



Causes and Consequences
of Intimate Partner
Rape/Violence:
Experiences of Selected
Married Women in Nigeria

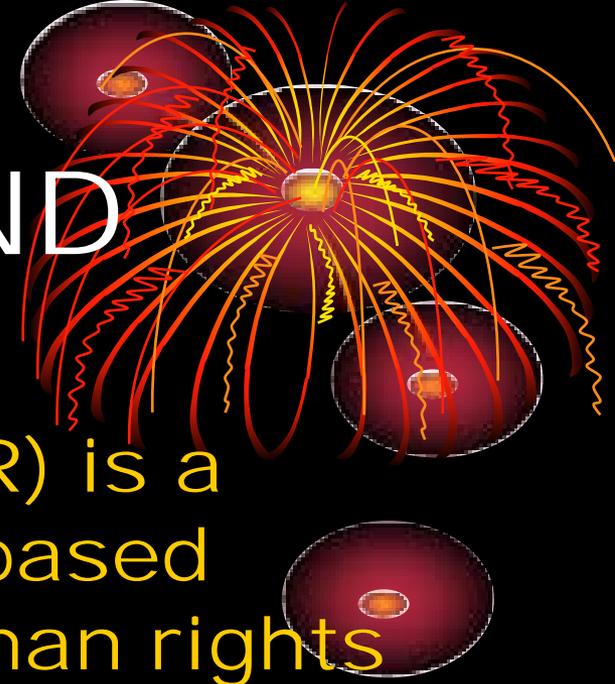
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BACKGROUND



- Intimate Partner Rape (IPR) is a pervasive form of gender-based violence and a topical human rights issue.
- On a daily basis women are beaten and "punished" for supposed transgressions, raped and even murdered by members of their family

BACKGROUND (Cont.)

- Rape within marriage (i.e. forced or coerced sexual intercourse between wife and husband) is not recognised as a crime by Nigerian Law yet



BACKGROUND (Cont.)

- In Nigerian social contexts, domestic violence, whether sexual, physical or psychological, is supported by social norms such as a cultural ideology which promotes the primacy of men over the women.



BACKGROUND (Cont.)



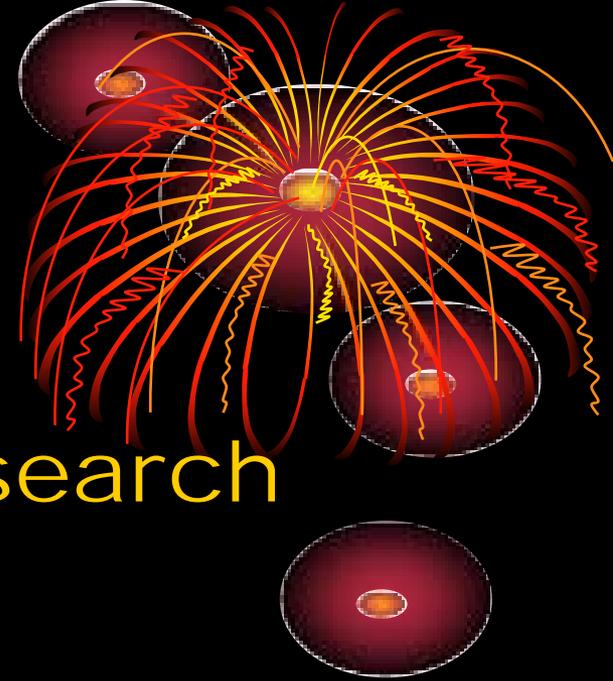
- Marital rape and other forms of sexual abuse are often accompanied by violence. The immediate consequences for the woman may include unwanted pregnancy or a sexually transmitted disease. The long-term effects are often depression, other mental health disorders and suicide

BACKGROUND (Cont.)

- Very few studies have been carried out on intimate partner rape/violence against women in Nigeria. In examining causes and consequences of intimate partner rape/violence, this study seeks to expand knowledge regarding gender-based sexual violence against women in Nigeria and also bridge the gap in literature.



