

Mental Health Aspects of Intimate Partner Violence

Donna Eileen Stewart, CM, MD, FRCPC^{a,b,c,*}, Simone Natalie Vigod, MD, MSc, FRCPC^{a,d}

KEYWORDS

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) • IPV prevalence • Risk factors • Adverse effects
- IPV identification and disclosure • IPV mental Health clinical management

KEY POINTS

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) occurs in more than one-third of American women and may cause serious mental health sequelae.
- Psychiatrists need to know the risk factors, how to assist disclosure of IPV, and how to safely respond to it.
- Psychiatrists must know the best short-term and long-term management and treatment of IPV mental health sequelae.

BACKGROUND

IPV is a serious global human rights and public health problem affecting individuals of all ages and walks of life. It can be perpetrated by a current or past partner in a heterosexual or same-sex relationship and at its core it is a means to control and dominate an abused partner. IPV may include acts of physical, sexual, or psychological aggression; stalking; and controlling behaviors and may cause physical, psychological, or sexual harm. Although both men and women may be victims, it is more common for men to perpetrate violence against women and for women's injuries to be more severe (including death) than those of men.¹

IPV is the most common form of violence against women, with global lifetime prevalence rates ranging from 15% to 71%.² A US survey in 2011 found 36% of women

Funding Sources: None.

Conflict of Interest: Dr D.E. Stewart holds grants on this subject from Canadian Institutes of Health Research (PreVAil Project, RDG99326) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (VEGA Project). Dr S.N. Vigod: None.

^a University of Toronto, 200 Elizabeth Street, EN-7-229, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2C4, Canada;

^b Toronto General Hospital Research Institute, 200 Elizabeth Street, 7EN-229, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2C4, Canada; ^c Centre for Mental Health, University Health Network, 200 Elizabeth Street, 7EN-229, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2C4, Canada; ^d Women's College Hospital and Research Institute, 76 Grenville Street, Room 7234, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1B2, Canada

* Corresponding author. Toronto General Hospital, University Health Network, 200 Elizabeth Street, 7EN-229, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2C4, Canada.

E-mail address: donna.stewart@uhn.ca

Psychiatr Clin N Am ■ (2017) ■-■
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psc.2017.01.009>

psych.theclinics.com

0193-953X/17/© 2017 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

and 29% of men reported lifetime IPV, with more serious injuries reported among women.³ IPV is the leading cause of nonfatal injury to American women.⁴

Despite its high prevalence and serious health consequences IPV remains largely neglected as a physical and mental health priority, including in psychiatry.⁵ Psychiatrists and other mental health professionals need to be knowledgeable about IPV and its mental health sequelae.^{5,6} This article includes IPV background, definitions, prevalence, risk factors, adverse effects, identification, documentation, management across time, and conclusions, focusing on mental health.

DEFINITIONS

Several definitions of IPV exist, including one by the World Health Organization (WHO) as “behavior by an intimate partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse or controlling behaviors.”⁷ This article uses the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) uniform definitions and some examples.⁸

Intimate Partner

“An intimate partner is a person with whom one has a close personal relationship that may be characterized by the partners’ emotional connectedness, regular contact, ongoing physical contact and sexual behavior, identity as a couple, and familiarity and knowledge about each other’s lives. The relationship need not involve all of these dimensions. Intimate partners may or may not be cohabiting. Intimate partners can be opposite or same sex. If the victim and the perpetrator have a child in common and a previous relationship but no current relationship, then by definition they fit into the category of former intimate partner.”⁸

Intimate Partner Violence—Overall Definition

“Intimate partner violence includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression (including coercive tactics) by a current or former intimate partner (ie, spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, dating partner, or ongoing sexual partner).”⁸

Physical violence

“Physical violence is defined as the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, disability, injury, or harm”⁸ (Box 1).

Sexual violence

“Sexual violence is defined as a sexual act that is committed or attempted by another person without freely given consent of the victim or against someone who is unable to consent or refuse”⁸ (Boxes 2 and 3).

Penetration “Penetration involves physical insertion, however slight, of the penis into the vulva; contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus; or physical insertion of a hand, finger, or other object into the anal or genital opening of another person.”⁸

Stalking

“A pattern of repeated, unwanted, attention and contact that causes fear or concern for one’s own safety or the safety of someone else (eg, family member, close friend)”⁸ (Box 4).

Psychological aggression

“Use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to: (a) harm another person mentally or emotionally, and/or (b) exert control over another person”⁸ (Box 5).

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5722602>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5722602>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)