



The Arizona Psychological Foundation's Impact on Research

The Arizona Psychological Foundation grant was instrumental in helping me hire research collaborators and purchase statistical software to analyze data collected beginning in 2002 concerning intimate partner abuse in 1015 divorcing couples referred to mediation to resolve custody and parenting time disputes.

We used these early findings from the data analysis in a research proposal for a larger grant to the National Institute of Justice (\$314,000). We were awarded this NIJ grant in August, 2007; and, are now completing data collection tracing the mediation cases for five years through both Superior Court Divorce files and area police records. This data will provide a wealth of information concerning how divorce cases are handled in the short- and long-term in Southern Arizona.

As the analysis of the data progressed we drafted four articles that are now in-press in prestigious academic journals (*Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, *Law and Human Behavior*, *Family Court Review*).

An important practical application of this research is that we were able to draft an instrument to measure intimate partner violence which includes important issues that have been previously ignored in most standardized measures of intimate partner abuse (e.g., coercive control and stalking). We are in the process of validating that instrument in both the United States and Mexico. **Connie J. A. Beck, Ph.D. University of Arizona**