Violent Experiences in Childhood and Men’s Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence as a Young Adult: A Multi-Stage Cluster Survey in Malawi

Malawi Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare
Dr. Mary Shawa,
Principal Secretary

Division of Violence Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Dr. Kristin VanderEnde, Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer

Government of Malawi
“Behavior within an intimate relationship that causes **physical**, **sexual**, or **psychological** harm, including acts of **physical aggression**, **sexual coercion**, **psychological abuse** and **controlling behaviors**”

Behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviors”

39% Female murders

Stockl et al., 2013
Men’s perpetration of IPV

Garcia-Moreno et al., 2005; Gil-Gonzalez et al., 2008
Men’s perpetration of IPV as an adult

Experiences of violence in childhood

Fulu et al., 2013; Fleming et al., 2015
Men’s perpetration of IPV as an adult

emotional violence
physical violence
sexual violence
witnessing abuse of his mother

Fulu et al., 2013; Fleming et al., 2015
Men’s perpetration of IPV as an adult

Limited evidence from Africa

Experiences of violence in childhood

Fulu et al., 2013; Fleming et al., 2015
Men’s perpetration of IPV as an adult

Limited evidence from Africa

Experiences of violence in childhood

Fulu et al., 2013; Fleming et al., 2015
Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

Adult health outcomes

Felitti et al., 1998, Roberts et al., 2011; Whitfield et al., 2003
adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

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sexually transmitted infections

Felitti et al., 1998, Roberts et al., 2011; Whitfield et al., 2003
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Felitti et al., 1998, Roberts et al., 2011; Whitfield et al., 2003
Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

Adult health outcomes

Felitti et al., 1998, Roberts et al., 2011; Whitfield et al., 2003
adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

perpetration of IPV

Felitti et al., 1998, Roberts et al., 2011; Whitfield et al., 2003
Violence Against Children

Krug et al., 2002
Physical violence – acts of violence such as being punched, kicked, whipped, choked, burned, threatened with or had a weapon used against them.

Stoltenborgh et al., 2015
Physical violence acts of violence such as being punched, kicked, whipped, choked, burned, threatened with or had a weapon used against them.

Stoltenborgh et al., 2015
Emotional violence –
Pattern of verbal behavior with potential for damaging a child’s mental health or development.

Stoltenborgh et al., 2015
Emotional violence – Pattern of verbal behavior with potential for damaging a child’s mental health or development.

37%

Stoltenborgh et al., 2015
Sexual abuse – unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured sex
Sexual abuse – includes all forms of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.

18% of girls

Stoltenborgh et al., 2015
Sexual abuse – includes all forms of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. 8% of boys. Stoltenborgh et al., 2015.
Objectives
Estimate prevalence of young men’s perpetration of IPV
violence in childhood

Young men’s perpetration of IPV
Methods
Violence Against Children Surveys

**Completed**
- Cambodia*
- Haiti
- Indonesia*
- Kenya
- Malawi*
- Nigeria*
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Zimbabwe

**In Progress**
- Botswana
- Laos
- China
- Mozambique
- Rwanda
- Uganda
- Zambia

**Potential**
- Benin
- Cote d’Ivoire
- Colombia
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Honduras
- India
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Nepal
- Papua New
- Guinea
- Philippines
- Puerto Rico
- Thailand
- Vietnam

* Data collection completed 2014
Malawi* 
Nationally representative

* Data collection completed 2014
Malawi

Multi-stage cluster sample

* Data collection completed 2014
Malawi

13 - 24 year olds

* Data collection completed 2014
ever-partnered 18-24 year old males
Perpetration of physical or sexual IPV girlfriend
Perpetration of physical or sexual IPV

romantic partner
Perpetration of physical or sexual IPV

wife
physical IPV

punched
kicked
whipped
beat
physical IPV

choked
smothered
tried to drown
intentionally burn
physical IPV

used or threatened to use
knife
gun
other weapon
sexual IPV
forced to have sex with you when they did not want to
Exposure to violence in childhood
witness IPV
witness IPV

witness **attack** in community
witness IPV

witness attack in community

sexual abuse
witness IPV
witness attack in community
sexual abuse
physical violence
witness **IPV**

witness **attack** in community

**sexual** abuse

**physical** violence

**emotional** violence
witness **IPV**

+ 

witness **attack** in community

+ 

sexual abuse

+ 

physical violence

+ 

emotional violence

**Summative scale**
Prevalence

Statistical Analyses
Prevalence

Logistic regression

Statistical Analyses
Prevalence

Logistic regression

Complex survey design

Statistical Analyses
Results
exposure to violence in childhood

- Sexual abuse: 15.1%
- Physical violence: 64.6%
- Emotional violence: 28.4%
- Witnessed IPV: 31.8%
- Witnessed attack: 39.2%
exposure to **violence** in childhood

