Correlates of Intimate Partner Violence among HIV–positive Women in South–West Nigeria.

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The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.
The prevalence of domestic violence among Nigerian women increased from 21% in 2011 to 30% in 2013, with an estimated two-thirds of these women experiencing violence from a male intimate partner.

Previous studies have found a correlation between HIV–positive status and domestic violence in Nigerian women.

In this study, we aimed to identify different forms of, and factors associated with intimate partner violence (IPV) among women living with HIV in South–Western Nigeria.
Location of Study: Ibadan, SW Nigeria
Methods

- We conducted a cross-sectional survey at a tertiary health facility with more than 1,500 women living with HIV.
- The research team, including a facility-based counsellor, used a structured questionnaire to collect socio-demographic and intimate relationship data from participants.
- Information on disclosure rate, and IPV before and after women disclosed their HIV status to partners was collected.
Methods II

- IPV forms were categorised as physical, sexual, and psychological according to WHO Domestic Violence definitions.
- Characteristics of respondents who reported IPV were compared with those women who did not.
- Chi-squared tests and multivariate logistic regression were used to analyse factors that were independently associated with IPV.
Findings I: Pre–Disclosure Data

- Between May 1–30, 2013, we interviewed 328 women, representing about 22% of HIV-positive women attending the facility.
- Mean age was 33.1 years (SD 0.73).
- Most women (226/328, 69.5%) knew their current partner’s HIV status for the previous 12 months.
- About a third (106/328, 32.6%) had an HIV-positive partner, and 120/328 (36.9%) had a partner who was HIV-negative.
Findings I: Pre-Disclosure Data

- Over a third of women (115/328, 35.1%) had experienced any form of IPV.

- Psychological violence was the most common type of violence (62/115, 53.9%) reported, followed by physical violence (40/115, 34.8%) and sexual violence (39/115, 33.9%).
Findings II: Disclosure and Post-Disclosure Data

- There was a 62.8% (206/328) HIV disclosure rate to partners.
- Of these 206 disclosing women, 79 (38.3%) reported experiencing pre-disclosure IPV;
  - 62 (78.5%) reported psychological violence;
  - 40 (50.6%) experienced physical violence, and
  - 39 (49.4%) sexual violence.
By contrast, 115/206 disclosing women (55.8%) experienced IPV post-disclosure (p=0.0004 compared with pre-disclosure IPV of 38.3%)

Almost all women (113/115, 98.3%) reported psychological violence post-disclosure;

Over half (58/115, 50.4%) reported physical violence;

71/115 (61.7%) reported sexual violence.
## Pre– and Post–Disclosure IPV among Disclosing HIV+ Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables (Total N=328)</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disclosure of HIV status to Partner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>206 (62.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>122 (37.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV status of Main Partner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>106 (32.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>120 (36.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>102 (30.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-disclosure IPV (79/206, 38.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>40 (50.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence</td>
<td>39 (49.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological violence</td>
<td>62 (78.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-disclosure IPV (115/206, 55.8%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual</td>
<td>71 (61.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological</td>
<td>113 (98.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Findings III: Correlates of IPV

- Correlates of post-disclosure IPV were:
  - HIV-positive partner \( p<0.0001 \),
  - Partner age \( \geq 40 \) years \( p<0.0001 \),
  - Relatively low partner education (none or primary level only) \( p=0.004 \),
  - Any alcohol intake by partner \( p=0.001 \)
  - Cohabitation \( p=0.002 \) and marriage \( p=0.03 \)
  - Having more than one sexual partner (for male partner \( p=0.02 \), for respondent \( p<0.0001 \)).
HIV–status disclosure increases the risk of IPV in women living with HIV.

Post–disclosure IPV rate was significantly higher than for pre–disclosure, and was greater than the national domestic violence rate in Nigeria.

Post–disclosure IPV rate strongly correlated with HIV–positive status of the male partner, and multiplicity of sexual partners.

The HIV disclosure–IPV risk might predispose partnered women to non–disclosure, which in turn could decrease uptake or access to care, and increase rates of HIV transmission to partners and children from future pregnancies.
Conclusions and Recommendations

- Fear of IPV and nondisclosure may have dire consequences for positive living among women, for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and for HIV control in general.
- We recommend awareness creation and strengthening of general community-wide IPV education and sensitization with a special focus on HIV-positive male partners in high-burden areas.
- Couples’ HIV testing and counselling should also be encouraged to minimise harm to women living with HIV as well as provide neutral ground/an outlet for men to discuss the couples’ HIV status.
References


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Thank you for your attention!

Daalu!

Ese gan!

Mungode!