



## Comparative Analysis of Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence against Women in Military and Civilian Communities in Abuja, Nigeria

Chimah, C. U., Adogu, P. O. U., Odeyemi, K., & Ilika, A. L. (2015). Comparative analysis of prevalence of intimate partner violence against women in military and civilian communities in Abuja, Nigeria. *International Journal of Women's Health*, 7, 287-295. doi: 10.2147/IJWH.S79176

**SUMMARY:** 238 civilian females living in Nigeria completed scales about intimate partner violence to examine associations between living in a military community and rates of intimate partner violence. The prevalence of intimate partner violence (controlling attitude, physical abuse, and emotional abuse) was higher among females living in military communities than civilian females.

### KEY FINDINGS

- Prevalence of controlling attitudes, physical abuse, and emotional abuse were higher among women in military communities compared to their civilian counterparts.
- 40% of females in military communities and less than 15% of females in civilian communities reported emotional violence.
- 20% of females in military communities and 6% of females in civilian communities reported physical violence.
- Rates of sexual violence tended to be lower: 9% of females in military communities and 8% of females in civilian communities.

### IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMS

Programs could:

- Offer supportive classes for spouses and partners that address risk and protective factors for intimate partner violence as well as community resources
- Provide courses for Service members and Veterans about healthy ways for coping with anger
- Train community providers about warning signs of intimate partner violence and resources for victims

### IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICIES

Policies could:

- Recommend offering professional development to military leaders to educate them about intimate partner violence
- Target funding for programs and services for women at risk for intimate partner violence
- Suggest that programs provide military families with information about referrals and services for victims of intimate partner violence

# Putting Research to Work for Military Families



## METHODS

- Probability sampling was used to recruit females married to males and living with their partner for at least six months.
- Participants completed semi-structured questionnaires administered by interviewers.
- Questionnaires included scales about four different types of intimate partner violence: controlling attitudes, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse.

## PARTICIPANTS

- 238 civilian females participated in the study (130 living in military communities; 108 living in civilian communities).
- Average age 38 years (SD = 11 years) for females in military communities; average age 30 years (SD = 11 years) for females in civilian communities.
- 23% of females in military communities had higher education; 62% of females in civilian communities had higher education.

## LIMITATIONS

- The data were cross-sectional, and causality cannot be inferred.
- The researchers did not control for potential confounding variables, such as attitudes about gender roles, drug and alcohol use, or post-traumatic stress disorder.
- All data were self-report which may introduce biases.

## AVENUES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Future research could collect data about intimate partner violence from both partners in the couple.
- Further research could replicate this study in other countries and cultures.
- Researchers could evaluate interventions designed to prevent or decrease intimate partner violence.

## ASSESSING RESEARCH THAT WORKS



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