

Social Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration: A Qualitative Study of Urban Men

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Presentation Overview

1. Review background on intimate partner violence perpetration
2. Provide an overview of our methodology, including recruitment, and retention strategies
3. Share preliminary qualitative results
4. Discuss potential implications and areas for strengthening and building

Background: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- More than 1/3 (35.6%) of U.S. women have experienced some form of IPV in her lifetime
 - Physical violence (32.9%)
 - Stalking (10.7%)
 - Rape (9.4%)
- IPV is associated with:
 - HIV acquisition
 - Toxic stress and impaired immunity
 - Depression
 - Unwanted pregnancy

(CDC, 2010; Garcia-Linares et al, 2004; Campbell, 2002)

Background: IPV perpetration

- Male perpetration of IPV is influenced by a number of socio-ecological factors:
 - Social acceptance of IPV
 - Participation in street violence
 - Witnessing violence during childhood
 - Substance abuse, poor mental health, participation in risky behavior



(Decker, 2009; Fleming, 2015; Okuda, 2015; Reed et al., 2009; Raj et al., 2006; Singh, 2014)

Policies and Programs: Abuse Intervention Programs (AIP)

- Batterer Intervention Programs/Abuse Intervention Programs are part of the American criminal justice response
- AIPs have been adopted in national policies and are the “batterer” treatment standard for most states
 - Over 2,500 programs exist today
- Programs are generally court-mandated and are aimed to rehabilitate participants, reduce recidivism, and shift attitudes and behaviors
- Predominant model is the Duluth model (Minnesota)

Bennett & Williams, 2001; Eckhardt et al., 2013; Messing, Ward-Lasher, Thaller & Bagwell-Gray, 2015

Methods: Recruitment and Community Partnership

- We recruited participants using a participatory approach by partnering with a local domestic violence agency.
 - Viable strategy to engage hard-to-reach survivors of violence and perpetrators of violence across settings
- Nineteen in-depth interviews conducted in Baltimore, Maryland in 2016-2017
 - All participants were men over 18 years of age who were enrolled in an Abuse Intervention Program at the time of the interview.

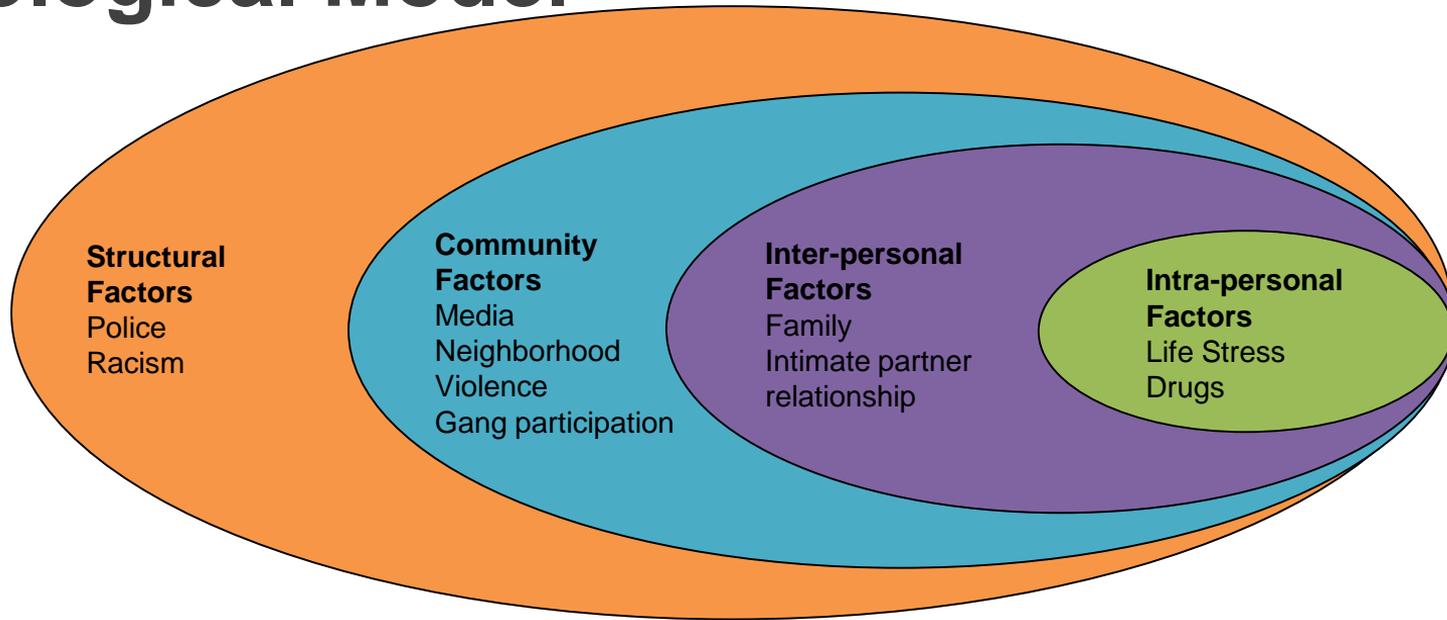


**House of Ruth
Maryland**

Results

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of men who participated in qualitative interviews (n = 19)	% (n)
Age	
20–29	63 (12)
30–39	16 (3)
40–49	21 (4)
Race	
Black	89 (17)
Other	11 (2)
Individual income	
Less than \$10,000	37 (7)
\$10,000–\$29,999	53 (10)
\$30,000–\$49,999	5 (1)
\$50,000 or more	5 (1)
Employment	
Student	5 (1)
Employed	63 (12)
Unemployed/disabled	32 (6)
Education	
Some high school	26 (5)
High school graduate	58 (11)
At least some college	16 (3)
Relationship status	
Single	47 (9)
Married	5 (1)
Serious relationship (not married)	42 (8)
Dating more than one person	5 (1)

