some surprising patterns in supervisory styles and patrol officer behavior. Four supervisory styles emerged from the research. The style identified as active was more likely than the others to influence officer behavior. This influence can be either positive or negative; for example, it can inspire subordinates to engage in more problem-solving activities, or it can result in more frequent use of force. An active supervisory style was also the most conducive to implementing community policing goals.

The use of force is related to an active style of supervision, as patrol officers with active supervisors were twice as likely to use force against suspects. The active supervisor also expresses the use of force as a problem-solving mechanism, although the mere presence of the supervisor at the scene did not have significant influence on the use of force by police officers. On the contrary, supportive supervisors, innovative supervisors, and traditional supervisors were not associated with the use of force, although they could cause stress by protecting the police officer limiting its actions at the scene, by not telling the subordinates how to resolve a problem and not being attentive to regulations, or by sticking to regulations and enforcing rules. This study by Shepard (2003) concluded that the use of force in police officers was produced by an imitating conduct incorporated from the supervisor.

Violence and Stressful Work Environment

Anderson and Lo (2010) examined how exposure to stressful events on the job affects law enforcement employees' physical aggression toward domestic partners and evaluated the role of negative emotions and authoritarian spillover in mediating the impact of such task-related stress. The authors consulted general strain theory and angry aggression theory to explain domestic violence in police families. Significant positive effects on physical aggression toward an intimate partner were found for variables measuring authoritarian spillover and negative emotions. However, these effects were different for different genders and racial groups.

Regulations, Sanctions, and Corruption in Police Domestic Violence

Caldero et al. (2018) analyzed corruption in police organizations. The authors argued that the noble cause of being able to do something about bad people is a central police ethic. However, this fundamental principle of police ethics can paradoxically pave the way for community polarization and increased violence when officers violate the law in the name of personal moral values. Caldero et al. discussed the power police use to do their jobs and explained how it can lead police officers to abuse their positions at the individual and organizational levels. They provided police students with a realistic understanding of the types of problems they will face in the practice of police work. Their work was designed to assist police administrators with guidance in developing agency-wide corruption prevention strategies, and they further expanded our level of understanding of corruption by covering the Circumstantial Corruptibility Model in detail. The authors also discussed critical ethical issues concerning the relationship between police departments and minority communities, including Black Lives Matter and other activist groups. In the post-Ferguson environment, this is a crucial text for students,

scholars, and law enforcement professionals alike.

It is necessary to determine ways of policing among the issues that police officers present in their use of force. Dunham and Alpert (2015) referred to policing as an action that concerns police officers and citizens as well. Policing is a critical work that holds the goal of accountability for police actions in general. The involvement of citizens in policing was admitted in the Manning and Vanmaanen (1978) study. This seminal study showed that, in the management process, police officers confront tasks with the use of narcotics, thus generating susceptibility to corruption and abuse of power.

Domestic Violence From the Victim's Perspective

Even if citizens are a significant part of holding police accountable for their actions, violent crimes in the family household produces various consequences, mainly in the victim's life and integral health. Whenever there is a need to determine regulations and policing measures, the victim's perspective has to be an essential element. According to Jaffe et al. (1986), the impact of an urban police force laying criminal charges in cases of wife abuse referred to an increase in police-laid charges (2500%) and a shift from the Family Court to the Criminal Division Provincial Court. In a case of domestic violence by a police officer, it was considered that their partner felt fear and, therefore, the exposure of complaints decreased. However, the request for police service did not decrease, and the victims appeared satisfied with the service. On the other hand, police officers' attitudes about the policy were more negative than the positive changes that they helped to produce.

The study by Gover et al. (2011) examined attitudes toward domestic violence among officers from a large urban police department. Additionally, this study examined whether attitudes varied according to officer characteristics. A total of 309 police officers

responded to a survey that explored their attitudes and perceptions of domestic violence incidents. The results showed that officers were well versed in handling domestic violence, although self-reports indicated that police personnel who responded to the calls were concerned about their limited amount of discretion. Additionally, when comparing attitudes based on officer characteristics, more similarities were found than differences. The paradox between the satisfaction of the victim towards the police service and the negative attitude from the police itself was one of the reasons that reporting domestic violence to the police could be complex. Felson et al. (2002) explained that victims of domestic violence are less likely than victims of other types of violence to call the police because of their privacy concerns, their fear of reprisal, and their desire to protect offenders, but they are more likely to call for self-protection and because they perceive domestic assaults as more serious. As a result of these and other offsetting factors, victims of domestic violence are just as likely as other victims of assault to call the police.

Hirschel and Hutchison (2003) focused on what female victims of domestic violence expect the police to do when they call for assistance during an abusive incident and whether there is an association between their desire for formal intervention and subsequent victimization and offender aggression. The 419 victims interviewed in this study had a variety of expectations ranging from simply warning to arresting the offender. A combination of victim characteristics, offender characteristics, and incident characteristics was predictive of victim desire for arrest, and victim desire for arrest was significantly associated with subsequent threat of abuse and actual abuse of the victim. The implications of these findings for preferred and mandatory arrest policies were discussed.

Another factor that the victim considers when reporting a domestic violence is linked to the quality of the sanction or arrest of the criminal, which, according to Sherman et al. (1991), was a short-term punishment in ghetto areas. Persons arrested for misdemeanor domestic violence were held in custody for widely varying lengths of time. To test the effects of this variance, the researchers randomly assigned short ($\bar{X} = 2.8$ hours), full ($\bar{X} = 11.1$ hours), and no arrests (warning only) to a sample of 1,200 cases with predominantly unemployed suspects concentrated in black ghetto poverty neighborhoods in Milwaukee. Victim interviews and one official measure showed that short arrests had a substantial initial deterrent effect relative to the warning group. Longer-term follow-up and before-after analysis, however, found neither arrest group reflected any deterrence. On the most comprehensive official measure, short arrest consistently showed significantly higher long-term recidivism than no arrest. Its deterrent effect ended after 30 days, but its criminogenic effect was significant after 1 year. The researchers concluded that short-custody arrests for domestic violence in poverty ghetto areas may pose a dilemma between short- and long-term crime control, but longer custody arrests have no clear long-term effect in either direction.

Another assumption is related to the influence of gender in the police service towards the decisions about domestic violence cases. The study by Stalans and Finn (2000) indicated that a greater number of women police officers may improve the plight of battered women through increased arrest rates and referrals to battered shelters. They examined how women ($n = 40$) and men police officers ($n = 214$) perceived and responded to a hypothetical realistic domestic violence situation and three manipulated features of the situation: (a) the wife's conduct (normal, hallucinating, drunken), (b) the presence of visible injuries on the wife, and (c) antagonism between wife and husband.

Women and men did not differ on arrest rates; however, women were more likely to recommend battered shelters and less likely to recommend marriage counseling. These gender differences occurred only for experienced women. Women also assigned more importance to the victim's willingness to settle the argument in their arrest decisions.

To reaffirm the relevance of domestic violence victims' voices, Stephens and Sinden (2000) also analyzed the perspectives of victims of these crimes. The authors mentioned that the perspectives and experiences of victims have been underrepresented in the ongoing debate about mandatory arrest laws for domestic assault. This study presented findings relevant to this policy debate. The authors interviewed 25 victims whose assailants had been arrested under the provisions of the recently passed New York Family Protection and Domestic Violence Intervention Act. The authors' focus was on the respondents' experiences with the new law and specifically their perceptions of police demeanor toward them and their assailants. A majority of the participants reported multiple encounters with law enforcement prior to the arrest event. The authors identified four categories of police demeanor (minimizing the situation, disbelieving the victim, we don't care, and macho cop) that were crucial to victims' perceptions of how they were treated by officers. The importance of police demeanor in establishing the trust of victims was discussed and related to policy issues.

For the victim, establishing trust to report the violent behavior is essential; however, it is an action that often presents more doubt than certainties. As Wolf et al. (2003) explained, intimate partner violence (IPV) is underreported to the police. Through implementing a focus group methodology, the authors were able to identify women's perceptions of the barriers to seeking police help for IPV. Facilitators used a structured format with open-ended questions for five focus-group sessions that were recorded and

subsequently analyzed using ethnography software. Participants were 41 women identified by social service agencies in an urban setting serving women with diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds who had experienced IPV. Participants identified many barriers for victims, which fell within the following three themes: (a) predisposing characteristics, such as situational and personal factors; (b) fears and negative experiences with police response; and (c) fears of possible repercussions. Participants also described positive experiences with police and generated a wish list for improving police response to IPV. Policies and actions that can be taken by police and social service agencies to address the barriers faced by victims of IPV in seeking police help were discussed.

From the police perspective, the study presented by Horwitz et al. (2011) involved an investigation via a focus group, in which 22 police officers discussed their scope of practice and emotional reactions to domestic violence calls. Participants reported frustration with the recurring nature of domestic violence and with the larger systems' lack of accountability (e.g., courts, prosecution, and community) that followed their initial interventions. Participants discussed the limitations of their role as protectors of public safety, attitudes that evolved over time, and their beliefs as to contributing factors that perpetuated domestic violence. Additionally, the officers recommended more professional training, counseling, incident debriefing for officers including feedback on case disposition, better collaboration across professional groups, and evidence-based prosecution. Harsher penalties were also recommended.

