



Title: Scoping Study on Intimate Partner Violence in Hong Kong

Team: Angus Leung, Nicole Wing Lam Hon, Audrey Cheuk Ying Chung, Chantal Cheung, Christy Flora Au, Yvonne Qian

Abstract:

Despite being internationally acknowledged as a major public health concern, intimate partner violence (IPV) has received far too little attention in Hong Kong. The present scoping study aims to tackle this issue by providing an extensive, and comprehensive summary of the current landscape of IPV in domestic academia.

PubMed, Web Of Science, SCOPUS, and PsychInfo were searched to identify eligible papers in the English language on IPV in Hong Kong. A mixed methods approach was taken to synthesise results. Quantitative data was analysed to determine what empirical evidence exists regarding types of IPV studied, prevalence rates of IPV, and the adverse consequences of these acts of violence. Using a narrative synthesis approach, qualitative data was examined with themes identified inductively.

Of the 126 records screened, 80 local-based academic texts were selected for further analyses. Of those studies, 73 utilised retrospective data methodologies, with the remaining 7 utilising prospective data. While the primary aim of each paper differed, they all focussed on different aspects of IPV among individuals above the statutory age of consent, including: sexual abuse (47 studies), physical abuse (58 studies), verbal and/or psychological abuse (46 studies), financial abuse (7 studies), and 'secondary victimisation' (10 studies), which refers to trauma resulting from reliving memories during post-IPV investigations. From the 60,132 total participants included, 18,432 respondents reported being affected by intimate partner violence. Our analysis revealed that females are disproportionately represented in prevalence statistics of IPV. Additionally, 15 studies included measures on the perpetrators of IPV, but only 2 directly investigated male IPV perpetrator samples. Four main recurring and dominant themes were recognised: (a) IPV as a cultural issue; (b) widespread under-reporting of IPV; (c) the need for cultural sensitivity for IPV survivors in healthcare interventions; and (d) the role of professional, policy, and social support for IPV survivors.

Our findings highlight a lack of research in (1) intimate-partner financial abuse; (2) vulnerable identity groups; and (3) secondary victimisation in IPV survivors. We propose that future research should be conducted into these underexplored aspects of IPV in order to improve health care provisions to survivors in Hong Kong.