

# **“MISSING” DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN WELFARE CASELOADS:**

## **THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN SURVEY AND ADMINISTRATIVE DISCLOSURE RATES**

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# Domestic Violence Among TANF Recipients



- Evidence that domestic violence is a common barrier to self-sufficiency for welfare recipients
- Very few women have disclosed domestic violence to welfare caseworkers
- Explanations for this discrepancy include:
  - Willingness on part of victims
  - Screening methods of caseworkers
- No research on subgroup analyses or characteristics of victims based on decisions to disclose or not

# Research Purposes



- To compare demographic characteristics and reported barriers between women who disclosed domestic violence to survey researchers versus those who also confided in their caseworker
- To decipher whom welfare caseworkers are reaching, and assist in identifying possible sub-groups of “missing” victims
- To inform current policy surrounding domestic violence screening in welfare offices

# Methods: Sample



- Random sample of single adults with children who received a TANF grant in Maryland in June 2002 (n=1046)
- Limited to women who responded to questions regarding domestic violence within a telephone survey (n=787)
- Divided into groups based on disclosure

# Methods: Data Sources



- **Maryland State Administrative Systems**
  - Automated Information Management System/Automated Master File (1987-1993)
  - Client Information System (1993-present)
  - Maryland Unemployment Insurance System
  
- **Maryland TANF Caseload Survey**
  - Computer-Assisted Telephone Survey
  - Conducted by MPR (August to October 2002)
  - Sponsored by ASPE

# Methods: Design



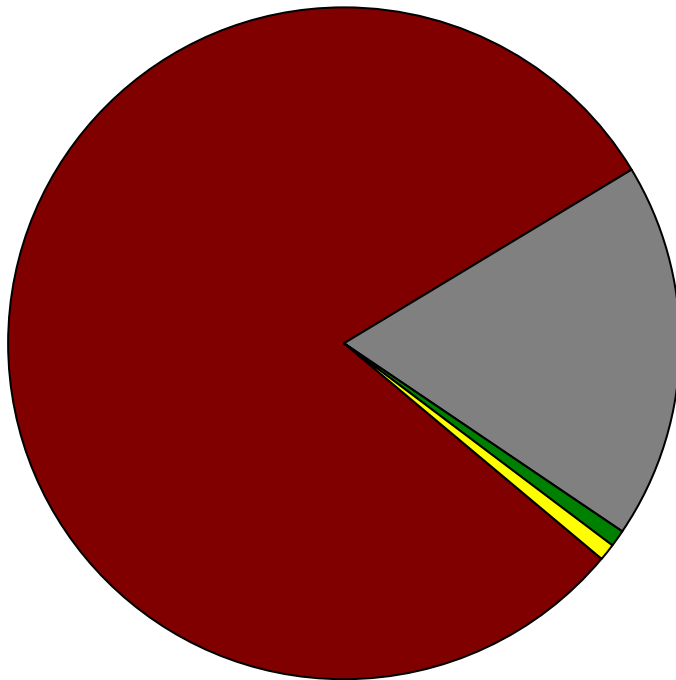
- Data were weighted to represent Maryland's current TANF caseload:
  - 1.31 for Baltimore City cases
  - 0.70 for Non-Baltimore City cases
- Chi-square and ANOVA tests were used to determine differences among the groups

# Prevalence of Domestic Violence



- 18.8% (n=148) disclosed recent physical domestic violence in the survey
  - Evaluated 8 of 16 female-directed questions concerning intimate partner violence within the past year (CTS)
- 1.7% (n=13) were marked as recent domestic violence victims in the administrative data
  - Residence in DV shelter in the past 12 months, "yes" in DV indicator field, and/or exemptions to time limit, work, or child support requirements

# Prevalence of Domestic Violence



- Survey Disclosers Only **18.1%** (n=142)
- Survey & Admin Disclosers **0.7%** (n=6)
- Admin Disclosers Only **0.9%** (n=7)
- No Domestic Violence **80.3%** (n=632)

