

Title:

Connection of Partner Violence and Women's Loss of Fertility Control and Impact on Health

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Session Title:

Evidence-Based Practice Poster Session 3

Slot (superslotted):

EBP PST 3: Sunday, 30 July 2017: 9:45 AM-10:15 AM

Slot (superslotted):

EBP PST 3: Sunday, 30 July 2017: 12:00 PM-1:15 PM

Slot (superslotted):

EBP PST 3: Sunday, 30 July 2017: 2:00 PM-2:30 PM

Keywords:

Fertility Control, Health Outcomes and Intimate Partner Violence

References:

Clark, L. E., Allen, R. H., Goyal, V., Raker, C., & Gottlieb, A. S. (2014). Reproductive coercion and co-occurring intimate partner violence in obstetrics and gynecology patients. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 210(1), 42.e1–42.e8. doi:10.1016/j.ajog.2013.09.019

McFarlane, J., Nava, A., Gilroy, H., Paulson, R., & Maddoux, J. (2012). Testing two global models to prevent violence against women and children: Methods and baseline data analysis of a seven-year prospective study. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 33(12), 871–881. doi:10.3109/01612840.2012.731135

Miller, E., McCauley, H. L., Tancredi, D. J., Decker, M. R., Anderson, H., & Silverman, J. G. (2014). Recent reproductive coercion and unintended pregnancy among female family planning clients. *Contraception*, 89, 122–128. doi:10.1016/j.contraception.2013.10.011

Symes, L., McFarlane, J., Nava, A., Gilroy, H., Maddoux, J. (2013). Association of pain severity and pain interference with abuse experiences and mental health symptoms among 300 mothers: Baseline data analysis for a seven-year prospective study. *Issues Mental Health Nursing* 34:2–16.

Abstract Summary:

Intimate partner violence is a global epidemic and associated with women's denied access to contraception by the abuser and negative fertility outcomes. A questionnaire was developed to assess fertility control among women reporting intimate partner violence.

Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learner will be able to describe the concept of compromised fertility control in the context of partner abuse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of violence against women and health consequences. • Synthesis of evidence for compromised fertility among abused women.
<p>The learner will be able to discuss methods to apply findings to nursing assessment in clinical setting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying risk fertility control behaviors in relation to mental health functioning • Identifying risk fertility control behaviors in relation to pregnancy outcomes.

Abstract Text:

Intimate partner violence (IPV) against women is a serious global health issue. Abused women experience a wide range of adverse health consequences, including physical health concerns, mental health dysfunctions, and adverse reproductive health outcomes. Fertility control is documented in the literature as an important concept connected to partner abuse. However, the assessment of women's fertility control has focused mainly on the controlling behaviors of men.

Informed by a review of the literature, the researchers developed a questionnaire to collect information on fertility control dynamics in an abusive relationship. More specifically, the researchers wanted the questionnaire to assess fertility-controlling behaviors of the abusers, women's responses to the controlling behaviors, and pregnancy outcomes when the fertility control of the women was compromised. The questionnaire was administered in a multi-year prospective study designed to investigate mother and child outcomes when abused mothers seek assistance in the forms of safe shelter or justice services for the first time. The goal of the parent study is to expand the body of evidence regarding the long-term consequences of IPV on women and their children. Data collection began in 2011, and participants have been interviewed at 4-month intervals since the onset of the study. During the 32-month interview, participants responded to a one-time, investigator-developed fertility control questionnaire in addition to the ongoing repeated measures. The parent study is ongoing in a large urban metropolis in the United States with a population exceeding 4 million people.

The researchers examined the interactions among IPV, fertility control, pregnancy outcomes, and mental health. The findings confirm a strong relationship between severity of abuse, mental health functioning, and fertility control in the context of partner violence. The researchers also found that compromised fertility control was associated with the likelihood of miscarriage, premature birth, and abused-induced premature birth. The fertility control questionnaire expands on recent work on reproductive coercion by other scholars. The findings also indicate that it is important for clinicians to assess abused women about their fertility control.