Warrantless Arrest Laws for Domestic Violence: How are Youth Affected?

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NZ Association of Economists Conference
Wellington, July 14, 2017
Outline

1. Research Summary
2. Background - Existing Literature
3. Analysis - Data and Empirical Strategy
4. Results
5. Discussions
The study empirically examines the impact of warrantless arrest laws for domestic violence on policy-relevant youth health outcomes.

The analysis explores exogenous variations across states and timing in implementation of state interventions in a difference-in-differences framework to identify causal impacts of the law.

No direct link between warrantless arrest laws and domestic violence-related homicide rates.

However, implementation of the laws is related to significant drop in the likelihood of having suicidal ideation and using substance among youth.
Domestic violence- A social problem

- Domestic violence is a large social and health concern in the United States.

- It includes physical, emotional, sexual, psychological as well as economic abuse involving family members and intimate partners.

- Domestic violence accounts for 21% of all non-fatal violent crimes in 2003-2012 (Truman & Morgan 2014).

- Direct economic costs (including medical, legal, and judicial expenses) are estimated to be in the range $5.8-$12.6 billion annually in the United States (CDC 2003; WHO 2011).
Domestic violence and youth

- While 15.5 million children are exposed to parental violence each year, 7 million children reside in households associated with severe domestic violence (McDonald et al. 2006; McDonald & Grych 2006).

- Children are exposed to domestic violence either by being directly abused by domestic violence offenders or by witnessing acts of domestic violence.

State-level domestic violence intervention

- States began implementing warrantless arrest laws for domestic violence incidents from the middle of 1980’s.
- The laws allow the police to arrest a suspected abuser without a warrant if they have probable cause to believe that the crime was committed, even if the event took place out of their presence.
- Currently, all 51 states have domestic violence warrantless arrest laws.
- Warrantless arrest laws are commonly classified into: mandatory arrest (23 States), preferred arrest (6 States), and discretionary arrest (22 States) (Hirschel 2008; Zeoli et al. 2011).
Punitive measures in domestic violence - Potential effects

- **Deterrent impact**-
  - Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment (1982) - Randomized experiment showed that arresting a domestic violence abuser reduces future risk of subsequent violence.

- **Adverse impact**-
  - 'Reprisal' and 'Reporting' hypothesis (Iyengar 2009) - Both theories imply that victims are less likely to report against their abuser due to fear of future violence and due to other psychological and emotional reasons.
  - Rise in dual and misdemeanor arrests (Hirschel et al., 2007) - Removal of both parents can expose children and teenagers to lack of parental supervision and care.
Analysis

- The analysis is organized in two parts.
  - Direct effect: First, we look at the effects of the laws on domestic violence-related homicide rates.
  - Indirect effect: We estimate the laws’ effects on measures of youth violence, mental health, and substance use indicators.

- The analysis also considers important heterogeneities in state laws (Zeoli et al. 2011).

- Information on statutes and dates of passage of warrantless arrest laws across states are obtained from Iyengar (2009), Hirschel (2008), and Zeoli et al. (2011).
Dependent variables and other information

- **Dependent variables:**
  - Direct effects: Domestic violence-related homicide rates (counts per 100,000 people) - Overall (all ages) and youth (aged under 20) victimization rates and youth offence rates (UCR Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1991-2012)
  - Indirect effects: Five measures including serious fights, violence index, suicidal tendency index, and substance use indices (national and state YRBS, 1991-2013)

- **State-level controls**
  - Regulatory - Anti-bullying laws, cigarette tax, beer tax, and child witness to domestic violence laws.
  - Education & crime - High-school dropout rate and arrest rate for violence against family and children.
  - Economic/Demographic - Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates and per-capita personal income, proportions of male, White, Hispanic, and adult population.
Empirical strategy

- We perform OLS/Probit regressions using five specifications ranging from a baseline model to a more saturated model.
- In the baseline model, we estimate:
  \[ DV_{st} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1(Law_{st}) + \gamma_s + \lambda_t + \epsilon_{st} \]  
  (1)
- In the most saturated model, we estimate:
  \[ DV_{st} = \beta_0 + \beta_1(Law_{st}) + P'_s\beta_2 + Z'_s\beta_3 + \Omega_s.t + \theta_1\delta_{st} + \theta_2(\delta_{st} \ast Law_{st}) + \gamma_s + \lambda_t + \upsilon_{st} \]  
  (2)
- We perform a parameterized event study for policy endogeneity (Granger causality) and address omitted variable bias in the most saturated model (equation 2).
- \( \beta_1 \) estimates the impact of the state laws on homicide rates/youth outcomes.
Direct effects of state laws

Table: Warrantless arrest law and DV-related homicide rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall victimization rate</th>
<th>Youth victimization rate</th>
<th>Youth offence rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Model 5 specification (OLS)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrest Law</td>
<td>-0.124</td>
<td>-0.039</td>
<td>-0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.188)</td>
<td>(0.062)</td>
<td>(0.070)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \delta_{st} )</td>
<td>-5.019**</td>
<td>-2.089</td>
<td>-5.527**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(8.269)</td>
<td>(2.001)</td>
<td>(1.242)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \delta_{st} ) * Arrest law</td>
<td>0.099</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>-0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.080)</td>
<td>(0.023)</td>
<td>(0.014)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Indirect effects of state laws on youth

Table: DV-warrantless arrest laws and youth outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model 5 specification (Probit)</th>
<th>Serious fight</th>
<th>Violence index</th>
<th>Suicidal tendency index</th>
<th>Substance use index I</th>
<th>Substance use index II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrest Law</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>-0.016***</td>
<td>-0.017*</td>
<td>-0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.002)</td>
<td>(0.009)</td>
<td>(0.005)</td>
<td>(0.011)</td>
<td>(0.017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\delta_{st}$</td>
<td>-0.001</td>
<td>-0.007</td>
<td>-0.010***</td>
<td>-0.003</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.001)</td>
<td>(0.006)</td>
<td>(0.004)</td>
<td>(0.004)</td>
<td>(0.005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\delta_{st} \times$Arrest law</td>
<td>-0.000</td>
<td>-0.000</td>
<td>0.005***</td>
<td>-0.000</td>
<td>-0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.001)</td>
<td>(0.003)</td>
<td>(0.002)</td>
<td>(0.004)</td>
<td>(0.005)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sex-specific effects of state laws on youth

Table: DV-warrantless arrest laws and sex-specific effects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Serious fight</th>
<th>Violence index</th>
<th>Suicidal tendency index</th>
<th>Substance use index I</th>
<th>Substance use index II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Model 5 specifications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrest Law (HS girls)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>-0.004</td>
<td>-0.021**</td>
<td>-0.024*</td>
<td>-0.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.002)</td>
<td>(0.011)</td>
<td>(0.008)</td>
<td>(0.009)</td>
<td>(0.016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrest Law (HS boys)</td>
<td>0.006*</td>
<td>0.025</td>
<td>-0.010*</td>
<td>-0.009</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.004)</td>
<td>(0.017)</td>
<td>(0.005)</td>
<td>(0.014)</td>
<td>(0.020)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concluding remarks

- There is no direct effect of warrantless arrest laws on domestic violence-related homicides - possible interaction between deterrent impact and risk of reprisal.

- However, implementation of the laws are likely to make youth feel more protective from potential offenders.

- There are large heterogeneities observed in the regression estimates when we account for important classifications in state laws.

- Warrantless arrest laws are relatively more effective for girls compared to boys.

- This study opens up a large scope for future research with respect to domestic violence-related public intervention.
Thank you very much for your time!!