

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: HOW THE DELIVERY AND ACCESS OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES WERE IMPACTED AND HOW THEY ADAPTED

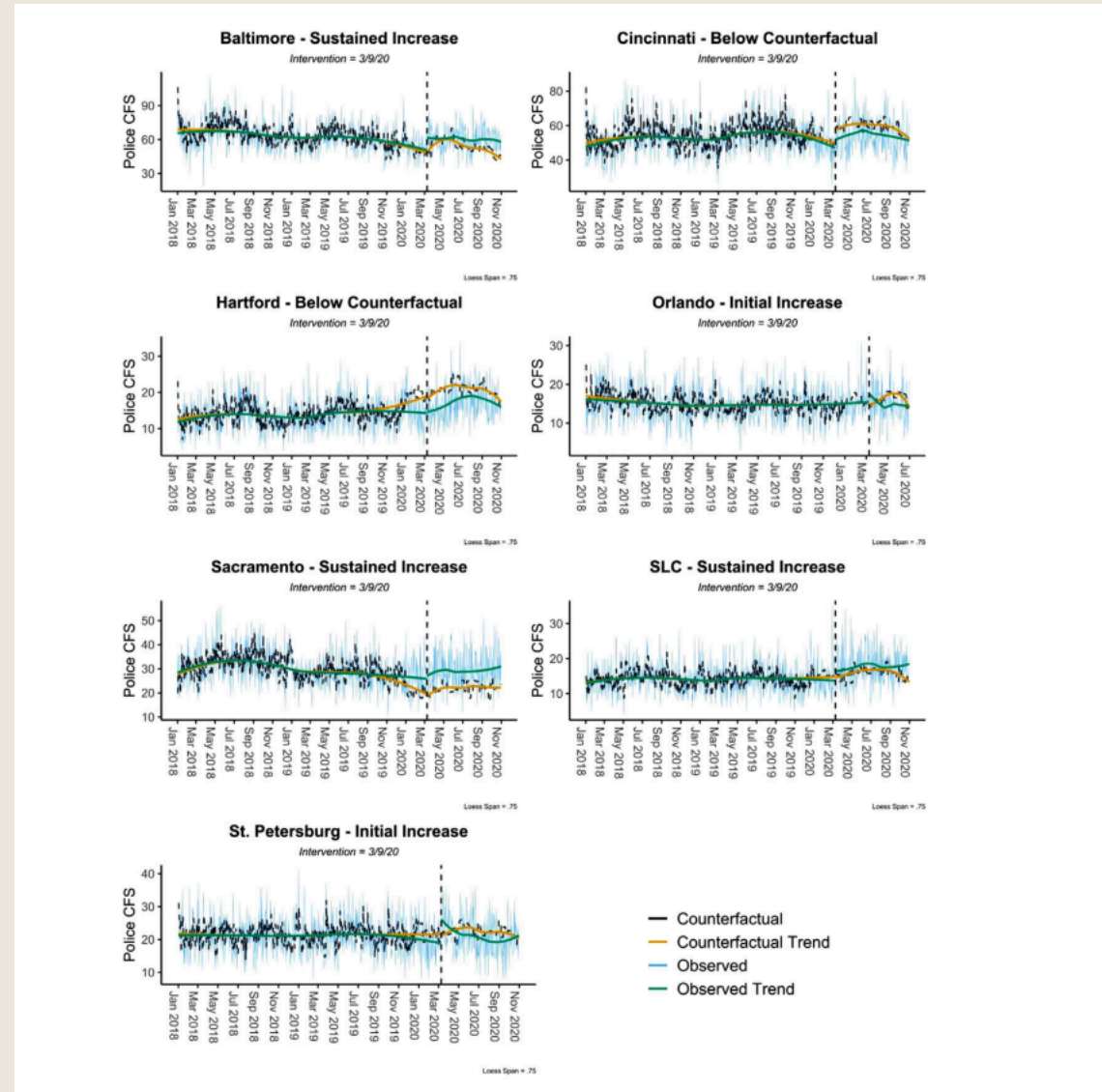
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# Introduction: The Increase of Domestic Violence (DV)



# Research Questions

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How has COVID-19 impacted the delivery and access of mental health care services for domestic violence victims?

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How have mental health care services for domestic violence victims adapted to these barriers posed by the COVID-19 pandemic?