It is also important to note that convictions in domestic violence cases are not frequent, as was revealed in the Nelson (2013) study, which showed that convictions rates could increase if the police officer implemented some actions to confirm the

sentence. Taking photographs, talking to witnesses, obtaining protective orders, making arrests, listing multiple crimes, and submitting reports quickly represented the tasks that could increase convictions associated with domestic violence crimes up to 60% or 70%. In regards to children endangerment, the reports were far lower than those for violence towards partners or spouse.

Domestic violence causes multiple issues in the victim's life, and the negative impact of it could be dealt with considering an interdisciplinary approach, as Quirós (2013) established. The study referred to the serious damage caused by violence in the family at an early age and to the difficulty associated with breaking the silence and facing the effects of this profound learned hopelessness. Support for the attacked people was advocated. Emphasis was placed on the importance of symmetry, reciprocity, equality of opportunity, and equity in couple relationships, and all forms of discrimination, coercion, or manipulation were rejected. The researcher insisted that it is the duty of mental health professionals to assume the commitment to build responses and comprehensive social services for the care of affected people, as well as for people who mistreat.

Police officers' actions towards domestic violence are not a direct response to the damage violence generates on the victim. As Erez et al. (2020) explained, current police decision making was guided more by speculation and stereotypes than by the wishes and needs of victims, yet the researchers also suggested that the use of criminal law as a resource for women may minimize violence. Police decisions must be guided by the victim's assessment of danger. The authors concluded that "the wishes of the victim are crucial determinants of women's safety in the application of law" (Erez et al., 2020, p. 66) and added that "the victim's assessment of safety and of the impact of a criminal sanction must be included in the formula for intervention in family violence situations"

(p. 66). Reliance on the criminal justice system is not enough of a policy to guarantee the victim's safety, symmetry, and equality towards domestic violence crimes. Erez et al. mentioned that "should they need the assistance of the criminal justice system; the research suggests that it does not often serve their needs" (p. 66).

According to research developed by the U.S. Sentencing Commission (2021) about mandatory minimum penalties, "44.1% of offenders convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum were relieved of the penalty because: 23.5% received relief through the safety valve provision; 14.1% provided the government with substantial assistance; and 6.5% received relief through both" (p. 1). None of these percentages represented a statistic on domestic violence, but they referred to crimes linked to aggressive behavior in the family's dynamic, such as the use of firearms (firearms offenders) and sexual abuse cases (sex offenders including child pornography). The U.S. Sentencing Commission added the following:

In regards to firearms offenders, 2,810 offenders were convicted of a firearms offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty: 2,500 were convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c); and 81.2% remained subject to the mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing. Their average sentence was 147 months, 97 months with relief; 257 qualified as an Armed Career Criminal under 18 U.S.C. § 924(e); and 82.9% remained subject to mandatory minimum penalties at sentencing. Their average sentence was 204 months, 120 months with relief. (p. 2)

According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, the statistic regarding sex offenders showed the following:

Over 68% of the 1,889 sex offenders—sexual abuse or child pornography offenders—were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty,

72.7% of the 874 sexual abuse offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, and 93.7% remained subject to the mandatory minimum at sentencing. Their average sentence was 251 months, 147 months with relief: 64.2% of the 1,015 child pornography offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, and 96.8% remained subject to the mandatory minimum at sentencing. Their average sentence was 126 months, 105 months with relief. (p. 2)

Research Questions

The following research questions were established to guide this applied dissertation:

1. Is there a relationship between exposure to violence and spousal violence in a sample of active police officers in the two police regions?
2. Is there a relationship between factors such as alcohol abuse, departmental withdrawal, external burnout, and authoritarian spillover with spousal violence?
3. What are the predictors that best predict violence in police officers?

Chapter 3: Methodology

Participants

The investigation procedure was implemented in the population consisting of police officers from Puerto Rico, from which a sample of 100 active officers of both genders, from agent to inspector ranks and with a minimum of 5 years of seniority, belonging to the police force of the Humacao and Caguas regions, municipalities of Puerto Rico, was selected. According to data obtained in 2021, the number of police officers in Puerto Rico was about 12,057 officers, of which only 10,400 were active in that year (Nuevo Día, 2021). The type of sampling was non-probabilistic, adjusted to the inclusion criteria of the established participants. This type of sampling refers to the fact that the selection of the participants will be determined according to the characteristics of the research, meaning the choice does not depend on probability (Arias, 2006).

Inclusion Criteria

The following inclusion criteria were considered: (a) police officers aged between 26 and 60 years, (b) police officers of both genders, (c) police officers active at the time of the investigation, (d) police officers who had carried out their activities for a minimum of 5 years in the police force, (e) police officers belonging to ranks ranging from officers to inspectors, and (f) police officers belonging to the police forces of the Humacao and Caguas municipalities in Puerto Rico at the time of the investigation.

Exclusion Criteria

The following exclusion criteria were considered: (a) police officers who, meeting the aforementioned inclusion criteria, were on work leave; (b) police officers who, meeting the aforementioned inclusion criteria, had a diagnosis of psychophysical illness and/or were undergoing treatment; (c) police officers who, meeting the aforementioned

inclusion criteria, had sanctions in the police force for various reasons; and (d) police officers who, meeting the aforementioned inclusion criteria, had not signed the informed consent for the investigation and/or completed the tests or evaluation instruments of this investigation.

Instruments

The instruments administered to the sample were based on a survey developed by Johnson et al. (2005), as seen in Appendix A, and an aggressiveness questionnaire (Buss & Perry, 1992). The research was based on the chain model presented in the study by Johnson et al., and this survey was implemented with 28 items to evaluate the variables of burnout, alcohol use, department withdrawal, violence exposure, and spouse violence, which were the same variables that were used on the Johnson et al. survey. The survey measured each of these dimensions, according to statements assessed using a Likert-type scale. However, this research applied an adaptation of said survey to complete those items that were not specified in the previously mentioned study. Questionnaire items were developed by the investigator.

The burnout dimension was evaluated according to six items, according to a 5-point Likert rating scale, which presented response options ranging from *always* to *never*. These items showed good internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha = .85). The authoritarian spillover dimension was evaluated according to at least six affirmative items that were assessed on a Likert-type scale of options ranging from *strongly agree* to *strongly disagree*, a measurement that showed good internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha = .74). The department withdrawal dimension was evaluated according to at least four questions referring to job satisfaction, which were assessed according to a 5-point

Likert-type scale, with options ranging from *never* to *always*, items that denoted a test Cronbach's alpha = .73.

Regarding the violence exposure dimension, it was evaluated through five affirmative items on the presence of specific events, which were correlated with some items of the burnout scale, showing an internal consistency of Cronbach's alpha = .81. The correlations were ranked, and then the sum of said rankings was made. Spouse violence was investigated through one question and evaluated according to a scale of five Likert-type options from *never* to *always*. She questioned the regularity of the violence directed towards her partner in the period of 6 months prior to the investigation.

Finally, the Buss and Perry (1992) aggression questionnaire (the BPAQ) was administered to assess aggressiveness in a complementary way. The original version of said instrument was implemented, which is based on a scale that evaluates two types of aggression, physical and verbal, and two emotions related to the aggressiveness of the subjects: anger and hostility (Andreu et al., 2002). The BPAQ includes four subscales: Physical Aggression (Items 1 to 9), Verbal Aggression (Items 10 to 14), Anger (Items 15 to 21), and Hostility (Items 22 to 29). The answers are evaluated by means of a 5-point Likert scale, where 1 = *extremely uncharacteristic* and 5 = *extremely characteristic*, so that the scale presents a potential range between 3 points, as a minimum value, and 15 points, as a maximum value. For this study, the scale average was compared and entered into a regression equation.

Regarding the construct validity of the instrument, the factorial structure of the BPAQ in this study coincided with that proposed in other studies, both in Spain (Andreu et al., 2002) and in other countries (Valdivia-Peralta et al., 2019). Therefore, this questionnaire provided a valid measurement of physical and verbal aggression, anger,

and hostility in partner-assaultive men of Spain. Regarding the reliability of the four BPAQ subscales, the Physical Aggression subscale presented the highest internal consistency, followed by the subscales of Anger, Hostility, and Verbal Aggression. The indexes obtained were similar to those found in Spanish studies of the questionnaire and were considered sufficient to assess these constructs (Andreu et al., 2002; Morales-Vives et al., 2005). The psychometric properties of the BPAQ have been evaluated in Spain regarding partner-assaultive men; therefore, it was relevant to this investigation and its validity.

Variables

Age of the Police Officer. Defined as police officer years of life.

Operationalization: 26 to 60 years old.

Gender. Defined as gender assigned biologically at birth. Operationalization:

Male, Female.

Years in Activity. Defined as time of effective service that a worker has in his place of work, from his entry or employment relationship. Operationalization: minimum of 5 years in activity.

