Prevalence and patterns of men’s perpetration of intimate partner violence, gender attitudes and related factors in an informal settlement near Johannesburg

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SVRI
Background

• Globally about a third of women experience IPV globally (WHO, 2013)
  • Leads to major health, social consequences & has high economic costs
• Rates of Intimate partner violence (IPV) in South Africa are high
  • Lifetime prevalence among women (18-49 years): 28-55.5% (Jewkes et al. 2001; Dunkle et al. 2004; Machisa et al. 2011)

• Population-based studies have estimated prevalence of men’s use of physical and/or sexual violence against a partner at 27.5 - 42% (Jewkes et al. 2015; Abrahams et al. 2005)
Harmful masculinity norms & perpetration of IPV

- Dominant masculinity norms (e.g. toughness, virility, power) are a key underlying factors (Fulu et al. 2013)
- Heterosexual performance is linked to men’s control over women which can lead to physical and/or sexual violence (Jewkes et al. 2011)
- Inequitable gender beliefs & attitudes condoning gender-based violence are characteristics of dominant masculinity norms
Context: peri-urban & informal settlement

- Characterized by high mobility, food insecurity and high levels of crime, may result in different prevalence and patterns of IPV perpetration
Aim

- We investigated the prevalence, patterns of the use of intimate partner violence, gender attitudes and associated factors among a cohort of men enrolled in the Sonke CHANGE trial, in an informal settlement north of Johannesburg.
Methodology

- Data were collected for the baseline of a cluster randomised controlled trial, evaluating the effectiveness of the Sonke Intervention in reducing men’s use of violence against women
- 2603 men aged between 18 and 40 years volunteered to participate in the study
- Questionnaires administered using audio-computer-assisted software on tablets in 4 languages
- Questionnaire covered self-reported socio-demographics, gender beliefs (using the gender-equitable men’s (GEM) score), lifetime and current use of IPV & severity of IPV
Statistical analysis

- Logistic regression models
  - **Dependent variable**: lifetime physical and/or sexual IPV
  - **Focal independent variable**: Gender equitable beliefs (score categorised into: inequitable, less equitable and equitable)
  - **Covariates**: Child abuse, socio demographic characteristics
- Multinomial regression
  - **Outcome**: No IPV, single, multiple episodes of IPV use
  - **Focal independent variable**: gender equitable beliefs
  - Controlled for socio-demographic characteristics
Results

2603 men

Age Median: 27 years
IQR: 23-32

Socio-economics

Median monthly income
R 500

49.7%
Employed in past 3 months

38.6% matric
Results

Housing & Migration

38.5% House
45.8% Shack
15.7% Single room

Household Size
3 people
IQR: 2-5

86.3% South African
32.3% from Gauteng

Time Living in Diepsloot
Median: 7 years
IQR: 4-12
Perpetration of sexual and/or physical IPV

- 51.4% reported lifetime use of IPV
- 42.5% reported past-year
- 10.2% used IPV once only
- 31.7% reported multiple episodes

62.8% ever used emotional / financial IPV against a partner
Gender equitable beliefs

- **Examples of items:**
  - A woman’s most important role is to take care of her home and cook for her family
  - There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten
  - A man should have a final word about decisions in his home.

- **Score:**
  - **Min:** 11
  - **Max:** 44
  - **Mean:** 23
  - **IQR:** 18-27

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEM beliefs</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inequitable</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>30.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less equitable</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More equitable</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>36.1</td>
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</table>
Factors associated with lifetime perpetration of IPV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>aOR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender beliefs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Equitable</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Less equitable</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Inequitable</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child abuse</strong></td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matric</strong></td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing type</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Own house</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Own shack</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rented shack</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rented room</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employed past 3 months</strong></td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Living with partner</strong></td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Relationship between gender beliefs & one / multiple episodes of IPV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender beliefs</th>
<th>One IPV episode Adjusted RRR (95% CI)</th>
<th>More than once Adjusted RRR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Equitable</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Less equitable</td>
<td>1.00 (0.71-1.40)</td>
<td>1.59 (1.25-2.02)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Inequitable</td>
<td>1.10 (0.79-1.54)</td>
<td>1.77 (1.40-2.23)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse</td>
<td>2.67 (1.72-4.16)*</td>
<td>5.90 (4.01-8.50)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.97 (0.94-0.99)*</td>
<td>0.96 (0.94-0.98)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matric</td>
<td>0.96 (0.73-1.27)</td>
<td>0.68 (0.56-0.82)**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Conclusion

• Rates of lifetime & past year perpetration of IPV are high
• Inequitable gender attitudes are associated with lifetime use of IPV & with perpetrating multiple episodes
• Experiencing child abuse is an important risk factor for perpetrating IPV
• Men living in peri-urban & informal settlements may be at higher risk (overall prevalence is higher than the country overall)
Recommendations

- Interventions need to integrate gender transformation that shifts beliefs & norms
  - Beginning with young children throughout the lifespan
- Example of intervention addressing adults is Sonke Gender Justice intervention using community mobilisation and advocacy
  - Need to evaluate the effectiveness (currently underway)
- Parenting interventions are key to preventing childhood trauma
Acknowledgements

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