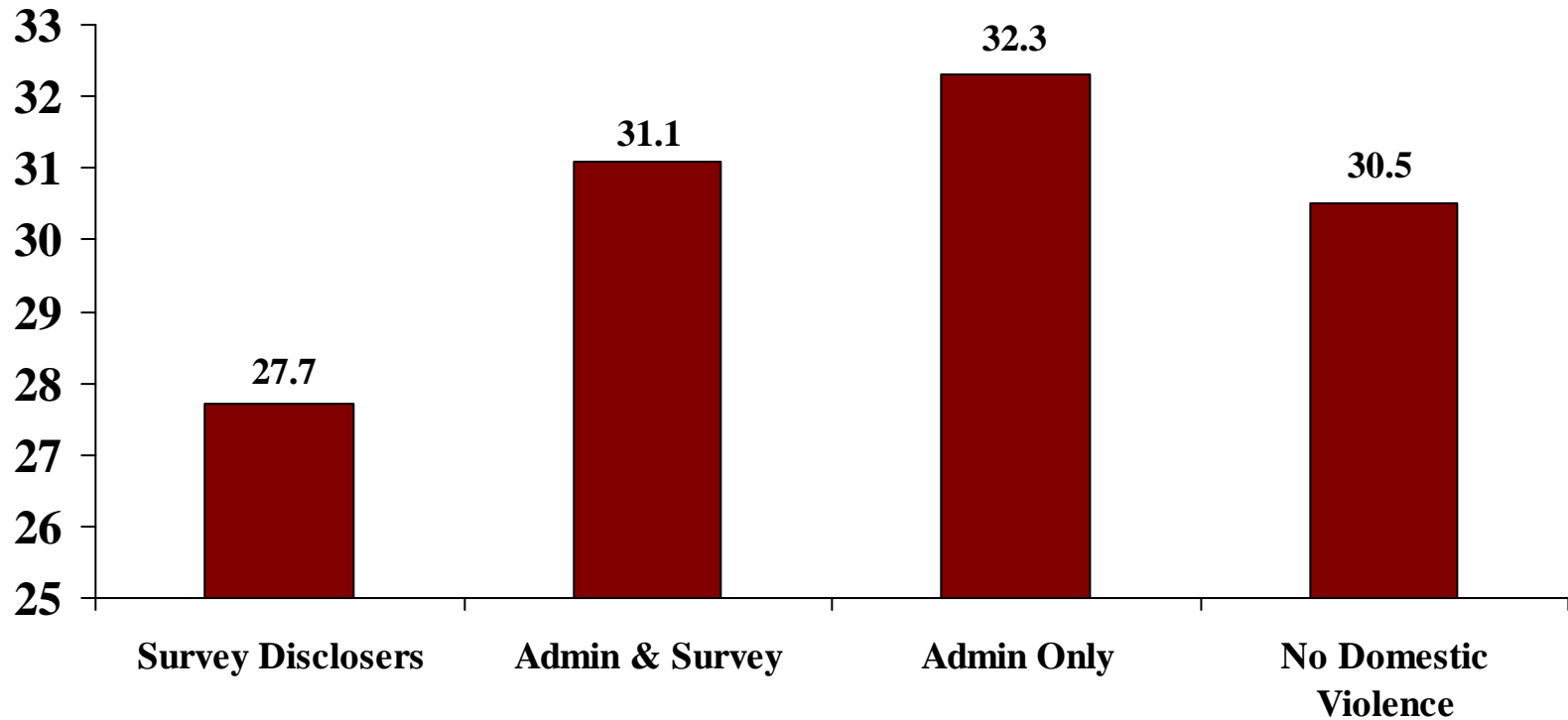


# Summary of Findings



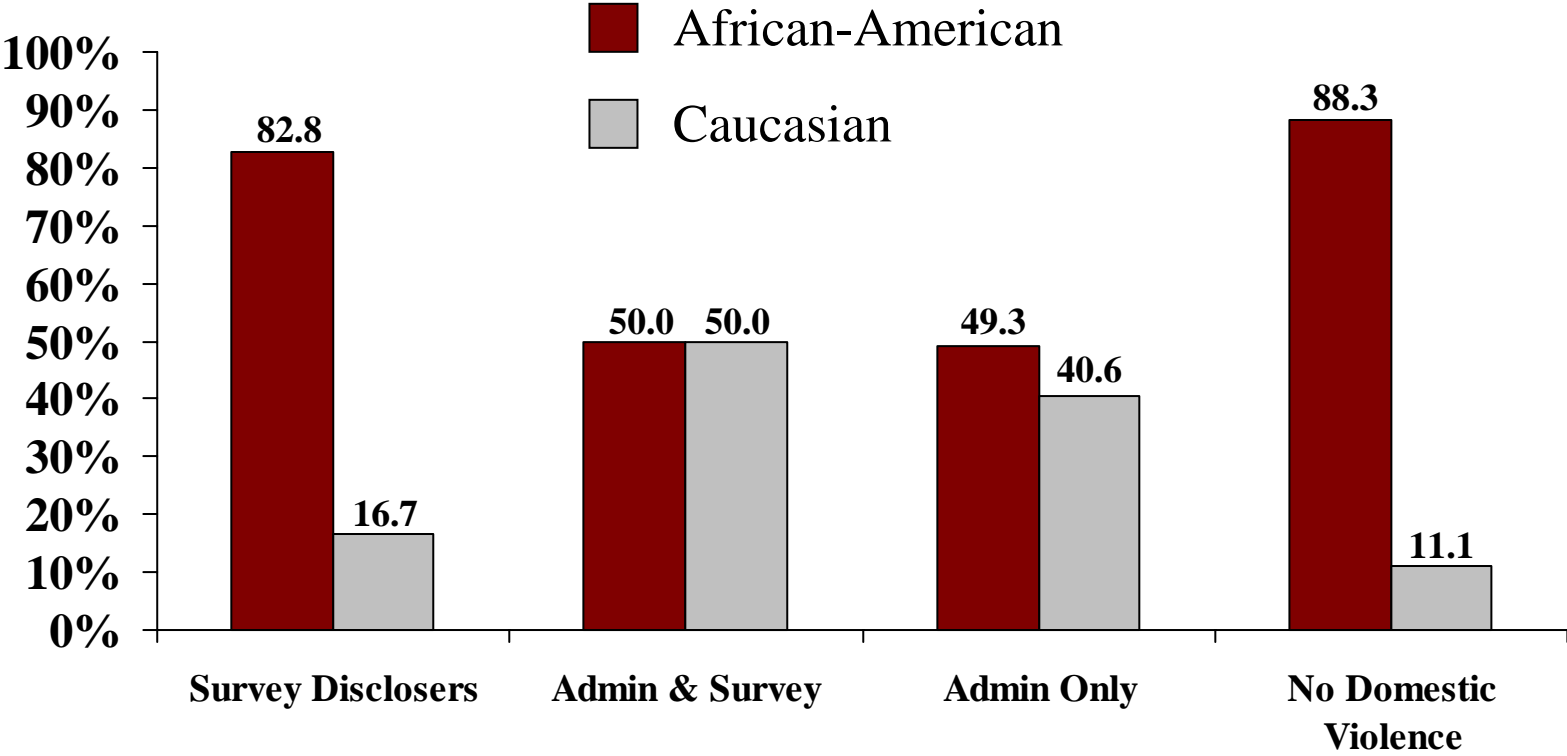
- Domestic violence victims who are marked in the automated system differ from those who only disclosed to survey researchers
- Rather than one particular profile or typical hard-to-identify victim, sub-groups of “missing” victims exist
- Demographic differences were the most stark
- No significant differences were found in employment or welfare history
- Survey disclosers reported fewer barriers than those who were administratively marked