Method



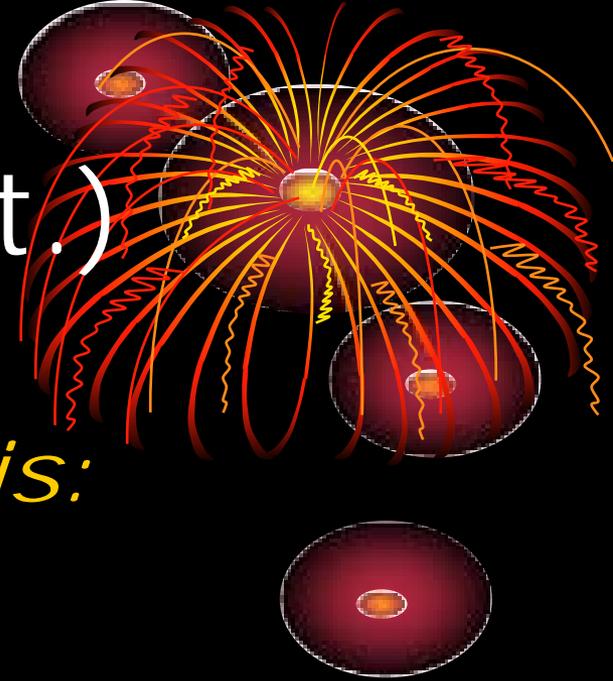
- *Design: Qualitative Research*
- *Participants and Setting:*
Purposive Sampling; 22 women (aged 22 to 40 years) living in two SOS shelter for abused women in Nigeria

Method (Cont.)



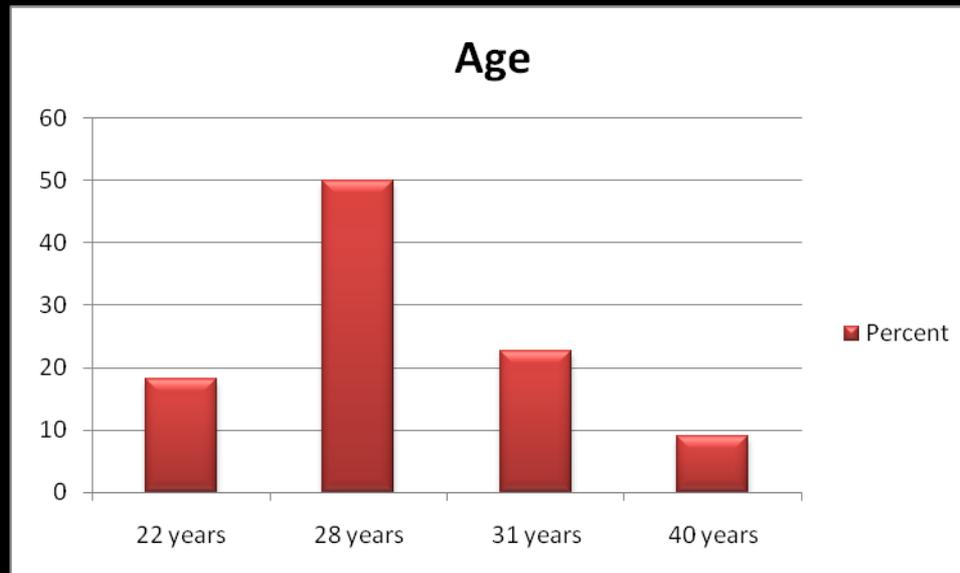
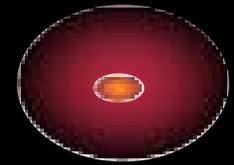
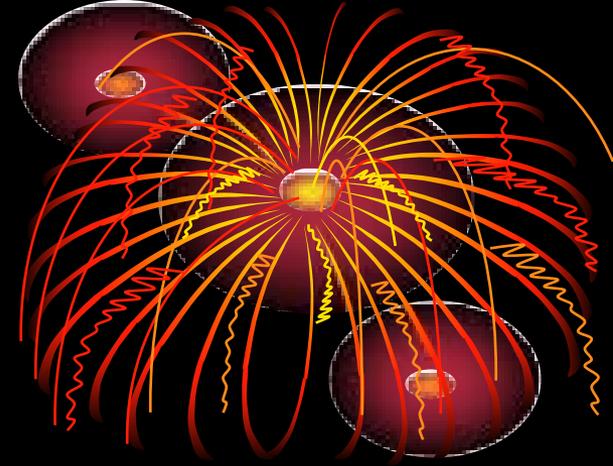
- *Procedure for Data Collection*
- Permission and consent sought and obtained
- Ethical principles adhered to
- Anonymity and Confidentiality assured
- 8 focus group discussions held
- Recording was through note-taking and also by the use of audio-cassettes.

