Has Physical Intimate Partner Violence Reduced Over Time in Bangladesh?

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**Background**

- VAW - a serious public health, human rights and developmental issue worldwide

- IPV - the most common type of VAW ranging from 16-66% world-wide (Devries et al., 2013)

- IPV in South Asian countries - as high as 42% (Devries et al., 2013)

- Physical and/or sexual IPV Bangladesh – 54% (BBS, 2016)
Background...


- **Government** multi-sectoral program provides services to survivors

- **NGO** programs deal with both prevention and response
Change in key indicators in Bangladesh

- Female literacy
- Male literacy
- Poverty*


Source: Population and housing census; BIHES
Trend of IPV prevalence in Bangladesh
Objective

To assess trend in prevalence of physical IPV against women between 2007 and 2015.
Methodology

Secondary analysis of the published results from two nationally representative surveys:

[Image of survey publications]
## Comparison of two surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BDHS 2007</th>
<th>NVAWS 2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of survey</strong></td>
<td>Includes VAW as a part of DHS</td>
<td>Fully dedicated VAW survey</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Representativeness</strong></td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Age range</strong></td>
<td>15-49 y</td>
<td>15 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample size (female)</strong></td>
<td>10,996</td>
<td>22,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of ever married women</strong></td>
<td>4,467</td>
<td>19,987</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Analysis

Z-test was performed to test the difference in the rates of lifetimes and current physical violence between these two time points.
Trend in physical IPV during over time

- Lifetime: 49% in 2007, 50% in 2015
- During last 12 months: 17% in 2007, 21% in 2015

The difference is significant with $P < 0.001$. There is no significant difference in lifetime prevalence with $p = 0.276$. 
Discussion

• Prevalence of lifetime physical IPV has undergone any changes over the reference period

• Prevalence of this IPV during the last 12 months has slightly increased over this period

• Despite enormous effort from GOs, NGOs, donors and activists it seems that there is no good news for us in reducing physical IPV
Possible explanations

• The programmes are may not be effective much

• Laws are not being implemented properly, which could reduce IPV

• Some other factors may be contributing to escalation of IPV
Recommendations

• This demands further research into the causes of escalation of IPV

• More research is needed for identifying effective interventions

• Evidence-based Interventions need to be designed and implemented

• Proper implementation of law
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