# Demographic Differences: Age\*\*



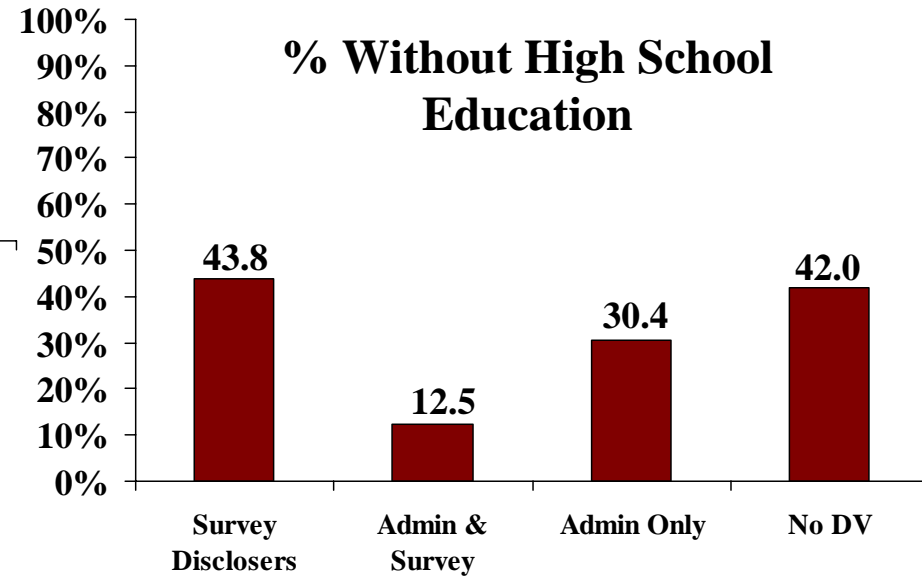
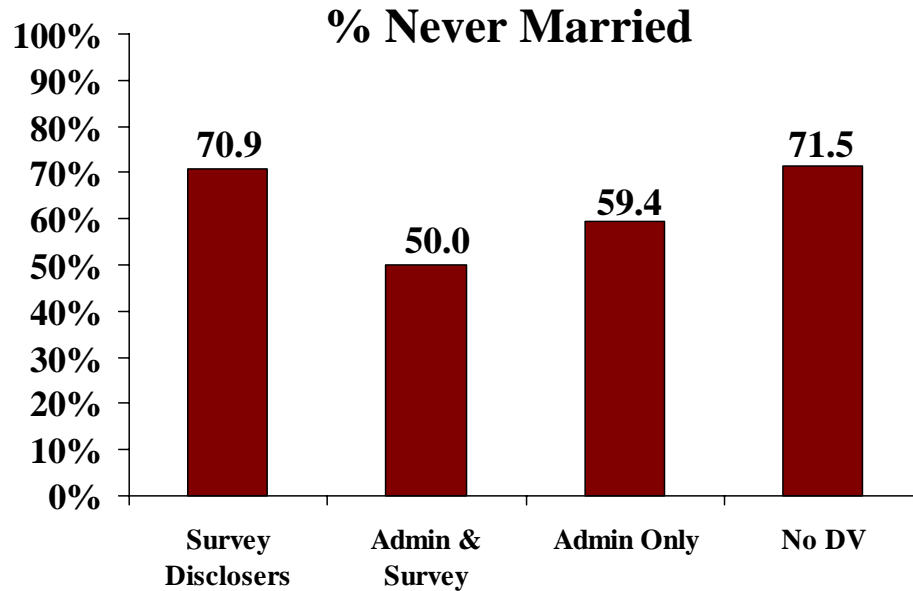
Note: \*p<.05, \*\*p.01, \*\*\*p.001

