A population-based cross-sectional study of prevalence and correlates of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) experienced by adults with disability in New Zealand

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Background

• A higher prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) among those suffering from a disability has been documented internationally.

• Sample restrictions in previous studies have limited our ability to understand how factors such as:
  – Gender
  – Age
  – Type of disability
  Interact with people’s experience of intimate partner violence.
New Zealand

– A high income country, with
– an overall rate of IPV against
  women comparable to the global
  average (~33%) and
– A higher than average rate of
disability (~24%).

To date, the relationship between disability
and IPV has not been examined in NZ
Study objectives

• To estimate the relative prevalence of IPV among people with and without a disability in New Zealand
• To examine the interaction of type of disability, gender, and age on reported IPV
• To examine how different types of disability interact with different types of IPV
Methods: Data from the Second New Zealand Survey of Family Violence (2017-2019)*

Sampling Strategy and Sample Size

Door-knocking at randomly selected houses, $n=9,568$

Face-to-face interviews with one randomly selected female or male from each household

Interviewed 2,888 female and male aged 16 and over, 63% Response rate

* Funded by the NZ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
Sample characteristics by gender

• Female sample:
  – N = 1,464 (51%)
  – Mean age: 51.1 years (SD: 17.5)
  – Ever-partnered: 98%

• Male sample
  – N = 1,423 (49%)
  – Mean age: 50.1 years (SD: 17.6)
  – Ever-partnered: 95%
Statistical analysis

• Descriptive statistics
• Bivariate Correlations
• Multivariate logistic regression models
• Unadjusted and Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR), 95% CIs
• Stata/IC Version 15.1
Definitions: Disability

Disability was defined as
• Any self-reported long-term impairment (lasting 6 months or longer)
• And which put limitations in a person’s ability to carry out daily activities

Physical
Sensory [vision and/or hearing] and motor and movement difficulties

Intellectual
Learning, concentrating, and memorising difficulties

Psychological
communication and socialising difficulties
Cause of disability (%)

- Disease or illness: 33%
- Accident or injury: 28%
- Existed at birth: 15%
- Natural aging: 6%
- Others: 6%

Total: 100%
Type of disability by age

- Physical disability
  - 16-44 Years: 8.3%
  - 45-64 Years: 18.3%
  - 65+ Years: 24.9%

- Intellectual disability
  - 16-44 Years: 4.3%
  - 45-64 Years: 6%
  - 65+ Years: 8.3%

- Psychological disability
  - 16-44 Years: 3.6%
  - 45-64 Years: 3.6%
  - 65+ Years: 3.1%

- Any disability
  - 16-44 Years: 12.3%
  - 45-64 Years: 20.3%
  - 65+ Years: 12.3%
Type of disability by gender

- Physical disability
  - Female: 18.4%
  - Male: 14%

- Intellectual disability
  - Female: 6.9%
  - Male: 5%

- Psychological disability
  - Female: 4.7%
  - Male: 2.3%

- Any disability
  - Female: 22%
  - Male: 16%
Intimate partner violence (IPV): Any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship (WHO, 2005)

- **Physical IPV:**
  - Being slapped, thrown something at, pushed, shoved, pulled hair, hit with a fist, kicked, dragged, beaten up, choked or burnt

- **Sexual IPV:**
  - Being forced to have sex or forced to do a sexual act they found degrading or humiliating

- **Controlling behaviour:**
  - Keeping partner from seeing friends; restricting contact with family; insisting on knowing where the partner is at all times; controlling their access to health care.

- **Psychological abuse:**
  - Insulted, made feel bad about themselves, humiliated in front of others, scared or intimidated, threatened to harm

- **Economic abuse:**
  - Involve behaviours that control partner’s ability to acquire, and maintain economic resources, thus threatening their economic security and potential for self-sufficiency
Risk of IPV experience by single or multiple disability

Adjusted Odds Ratio

Adjusted for gender, age, food security, and education
Association between type of disability and type of IPV experience

Adjusted for gender, age, food security, and education
Summary

• Overall, people with disabilities were
  – 1.5-2 times more likely to experience IPV compared with those who were not disabled

• People with a psychological disability (impairment in communication and socialising) were
  – At greater risk of experiencing sexual violence (AOR 1.9), physical (AOR 2.5), and psychological abuse (AOR 3.1).

• Having multiple disabilities did not significantly increase the risk of IPV, compared to those with a single disability
Implications

• **IPV prevention programs** need to be developed that are accessible and appropriate for people with physical, intellectual and social disabilities

• **IPV response systems** in the health, justice, and shelter and support services need to be equipped to respond appropriately to those with a disability
Acknowledgements

• To the study participants
• The study interviewers

• Dr Pauline Gulliver
• The project team, Patricia Meagher-Lundberg & Debbie Waayer

The funder: New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment