

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND HIV

MODERATOR: DIANE TURNER, RN, MS, WHNP-BC

Introduction

According to Healthy People 2020, “Social determinants of health reflect social factors and the physical conditions in the environment in which people are born, live, learn, play, work, and age.” Exposure to violence can impact a wide range of health, functioning and quality of life outcomes. ¹

Problem

Intimate partner violence (IPV) and HIV/AIDS are two significant public health problems that intersect and increase the burden of disease. The links between IPV and HIV/AIDS include biological, socio-cultural, and economic factors. Recent studies have linked IPV with sexual risk behaviors including limited ability to negotiate safer sex practices, which may lead to lower rates of condom use, disclosure of HIV status, early sexual initiation, and commercial sex work. ^{2,3,6}

Victims of IPV have increased rates of depression, smoking, substance abuse, HIV risk behaviors, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unplanned pregnancies, and self-reported poor health. It is important to note that increase in STIs often accompanies abuse and facilitates HIV transmission. ^{2,3,5}

IPV includes physical violence (slaps, kicks, punches, assaults with a weapon, homicide), sexual violence (rape, coercion, verbal threats, physical force, harassment, forced participation in pornography), and psychological violence (belittling, intimidation, withholding resources, preventing employment or confiscating earnings). ² IPV can occur within opposite-sex or same-sex couples. Although most global studies of IPV have focused on violence against women, IPV is also a significant men’s issue. Men are less likely to report IPV. ⁴

Some research estimates that 25% of women and 7.6% of men experience IPV in their lifetimes. ⁵ A recent national study stated that 12% of HIV/AIDS infections among women are related to IPV. ⁷

The Intersection of IPV and HIV/AIDS ²

1. Direct transmission through sexual violence
 - Forced or coercive sex with an HIV+ partner
 - Risk of transmission increased due to trauma (vaginal and anal lacerations and abrasions)
2. Indirect transmission through sexual risk taking
 - Multiple partners, engaging in transactional sex
 - History of childhood sexual abuse
3. Indirect transmission through inability to negotiate condom use
4. Indirect transmission by partnering with riskier/older men
 - Higher prevalence of HIV in older men (Adolescent females and males)

5. Violence as a consequence of HIV+ status
Fear of HIV testing, information, treatment, and disclosure of HIV status

Addressing IPV in HIV/AIDS Programming ²

1. Behavior change communication strategies
Creating public awareness
Challenging individual beliefs and attitudes towards IPV
2. Role of health services in addressing violence toward women and men
Screening for IPV
3. Programs targeting gender attitudes and norms
Masculinity and femininity
Men's use of violence to discipline women
Male dominance
4. Public awareness
Mass media and public education campaigns
5. Economic empowerment
Household poverty
Women's access to resources, opportunities, and choices
6. Strengthening laws and policies
International laws and policies
Legislation (Domestic violence laws)

Implications for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, and/or Care Services ¹¹

Health professionals and policy makers need to be aware of the linkage of HIV/AIDS and IPV
Understanding the intersection of HIV/AIDS and IPV can influence HIV prevention strategies and possibly decrease the number of HIV infections
Women and men who test positive for HIV should be screened for IPV and receive necessary counseling and treatment

References:

1. Healthy People 2020. Retrieved January 16, 2014, from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/about/DOHAbout.aspx>
2. World Health Organization. Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS: Critical Intersections. Intimate Partner Violence and HIV/AIDS. Information Bulletin Series Number 1.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Grand Rounds: A Public Health Approach to

Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence. Retrieved January 30,2014 from
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mmm630a4.htm>

4. Kennard J. Intimate violence against men. About.com Men's Health. Retrieved January 30, 2014 from
http://menshealth.about.com/od/relationships/a/Battered_Menhtm
5. Schafer, K., Brant, J., Shruti, G., et all. Intimate partner violence: a predictor of worse HIV outcomes and engagement in care. Retrieved January 30, 2014 from
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3366337>
6. Kouyoumdjian, F., Calzavara, L., Bondy, S., et al. Intimate partner violence is associated with incident HIV infection in women in Uganda. Retrieved January 30, 2014 from
http://journals.lww.com/aidsonline/Fulltext/2013/05150/Intimate_partner_violence_is_ass...
7. Study links intimate partner violence and risk of HIV. Retrieved January 30,2014 from
<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-01-links-intimate-partner-violence-hiv.html>
8. Campbell, J., Baty, M., Ghandour, R., et al. The intersection of intimate partner violence against women and HIV/AIDS: a review. Retrieved February 20, 2014 from
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3274697/>
9. Ramachandran, S., Yonas, M., Silvestre, A., et al. Intimate partner violence and HIV positive persons in an urban clinic. Retrieved January 30, 2014 from
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3005966/>
10. Partnership to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence and HIV. HIV/AIDS and intimate partner violence. Retrieved January 30, 2014 from
<http://www.ipvandhiv.citymaker.com/page/page/4563365.htm>
11. Kotze' M. Intimate partner violence and its links to HIV/AIDS 3/10. Retrieved February 20, 2014 from
<http://www.cabsa.org.za/content/intimate-partner-violence-and-its-links-hivaid-310>
12. Womenshealth.gov. Violence against women. Retrieved January 30, 2014 from
<http://www.womenshealth.gov/violence-against-women/types-of-violence/domestic-intima...>