# Demographic Differences: Race\*\*\*



Note: \*p<.05, \*\*p.01, \*\*\*p.001

# Other Demographic Differences

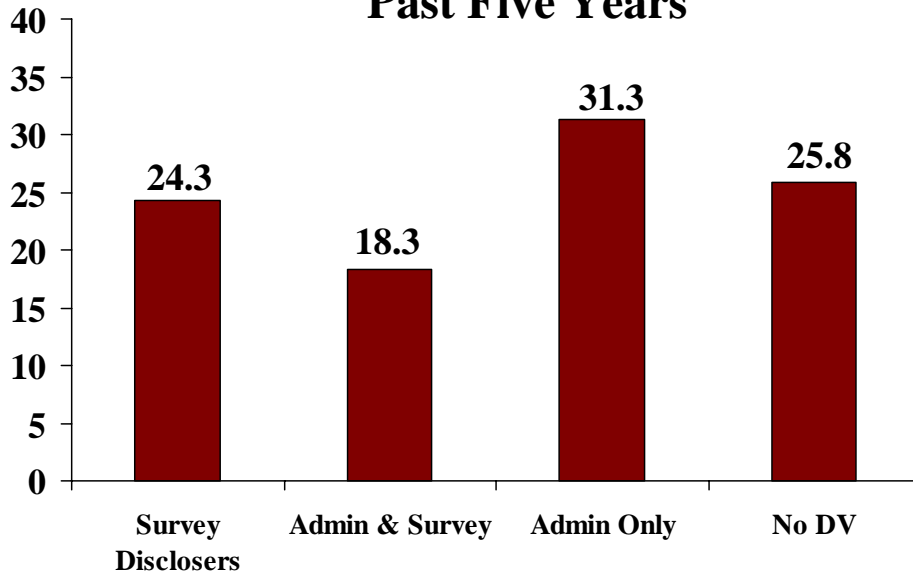


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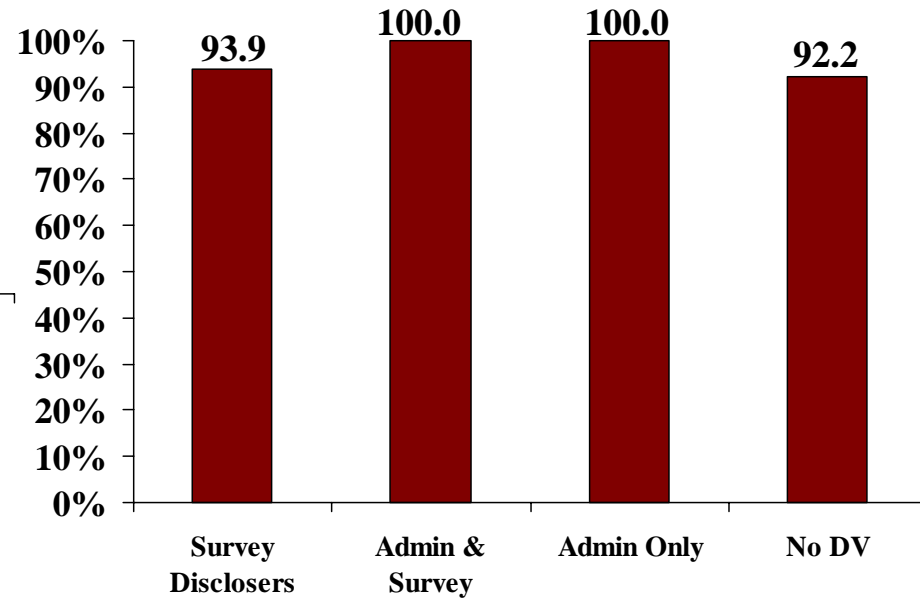
# Employment and Welfare History