Burnout. Defined as the inability to cope with stressors as reflected in psychological, behavioral, and physical symptoms (Johnson et al., 2005).

Operationalization: indicators of burnout according to six items of Johnson et al.'s (2005) survey.

Department Withdrawal. Defined as the manifestation of detachment and withdrawal, such as symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (Johnson et al., 2005).

Operationalization: indicators of department withdrawal according to four items of Johnson et al.'s (2005) survey.

Authoritarian Spillover. Defined as manifestations of the need to control and the mindset to win, according to Johnson et al. (2005). Operationalization: indicators of authoritarian spillover according to six items in Johnson et al.'s survey.

Violence Exposure. Defined as experiences of violent events associated to the job. Operationalization: indicators according to seven items in Johnson et al.'s (2005) survey.

Spouse Violence. Defined as violent behavior towards an intimate partner, including verbal, physical, economical, and psychological violence. Operationalization: indicators according to one item in Johnson et al.'s (2005) survey.

Aggressiveness. Defined as manifestations of physical and verbal aggression, anger and hostility, according to Buss and Perry (1992). Operationalization: indicators according to 29 items in the Buss and Perry aggression questionnaire.

Procedures

Design

The methodology implemented responded to a quantitative approach that allowed the collection of numerical, evaluative, and measurable data. This approach was based on numerical measurement and statistical analysis of information to describe and contextualize behavior patterns through the investigation of variables and their relationships (Hernández Sampieri et al., 2014). The methodological design was descriptive, as the variables studied were characterized according to aspects or dimensions evaluated to account for the phenomenon (Hernández Sampieri et al., 2014). The scope of the research was correlational because the degree or level of relationship between two or more variables was measured, investigating each one of them and then quantifying said link.

Data Collection Procedures

The nature of the investigation required requesting authorization from the Puerto Rico Police Department Commissioner in order to have access to identified police personnel and collect the necessary data. The participating population was from the police region of Caguas, Puerto Rico. This region was selected due to the population increase compared to the other 13 regions, as well as the need for agile and properly trained police officers, with a 30-percentage rate of complaints of domestic violence in the police. The sample was composed of 100 officers from the region, representing 55% of the total population of officers in the region, which constituted a representative sample for the study. Participants were officers of the ranks from agent to inspector, leaving out those above these ranks to avoid any interference in the answers to the questionnaires. The ages of the participating officers were between 26 and 55 years of age, as some variables required experience due to the nature of what was required, in addition to the fact that the regulations of the Puerto Rico Police Bureau establish 55 years as an average retirement age. This means that the demographics did not identify the subjects.

The questionnaire was administered by a colleague from Nova Southeastern University. The researcher did not participate directly in the process to avoid interference in the responses of this. The participants met in a room of the Caguas Police Command, where they were given the instrument with an answer sheet in more than one work shift. Once finished, they discarded it in a sealed box for the confidentiality of the process. Finally, a report of the results obtained from the investigation is presented.

Data Analysis

In this study, a descriptive statistical analysis of all variables was performed in order to obtain possible answers to the research questions regarding the factors of

burnout, authoritarian spillover, alcohol use, department withdrawal, violence exposure, and spouse violence. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize data in an organized manner by describing the relationship between variables in a sample or population. Calculating descriptive statistics represents a vital first step when conducting research and should always occur before making inferential statistical comparisons. Descriptive statistics include types of variables (nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratio) as well as measures of frequency, central tendency, dispersion/variation, and position. Because descriptive statistics condense data into a simpler summary, they enable decision makers to assess specific populations in a more manageable form (Kaur et al., 2018).

The data compiled from the instrument were analyzed, tabulated, and submitted directly to the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences in order to answer the 28 survey items. Descriptive statistics replace or reduce the set of data obtained by a small number of descriptive values, such as the mean, the median, the geometric mean, the variance, and the standard deviation. Therefore, the data obtained from this research were analyzed by applying descriptive statistics. The descriptive statistics were used for the analysis of the sociodemographic variables and the reagents of the variables of the research instrument. To answer the research questions of the dissertation, a descriptive analysis of frequency distribution (f) was carried out. This was accomplished by describing and sorting the scores by category. The data and values for each variable obtained respectively were then described. It is important to indicate that the analysis was done based on the linear regression model.

One of the simplest statistical models that can be used to model the relationship between a continuous response variable and a single quantitative explanatory variable is the simple linear regression model. The simple linear regression is used for modeling a

response variable as a linear function of a single explanatory variable. In particular, bivariate data summary statistics, components of a simple linear regression model, fitting a simple linear regression model, assessing the fit of a simple linear regression model, and the statistical inferences that can be made from a simple linear regression model are discussed. When the data cloud in a scatterplot of the response variable versus the explanatory variable is linear, a plausible model for approximating the relationship between the response and explanatory variable is the simple linear regression model (Rossi, 2022). It is important to note that all quantitative data of the study were processed through the Statistics and Data Editor of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, which provided all of the descriptive analysis indicated above.

Chapter 4: Results

Introduction

This chapter presents the results obtained from this study. The researcher's objective was to answer the research questions indicated in Chapter 2. This chapter includes the sociodemographic information of the participants and an analysis of the data according to the research questions.

Sociodemographic Results

In relation to gender, considering that three cases did not respond, a higher number of men ($n = 65$) was found, compared to women ($n = 31$). Regarding the police region from which the respondents came, with three of them not responding, the highest count corresponded to Caguas ($n = 49$), although it was immediately followed by Humacao ($n = 97$). Finally, regarding the categorized age of the participants, with four of them not responding, a higher count corresponded to 46-55 years ($n = 49$), followed by 36-45 years ($n = 31$), 56-65 years ($n = 13$), and, finally, 26-35 years ($n = 3$), as represented as a percentage.

Data Analysis

Considering, for its part, the scales of the survey as nominal quantitative, after the calculation of the means associated with all the component items, and because three respondents did not provide data, a greater count corresponded to the response option of *sometimes* ($n = 64$), followed by *not very often* ($n = 20$), *never* ($n = 8$), and, finally, *often* ($n = 5$). When comparing the previous count values using the chi-square test, statistically significant differences were found at $p < .05$ ($\chi^2 = 92.072$; $p = 0.000$; $df = 3$), differences justified by a greater and significant number of responses associated with the *sometimes* category, finding similar results at $p < .05$ when such alternative was compared with that

of immediately lower frequency: *not very often* ($\chi^2 = 23.048$; $p = 0.000$; $df = 1$). For its part, considering the scale as nominal quantitative, and because three of the respondents did not provide any response, a greater count corresponded to the *sometimes* variant ($n = 37$), followed by *not very often* ($n = 30$), *often* ($n = 22$), and *never* ($n = 6$).

Regarding Alcohol Use, when considering the scale as continuous quantitative, an average of 4.72 points was found (95% CI = 4.62-4.82 points), Td = 0.495 points, median = 5.00 points, minimum = 2.00 points, and maximum = 5.00 points, indicating the existence of a tendency towards never consuming alcohol. For its part, considering the scale as nominal quantitative, and because three of the respondents did not provide any information, a significantly higher count corresponded to the alternative of *never* ($n = 79$), followed by *sometimes* ($n = 15$), *not very often* ($n = 2$) and, finally, a single case for *often*. Depreciating the two data series with count < five cases, statistically significant differences at $p < .05$ were found between the remaining two based on the chi-square test ($\chi^2 = 43.574$; $p = 0.000$; $df = 1$), differences justified from a larger and significant number of respondents who selected the *never* category associated with alcohol consumption. For its part, when considering the scale as nominal quantitative, a greater count corresponded to the alternative of *not very often* ($n = 34$), followed by *sometimes* ($n = 31$), *often* ($n = 21$), *always* ($n = 10$), and, finally, only one case for *never*.

Regarding the Violence Exposure scale, considering it as continuous quantitative, an average of 4.61 points was found, Td = 0.356 points, median = 4.71 points, minimum = 3.43 points, and maximum = 5.14 points, indicating a tendency towards denial of exposure to violence. For its part, considering the scale as nominal quantitative, and because three of the respondents did not provide any related information, a significantly higher count corresponded to the alternative of *never* ($n = 69$), followed by *sometimes* (n

= 27), and, finally, a single case for *not very often*.

Finally, regarding the Spouse Violence scale, when considered as continuous quantitative, an average of 4.71 points was found, Td = 0.438 points, median = 5.00 points, minimum = 3.00 points, and maximum = 5.00 points, indicating the existence of a trend towards the absence of violence related to the spouse. For their part, considering the scale as nominal quantitative, and because three of the respondents did not provide related information, practically all of them selected the *never* category ($n = 86$), followed by *sometimes* ($n = 9$), and, finally, two cases for *not very often*.

Answer to Research Questions

Research Question 1

Regarding the first research question (Is there a relationship between violence exposure and domestic violence in a sample of active police officers in two police districts in Puerto Rico?), no statistically significant relationship was found, $p > .05$, based on the calculation of Spearman's bivariate correlation coefficient, $r = -0.034$, $p = .737$, indicating that both scales are not statistically related, according to the data provided by the respondents; this is for the total scales, calculated, according to previous clarifications, according to average calculations. For its part, when evaluating the correlations for each of the component items of both scales, the results presented in Table 1 were obtained.

