Sexual and Physical Intimate Partner violence perpetration: Findings from a baseline survey of men in 4 Districts in Ghana

Esnat Chirwa¹, Yandisa Sikweyiya¹, Adolphina Addoley Addo-Lartey², Deda Ogum Alangea², Dorcas Coker-Appiah³, Richard M. K. Adanu², Rachel Jewkes¹

¹Gender and Health Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council
²School of Public Health, University of Ghana,
³Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre, Ghana
**Background**

**Prevalence of IPV in Ghana**

**Ghana DHS (2008)**
- 2 in 5 women experienced IPV in their lifetime.
- 1 in 5 had experienced physical IPV in their lifetime.
- **1 in 5** experienced sexual or physical IPV in past year.

**UN Women study**
- **1 in 5** women experienced sexual or physical IPV in past year.

**The C-RCT setting**

- **Design:** An unmatched C-RCT with two arms (intervention vs Control).
- **Participants** (Men and Women)
- **Setting:** 4 districts in central Ghana (2 coastal & 2 inland)

- **Assessments:** 2 cross-sectional community surveys (baseline and 24 months)
BASELINE Survey (MEN)

Sampling

• Multistage random cluster sampling: - Within each district:
  Communities → Enumeration areas → Household
• Total of 10 communities in each district (Avg. of 82 households per community)
• Eligibility: Adult male (≥ 18 years) living in household & must have lived in community ≥ 12 months.
• Used questionnaires on PDA for data collection & total of 2126 men interviewed.

AIMS of the baseline survey:

Main aim: Assess levels of sexual and/or physical IPV perpetration amongst men.
Secondary objectives:
• Assess levels of other forms of violence perpetrated against partner and non-partners.
• Understand risk factors for IPV perpetration amongst men in the communities.
### Baseline measures

**Primary outcome:**
ssexual and/or physical intimate partner violence in past year.

**Potential risk/protective factors:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SES</th>
<th>Childhood victimisation history</th>
<th>Gender attitudes &amp; relationship</th>
<th>Risky sexual behavior</th>
<th>Mental Health &amp; substance use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Witness abuse of mother</td>
<td>Individual attitudes</td>
<td>Multiple sexual partners</td>
<td>Depression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Experienced physical abuse</td>
<td>Perceived community attitudes</td>
<td></td>
<td>PTSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household food insecurity</td>
<td>Experienced sexual abuse</td>
<td>Attitudes towards VAW</td>
<td>Involvement in transactional sex</td>
<td>Experienced/witnessed traumatic events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner employment</td>
<td>Experienced neglect</td>
<td>Controlling behavior</td>
<td></td>
<td>substance use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Earning disparity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Socio-demographic characteristic of sample

- 1 in 5 men have no formal education.
- 2 in 5 men came from HH with severe food insecurity.
- A quarter not married but in relationship.
- 2 in 5 men own land.
- 1 in 7 men had been unemployed in 12 months preceding survey.
- 1973 men in relationship in past 12 months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTERISTIC</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>sd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean)</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Sec.</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Sec. or above</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Marital Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>1271</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>separated/divorced</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not married</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Food insecurity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mildly/Moderately insecure</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severely insecure</td>
<td>858</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed in past year</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land ownership</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FINDINGS

1: IPV perpetration prevalence.

Past year IPV perpetration

- None: 5.7%
- Emotional/economic IPV only: 6.2%
- Sexual IPV only*: 10.9%
- Physical IPV only*: 12.4%
- Sexual & Physical IPV*: 64.8%

Lifetime IPV perpetration

- None: 15.0%
- Emotional/economic IPV only: 13.0%
- Sexual IPV only*: 10.9%
- Physical IPV only*: 48.4%

*with/without emotional/economic IPV
## Findings

### 2: Co-occurrence of violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual and/or Physical IPV</th>
<th>Emotional IPV perpetration</th>
<th>Non-partner sexual violence perpetration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-perpetrators (n=1523)</strong></td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perpetrators (n=450)</strong></td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men who had perpetrated emotional IPV ...

... are 9 times more likely to perpetrate sexual and/or physical IPV

Men who had perpetrated Non-partner sexual violence ...

... are 11 times more likely to perpetrate sexual and/or physical IPV
3: Risk factors for past year sexual or physical IPV perpetration (bivariate analysis).
Key findings

3:- Most significant factors associated with past year sexual or physical IPV perpetration (multivariate analysis)

- SES factors
  - Partner unemployment

- Victimization history
  - Witnessing abuse of mother
  - Sexual abuse
  - Neglect

- Gender attitudes and relationships
  - Individual gender inequitable attitudes

- Risky sexual behavior
  - Multiple sexual partners
  - Involvement in transactional sex

- Mental health & substance use
  - Substance use
  - Witnessing/experiencing traumatic events
Recommendations

• There is a need to address parenting issues relating to child abuse and neglect through effective programs & law enforcement in order to break the cycle of violence in families.

• The findings highlighted the need for interventions to address gender-inequitable social norms and gender-inequitable constructions of masculinity (which is one of the objectives of the C-RCT currently in progress).

• Women empowerment through livelihood strengthening.