## Months of TANF Receipt in the Past Five Years



## % Ever Employed



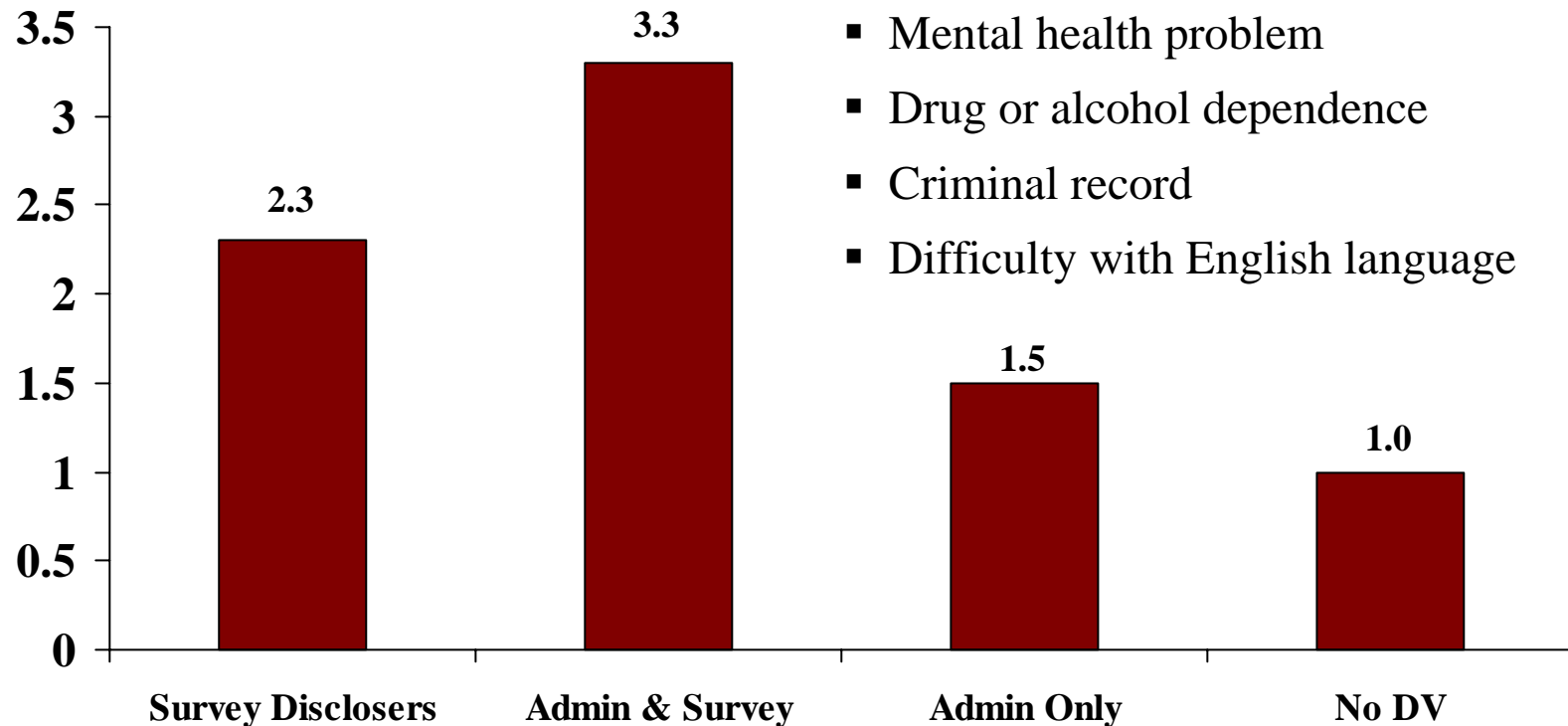
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# Barriers: Personal and Family\*\*\*



Personal and Family Barriers include:

- Health problems (personal or as a caretaker)
- Mental health problem
- Drug or alcohol dependence
- Criminal record
- Difficulty with English language