Table 1

Results of the Bivariate Correlations Between the Violence Exposure and Spouse Violence Scales Based on the Rho Spearman Coefficient

		Personally, being investigated for an offense	Witnessing a shooting incident	Witnessing abuse of a child/elder	Being personally assaulted	Witnessing a suicide	Killing someone	Witnessing a fellow officer being killed.	I felt was getting out of control	Behaved violently towards their spouse
Personally, being investigated for an offense	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2-tailed) N	1.000 . 97	.064 .531 97	.189 .064 97	-.138 .177 97	-.079 .440 97	-.056 .585 97	.061 .553 97	.078 .449 97	.013 .896 97
Witnessing a shooting incident	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2-tailed) N		1.000 . 97	.322** .001 97	.078 .448 97	-.147 .150 97	.120 .241 97	.061 .556 97	.045 .662 97	-.043 .674 97
Witnessing abuse of a child/elder	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2-tailed) N			1.000 . 97	.175 .087 97	.173 .091 97	-.083 .417 97	.399** .000 97	-.080 .438 97	-.040 .697 97
Being personally assaulted	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2-tailed) N				1.000 . 97	-.134 .191 97	-.052 .614 97	.260* .010 97	-.074 .474 97	-.128 .212 97
Witnessing a suicide	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2-tailed) N					1.000 . 97	-.054 .597 97	.163 .110 97	-.171 .095 97	.069 .502 97
Killing someone	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2-tailed) N						1.000 . 97	.055 .590 97	.088 .394 97	-.052 .614 97
Witnessing a fellow officer being killed.	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2-tailed) N							1.000 . 97	.97 .342 97	-.030 .771 97
I felt was getting out of control	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2-tailed) N								1.000 . 97	.192 .059 97
Behaved violently towards their spouse	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2-tailed) N									1.000 . 97

Note: **. *, Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed); **. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

In this sense, the following statistically significant correlations were found at $p < .05$:

1. Witnessing abuse of a child/elder and witnessing a shooting incident: significant and positive relationship, as respondents indicated both witnessing a shooting incident and abuse of a young person or an older adult, which can be interpreted as equivalent.

2. Witnessing a fellow officer being killed and witnessing abuse of a child/Elder: significant and positive relationship, as witnessing the abuse could determine the death of the fellow police officer.

3. Witnessing a fellow officer being killed and being personally assaulted: significant and positive relationship, as the assault could have ended with the death of the fellow officer.

Research Question 2

The second research question asked the following: Is there a relationship between mediating factors, that is, alcohol abuse, department withdrawal, external burnout and authoritarian spillover with violence exposure and domestic violence in a sample of active police officers in two police districts in Puerto Rico? Regarding this, first, the results of Table 2 were found, in relation to the Spearman bivariate correlation coefficients between the different total scales.

Table 2

Results of Bivariate Correlations (r Spearman Correlation Coefficient) Between the Scales of the Questionnaire in Relation to Violence Exposure and Spouse Violence

		Total Violence	Total Spouse Violence
Total Burnout Scale	Correlation Coefficient	.031	.402**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.766	.000
	<i>N</i>	97	97
Total Authoritarian	Correlation Coefficient	.087	.236*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.396	.020
	<i>N</i>	97	97
Total Alcohol	Correlation Coefficient	.198	.399**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.052	.000
	<i>N</i>	97	97
Total Withdrawal	Correlation Coefficient	.054	.444**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.598	.000
	<i>N</i>	97	97

Note: **. *. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed); **. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

In this sense, the following statistically significant correlations were found ($p < 0.05$):

1. Spouse Violence and Burnout scale: significant and positive correlation that indicates that the greater of Burnout syndrome, greater the presence of spusal violence.
2. Spouse Violence and Authoritarian Spillover: significant and positive correlation indicating that the greater the authoritarianism, the greater the probability of spousal violence.
3. Spouse Violence and Alcohol Use: significant and positive correlation indicating that the greater the alcohol consumption, the greater the probability of spusal violence.
4. Spouse Violence and Department Withdrawal: significant and positive correlation indicating that the greater the probability of retirement from the Police Department, the greater the probability of spousal violence.

Corroborating the above, when applying the linear regression model, a statistically significant relationship at $p < .05$ was found for spouse violence and not for exposure violence when considering alcohol use, department withdrawal, burnout, and authoritarian spillover as predictors. Furthermore, this first significant relationship was confirmed by the coefficient $R^2 = 0.337$ of the aforementioned linear model, being, for the second, $R^2 = 0.005$.

Research Question 3

The third research question asked the following: What are the predictors that best predict violence in police officers? Regarding this, first, the results of Table 3 were found, in relation to the Spearman bivariate correlation coefficients between the different total scales.

Table 3

Results of Predict Violence in Police Officers

Model	Sum of squares	ANOVA ^a		Mean square	F	Sig.			
		df							
Regression	6.189	4		1.547	11.661	<.001 ^b			
Residual	12.187	92		.132					
Total	18.376	96							

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Coefficients ^a		t	Sig.	Correlations		
	B	Std. error	Standardized Coefficients	Beta			Zero-order	Partial	Part
(Constant)	2.771	.381			7.265	<.001			
Total authoritarian	-.001	.043		-.002	-.018	.968	.196	-.002	-.002
Total Burnout Scale	.168	.070		.230	2.395	.019	.406	.242	.203
Total Withdrawal	.164	.041		.360	3.948	<.001	.478	.381	.335
Total Alcohol	.183	.079		.207	2.306	.023	.348	.234	1.96

a. Dependent Variable: Total Spouse Violence.

b. Predictors: (Constant), Total Alcohol, Total Authoritarian, Total Withdrawal, Total Burnout Scale.

As seen in Table 3, the results are the following:

1. The regression analysis conducted consisted of the independent variables of withdrawal, alcohol use, authoritarian spillover, and burnout introduced into the regression equation to predict the dependent variable of spouse violence.

2. The regression model shows that the variables as a whole, have a significant relationship with the dependent variable (i.e., the overall regression is statistically significant).

3. Moreover, total withdrawal was the strongest predictor of spouse violence, followed by burnout and, finally, alcohol abuse.

4. The one scale that did not seem to be predictive of spouse violence was total authoritarian spillover.

Chapter 5: Discussion

Introduction

The study was conducted to establish the relationship that probably could exist between some factors and how these factors could predetermine domestic violence perpetrated by officers of the Puerto Rico police force. The researcher investigated how related these factors were as strong predictors of domestic violence, such as external burnout, alcohol abuse, department withdrawal, and authoritarian spillover. This study was based on the Johnson et al. (2005) study, which revealed that violence exposure and domestic violence among police officers can be linked according to four mediation chains. The mediation chain was a model implemented by the authors to determine the influence of burnout, authoritarian spillover, alcohol use, and department withdrawal as factors inducing or being involved in domestic violence by police officers. The analysis of data was developed from 413 officers and provided results that affirmed that the relationship in question was existent and mediated by factors mentioned previously.

The investigation procedure was implemented in the population consisting of police officers from Puerto Rico, from which a sample of 100 active officers of both genders, from agent to inspector ranks and with a minimum of 5 years of seniority, belonging to the police force of the Humacao and Caguas region, municipalities of Puerto Rico, was selected. This region was selected due to the population increase compared to the other 13 regions, as well as the need for agile and properly trained police officers, with a 30% rate of complaints of domestic violence in the police. The sample represented 55% of the total population of officers in the region, which constituted a representative sample for the study. Participants were officers of the ranks from agent to inspector, leaving out those above these ranks to avoid any interference in the answers to the

questionnaires. The ages of the participating officers were between 26 and 55 years of age, as some variables required experience due to the nature of what was required, in addition to the fact that the regulations of the Puerto Rico Police Bureau establish 55 years as an average retirement age. This means that the demographics did not identify the subjects. According to data obtained in 2021, the number of police officers in Puerto Rico was about 12,057 officers, of which only 10,400 were active in that year (Nuevo Día, 2021). The type of sampling was non-probabilistic, adjusted to the inclusion criteria of the established participants. This type of sampling refers to the fact that the selection of the participants was determined according to the characteristics of the research, meaning the choice does not depend on probability (Arias, 2006).

According to Roslin (2015), police domestic violence represented a secret epidemic because the police institute tended to protect their employees. In the study, 40% of police officers were involved in domestic violence from 2012 to 2014. The reasons or causes of such behavior from police officers were said to be stress. However, Roslin explained that stressful jobs often do not generate these aggressive conducts, so another factor to consider could be control. In relation to control, Roslin explained that police officers who are violent with their families are maintaining control and that police violence is not a sign of loss of control.