Method (Cont.)

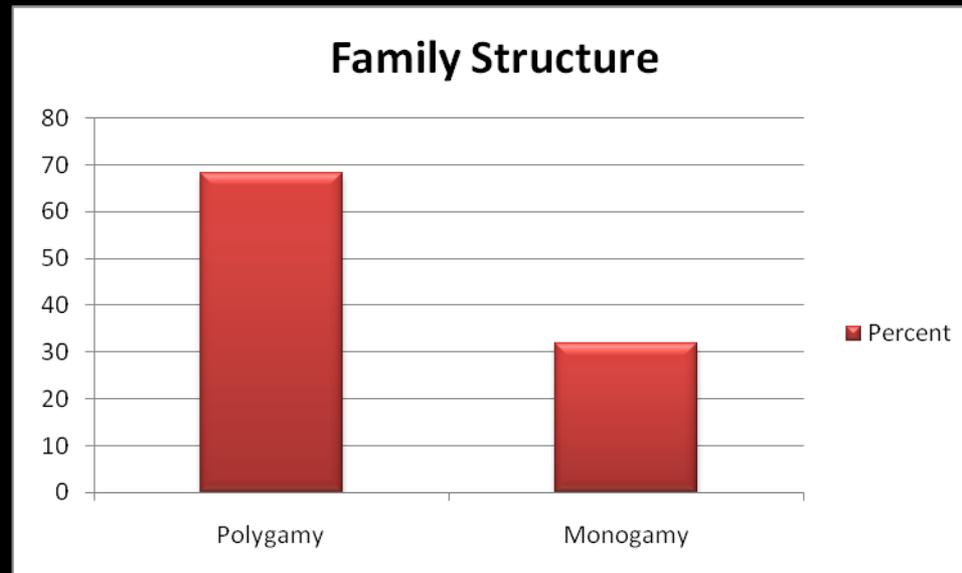
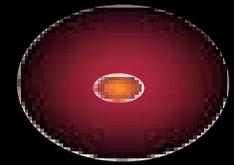
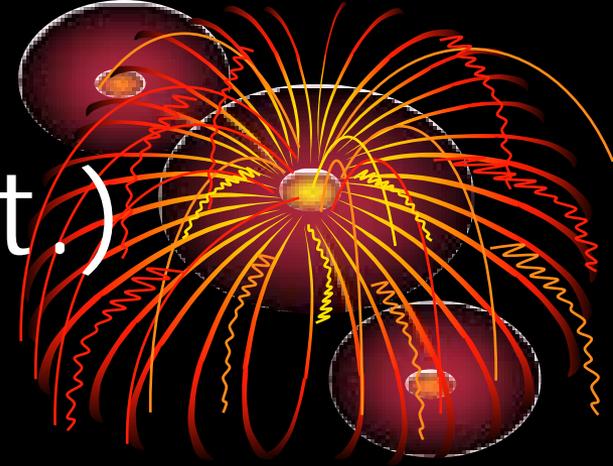


- *Method of Data Analysis:*
- Descriptive analysis
- Transcription of recorded audio cassettes and field notes

