Intimate partner violence in women living with HIV attending an inner city clinic in the United Kingdom: prevalence and associated factors

Rageshri Dhairyawan¹, Shema Tariq², Rosalind Scourse¹, Katherine Coyne¹

¹ Homerton University Hospital, ² City University
Introduction
WHO defines intimate partner violence (IPV) as physical, sexual or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse.
Objectives

• Estimate prevalence and factors associated with IPV in women attending our clinic
Methods
• Cross-sectional study of women attending outpatient HIV department
• Anonymous standardised questionnaire designed in collaboration with patient forum
• Exposure to IPV was ascertained using a validated tool
Humiliated

Afraid

Raped

Kicked

• Clinical data were collected from patient records

• Data analysed using standard statistical techniques including logistic regression models
Results
314 women invited to participate

198 (63%) women consented to be in the study

191 women had available data on IPV

116 women did not consent

7 women did not answer questions on IPV
Patient characteristics

• Median age 38 years (range 21-71 years)
• 97% had documented heterosexual risk
• No IVDUs
Experience of IPV
Lifetime IPV = 52%
IPV in past 1 year = 14%
IPV when pregnant = 14%
Type of IPV experienced

- Humiliated: 12% (Past year), 45% (Lifetime experience)
- Afraid: 9% (Past year), 33% (Lifetime experience)
- Rape: 3% (Past year), 20% (Lifetime experience)
- Kick: 4% (Past year), 33% (Lifetime experience)
Associations

- age
- ethnicity
- ART status
- CD4 count
- transactional sex
- parity
- financial dependence
- immigration
- education level
- age of sexual debut
- money for basic needs
- drugs
- childhood physical abuse
- alcohol
- mental health
- employment
- childhood sexual abuse
- mode of HIV acquisition
- relationship status
## Associations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AOR (95% CI)</th>
<th>( p ) value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black born in Africa</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black not born in Africa</td>
<td>4.63 (1.06, 20.11)</td>
<td>0.041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>2.38 (0.41, 14.0)</td>
<td>0.335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.39 (0.04, 3.93)</td>
<td>0.425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous mental health problem</td>
<td>AOR (95% CI)</td>
<td>P value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3.44 (1.24, 9.57)</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (per year increase)</th>
<th>AOR (95% CI)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.92 (0.86, 0.97)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• IPV was not associated with immigration or socioeconomic status, educational background or substance misuse (all $p > 0.1$)
Conclusions
• First study to explore IPV in women living with HIV in the UK

• Over half reported lifetime experience of IPV

• 1:7 women reported IPV in the previous year

• 1:7 women reported IPV in pregnancy
• More likely to experience IPV if younger or of Black not born in Africa ethnicity

• Association with mental health and IPV, but direction of causal relationship unknown
• Recommend universal screening
• Greater awareness of IPV
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References


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Thank you