Anderson and Lo (2010) explained that the personality of the police officers was authoritarian and that they had little tolerance for those who did not submit to their authority even when it was their partner who resisted. The personality of an authoritarian requires unconditional obedience. Corbo (2014) argued in his research in Uruguay that the behaviors and values of the policemen were associated with the traditional role of the male. They were allowed to exercise authority in the home and had as their mandate the

protection of their family (safety and provision), while the female role was associated with the care of children and exercise of motherhood.

Rodríguez (2017) established that some aggressors always had justifications for their actions. Some of them thought that their behavior was accepted or justified. Others did not shut their mouth, and they always said what they did was part of a ritual. Some others did not feel guilty or ashamed for what they did. Most of the women who were victims of aggression were between 30 and 44 years old and had low self-esteem. Incidents occurred late at night when the women were not under protection because law enforcement agencies were closed or had fewer officers on duty. Police officers also had stages in their aggressive behavior. One of those stages was when the aggressor's behavior was out of control. Police officers come into homes and have so much stress or other things on their mind that it does not let them think clearly. Another stage was when the aggressor realized that he went too far and tried to make an amendment in his behavior in front of the victim so he could control her. It can be observed how factors related to predetermining domestic violence, such as external burnout, alcohol abuse, department withdrawal, and authoritarian spillover, maintain a direct relation between them and domestic violence.

Summary of Findings

The study's findings encompassed common themes that surfaced during the analysis of participants' reported experiences, as expressed in their own words. This section delves into the results corresponding to each research question.

Discussion of Results for Research Question 1

The first research question was as follows: Is there a relationship between violence exposure and domestic violence in a sample of active police officers in two

police districts in Puerto Rico? No statistically significant relationship was found, $p > .05$, based on the calculation of Spearman's bivariate correlation coefficient, $r = -0.034$, $p = .737$, indicating that both scales were not statistically related, according to the data provided by the respondents; this is for the total scales calculated, based on previous clarifications and according to average calculations:

1. Witnessing abuse of a child/elder and witnessing a shooting incident:

significant and positive relationship, as respondents indicated both witnessing a shooting incident and abuse of a young person or an older adult, which can be interpreted as equivalent.

2. Witnessing a fellow officer being killed and witnessing abuse of a child/elder:

significant and positive relationship, as witnessing the abuse could determine the death of the fellow police officer.

3. Witnessing a fellow officer being killed and being personally assaulted:

significant and positive relationship, as the assault could have ended with the death of the fellow officer.

These results are supported by various studies. In this regard, Maple and Kebbell (2021) conducted a study aimed at evaluating the aspects of domestic violence and its main components in police officers. To this end, interviews were conducted with 16 police officers in an Australian state. Officers expressed a desire to help people and reported personal growth through increased interpersonal skills and open-mindedness, but many also became disillusioned. Officers highlighted the futility, paperwork, and scrutiny of their actions as factors that inhibited their ability to cope. The findings imply that, while officers' competence may increase, their well-being and ability to do their jobs effectively and compassionately may suffer.

Saxton et al. (2020) conducted a study aimed at identifying the challenges that police officers perceive when dealing with children in the context of domestic violence incidents. Interviews with police officers ($n = 15$) in Ontario, Canada, were used to explore police officers' experiences in addressing the needs of families experiencing domestic violence. A dual deductive/inductive approach for thematic analysis at the semantic level was conducted to explore themes. Among the main results, the main themes of the interviews focused on (a) challenges related to knowledge, skills, and resources; (b) challenges due to discrepancies in required procedures; and (c) challenges associated with police relations with families. All of these challenges can impact the police response to children in domestic violence cases. It was concluded that the police recognize the challenges they face when approaching children in domestic violence cases. Implications for improving practice were discussed and included the need for greater collaboration, awareness and training.

Discussion of the Results for Research Question 2

The second research question asked the following: Is there a relationship between mediating factors, that is, alcohol abuse, department withdrawal, external burnout, and authoritarian spillover with violence exposure and domestic violence in a sample of active police officers in two police districts in Puerto Rico? First, the following significant correlations were found:

1. Spouse Violence and Burnout scale: significant and positive correlation that indicates that the greater of burnout syndrome, the greater the presence of marital violence.

2. Spouse Violence and Authoritarian Spillover scale: significant and positive correlation indicating that the greater the authoritarianism, the greater the probability of

spousal violence.

3. Spouse Violence and Alcohol Use scale: significant and positive correlation indicating that the greater the alcohol consumption, the greater the probability of spousal violence.

4. Spouse Violence and Department Withdrawal scale: significant and positive correlation indicating that the greater the probability of retirement from the police department, the greater the probability of spousal violence.

Corroborating the above, when applying the linear regression model, a statistically significant relationship at $p < .05$ was found for Spouse Violence ($F_{4,92} = 1.547, p = .000$) and not for Exposure Violence ($F_{4,92} = 0.111, p = .978$) when considering Alcohol Use, Department Withdrawal, Burnout, and Authoritarian Spillover as predictors. Furthermore, this first significant relationship was confirmed by the coefficient $R^2 = 0.337$ of the aforementioned linear model, being, for the second, $R^2 = 0.005$.

Discussion of the Results for Research Question 3

The third research question asked the following: What are the predictors that best predict violence in police officers? As a result, the following was obtained:

1. The regression analysis conducted consisted of the independent variables of withdrawal, alcohol use, authoritarian spillover, and burnout introduced into the regression equation to predict the dependent variable of spouse violence.

2. The regression model shows that the variables as a whole have a significant relationship with the dependent variable, i.e., the overall regression is statistically significant.

3. Moreover, total withdrawal was the strongest predictor of spouse violence, followed by burnout and, finally, alcohol abuse.

4. The one scale that did not seem to be predictive of spouse violence was total authoritarian spillover

When the data are analyzed from the study by Johnson et al. (2005), it follows from their findings that there is a strong link between burnout and authoritarian overflow in terms of the relationship of actions that lead to spousal violence. In the same way, they stated in their findings that the relationship with violent behavior in the marital aspect is not related to alcohol consumption. This result was highlighted in the current study while presenting that more than one third of the police interviewed did have alcohol consumption problems, but this did not lead them to violent marital behavior. Another factor that established a lack of direct association was exposure to violence and spousal violence.

The study established within its analysis the possibility that there are external, exogenous factors that could be highly determinant in the process of justifying factors that lead to violent behavior. Why would those variables not be included? Determinations of race, gender, ethnicity, and cultural aspects may be found. Among the analysis that the issue of exposure to violence is raised as a matter of hardening based on years of service, the fewer years of service, the fewer the capabilities to effectively deal with incidents and criticisms. The potential of having been exposed to violence can increase the direct links to domestic violence in these officers with few years of law enforcement experience. In the study findings of Johnson et al. (2005), it was established that 40% of the officers interviewed had lost control with their partner during the past 6 months prior to the study interview.

However, the findings of the studies presented have some similarities and differences in the results. Both studies show that there is some kind of correlation

between burnout and authoritarian spillover in terms of spouse violence. Regarding alcohol use, although more than one third of the interviewees in the research by Johnson et al. (2005) reflected problems of alcohol consumption, this was not a trigger related to domestic violence. However, in the current study, the result is that, although there is less consumption, the one who consumes excessively will reflect violent behavior with his wife. For its part, there are no studies that relate the variables indicated in addition to those presented. The topic is presented as very sensitive to discuss in an investigative manner, surely as long as the individuals involved in it.

Both studies highlight the importance of psychosocial and behavioral factors in the understanding of violence, whether spousal or in general, in the context of policing. While the current study focused mostly on the direct prediction of spouse violence (spillover) from individual variables, the Johnson et al. (2005) study delved into how these variables can mediate the relationship between exposure to violence and spousal violence. The combined results suggest that, although certain factors such as burnout and authoritarian spillover are important, their influence on spouse violence may be indirect and mediated by other factors, rather than directly predictive. The lack of significant coefficients in the Johnson et al. study suggests that the relationship between these variables and violence is complex and possibly mediated by other factors not considered in the investigation.

Context of Findings

After presenting the analysis of the results, the following conclusion was reached: There is a troubling reality about how violence between human beings should be handled. We look at the police as beings of authority, of law and order, who are the people who are called by their work to ensure the best behavior of all human beings and of society

framed in the rules, laws, and constitutional protections. We can also take from this behavior of ensuring order and laws to quickly violating the laws and altering the standard of society. Should we ask ourselves what motivates domestic violence and how safe are spouses from police officers? An important point about this analysis is the statistics: Do we know how many are actually reported? Many officers may refer to loss of control, and the question should be which element is causing the loss of control. What external force can influence that determination to behave violently or establish the point of being out of control at present?

The possible stressors that become the variables of this study could be others not contemplated that cause this type of violent behavior. In the case of burnout in Puerto Rico, it has a lot to do with the number of police officers who are available on active duty. The need to cover as many areas as designated causes many office workers to have to travel long distances daily to be able to carry out their work, which gives way to fatigue and burnout. To this situation, we add the economic issue, as the salary offered to police officers in Puerto Rico compared to other states is much lower. This leads us to many officers also looking for a second source of income: a second job.

