



Introduction to Intimate Partner Violence

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Definitions and terminology

Spousal abuse

Family violence

Partner abuse

Domestic violence/abuse

Interpersonal violence

Intimate partner violence

Definition: Domestic violence/abuse

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.

Home Office, 2013

Definition: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

The actual, attempted, or threatened physical harm of a current or former intimate partner.

Kropp & Hart, 2015

Behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.

World Health Organization, 2021

Why explore IPV?

- IPV (like other types of family violence) is different from violence committed against strangers
- The violence is often more frequent and more serious
- There are more opportunities for violence to occur if the perpetrator and victim live together or see each other frequently
- The violence is typically in the context of a strong emotional attachment
- IPV is one of the most common forms of interpersonal violence internationally
- IPV has acute and chronic consequences for the victims, including psychological trauma, physical injury, and sometimes death

The scale of the problem – globally



- **26%** of women (aged 15 or over) who have been married/partnered have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence **at least once in their lifetime**

- **In 12 months** (2018), **10%** of women (aged 15 or over) who have been married/partnered have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence



- **Lifetime prevalence** of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence among women (aged 15 - 49 years) who have been married/partnered was **21%** in **Western Europe**
- In one year (2018), this was 5%

- Globally, it is estimated that 13% of all murders, 38% of all murders in women and 6% of all murders in men, are committed by intimate partners (World Health Organization, 2013)

The scale of the problem – UK



1 in 3 victims of partner abuse are male

(ManKind Initiative, 2021)

According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales an estimated 3.5% of adults (aged 16 years and over) had experienced partner abuse in the last year (by a partner or ex-partner)

(Office for National Statistics, 2022)

- The lifetime prevalence of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence among every married/partnered women is 24% (15 - 49 year olds) (World Health Organization, 2021)
- At least 26.6% of women and 14% of men have, at some point, experienced partner abuse since they were 16 years of age (NICE, 2018)



1 in 4 women



1 in 7 men



The scale of the problem - UK

Partner abuse is also prevalent in **young peoples'** relationships

(13 -16 years). In the UK in 2009:

- Emotional violence in intimate partner relationship was reported by 72% of girls and 51% of boys
- Physical violence was reported by 25% of girls and 18% of boys
- Sexual violence reported by 31% of girls and 16% of boys



The scale of the problem - UK

Abuse of **older people**:

The prevalence of IPV is comparatively lower for women in later age groups, but it still exists.

- Over 250,000 older people (aged 66 and older) living in private households in England reported experiencing maltreatment (including neglect and psychological, physical, sexual, and financial abuse)
- This was from a partner in 51% of cases



The scale of the problem – Deaths from IPV

- Every week (in England and Wales), on average, two women are killed by intimate partners
- On average, one man is killed by an intimate partner every 17 days
- Each year since 1995, around 50% of all women and 12% of men aged 16 years or older who were murdered in England and Wales were killed by their partner or ex-partner



Limitations in the literature – under-reporting

- 1 in 10 victims of partner abuse told the police about the abuse they experienced in the last year (ONS, 2022)
- Only 31% of women and 18% of men who reported experiencing an incident of domestic violence reported telling the police. Out of those individuals who reported it, only 12% of perpetrators were charged. Consequently, it is estimated only 3% of instances of domestic violence result in a perpetrator being charged (Devaney & Lazenbatt, 2016)



Limitations in the literature – under-reporting

Not recognizing a situation as abusive

Feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment

Fear of not being believed

Thoughts that the abuse is a private matter

Harmful stereotyping (e.g. men as victims)

Lack of faith in CJS, not believing reporting would help

Believing the abuse is too trivial/not worth reporting

Emotional attachment to the partner

Limitations in the literature

Differences defining IPV

- There is no agreed upon definition

Gender

- There is less research around female perpetrators towards male victims
- There is less data on IPV in LGBTQI+ communities
- There is currently no nationally representative data on the prevalence of IPV in transgender individuals (Home Office, 2022)
- Some studies suggest bi-directional partner abuse may be a common partner violence pattern within same sex relationships, particularly female relationships (Devaney et al 2021)

Typologies of IPV

A number of typologies of IPV have been suggested

One of the most widely known: Johnson (2008)

Intimate Terrorism/Coercive
controlling violence

Situational Couple Violence

Violent Resistance

Mutual violent control

Typologies of IPV

- **Miller and Meloy (2006)** – three types of female perpetrator:

Generalised violent behaviour

Frustration response behaviour

Defensive

- **Fowler and Western (2011)** – three types of male IPV Perpetrators:

Psychopathic

Hostile/Controlling

Borderline/Dependent

Summary

Terms relating to intimate partner violence vary and there is no universally agreed definition.

It is important to consider intimate partner violence for a number of reasons:

- Nature of violence is often more frequent and more serious
- It is one of the most common forms of interpersonal violence
- Acute and chronic consequences for the victim
- Prevalence of IPV

There are limitations in the literature:

- Under-reporting
- Gender issues

Typologies of IPV exist within the literature.

Helplines

Find help and support at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help>

Chadwick Lodge & Eaglestone View medium and low secure services in Milton Keynes

The medium and low secure services provide specialist treatment programmes for patients who have been detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 (amended 2007) and have a history of offending behaviour.

- Eclectic model of care
- Personality Disorder & Mental Illness trauma pathways for male patients
- Full secure pathway



For further information about this service or to make a referral, please contact Sophia Jaques on 07387417022 or email sophia.jaques@elysiumhealthcare.co.uk.