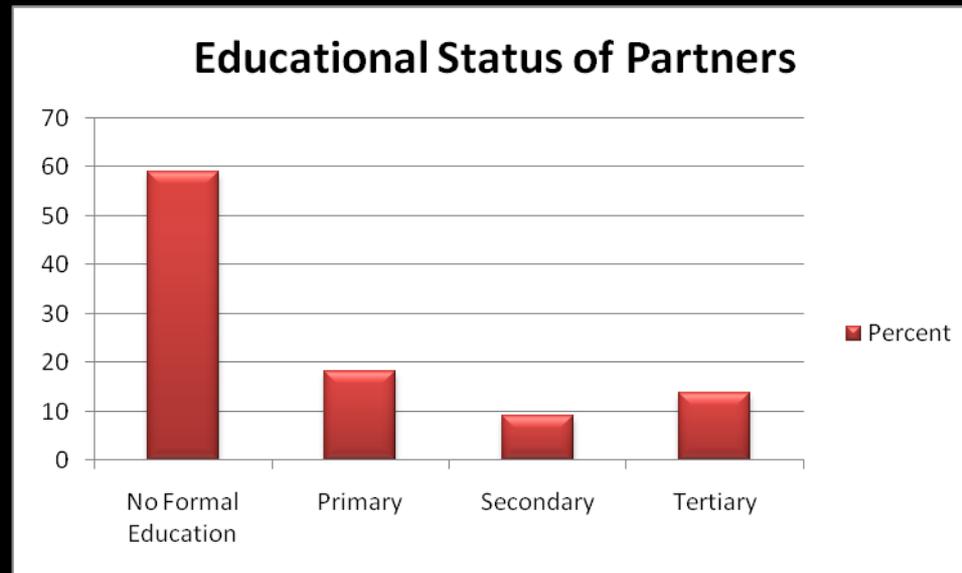
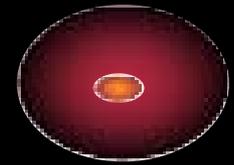
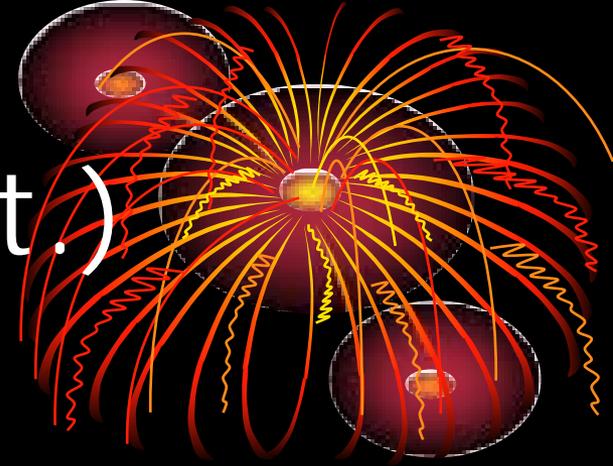
Results



