

Forensic Assessment of Intimate Partner Violence Against Men

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ABSTRACT

- ❖ The four types of IPV include physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression (CDC, 2017). Most research on IPV has been centered on women as the victims and men as the perpetrators (Kimberg, 2008). Less is known about IPV with men as the victims and women as the aggressors (Corbally, 2015).

PREVALENCE OF IPV

- ❖ Intimate partner violence (IPV) affects millions of people in the United States each year.
- ❖ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (2017), 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have reported experiencing severe physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- ❖ Thornton, Graham-Kevan, & Archer (2016) found a gender difference in risk factors for IPV. For men, poor self control is a better predictor of IPV and anger is a better predictor of IPV for women, suggesting that IPV has different causes for male and female perpetrators.

CONSEQUENCES OF IPV

- ❖ There are multiple negative outcomes associated with IPV such as cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, reproductive, musculoskeletal, and nervous system conditions, as well as psychological disorders (CDC, 2017). Victims are also at a high risk for engaging in health risk behaviors such as smoking and binge drinking.

RELEVANT RESEARCH

- ❖ Masculinity has a dominant role in how a man perceives himself and the situations in which he is involved (Thornton, Graham-Kevan, & Archer, 2016). Some men are reluctant to view themselves as the victim of a situation even when they know or feel they are victims and as a result IPV can be underreported by men.
- ❖ A man who engages in self-defense from a female partner who is abusive is likely to be stigmatized as an aggressor and this appears to have a role in female-perpetrated abuse strategies (Thornton, Graham-Kevan, & Archer, 2016). IPV victims are afraid of being stigmatized.

RELEVANT RESEARCH

- ❖ Stigmas are often associated with negative outcomes such as interpersonal relationship failures; lower income levels; psychological problems; diminished housing options, medical access, quality of care; and physical health which inadvertently effect levels of self-perceived masculinity (Eckstein, 2016).
- ❖ As a result of changes in perceived masculinity and because men are viewed as atypical victims, men may struggle when faced with IPV.
- ❖ Although each year at least 3.2 million physical attacks from female partners are reported by men (Eckstein, 2016), men may feel they do not need help with their relationship and that if police intervene they will have a biased view of the situation due to the gender of the IPV victim (Morgan & Wells, 2016).
- ❖ IPV is often divided into two categories: situational couple violence and intimate terrorism. This typology minimizes the likelihood of males being victims of IPV (Hines, Brown, & Dunning, 2007).

RELEVANT RESEARCH

- ❖ Researchers also discovered that although men commit more acts of general violence and nonviolent offenses, women perpetrate significantly more IPV acts than men (Thornton, Graham-Kevan, & Archer, 2016).

CONCLUSION

- ❖ Forensic psychologists may be asked to perform psychological assessments for child custody cases that involve allegations of IPV and for IPV criminal cases.
- ❖ Psychologists who participate in these cases should be aware of the research on men as victims of IPV. In addition, psychologists should also be aware of possible biases against male IPV victims in the legal setting.
- ❖ It is essential that psychologists approach each assessment of IPV with an unbiased approach and relevant research results.

