

Intimate Partner Violence Against Women and Girls: Implications for Reproductive and Sexual Health



Jay G. Silverman, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Society, Human
Development and Health
Director, Violence Against Women Prevention,
Division of Public Health Practice
Harvard School of Public Health

Massachusetts Medical Society,
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Scope of the Problem: Prevalence of Adult and Adolescent Intimate Partner Violence



- 1 in 4 (25%) U.S. women and 1 in 5 (20%) U.S. adolescent girls report ever experiencing physical and/or sexual IPV
- Between 15 and 76% of women ages 15-49 years across the globe experience IPV during their lifetimes

Major Reproductive and Sexual Health Concerns Described as Related to IPV



- **Reproductive Health:**
 - Unwanted and adolescent pregnancy
 - Pregnancy-related morbidity
 - Negative pregnancy outcomes
- **Sexual Health:**
 - Sexual risk among abusive men
 - STI symptoms/diagnosis
 - HIV infection

Adolescent Pregnancy and Partner Violence



- **1 in 3 high school girls who has been abused by a boyfriend has become pregnant**
- **Being physically sexually abused leaves teenaged girls up to 6 times more likely to become pregnant**

Why are Abused Girls More Likely to Become Pregnant?

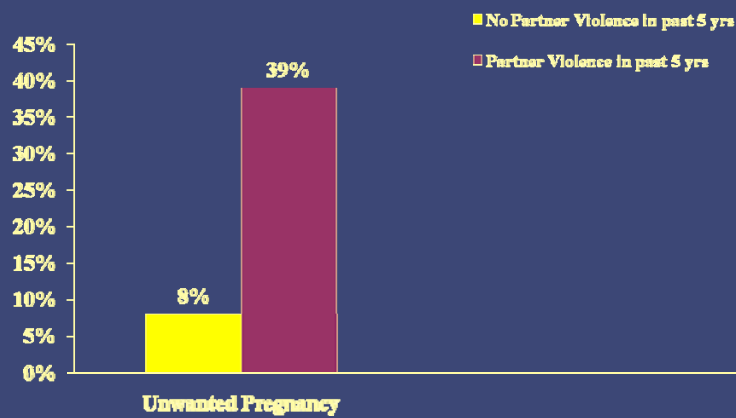


- Girls who have been abused by a boyfriend are:
 - 5x as likely to be forced into not using a condom
 - 5x more likely to have a boyfriend who refuses to use a condom
 - 8x more likely to be pressured to become pregnant

And This Holds True for Adult Women.....



Unwanted Pregnancy and IPV among U.S. Women



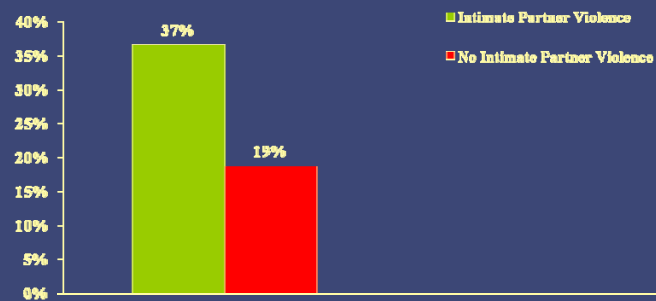
$OR_{Adj.} = 7.4$ (95% CI=1.0-53.4)

(Hathaway, Silverman et al., 2000)

But the Control Doesn't Stop There.....



