



Intimate Partner Violence

What is IPV?

WHO (2014): behavior by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, and controlling behaviors

No universal, operational definition and different terminologies that have significant implications:

Intimate partner violence

Domestic violence

Dating violence

Violence against women

Spousal abuse

Gender violence



Types of IPV

Physical abuse: actions based on the intention to inflict physical harm on an intimate partner

Sexual abuse: the use or threat of physical violence or the exploitation of a partner's inability to offer resistance to force her or him to engage in sexual acts



Psychological abuse: insults and humiliation or controlling behavior by the partner; May have equal or even more lasting emotional effects than physical aggression

ABUSE OCCURS

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional

TENSION- BUILDING

- Abuser starts to get angry
- Minor incidents of abuse begin
- Communication breaks down
- Victim feels the need to keep the abuser calm
- Tension becomes too much
- Victim/family members feel like they are "walking on egg shells"

RECONCILIATION/ MAKING-UP

- Abuser apologizes for abuse, promises it won't happen again
- Blames victim for provoking the abuse
- Denies the abuse took place or says it wasn't as bad as the victim claims
- Gives gifts to the victim

CALM

- Abuser acts like the abuse never happened
- No abuse is taking place
- Some promises made during the reconciliation/making-up phase are being met
- Victim hopes the abuse is over

Rates

Difficult to measure given its hidden nature, disclosure, etc.

Rates of 3 types also differ, with the most common being psychological

High rates of co-morbidity: physical and sexual violence commonly accompanied by psychological abuse

WHO conducted multi-country analysis and found globally:

- 30% of women had experienced IPV

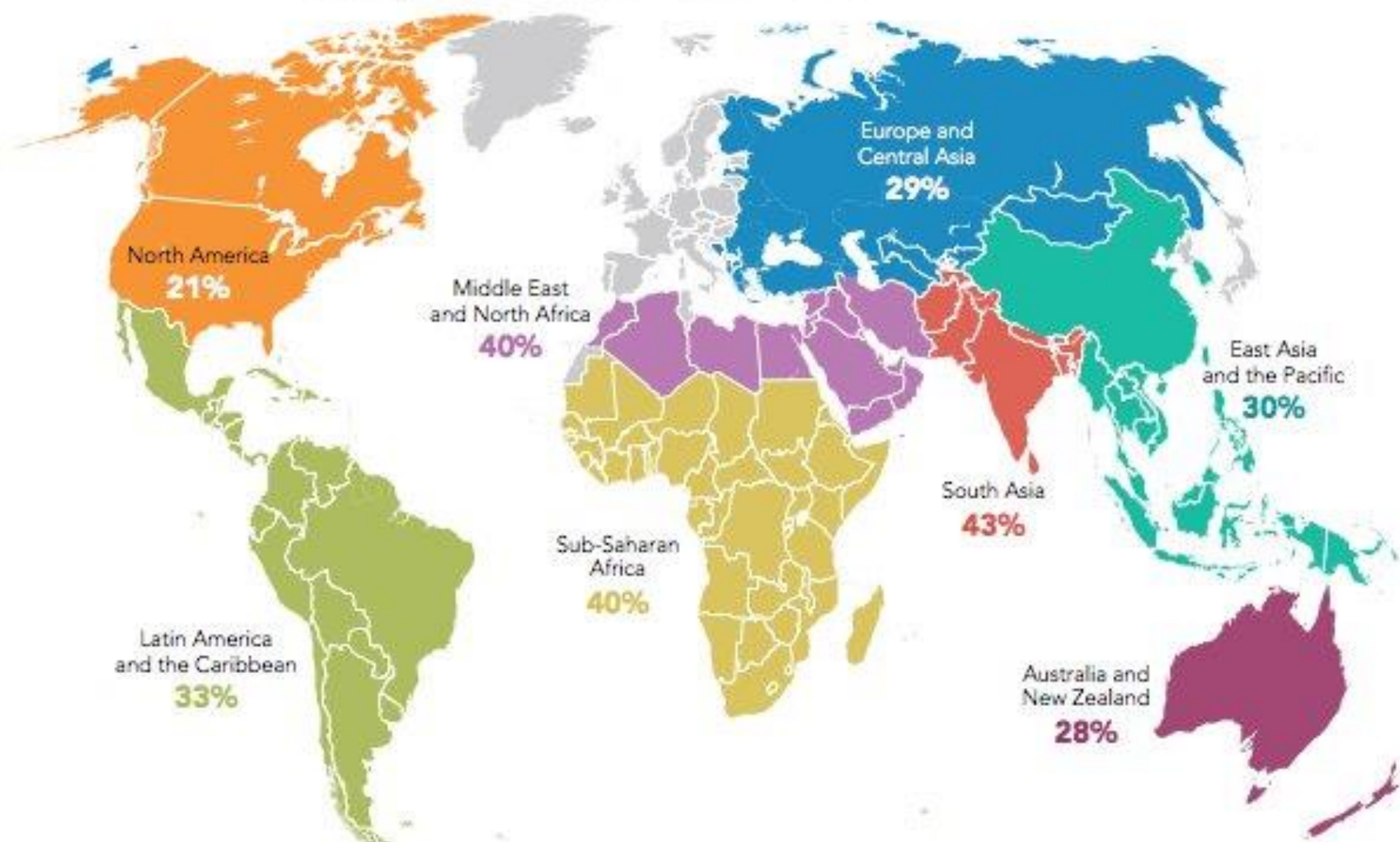
- 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner