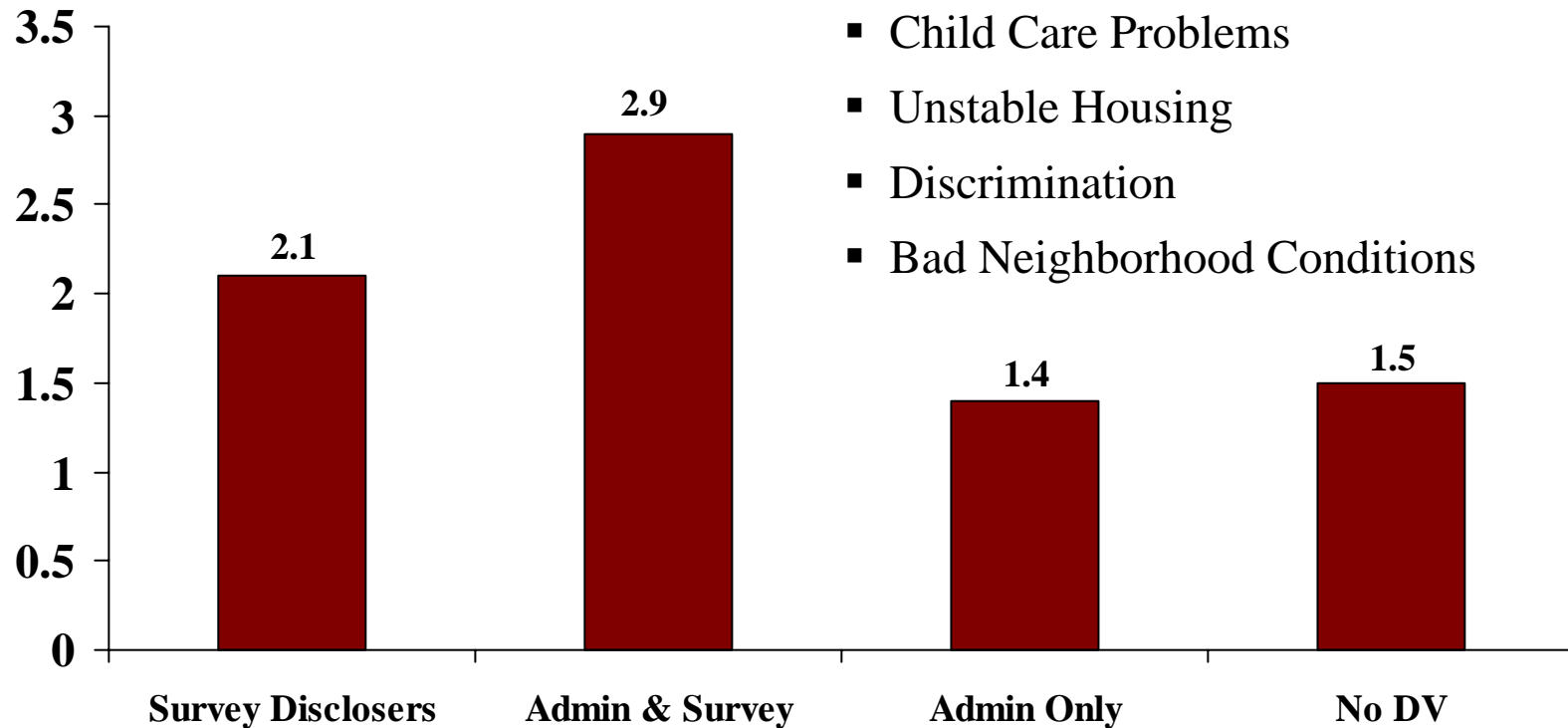
Note: \*p<.05, \*\*p.01, \*\*\*p.001

# Barriers: Logistical and Situational\*\*\*



Logistical and Situational Barriers include:

- Transportation problems
- Child Care Problems
- Unstable Housing
- Discrimination
- Bad Neighborhood Conditions