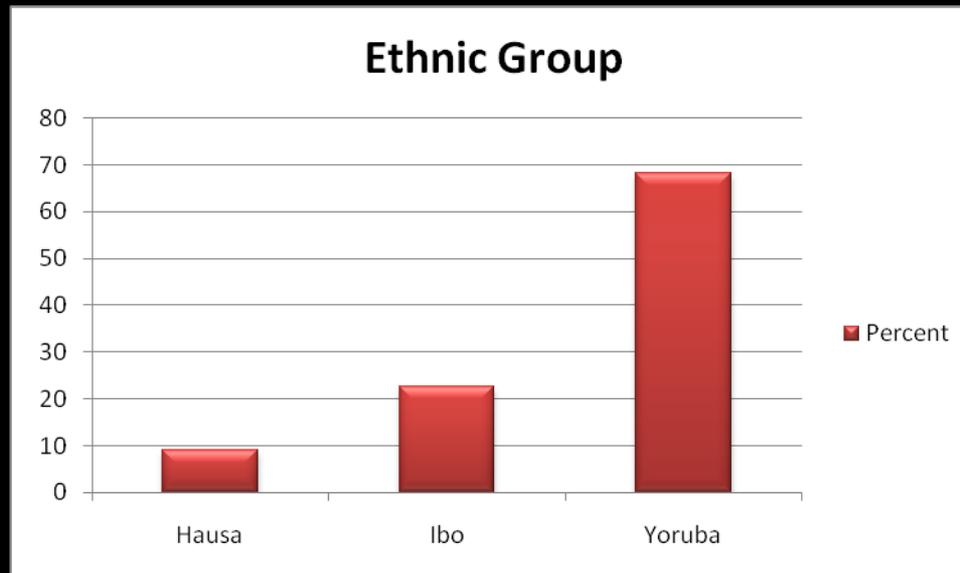
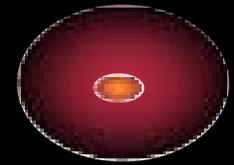
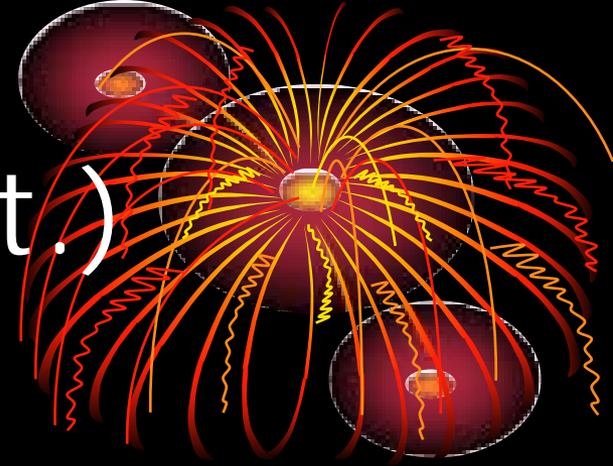
Results (Cont.)



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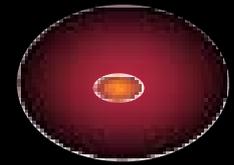
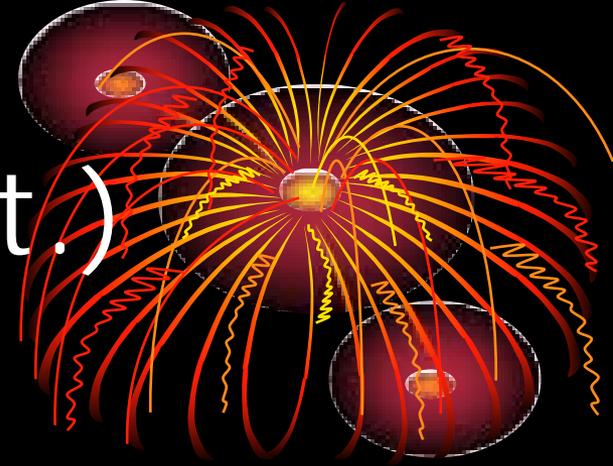
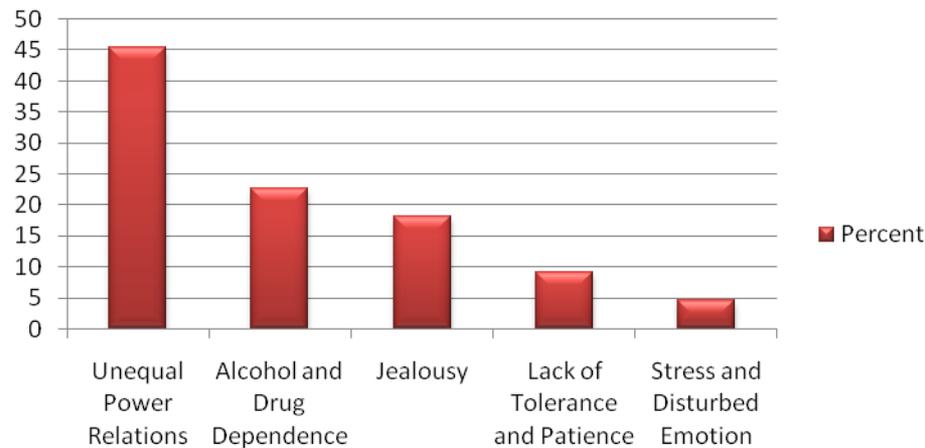
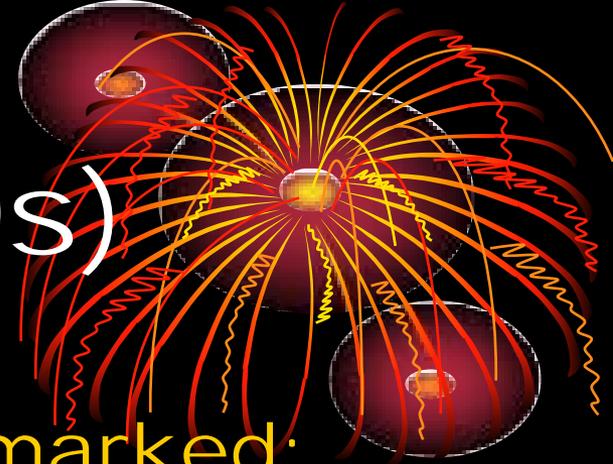


