

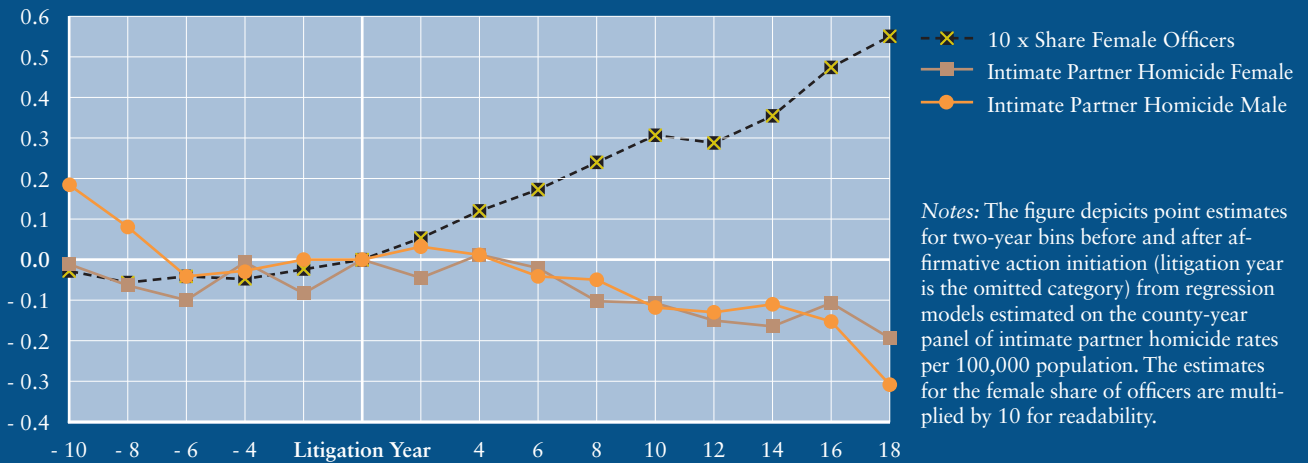


Amalia R. Miller and Carmit Segal study the impact of the integration of women in the traditionally male dominant occupation of law enforcement in US localities between the late 1970s and early 1990s. Their paper examines potential effects of gender differences in interactions not only with crime perpetrators but also with their victims.

*«I definitely think they need more female officers and every crime scene should have a female officer. Not to be left alone with a male officer. ... It's all about the approach by the police.» – Female assault victim*

Along two key dimensions – violent crime reporting and domestic violence escalation – the authors find that female officers improved police quality. Using crime victimization data, they find that as female representation increases among officers in an area, violent crimes against women in that area, and especially domestic violence, are reported to the police at significantly higher rates. There are no such effects for violent crimes against men or from increases in the female share among civilian police employees. Furthermore, the authors find evidence that female officers help prevent the escalation of domestic violence. Increases in female officer representation are followed by significant declines in intimate partner homicide rates and in rates of repeated domestic abuse. These effects are all consistent between fixed effects models with controls for economic and policy variables and models that focus exclusively on increases in female police employment driven by externally imposed affirmative action plans resulting from employment discrimination cases.

**Figure 2:**  
Changes in Female Officer Shares and Intimate Partner Homicide Rates around Affirmative Action Initiation



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