

980 IMPROVING CARE FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN RESOURCE-POOR SETTINGS SUCH AS LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

¹Michael Schober, ²Robert Mtonga, ³Maria Valenti, ¹Stephanie Hametner. ¹International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War–Austria (IPPNW Österreich), Linz, Austria; ²Zambian Healthworkers for Social Responsibility, Lusaka, Zambia; ³International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Somerville, Massachusetts, USA

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Background Violence is a leading worldwide public health problem and obstructs achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. 90% of the global burden of violence and injury mortality occurs in low-income and middle-income countries. 35% of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. In Zambia, gender-based violence against women and girls is widespread, with >50% of women reporting some form of abuse.

Methods Health professionals from Zambia and Austria conducted a low-cost intervention in Lusaka, Zambia, intended to improve care outcomes for victims of interpersonal violence (IPEV). It was designed to build on existing health and social services infrastructures. During 1 year, 174 victims of IPEV seen at the Lusaka University Hospital emergency room were interviewed. An intervention included training for medical and social service personnel and distribution at key locations of printed materials on services available to IPEV victims.

Results Postintervention data analysis revealed that victims of IPEV had improved understanding of available social services, and victims' confidence was increased about receiving additional help and articulating health concerns. Other benefits: improved visibility, networking among partner organisations; new descriptive data about IPEV victims; improved cross-cultural understanding among medical participants.

Conclusions Low-cost interventions may improve care for victims of violence in resource-poor settings. Improved cooperation among social service and medical providers may improve care for victims of IPEV and also benefit agencies through strengthened relationships and flow of information. North–South cooperation should be encouraged at the institutional level. Profiles of victims contribute to global data on violence. Recommendation: low-cost interventions should continue to be explored to improve care for victims of IPEV in resource-poor settings.

981 THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ABUSE ON WIVES AND PARTNERS: SOME CASE STUDIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Sophia Francesca DP Lu. College of Arts and Sciences, University of the Philippines Manila, Philippines

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Background This study looked into the psychological effects of abuse and battering on wives/partners. In the Philippines, the most prevalent form of violence against women is physical abuse or wife/partner battering based on the records of the Philippine National Police. Cases of wife battering register high, though it decreased from 3,184 in 2000 to 1,475 cases in 2007 (latest data) according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. This can be attributed to the enactment of Republic Act 9262 (Anti-Violence against Women and Children Act of 2004).

Methods The methods used were: 1) structured interview of psychologists; 2) secondary data gathering, such as analysis of case studies culled from records of the Philippine General

Hospital—the largest tertiary hospital in the entire Philippines; and 3) interviews of psychiatrists in the hospital where the cases used in this study were treated.

Results Wife battering refers to violent acts, such as psychological, sexual or physical assault, by an assailant against his wife or partner made with the intent of controlling the partner by inducing fear and pain. One patient in this study (Case A) showed that she was stabbed twelve times by her live-in 'matador' partner who works in a slaughter house. Case B was about a partner who was forced to do abnormal sexual favours for her husband. For Case C, the husband raped their daughter. All three cases manifested depression in various forms with varying symptoms. Case A manifested symptoms of depression, fear, and panic of being attacked again by the assailant. Case B and Case C were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Conclusions Violence in household leads to psycho-social effects on victims. Therefore, appropriate counselling and treatment must be readily made available. There must also be legal remedies and security interventions offered by concerned government agencies to address the issues of wife/partner battering in the Philippines.

982 POLICE PERCEPTION AND INTERVENTION IN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SITUATIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

¹Carmen Gill, ²Mary Ann Campbell, ³Dale Ballucci. ¹University of New Brunswick, Canada; ²University of New Brunswick, Canada; ³University of Western Ontario, Canada

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Background In December 2012, the province of New Brunswick in Canada released its crime prevention and reduction strategy. A priority area within this strategy is intimate partner violence (IPV). Part of this strategy is to propose an appropriate intervention shared by all police forces (municipal and federal) in the province. In the past three years, police agencies have started implementing their own strategies. In 2013, our research team started a study on various forms of police intervention, how they make a difference in preventing and reducing IPV crimes, and the degree to which such formalised strategies actually inform day-to-day police-response to IPV. The research itself involves a close collaboration with police agencies in New Brunswick.

Methods In 2014, we conducted an on-line survey with police agencies to measure the attitudes and perceptions New Brunswick police officers have with regards to IPV issues. The survey questionnaire was comprised of over 166 questions, including how police officers are perceiving and defining the issue of intimate partner violence. In 2015, a second phase of the research was to review actual police files to capture their actual response to IPV cases in their communities. A sample of 300 closed domestic dispute files from 2014 and 2015 were randomly selected from police files from three different police agencies in New Brunswick.

Results In our study we found three main definitions of IPV used by police officers: the factual forms of violence referring to physical, psychological and verbal, the legal definition related to criminal offences and a social definition reflecting the complexity of the issue such as control, pattern and reciprocity. Research has shown that police officers are responding according to their understanding of the issue. Our study illustrates how the actual intervention to domestic dispute calls is directly impacted by their understanding of the issue.