Figure 2: Perceived Causes of IPRV



Results (FGDs)



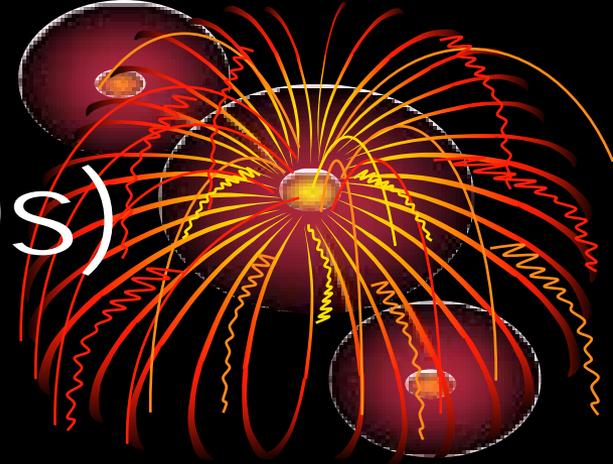
- One of the participants remarked:

My husband has this uncanny way of showing his authority over me. As far as he is concerned, I must succumb to his sexual advances all the time without complaint.

- Another added:

I dare not refuse my husband sex, even when I am sick he will always force himself on me.

Results (FGDs)



- Yet another added:

I wouldn't have minded so much if it is just a case of employing his veto power to force me to have sex with him, what I could no longer stand was the constant beatings that accompanied the sexual abuse. At times I will be so beaten to a point of unconsciousness.



Results (FGDs)



- One participant reported:

It was becoming a nightmare awaiting my husband's return. He will always rape and beat me in his drunken stupor.

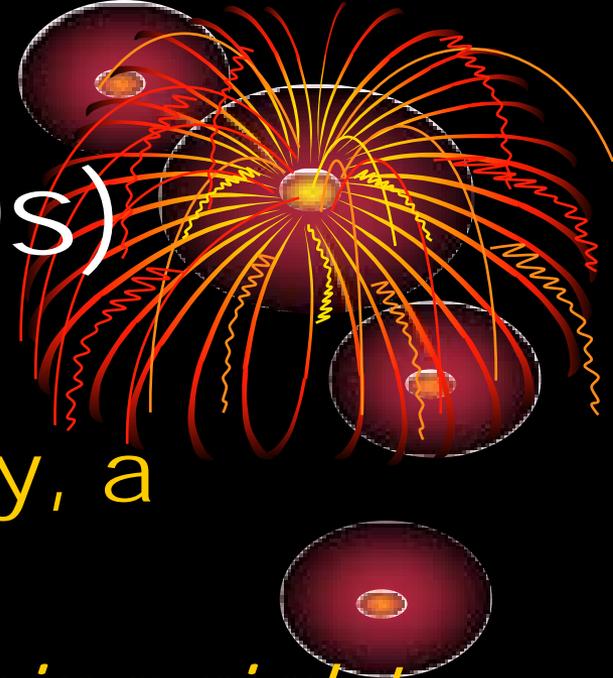
- Yet another said:

Drunkenness and sexual abuse had been my lot since I got married to my husband.