The authoritarian spillover is perhaps a highly worrisome matter. It is part of the thought, "I am the authority and here you do what I say," and that type of phrase in the home must be intimidating to a wife who can well see in that behavior that if she performs some action outside the parameters established by the police officer, she could be a victim of domestic violence. In Puerto Rico, this type of authoritative behavior has caused the Puerto Rico Police Bureau to be under a reform of the federal justice department of the United States since 2014 for conduct that violates human rights and the behavior that a police officer should carry and display.

The excessive use of force and police brutality are some of the elements that are constantly examined within what should be the appropriate and ethical behavior of a police officer. All that remains is to establish the real reason why there may be this need to assert authority or superiority over others in terms of behavior and laws within society. If we take a closer look at the issue of alcohol consumption, we see that they do not present any kind of problem of control in consumption. However, they do present the idea of the one who consumes in excess and will have violent behavior against his partner. The issue of alcohol as a depressant is quite common, but how much can be the main motive for violent behavior?

Within the analysis of the data, we were able to observe that there is a transition interval from being a police officer to a civilian, which demonstrates in some way the absence of knowledge on how to establish and deal with that transition of life. Because of the activity of being in charge, offering instructions, and having control over the people around you, versus properly managing all that daily behavior at home and with the family away from work, it is imperative to make an early intervention and mitigate the effect, as well as improving the training of the police officer in his process of transition out of work in what is eventually the departmental withdrawal.

Interpretation of Findings

The findings, mainly the relationships between the variables of exposure to violence and domestic violence, as well as their predictors of alcohol abuse, department withdrawal, external burnout, and authoritarian spillover, inevitably lead to the need for intervention. The issue is, therefore, what type of intervention would be the most efficient, effective, and efficacious? In this case, the problem, it is suggested, must be

addressed from a preventive perspective, considering the three levels of intervention, although focusing on the first and second, as presented below (Salleras, 1989).

Primary Prevention

Its basic objectives are to maintain and improve health, that is, reduce the probabilities of occurrence of pathologies and reduce their incidence. For this, two main intervention instances are considered:

1. Health promotion and disease prevention: Implemented on people, the measures involved cover the axes of education (medical, sexual, family planning, habits and customs, nutritional), promotion of sanitation (drinking water, disposal of excreta, garbage disposal, control of harmful fauna, food hygiene, housing improvement), prenatal and postnatal growth and development control programs, and measures specific to the relational environment (rational distribution of family income; improvement of the family environment, school, and work; family and work training; improvement of economic income; benefit; recreation).

2. Specific protection: Executed on the environment, the measures involved may include specific immunizations, personal hygiene, balanced diet, adequate physical exercise, disease detection programs, safety measures in the family, school and work, avoidance of exposure to carcinogenic and allergen factors, reduction of atmospheric pollution, regular medical consultation visits, control of contact with communicable diseases, adequate distribution of health resources, genetic counseling, and detection of carriers. However, these prevention measures are generally limited by the lack of information necessary to implement effective actions.

Secondary Prevention

Its basic objectives are to treat, limit and control the disease, and avoid death, trying to reduce the prevalence of subclinical disease. These measures are implemented when primary prevention has not been carried out or, when carried out, has led to failures. To satisfy these needs, three main intervention instances are considered:

1. Early diagnosis: as the axes of timely medical care (detection actions, control of patients at risk, discovery of patients in the first stages, etiological diagnosis, detection of source -family, school, work, community-, availability of auxiliaries of diagnosis), pedagogical adaptation in medical schools, and pediatric training.

2. Timely and appropriate treatment: early treatment (implementation, control and monitoring) in the achievement of the ethical principle of doing no harm, the evaluation of the risk-benefit relationship, and the execution of measures that allow relating the family/nutrition/activity axes physical/psychological/social, preferably based on the principles of evidence-based practices.

3. Limitation of damage: both the prevention of sequelae, the sufficient and appropriate use of health resources to prevent the disease from progressing to a more advanced period (of greater severity), and the shortening of the period of disability.

Tertiary Prevention

Its basic objectives are to achieve the patient's functionality and vitality, slow the progression of the disease, and reduce the degree of disability. This prevention takes place when "the pathological lesions are irreversible and the disease is well established and has become chronic, whether or not sequelae have appeared" (Salleras, 1989, p. 9). The main intervention instances are related to rehabilitation and social reintegration, as long as the maximum possible recovery of functionality, the ability to take care of oneself

and take care of oneself, occupational therapy at home and in the medical institution, psychosocial change of the disabled person, the education of the public and society in general towards the acceptance of the disabled, the maximum possible use of the remaining capacities in suitable occupations, and the total protection of the disabled from the state occurs.

Implications of Findings

The results and findings presented in this study provide valuable insights for organizations in the fields of public safety, mental health, and nonprofit entities assisting various victim groups. The study identified a clear need to offer a Recommendations for a Comprehensive Model Policy to prevent Domestic Violence by Police Officers. In my commitment to fostering a safer environment, recommendations are presented for a comprehensive model policy aimed to preventing domestic violence perpetrated by police officers. These guidelines strive to establish a robust framework that prioritizes awareness, accountability, and proactive measures within law enforcement agencies:

1. *Introduction:* This policy aims to develop a comprehensive approach to preventing domestic violence perpetrated by police officers against their family members and partners. Acknowledging the severity of the problem, the model addresses key factors, such as burnout, alcohol abuse, withdrawal from the department, and authoritarian overflow.

2. *Awareness and Training:* We will implement awareness programs that highlight the unacceptability of domestic violence. We will provide ongoing training to officers to improve stress management, foster respect, and promote healthy relationships.

3. *Regular Psychological Evaluation:* We will establish periodic psychological evaluations to identify signs of burnout and other emotional issues that may contribute to violent behaviors. Early intervention will be key to addressing these concerns.

4. *Mental Health Support:* We will offer accessible and confidential mental health resources for officers. This will include counseling services and stress management programs to strengthen your psychological well-being.

5. *Specific Incident Intervention:* We will develop clear protocols to address specific incidents, such as child or elder abuse, and witnessing violent incidents. The response will be comprehensive and will include disciplinary measures and rehabilitation programs.

6. *Victim Support:* We will establish a robust support system for victims of domestic violence among police officers. This will include counselling services, safe shelters and coordination with specialist organizations.

7. *Risk Assessment:* We will implement periodic risk assessments to identify officers who are most likely to engage in violent behavior. This will allow for a more targeted and preventive intervention.

8. *Healthy Organizational Culture:* We will promote an organizational culture that discourages any form of violence and encourages open communication. We will establish mechanisms for officers to report inappropriate behavior confidentially.

9. *Domestic Violence Continuing Education:* We will integrate domestic violence continuing education programs into regular police training. This will ensure that officers are up-to-date on best practices and the severity of this issue.

10. *Transparency and Accountability*: We will ensure transparency in domestic violence cases by applying disciplinary measures fairly and rigorously. Accountability will be essential to maintaining integrity and trust in the police institution.

11. *Collaboration with External Experts*: We will seek collaboration with domestic violence experts and specialized organizations to ensure that our approach is informed by best practices and up-to-date knowledge.

12. *Continuous Evaluation*: We will implement a continuous evaluation system to measure the effectiveness of the policy and make adjustments as needed. Constant improvement will be key to addressing changing dynamics and emerging challenges.

This comprehensive policy model aims to eradicate or minimize domestic violence among police officers by prioritizing prevention, early intervention, and victim support. By addressing the underlying factors and fostering a culture of respect, we aspire to build healthier police forces and safer communities. We will expand ongoing training for regular police officers, extending the current 16 hours dedicated to domestic violence training. This enhanced approach will incorporate interactive sessions, contemporary case analysis, and simulated practices to strengthen officers' skills and understanding in managing domestic violence situations. My goal is to establish a dynamic learning environment that enhances officer preparation in this crucial area.

Early Intervention Work That Must Be Done

Preintervention to address these eventual situations of not knowing how to adequately handle the loss of control and authority due to being out of work regardless of the circumstances, should not be postponed to the moment of the person's retirement or pre-retirement. Unplanned circumstances may occur that promote early exit from employment. That is why all the transitional elements of the police officer's life exit must

begin from basic training in police academics, as the stressors and variables of the job can eventually reflect changes in patterns of behavior. It is important to explain to them from the beginning what they are exposed to and how to help them manage those actions that can then be reflected in behavior. Annually, the police officer should be offered training in these areas so that little by little during the time of his performance as a police officer he can acquire the necessary knowledge to handle the exit from his job and how to handle matters of control, fatigue, burnout and authority.

There are many aspects that must be considered, such as the consequences of leaving work, prejudices, expectations, doubts and questions, problem-solving skills, and importance of social support, among others. This has been proven, according to Riker and Myers (1990), indicating that retired people for whom retirement has had negative effects at the psychological level have retired for mostly negative reasons (e.g. because of their state of health) or have suffered stressful events before retirement. In the same way, it is necessary to work with elements of depression, abandonment, low self-esteem, disengagement from work and daily functions, so it is not only the official one that must be guided and trained. We must include the nuclear family members in this aspect so that they are the main source of support for the retired police officer and so that they can handle all the adversities that may arise.