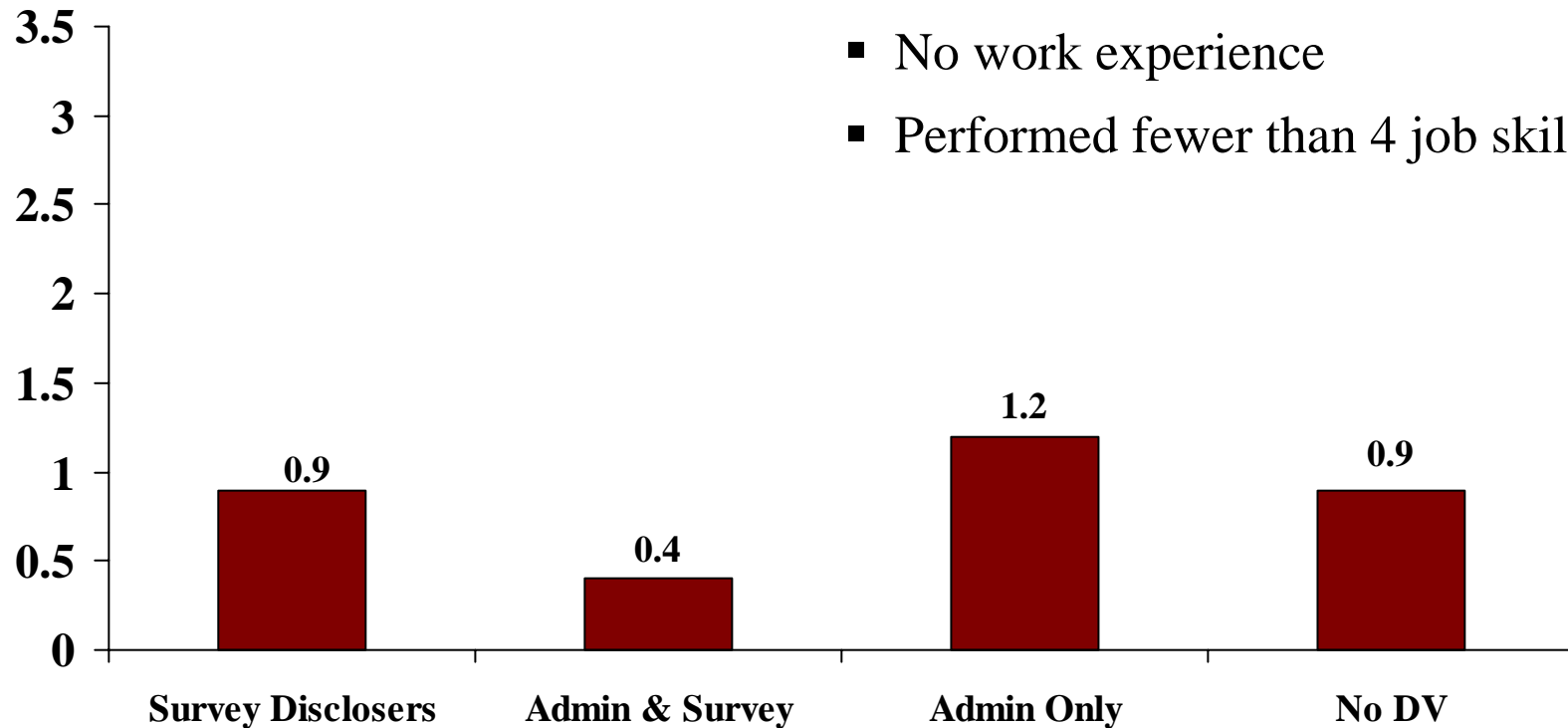
Note: \*p<.05, \*\*p.01, \*\*\*p.001

# Barriers: Human Capital



Human Capital Barriers include:

- Lack of High School diploma
- No work experience
- Performed fewer than 4 job skills



Note: \*p<.05, \*\*p.01, \*\*\*p.001



# Conclusions



- Screening practices have differing effects on different types of women
- Women who are missing from administrative data report fewer personal, family, and logistical barriers to employment
- Current frontline practices may not be adequate in screening, identifying, or recording domestic violence among:
  - African American women
  - Younger women
  - Perhaps never-married and less educated women

# Policy Implications



- Culturally-sensitive screening
- Further research on race & possibility of jurisdictional differences
- Continuation of Family Violence Option

**For further information on this study,  
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