Results (FGDs)

- On the issue of jealousy, a participant added:

I never seem to do anything right in the sight of my husband. He was always in the habit of beating and forcing me to have sex with him on the pretext that I had a lover.



Results (FGDs)

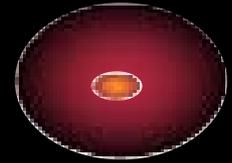
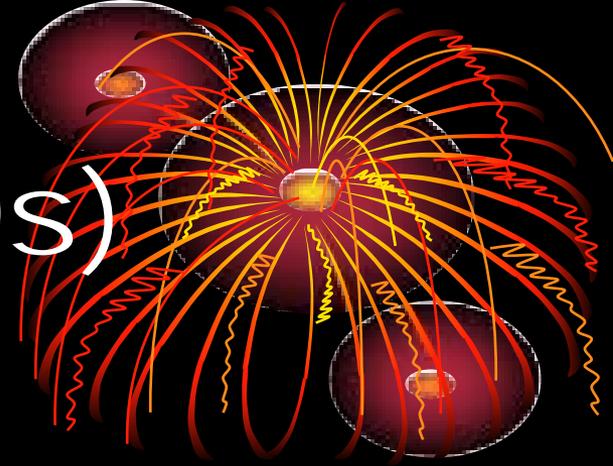
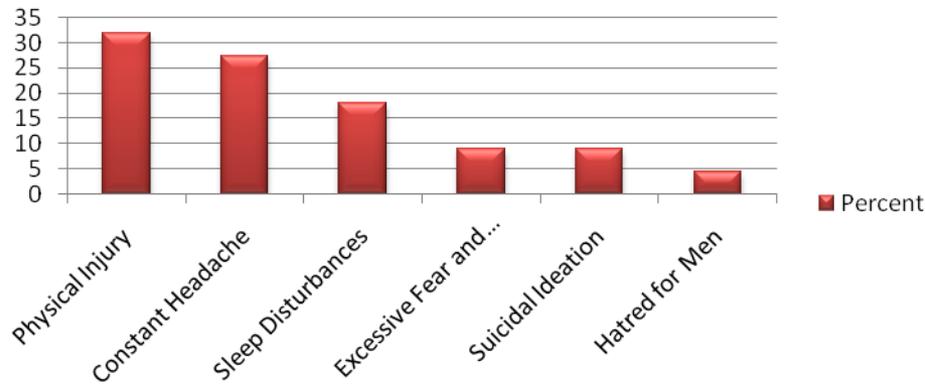


Figure 3: Self-Reported Consequences of IPRV

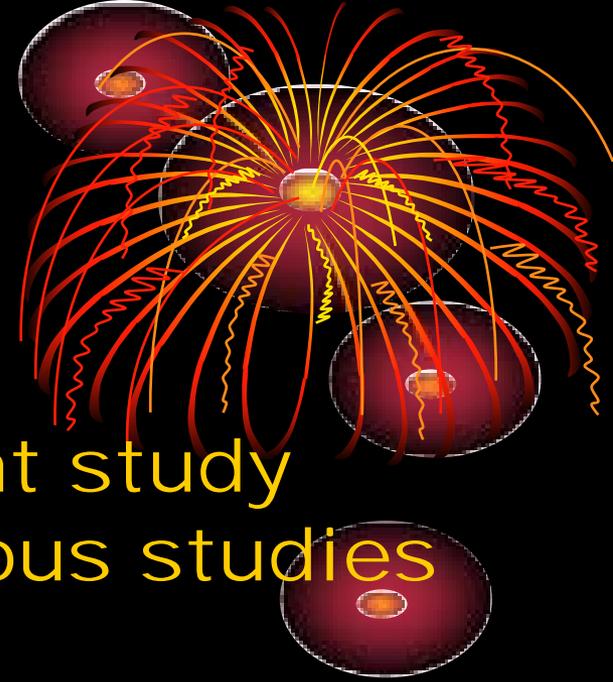


Discussion



- In spite of the obstacles that women face in reporting violence in the home and achieving justice, many are prepared to speak out