Conflict re: Pregnancy Termination and Men's IPV Perpetration



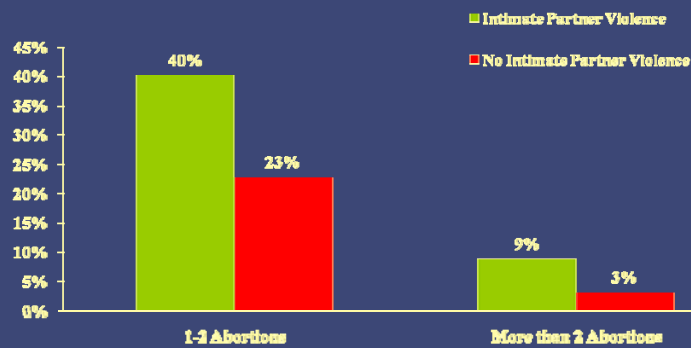
Conflict re: Pregnancy Termination and IPV Perpetration:
 $OR_{Adj} = 2.54$ (95% CI 1.76-3.65)

(Silverman et al., under review)



- Predictable Consequence of Reproductive Control...
Increased Abortion

Abortion History and IPV Perpetration among Men



Abortion History and IPV:

1-2: $OR_{Adj} = 2.46$ (95% CI 1.89-3.19)

3+ : $OR_{Adj} = 3.77$ (95% CI 2.23-6.38)

(Silverman et al., under review)

Critical Message



- Preventing partner violence against women and girls:
 - = Adolescent and unintended pregnancy prevention
 - = Abortion prevention

IPV also Places Women at Risk During Pregnancy



- **Women who are abused around the time of pregnancy are:**
 - 40% more likely to suffer from HBP
 - 60% more likely to suffer preterm labor
 - 50% more likely to give birth preterm
 - 20% more likely to have a low birth weight infant



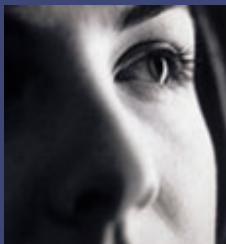
**IPV also Places Women and
Girls at Risk for
Sexually Transmitted
Infections
including HIV**

Partner Violence and STI/HIV



- Teen girls who are abused by male partners are **3x** as likely to become infected with STI/HIV
- Adult men who are abusive to female partners are **3x** as likely to have an STI
- Adult women who are victims of IPV are **4x** as likely to be infected with HIV

Why are Abused Women and Girls More Likely to Become Infected?



- **Girls/women who have been abused by a male partner are:**
 - **70% more likely to report anal sex**
 - **5x more likely to have a partner who refuses to use a condom**
 - **3-4x more likely to have a partner who is sexually unfaithful**
 - **6x more likely to have a partner who has purchased sex from a prostitute**

Critical Message



**IPV Prevention =
STI/HIV Prevention**



But Can it Be Done??

A Clinical Intervention to Reduce IPV and Unwanted Pregnancy



- Collaboration between FVPPF, PPLC and UC Davis and Harvard SPH
- A brief intervention targeted to family planning patients
- Family planning counselors trained to provide enhanced IPV screening, counseling/education and referral for female patients
- **Goals:**
 - **Support patients to identify IPV**
 - raise awareness of IPV and how it relates to sexual and reproductive health
 - **Facilitate harm reduction behaviors**
 - E.g., using friends and family as resources, use of contraception methods that do not rely on partner cooperation
 - **Facilitate use of existing violence support services**
 - E.g., rape crisis services, IPV support services

Intervention Study: Family Planning



- Minimal modification to standard care practices
- High level of acceptance by clinicians
- **47% lifetime prevalence of IPV/SA** among participating women and girls
- **43% lifetime prevalence of reproductive control** (i.e., pregnancy pressure, abusive response to condom request, birth control sabotage, abortion pressure)

Intervention Study: Family Planning



- **Preliminary findings** demonstrate reductions in:
 - Recent pregnancy pressure - 12% at baseline vs. 2% at 3-month follow-up
 - Recent birth control sabotage - 41% at baseline vs. 10% at 3-month follow-up
 - Recent IPV/SA - 17% at baseline vs. 12% at 3-month follow-up
 - RCT findings available soon

IPV and Women's Reproductive and Sexual Health: **Conclusions**



- IPV poses a **serious threat** to the ability of women and girls to protect their reproductive and sexual health
- Assisting women and girls to mitigate the effects of IPV, as well as prevention of IPV perpetration by adolescent and adult men **must be priorities of reproductive and sexual health policies and programs**