Limitations of Findings

The research is based on the chain model exposed in the study by Johnson et al. (2005), in which this survey was implemented with 28 items to evaluate the variables of burnout, alcohol use, department withdrawal, violence exposure, and spouse violence, which were the same variables used on the current study's survey. The survey measured each of these dimensions according to statements assessed using a Likert-type scale.

There were multiple attempts to communicate with the original authors of the study to obtain the original instruments of the study. Because of that situation, we used the base of the study and prepared the scales and instruments to carry it out.

The limitations that may arise in the development of this research refer to the complexity in the analysis presented by the instruments to be applied, however they are suitable for the study in question. On the other hand, due to the characteristics of the sample, it is recognized as a limitation that the results obtained cannot refer to generalizations, but rather to a study limited to the specific context selected. In addition, there were some of the participants who did not answer the questionnaire at all, others answered some of the questions.

Future Research Directions

As a result of these findings, the following recommendations are made: violent spousal behavior related to culture, gender, and race investigation is suggested. Also, what is the out-of-control issue for a police officer versus a civilian, the levels as determined based on the training that the police receive? How are authority figures affected by the fact that they are women? How much can violent behavior be affected by social, psychological, and family training and support in the police setting? How is exposure to violence handled within the family of a police officer associated with social minorities? How much is the relationship between exposure to violence and spousal violence in a member of the police depending on his or her time in the police force?

In this sense, it is suggested, in addition to carrying out precise research aimed at answering the above questions, that others should be aimed at creating preventive intervention programs, as well as measuring their effects in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and efficacy. In addition, we must work on comprehensive development,

continuing education on domestic violence and anger management and control, and the psychological component.

The integration of a qualitative methodology into future research directions on topics such as violent behavior between spouses and its relationship to culture, gender, race, authority figures, and the impact of training and support in policing settings presents an opportunity to delve deeper into the complex and nuanced dynamics of these issues. Qualitative research methods, such as in-depth interviews, focus groups, case studies, and ethnographic research, can provide a detailed and rich view of the personal experiences, perceptions, and social context underlying violent behavior. Here are some considerations for the integration of qualitative methodologies in the suggested research areas:

1. Understanding the “Loss of Control” Problem: Qualitative comparative studies between police officers and civilians could shed light on how professional training and specific law enforcement stressors impact behavior. Such research could involve participant observation and interviews with both groups to explore differences in perceptions and control experiences.

2. Examine Exposure to Violence Within Families: Ethnographic studies or family case studies can help to understand how exposure to violence is experienced and managed within the families of police officers, particularly those belonging to social minorities.

3. Longitudinal Studies on Exposure to Violence and Spousal Violence: Following officers over time through longitudinal qualitative research can reveal how prolonged exposure to violence might influence spousal violence, considering factors such as length of service and changes in personal relationships.

4. Developing and Evaluating Intervention Programs: Qualitative research can play a crucial role in designing preventive intervention programs tailored to the specific needs and contexts of target populations. Subsequent qualitative evaluation can assess the impact of these programs on the lives of participants, offering insights into their effectiveness and efficiency.

Incorporating a qualitative methodology into these suggested research directions will allow for a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between individual behaviors, social norms, and institutional practices. It will also facilitate the development of more nuanced and effective interventions, policies, and training programs aimed at reducing violent behavior and supporting those affected.

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Appendix A

Puerto Rico Police Behavior Survey (2023)

Puerto Rico Police Behavior Survey (2023)

Instructions

My name is Jorge Suarez, I am a student of the doctoral program in Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice of Nova Southeastern University. As part of obtaining my degree, it is required to do research on the behavior of the Puerto Rico Police. That is why I request your cooperation to read and answer each of the following statements and you can indicate in your answer which is the one that most identifies with you or the most appropriate according to your feelings, opinion, and experiences. The questionnaire will be answered in an answer sheet and once finished, you will dispose it in a sealed box for the confidentiality of the process. Thank you for your collaboration.

Age

26-35

36-45

46-55

56-65

66 or more

Gender

male

female

no binary

no response

Police Officer Survey

Burnout

During the past 6 month, how often:

1) Treat civilians like objects

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

2) Feel callous towards citizens

Always

Often d.

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

3) Worry that the job was hardening them

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

4) Feel unconcerned about the welfare of civilians,

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

5) Feel that working with people all day is a strain,

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

6) Feel that working directly with people is too much stress

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

About Authoritarian Spillover

According to your behavior in the home, answer statements 7 through 12

7) "I like to do things by the book at home,"

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

8) “My job conditioned me to expect to have the final say on how things are done in my household,”

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

9) “I can’t shake the feeling of being a police officer when at home,”

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

10) “I have become overly critical at home due to the police job,”

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

11) “I hold my family’s behavior to a high standard because I am a police officer,”

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

12) "I catch myself treating my family the way I treat a civilian"

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Alcohol Use

According to your behavior in the home, answer statements 7 through 12

13) You felt to have times when you don't remember what happened when you're under the effects of alcohol

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

14) "Did you ever worry or feel guilty about your alcohol consumption?"

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

15) "Did you ever drink more than you planned?"

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

Department Withdrawal

16) Had times when has thought about looking for another job outside the police

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

17) You've thought about quitting the police?

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

18) Do you tough in early retired?

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

19) Is the satisfaction I feel within the police department an important issue?

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

Violence Exposure

During the last 6 months how often, you experienced the following events:

20) Personally, being investigated for an offense

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

21) Witnessing a shooting incident

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

22) Witnessing abuse of a child/elder

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

23) Being personally assaulted

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

24) Witnessing a suicide

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

25) Killing someone

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

26) Witnessing a fellow officer being killed.

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

Spouse Violence

During the last 6 months how often:

27) I felt was getting out of control

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

28) Behaved violently towards their spouse

Always

Often

Not very often

Sometimes

Never

Appendix B
Informed Consent

Informed Consent



ABRAHAM S. FISCHLER COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796
PHONE: (954) 262-8500
800-986-3223, ext. 28500
WEB: education.nova.edu

Consent to participate in the research study entitled

Domestic Violence in Case of Police Officers in Puerto Rico, Violence in Police Families

Source of resources: none.

IRB protocol number:

Principal investigator:

Name: Jorge I. Suárez - Cáceres

Address: Los Rosales 05

7th Street

Humacao PR 00791

Phone: (787) 6083001

Email: js267@mynsu.nova.edu

If you have questions/concerns about your rights in research, please contact:

Human Research Oversight Board (Institutional Review Board or IRB) (Human Research Oversight Board, IRB)

Nova Southeastern University

(954)262-5369 irb@nova.edu

Information of the place of investigation

Police Command, Caguas Region and Humacao Region

Puerto Rico

What the study is about

The purpose of this research is to evaluate which factors are related and are those that promote violent behavior among police officers and their partners. The study will examine relationship between violence exposure and domestic violence among police officers. The use of alcohol, work burnout, authoritarian spillover, and department withdrawal as part of the police daily experiences. We want to know what Puerto Rican police officers think about what the reasons for factors that may be affect the behavior that induces domestic violence

Inicials: _____ **Date:** _____

What we will ask you to do

I will ask you to read and answer each of the following statements and you can indicate in your answer which is the one that most identifies with you or the most appropriate according to your feelings, opinion, and experiences. The questionnaire will be answered in an answer sheet and once finished; you will dispose it in a sealed box for the confidentiality of the process

Risks and discomforts

I do not anticipate any risks from participating in this research.

Benefits

The goal was to visualize how exposure to violence affects them. It was in this sense that it was indeed about authoritarian overflow, that 40% of policemen had had at least violent behavior towards their partner and could be controlled in some cases and in others not. Other factors that prevail and influence, according to this research, are exhaustion and alcohol consumption. In this way, the consumption of alcohol outside of work, in response to the stress of police officers is, for several policemen, a common fact that, in many cases, leads them to alcoholism. With that information we can issued public

policy recommendations to deal with this problem.

Audio/Video Recording

No audio / video recording will be healed.

Privacy/Confidentiality/Data Security

All data collected will be and remain confidential for studies and research purposes only.

Certificate of Confidentiality

You should understand that a Certificate of Confidentiality does not prevent you, or a member of your family, from voluntarily releasing information about yourself or your involvement in this study.

Taking part is voluntary

The investigation procedure will be implemented in the population consisting of police officers from Puerto Rico, from which a sample of 100 active officers of both genders, from agent to inspector ranks and with a minimum of 5 years of seniority, belonging to the police force of the Humacao and Caguas region, municipalities of Puerto Rico will be selected. Police officers aged between 26 and 60 years; Police officers of both genders; Police officers active at the time of the investigation; Police officers who have carried out their activities for a minimum of 5 years in the police force; Police officers belonging to ranks ranging from officers to inspectors; Police officers belonging to the police forces of the Humacao and Caguas municipalities in Puerto Rico, at the time of the investigation. Participation will be volunteer and once you read the questionnaire you can decide not to participate and no penalty or other will be implemented.

Initials: _____ **Date:** _____

Statement of Consent

I have read the above information and have received answers to any questions I asked. I consent to take part in the study.