Discussion



- The findings of this present study are consistent with previous studies in Nigeria and elsewhere (Odimegwu, 1997; Gottman & Jacobson, 1998; Okemgbo, 2000; Okemgbo, Adidu, 2001; Bhowon & Munbauhal, 2005; Fatusi, & Alatise, 2006; Mahlatji & Donald, 2006; Naaeke, 2006)

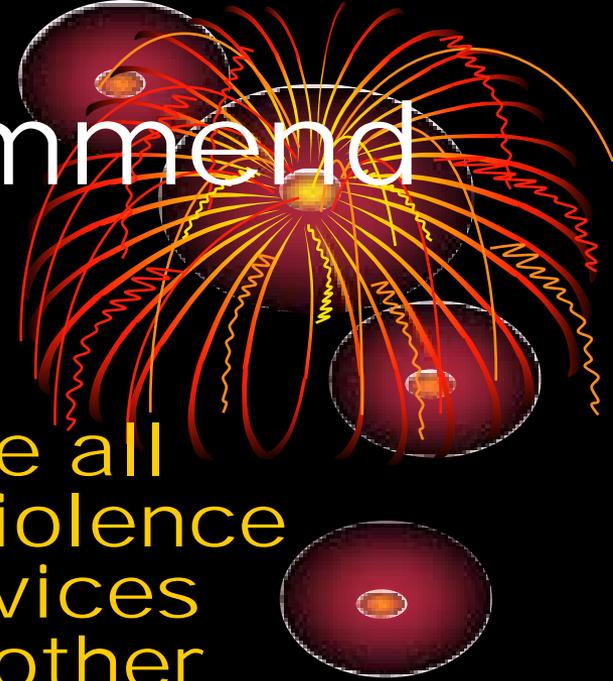
Conclusion/Recommendation

- Domestic violence is a common occurrence in most Nigerian families and it is a major threat to health. It inflicts physical, psychological and emotional pain on the victims.

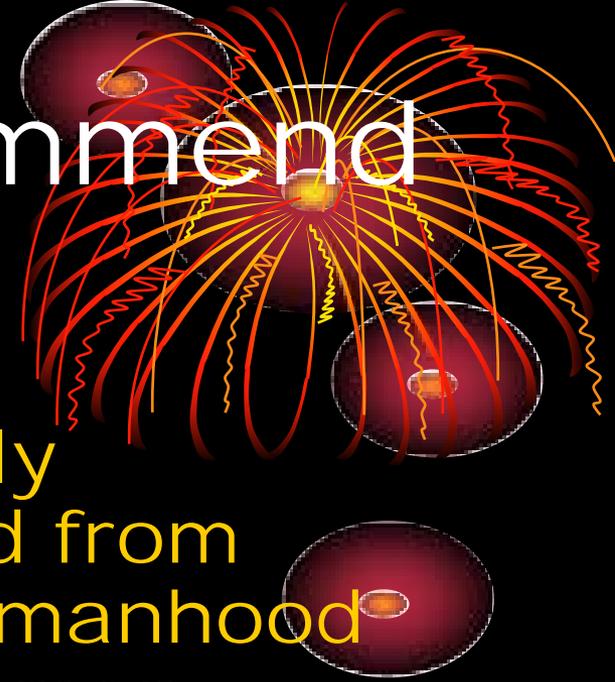


Conclusion/Recommendation

- Government should provide all women, who experience violence with multi-disciplinary services including counselling and other resources that they need for full recovery and integration in their communities, and with legal support (including provision for compensation), and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and rehabilitation



Conclusion/Recommendation



- The men should be properly educated and re-socialised from infancy on the concept of manhood and what it means to be a man.
- This is also a wakeup call for more men to join and actively support Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with a focus on eradicating gender-based violence of all forms against women.