Global estimates of violence against women: prevalence, health effects & prevention options

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Improving health worldwide

www.lshtm.ac.uk
https://genderviolence.lshtm.ac.uk
“Have you ever been... hit, slapped, kicked, punching or had a knife used on you, forced to have sex...?”

What is intimate partner violence?
How did we estimate prevalence?

Systematic Reviews
How did we estimate prevalence?

Secondary Analysis

Map showing prevalence of intimate partner violence by WHO region

- **WHO Region of the Americas**: 29.8%
- **WHO European Region**: 25.4%
- **WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region**: 37.0%
- **WHO African Region**: 36.6%
- **South-East Asia Region**: 37.7%
- **Western Pacific Region**: 24.6%

**KEY:**
- Region of the Americas
- African Region
- Eastern Mediterranean Region
- European Region
- South-East Asia Region
- Western Pacific Region
- High income countries

What are the health impacts of violence?
Intimate Partner Violence

Physical Trauma

Psychological Trauma/ Stress

Fear & Control

Mental Health Problems

Limited Sexual & Reproductive Control

Health Care Seeking

Injury

SUBSTANCE USE

Perinatal/ Maternal Health

Sexual& Reproductive Health

Noncommunicable Diseases

Somatic Conditions

DISABILITY

DEATH

Adapted from: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf, figure 1, page 8
Intimate Partner Violence

Physical Trauma
- Noncommunicable Diseases

Psychological Trauma/ Stress
- Psychological Trauma/ Stress
- Limited Sexual & Reproductive Control

Fear & Control
- Fear & Control
- Health Care Seeking

Noncommunicable Diseases
- 42% of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a partner have experienced injuries as a result
- TWICE as likely to experience depression
- Almost TWICE as likely to have alcohol use disorders

Somatic Conditions
- 16% more likely to have a low birth-weight baby

DEATH
- 4.5x more likely to attempt suicide

IMAGES from: http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/VAW_health_impact.jpeg
Why are women who experience violence at greater risk of HIV?

Unprotected forced sex

- Trauma and lacerations from violent forced sex may lead to heightened risk of transmission

Perpetrator at higher risk of HIV

- Clustering of behaviours, with men who are violent also more likely to have concurrent sexual partners and/or engage in commercial sex

Gender power imbalance

- In violent & controlling relationships, fear of and use of violence reduces women’s ability to negotiate sex

HIV & other STI
38% of female homicides are perpetrated by a partner.
We need to strengthen the health sector response

Prevention Options

Commissioned by DfID
Produced by STRIVE Research Consortium
Funded by STRIVE, DfID & ESRC

Available for download at:
strive.lshtm.ac.uk
Or
genderviolence.lshtm.ac.uk

http://strive.lshtm.ac.uk/resources/what-works-prevent-partner-violence-evidence-overview
Towards a sense of scale...

“Running the Numbers: An American Self-Portrait”, Chris Jordan, See the video: www.chrisjordan.com/gallery/rtn/#barbie-dolls
IMAGE: combining microfinance & participatory training on gender, violence & HIV
Country-level variation in 12 month prevalence of partner violence

National IPV data

Level of economic development - national data

Unpublished, courtesy of Dr. Lori Heise
Ecological Model of Partner Violence

Macrosocial

Community

Male Partner

Relationship

IPV

Conflict Arena

Woman
Primary Prevention of Partner Violence

Empower women and Girls
- Ensure girls complete secondary school
- Increase women’s access to and control over
- Create safe spaces and strengthen social support
- Build knowledge and critical thinking skills

Eliminate Gender Disparities
- Reform marriage & family law
- Equalize women’s access to property and inheritance
- Liberalize divorce
- Eliminate Child marriage
- Remove barriers to property, credit and business ownership

Laws, Policy Institutions

Relationship Skills
- Improve communication
- Build skills in conflict resolution
- Promote joint decision-making
- Reduce triggers

Exposure to violence in Childhood
- Parenting education
- Training in non-violent discipline
- Child abuse prevention
- Support for children who witness violence
- Early intervention for conduct problems

Reduce alcohol availability & binge drinking
- Reduce outlet density
- Regulate promotion, advertising, drinking age
- Alternative livelihoods for traditional producers
- Services for addiction

Transform Norms
- Promote critical reflection
- Challenge specific norms through staged strategies
- Build new positive norms
- Use theory-informed media and community mobilisation

Developmental Life course
Genetic endowment
Relation-ship
Genetic endowment
Developmental Life course
Socioeconomic conditions
Family & Work Life
Macro-Level
Community
Social norms

Socioeconomic conditions

Exposure to violence in Childhood
See the video here
**The global prevalence of intimate partner violence: a systematic review**

**Violence against women: ending the global scourge**

Maria Socci was struck down to be in a boyfriend, but also killed a prolific actress. In 2018, 35,000 women were murdered in intimate partner violence. This is a staggering figure, and it is crucial to understand the factors that contribute to this violence. In this paper, we explore the factors that contribute to intimate partner violence, including economic, social, and cultural factors. We also discuss the impact of this violence on women's health and well-being, and we highlight the need for further research in this area.
Thank you!

Donor Acknowledgements:

SIGRID RAUSING TRUST

Find more information at:
Gender Violence & Health Centre
STRIVE
Raising Voices