Culture plays a significant role



FIGURE 3.2

Share of ever partnered women who have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence during their lifetime



Source: Preliminary analysis of WHO (World Health Organization), global prevalence database (2013) using World Bank regions.²⁴

Note: Areas shaded in grey are not calculated or do not have relevant data.

Rates

General population



Ireland:

39% of women reported violence victimization; of these, 46% were injured

UK:

10% of men and 11% of women reported perpetrating violence

18% of men and 13% of women reported victimization of physical abuse

Rates

General population

Mexico:

12.1% of women reported victimization of physical violence, 10% sexual violence

Nicaragua:

52% of women reported victimization of physical violence, 31% during pregnancy, 21% sexual abuse



Rates

General population

Norway:

15% of women reported victimization of moderate physical violence, 5% severe physical violence



New Zealand:

67.4% of men and 76.9% of women reported victimization of unwanted sexual activity; 19% of men and 21% of women reported victimization of physical violence

Rates

General population

Germany:

21.6%-44.7% of men and 6% of women reported perpetrating sexual violence

11.7%-17.6% of men reported victimization of sexual violence; 6% of men reported victimization of physical violence

30.3%-54.5% of women reported victimization of sexual violence; 3.6% mild, 33.7% moderate, and 1.6% severe



Rates

General population



The Netherlands:

10.6% of women reported
perpetrating some type of violence

20.8% of women reported
victimization of violence; 9% mild,
4.8% moderate, 6.3% severe

Ethiopia:

45% of women reported victimization of physical violence; of
these, 76% slapped, 53% kicked or hit, 34% beaten

Rates

Health centers/emergency rooms:

Australia:

4.1%-8.5% of men had been victims of some type of abuse; of these, 11.9%-38% included a weapon and 10%-12.3% included sexual abuse

16.1%-19.3% of women had been victimized by some type of abuse; of these, 17.5%-21.1% reported the use of a weapon, and 28.7%-28.8% reported sexual abuse



Rates

Health centers/emergency rooms:

Tanzania:

37.6% women reported
victimization of physical abuse,
16.3% sexual abuse



Crisis centers:

Jamaica:

95% of women had been victims of physical assault, while
59% had been victims of sexual assault

Risk Factors

Ecological framework

Society: includes norms granting men control over female behavior, acceptance of violence as a means of conflict resolution, and rigid gender roles

Community: includes poverty, low socioeconomic status, and unemployment, as well as isolation of women and family

Relationship: includes marital conflict and male control of wealth and decision-making in the family

Individual perpetrator: includes biographical experiences, such as witnessing marital violence as a child, an absent or rejecting father, being abused as a child, and alcohol abuse

Risk Factors

Perpetration

Lower levels of education
Exposure to child maltreatment
Witnessing family violence
Harmful use of alcohol/
substances
Attitudes that are accepting of
violence and gender inequality
Past history of violence
Communication issues
Antisocial personality disorder
Having multiple partners
Suspect partner infidelity

Victimization

Lower levels of education
Exposure to child maltreatment
Witnessing family violence
Harmful use of alcohol/
substances
Attitudes that are accepting of
violence and gender inequality
Past history of violence
Communication issues



Motivation

In order to fully understand Intimate Partner Violence, we must consider the motivational basis behind it

Common couple violence: arises in the context of a specific argument, is likely to be mutual, unlikely to involve serious injury or escalate over time, and the most common form of intimate partner violence in the general population

Intimate terrorism: based on the desire to exert control over the partner, is shown more frequently in a particular relationship, less likely to be mutual, and more likely to lead to serious injury and to escalate over time

Violent resistance: shown in response to a violent attack from the partner, is perpetrated almost exclusively by women

Consequences

Consequences have been studied primarily for female victims



Impacts:

Physical health

Health behaviors

Chronic conditions

Reproductive health

Mental health