# Methods

## Search criteria:

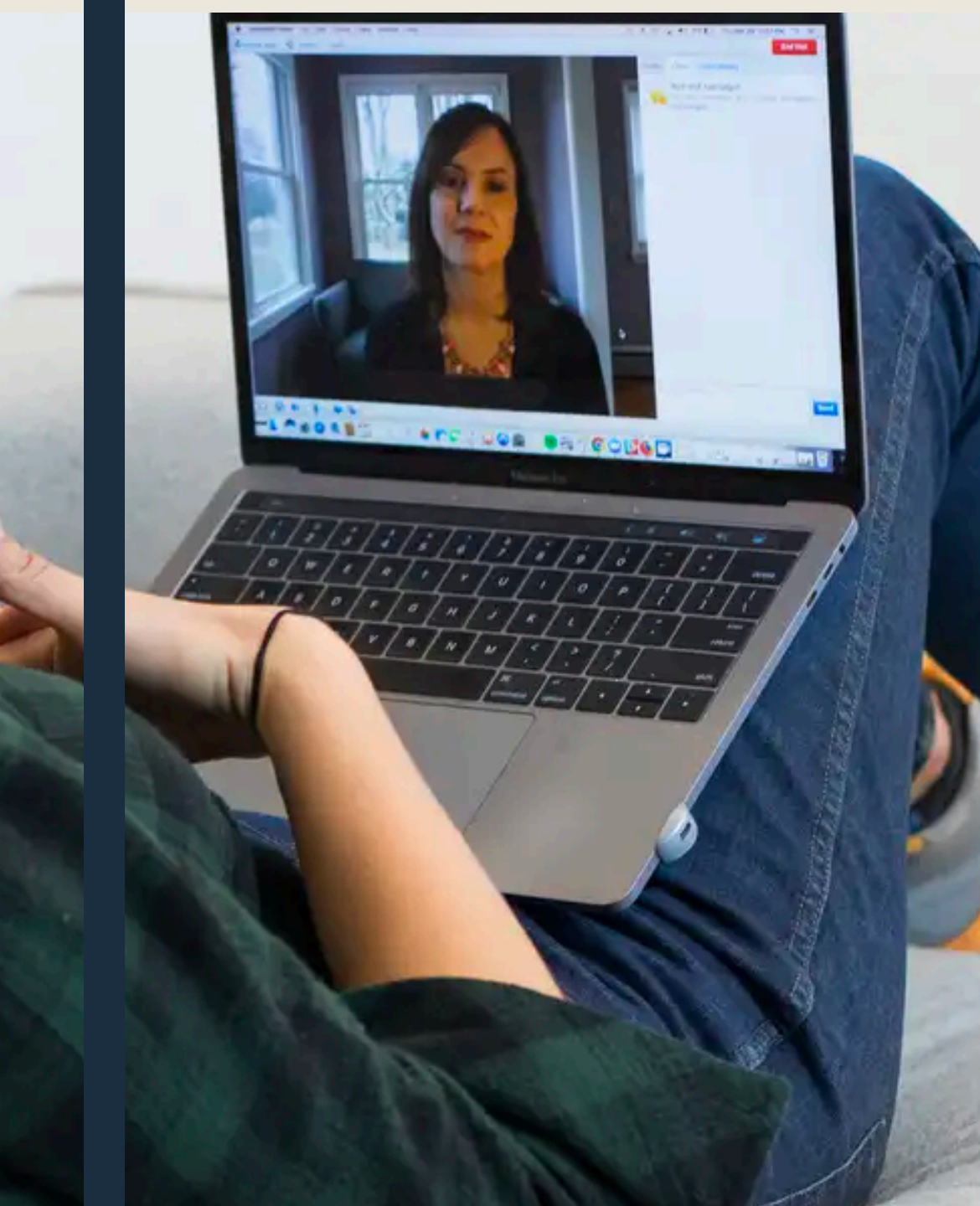
- Published between 2020 and 2022
- English
- Peer-reviewed

## Search terms:

- “domestic violence,”
- “COVID-19”
- “therapy”
- “intimate partner violence”
- “pandemic”
- “mental health care”
- “mental health treatment”
- “hotline”
- “service delivery”

## Literature search results:

- Google Scholar and PubMed
- 30 articles selected in total
  - 13 articles were pulled from Google Scholar
  - 9 articles were pulled from PubMed
  - 8 supplemental articles were pulled from reference lists



# Results

- Initial decrease in mental health resources for DV victims
- Communication modalities
  - 83% mention *telehealth*
  - 63% mention *DV hotlines*
  - 37% *private messaging platforms*
  - 17% touch on the *duration of sessions*
    - *shorter*
    - *more frequent*
- Concerns
  - *Safe spaces (67%)*
  - *Confidentiality (43%)*
  - *Therapist-patient connection (20%)*
  - *Distractions (10%)*





# Discussion

- Recommendations
  - *Service sustainability*
  - *Professional training in digital care for the next generation of service providers*
  - *Increased insurance coverage of virtual services*
  - *Introduce more hybrid therapy methods as pandemic guidelines permit*

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