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exposure to **violence** in childhood

- **Sexual abuse**: 15.1%
- **Physical violence**: 64.6%
- **Emotional violence**: 28.4%
- **Witnessed IPV**: 31.8%
- **Witnessed attack**: 39.2%
Exposure to different forms of violence

- 0%
- 17.8%
- 27.2%
- 26.3%
- 18.6%
- 10.1% (4 or more)
Exposure to different forms of violence

- 0: 17.8%
- 1: 27.2%
- 2: 26.3%
- 3: 18.6%
- 4 or more: 10.1%
Exposure to different forms of violence

- 0: 17.8%
- 1: 27.2%
- 2: 26.3%
- 3: 18.6%
- 4 or more: 10.1%
perpetration of physical and sexual IPV

- Physical and/or sexual IPV: 29.1%
- Sexual IPV: 23.9%
- Physical IPV: 8.5%
- Both physical and sexual IPV: 3.2%
perpetration of physical and sexual IPV

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physical IPV
physical IPV

45 of 450 young men
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Childhood Exposures to Violence</th>
<th>Perpetration</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>physical IPV</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n)</td>
<td>(%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9.0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Violence</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Violence</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witnessed IPV</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witnessed attack</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Coefficient of variation >0.30, estimate should be interpreted with caution.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Childhood Exposures to Violence</th>
<th>Perpetration physical IPV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Violence</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
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### Childhood Exposures to Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposures to Violence</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.4–2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Violence</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.1–8.4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Violence</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.8–3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witnessed IPV</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.8–3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witnessed attack</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.5–2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The reference category for each exposure is those not experiencing this form of violence (i.e. physical violence compared to no physical violence).*
sexual IPV
sexual IPV

114 of 447 young men
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Perpetration sexual IPV</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
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<td>Physical Violence</td>
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<td>58</td>
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<td>52</td>
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<td><strong>Witnessed attack</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>aOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Violence</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emotional Violence</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witnessed IPV</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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*The reference category for each exposure is those not experiencing this form of violence (i.e. sexual violence compared to no sexual violence). Adjusted model includes any childhood sexual abuse, physical violence, emotional violence, witnessed IPV, and close with father.
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<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16.5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>Four or more</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>43.8</td>
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<tr>
<th>Childhood Exposures to Violence</th>
<th>Perpetration of sexual IPV (N=450)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>ref</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four or more</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

* p-value <0.05

1 Adjusted for close with father (1=yes)
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<tr>
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<td>ref</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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Limitations
Temporality
Measures of violence
Subsample size
Conclusions
24% of young men reported perpetrating sexual IPV
HIV

11% Malawi DHS, 2011.
Young men’s perpetration of sexual IPV

violence in childhood
Young men’s perpetration of sexual IPV

violence in childhood
Young men’s perpetration of sexual IPV

violence in childhood

association
Response to Violence against Children in Malawi
Prevention Strategies
Prevention Strategies

Community child protection structures
Encouraging social norms that promote child rights
Prevention Strategies

Policies to eradicate early marriage
Sexual and reproductive health education
Early Response and Referral
Early Response and Referral

Education
Early Response and Referral

Parenting training
Early Response and Referral

Childline
Treatment and Aftercare
One Stop Centers
The Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW), the Center for Social Research at the University of Malawi, the United Nations Children’s Fund in Malawi (UNICEF Malawi), and the President’s Emergency Plan For Aids Relief (PEPFAR) conducted the Violence Against Children and Young Women survey in Malawi (VACS Malawi), with funding provided by the UK government. The technical guidance and coordination of the study was provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and implemented by the Center for Social Research at the University of Malawi. Funding for the implementation and coordination of the survey was provided by the Government of the UK.
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Juliette Lee, MPH, Epidemiologist

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Malawi
Sundeep K. Gupta, MD, MPH, DTMTH, Country Director
Nellie Wadonda-Kabondo, PhD, Epidemiologist

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.