Background and Context

**The Silenced Women**

Investigation on Reporting of Violence Against Women

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Research Design and Results

**Increase in reported VAW across India**

- **Sparked widespread protests**

- **Upsurge in reported VAW in Delhi**

- **Increase in Survivor Disclosure**
  - 2% increase in reported rate of VAW (~3800 more crimes, previously missed!)
  - 15% reduction in lag in reporting, post public-mobilization
  - Public activism can encourage disclosure

Mechanisms of Impact

- **Average Lag in Reporting**
  - (Q1 2011 - Q2 2015)

- **Reduction in VAW reporting-lag, 180 days to 152 days**

- **Percentage of Cases Reported with Lag**
  - (Q1 2011 - Q2 2015)

- **5 p.p fall in proportion of cases reported with lag**

**Results**

- **Upsurge in reported VAW in Delhi**

- **Creation of Silenced Women**
  - No such change in gender-neutral crimes in Delhi

**Motivation**

- **Upsurge in reported VAW in Delhi**

- **Social Proximity**
  - Upsurge in reported VAW in Delhi

**Stimulants of VAW Reporting**

- **Media**
  - Access to information

- **Collective Action**
  - Sensitisation & Peer effect

- **Local Transport**
  - Unfettered access to institutions

**Data**

- 640 districts in India, 16 years (2001-6)
- Daily incident-level data for Delhi
- Census 2011
- Bureau of Police Research and Development

**Estimating Equation**

\[
\text{Crime rate}_{i,j,t} = \beta(\text{proximity}_{i,j} \times \text{post}_{t}) + \gamma_d + \delta_t + \epsilon_{i,j,t}
\]

**Significant Increase in all VAW**

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| Observations | 9301 | 9321 | 9301 | 9301
| Adjusted R² | 0.172 | 0.172 | 0.172 | 0.172
| Dependent Variable Mean | 5.94 | 5.83 | 9.25 | 12.20 | 24.94
| Robust standard errors in parentheses, clustered on district level |

**Motivation**

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- Public activism can encourage disclosure