Other considerations:

If information related to the research arises, which may be related to your willingness to continue with your participation, it will be communicated to you through the researchers.

Voluntary consent of the participant:

1. The study has been explained to you.
2. You have read this document, or someone read it for you.
3. Your questions about this research have been answered.
4. You have been told that in the future you can ask researchers any questions related to the study or that you can contact them if a research-related injury occurs.
5. You have been told that you can ask the staff of the *Institutional Review Board* (IRB) about your rights in the study.
6. You have the right to receive a copy of this form after you have read it.
7. You voluntarily agree to participate in the study entitled: “*Domestic Violence in Case of Police Officers in Puerto Rico, Violence in Police Families*”

Initials: _____ **Date:** _____



ABRAHAM S. FISCHLER COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796
PHONE: (954) 262-8500
800-986-3223, ext. 28500
WEB: education.nova.edu

Consentimiento Informado

Consentimiento para participar en la investigación titulada

Domestic Violence in Case of Police Officers in Puerto Rico, Violence in Police Families

Fuente de recursos: ninguno.

Numero de Protocolo IRB:

Investigador Principal

Nombre: Jorge I. Suárez - Cáceres

Dirección: Los Rosales 05

7th Street

Humacao PR 00791

Teléfono: (787) 6083001

Correo Electrónico: JS5267@mynsu.nova.edu

Si usted tiene preguntas sobre sus derechos acerca esta investigación, por favor contacte

a: Human Research Oversight Board (Institutional Review Board or IRB) (Human
Research Oversight Board, IRB)

Nova Southeastern University

(954)262-5369 irb@nova.edu

Información sobre el lugar de investigación

Comandancia de Policía, Región de Caguas y Región de Humacao

Puerto Rico

¿De que trata la investigación?

El propósito de la investigación es evaluar cuáles factores están relacionados y causan comportamiento violento en policías y sus compañeros. La investigación examinará las relaciones entre la exposición a la violencia y violencia doméstica en policías.

Adicionalmente examinará el uso de alcohol, agotamiento, derrame autoritario y retiro departamental como experiencias diarias. Queremos conocer que opinan policías puertorriqueños acerca de estos factores en relación a como afectan los comportamientos que causan violencia doméstica.

Iniciales: _____ **Fecha:** _____

¿Que estarás haciendo al participar?

Contestará un cuestionario de acuerdo a sus experiencias, opiniones e sentimientos sobre las premisas planteadas en dicho documento. Al terminar, la hoja de contestaciones será guardada en una caja sellada para preservar la confidencialidad del proceso.

Riesgos e incomodidades

No se anticipa riesgos al participar de esta investigación.

Beneficios

*Participación es libre de costo y completamente voluntario. Por ende, no se proveerán beneficios ni compensación por su participación.

Grabaciones de Audio/Video

No se estará grabando audio ni video durante el proceso de esta investigación

Privacidad/Confidencialidad/Seguridad de Data

Toda data recolectada se mantendrá confidencialmente solo para propósitos de estudio e investigación.

Certificado de Confidencialidad

El Certificado de Confidencialidad no previene que usted o un miembro de su familia voluntariamente de información sobre usted o su involucración en esta investigación.

Participación voluntaria

El proceso de la investigación será implementado en una población consistiendo de policías de Puerto Rico, tomando una muestra de 100 oficiales activos de ambos géneros entre los rangos de agente hasta inspector con un mínimo de 5 años de servicio. Variables adicionales incluyen tener entre 26 a 60 años, ser parte de las regiones de Caguas y Humacao. Participación será totalmente voluntario y, al leer el cuestionario, tendrá la opción de retirarse de la investigación sin penalidad.

Iniciales: _____ Fecha: _____

Declaración de Consentimiento

He leído la información postulada anteriormente y he recibido contestaciones apropiadas sobre cualquier duda. Yo consiento a tomar parte de esta investigación.

Otras consideraciones:

Usted será notificado si surge información relacionada a su participación del cual pueda cambiar su habilidad o deseo de participar en esta investigación.

Consentimiento Voluntario del Participante:

1. La investigación ha sido explicada.
2. Usted leyó este documento o alguien leyó el documento para usted.
3. Sus preguntas sobre esta investigación han sido contestadas.
4. Está consciente de que usted puede comunicar preguntas adicionales y contactar a investigadores en caso de una emergencia causada por la investigación.
5. Está consciente de que usted puede dirigir preguntas sobre sus derechos en esta investigación a la *Institutional Review Board (IRB)*.
6. Está consciente de que usted tiene el derecho de recibir una copia de este documento.
7. Usted está voluntariamente de acuerdo en participar de la investigación titulada: *“Domestic Violence in Case of Police Officers in Puerto Rico, Violence in Police Families”*

Iniciales: _____ **Fecha:** _____

Appendix C

Letter of Authorization

Letter of Authorization



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March 15, 2023

Application for authorization to conduct research entitled: Domestic Violence in cases of Puerto Rico Police officers

Coronel Antonio López
Commissioner
Puerto Rico Police Bureau
San Juan Puerto Rico

Dear Commissioner, López:

My name is Jorge Suárez - Cáceres, a researcher at Abraham S. Fischler College of Education & School of Criminal Justice. Dr. Marcelo Castro (*Chairman*) collaborates with me in the mentioned research.

I am currently in the final phase of my doctoral studies. For this reason, I request your authorization to conduct a research study at the Puerto Rico Police Bureau, as part of a doctoral dissertation from Nova Southeastern University (NSU). It is an applied dissertation and is entitled: "**Domestic Violence in Cases of the Police Officers in Puerto Rico**". The purpose of this research is to identify the behavior of police officers through the evaluate the variables burnout, alcohol use, department withdrawal, violence exposure and spouse violence, which are the organizational factors or social stressors that affect or cause incidents of domestic violence e in Puerto Rico's police officers.

The nature of the investigation required requesting authorization from the Puerto Rico Police Department Commissioner, to have access to identified police personnel and collect the necessary data. The participating population will be from the police region of Caguas, Puerto Rico. This region was selected due to the population increase compared to the other 13 regions, the need for agile and properly trained police officers, with a 30-percentage rate of complaints of Domestic Violence in the Police. The sample will be composed of 100 officers from the region, representing 55% of the total population of officers in the region, which constitutes a representative sample for the study. Participants

will be officers of the ranks from agent to inspector, leaving out those above these ranks to avoid any interference in the answers to the questionnaires. The ages of the participating officers will be between 26 years and 55 years of age, since some variables require experience due to the nature of what is required, in addition to the fact that the regulations of the Puerto Rico Police Bureau establish 55 years as an average retirement age. This means that the demographics does not identify the subjects.

The questionnaire will be administered by a colleague from Nova Southeastern University. The researcher will not participate directly in the process to avoid interference in the responses of this. The participants will meet in a room of the Caguas Police Command where they will be supplied with the instrument with an answer sheet in more than one work shift. Once finished, they will dispose of it in a sealed box for the confidentiality of the process. Finally, a report of the results obtained from the investigation will be presented.

Responses will be anonymous, and information shared by Puerto Rico Police officers with the investigator will be treated confidentially within the limits established by law and will be shared exclusively with those who should review the information. The data will be stored and kept for a period of 36 months after the investigation is completed and will be deleted after that period. This information will be available to the investigator, members of the Institutional Review Board and other representatives of the institution, and any regulatory agencies (if applicable). All confidential information will be securely archived.

If you have questions, please contact me at 787-608-3001. You can also contact Dr. Castro at (305) 215-2539. If you have further questions regarding research, your rights, or related damages, you may contact the Nova Southeastern University Institutional Review Board (IRB) (954) 262-7838.

If you have read the above information and wish to authorize the research voluntarily, please send a letter, signed by you, authorizing the research to the researcher by email to Js5267@mynsu.nova.edu.

I will be more than grateful for the attention to this particular.

Cordially,

Jorge I. Suárez Cáceres

Jorge I. Suárez Cáceres
PhD Candidate in Criminal Justice
Nova Southeastern University, Florida.



ALEXIS TORRES
SECRETARIO
ANTONIO LÓPEZ FIGUEROA
COMISIONADO

OC-1-1-315

17 de julio de 2023

Sr. Jorge I. Suárez Cáceres, Ph.D.
Candidate in Criminal Justice
Nova Southeastern University, Florida

Estimado señor Suárez Cáceres:

Reciba un saludo cordial. Hemos recibido su solicitud para conducir una investigación en el Negociado de la Policía de Puerto Rico titulada: "Domestic Violence in Cases of Puerto Rico Officers".

Sobre este particular y luego de evaluar la petición, hemos autorizado el acceso al personal de Caguas y Humacao según solicitado, ello con el objetivo de que una muestra de 50 empleados del sistema de rango de cada región le complemente el cuestionario voluntariamente.

Le deseo mucho éxito en su investigación.

Cordialmente



Cnel. Antonio López Figueroa
Comisionado

P.O. BOX 70166 | SAN JUAN PR 00936-8166

787.793.1234

www.dsp.pr.gov

