DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

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STUDY ORIGINS: S.C. AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

• Top 10 states for femicide in 23/25 past years; 6th in 2019

• S.C. female residents report in CDC surveys:
  - Highest lifetime rate of stalking by intimate partners
  - Among highest lifetime incidence of any form of intimate partner violence
  - Among highest lifetime incidence of psychological abuse by intimate partners
STUDY ORIGINS: S.C. AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- In 2015, Governor’s Task Force on Domestic Violence recognized lack of data on Orders of Protection as an obstacle to redressing domestic violence in the state.

- S.C. is the only state to not offer temporary, *ex parte* orders of protection at the time an Order of Protection case is filed.

- The National Center for Access to Justice’s Justice Index ranks South Carolina last among all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for having the lowest number of attorneys for people living in poverty.
2019 CASE FILES COLLECTED

~ 3, 200 Order of Protection
~ 2,450 Restraining Order
22 Emergency Restraining Order
12 Permanent Restraining Order
45/46 Family Courts
9 Circuit Courts
93/97 Magistrate Courts (that had files)
INITIAL FINDINGS: ACCESS IS HYPER-LOCAL
ORDER OF PROTECTION AND RESTRAINING ORDER FILINGS

Order of Protection and Restraining Order Filings per 1,000

- State Average
- Greenwood
- Marion

- Orders of Protection
- Restraining Orders
ORDER OF PROTECTION AND RESTRAINING ORDER FILINGS

Order of Protection and Restraining Order Filings per 1,000

- State Average
- Abbeville
- Anderson
- Calhoun
- Clarendon

- Orders of Protection
- Restraining Orders
ORDER OF PROTECTION FILINGS

ORDERS OF PROTECTION FILINGS PER 1,000

STATE AVERAGE: 0.65
BEAUFORT: 0.04
MARION: 2.84
RESTRANING ORDER FILINGS

RESTRANING ORDER FILINGS PER 1,000
RESTRAINING ORDER FILINGS PER 1,000

- State Average: 0.48
- Beaufort: 0.37
- Williamsburg: 1.06
- Marion: 2.76
COUNTIES WITH NO RESTRAINING ORDER FILINGS

Orders of Protection per 1,000

State Average Abbeville Barnwell Calhoun Dillon Lancaster McCormick
POSSIBLE PREDICTIVE FACTORS

• Race/Ethnicity
• Rurality/Urbanity
• Poverty/Wealth
• Gender
• Reports to Law Enforcement
POSSIBLE PREDICTIVE FACTORS

- Race/Ethnicity
- Rurality/Urbanity
- Poverty/Wealth
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- Reports to Law Enforcement
Order of Protection and Restraining Order filings per 1,000

- Protective Orders
- Restraining Orders
INITIAL FINDINGS: ACCESS IS HYPER-LOCAL
INITIAL COUNTY LEVEL FINDINGS
THANK YOU!

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