Themes on Male Partner Violence Perpetration in Relation to the Socio-Ecological Model



Structural Influences of IPV Perpetration

“Racism can stop you from getting a job because of the color of your skin, making you feel like you have to conform or be somebody [...].You have an identity crisis, so yeah, that shit can [impact an intimate relationship] ... when you're excluded because of your race or religion or your sexual preference, that shit can have a f*ckin' effect. **It [racism] builds animosity, it can make you angry, it can make you more aggressive, or it can have the opposite effect. It can make you feel lack of confidence, it can make you feel uneasy.** “

- Participant 11, African American, 43-years-old

Structural

Structural Influences of IPV Perpetration

“[Racism] Probably in the same fashion as the police brutality trickles down. Maybe the man or the woman could be going through a situation at their job, or just in society period.”

- Participant 18, African American, 25-years-old

Structural

Structural Influences of IPV Perpetration

“I think, in **poor communities in this city**, let’s just face it, there's a lot of mental illness in this city. I mean, the **education system** is just f*cked up. People are not learning a lot of the things you need to learn to really be a functioning member of society. We're not learning how to communicate with each other, were not learning how to communicate with women, were not learning these things. You add the **drug use** and all the other things that go on in the community and it creates mental illness.”

- Participant 11, African American, 43-years-old

Structural

Community Influences of IPV Perpetration

“Everywhere I go, I just seen negative stuff, whether it was with me or not about me. **I just grew up prepared for it. I said I was always fighting coming up in school. I was already ready for anything, ready for...**was just like, it's whatever. It is what it is.”

- Participant 5, African American, 22-years- old

Community

Community Influences of IPV Perpetration

Interviewer: “You kneed her?”

Participant: “I'm so used to being in a lot of fights, so if somebody automatically attack me, no matter who it is, you attack me, if you hit me a certain way, I'm going to retaliate back, because it's going to be my reaction. Yeah, I kneed her, and then I guess that's what made her mad and call the police.”

- Participant 5, African American, 22-years-old

Community

Community Influences of IPV Perpetration

“I think some guys, they don't really talk because they got to have that tough feeling. Because of that, they can't express them self verbally so they have to physically fight it because, I don't know, they got low self-esteem.”

- Participant 9, Pacific Islander, 40-years-old

Community

Family Influences of IPV Perpetration

“I believe that it did. I believe that it did. **A lot of things that I didn't do growing up was because I didn't want to upset my mother. I didn't want to let my mother down.** Just a lot of things were just natural. We weren't taught to disrespect women.”

- Participant 11, African American, 43-years-old

Family

Family Influences of IPV Perpetration

“Fighting, arguing, not understanding each other. I understood all that at a young age. I just never knew it affected me in the way that it affect me to react just the way they reacted, and it's kind of sickening. When I look back at it, I'm like, dang, I wanted all this from all of y'all. **A child, I was like a sponge. They pick up everything, and they do things without even knowing that they doing it. It was sickening.** Seeing a lot of fights, lot of arguments. A lot of craziness.”

- Participant 3, African American, 29-years-old

Family

Intrapersonal Influences of IPV Perpetration

“When I got out, I went to see her, and of course I wanted all my stuff. She had been looking through my phone, and I was cheating on her at the time, so she seen all the messages and everything in my phone, so she was upset about that. **I was upset about life and my things.**”

- Participant 18, African American, 25-years-old

Intrapersonal

Interventions to Prevent Male IPV Perpetration

“A boxing gym. I mean versus you going, staying at home with your wife or girlfriend or whoever you with, your partner, fussing with them and winding up getting into a physical altercation or even close to one. [...] **I would really want to spar with somebody so I know I'm actually getting my stress off on somebody because a punching bag, you ain't really ... They can't feel what you feel.** If you hit a person with a nice jab, they gonna feel what you feeling, like, "Is you mad today?" Yeah, they gonna know you mad.”

- Participant 5, African American, 22-years-old

Prevention

Interventions to Prevent Male IPV Perpetration

I feel as though that it should be for children, because you never know what they going through in their household, what they seeing and everything. That's why I talk to my children when I have them.

- Participant 3, African American, 29-years-old

Prevention

Interventions to Prevent Male IPV Perpetration

It would just be me ... Even with the younger age group and men of my age, just basically giving my experience and you know basically not what my partner did but what I did and what I could've done to prevent it.

- Participant 13, African American, 29-years-old

Prevention

Summary and Study Implications

- Broadly contextualizes social determinants of IPV perpetration from the perspectives of urban men, building on previous findings (Holliday et al., 2018, J Urban Health)
- Men who use IPV can be successfully engaged in research
 - Active recruitment in close collaboration with a community organization can facilitate participation
- Trauma and negative neighborhood characteristics greatly influenced IPV perpetration and should be considered in future interventions that reach men, boys, and their families.
- Findings highlight the need for more community-based prevention strategies
 - Findings from this study have been used to inform the development of a community-centric, co-located services model for abuse intervention in Baltimore, Maryland.
 - Ongoing research by the Baltimore team includes

Questions and comments?

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