

INTRODUCTION

Suicides remain a leading cause of death in the United States. Intimate partner violence (IPV) has been demonstrated to be a risk factor for suicides and self-inflicted injuries. In fact, about 20% of homicide victims are killed by an intimate partner. In addition, it is associated with many other adverse health outcomes such as mental health disorders, medical conditions, and devastating lifestyle behaviors. It is also an economic burden, with the lifetime cost estimated at \$3.6 trillion in the United States. Among women, the lifetime economic cost of IPV is over \$100,000. Therefore, it has become a significant public health issue in the United States.

OBJECTIVE

Aim: To determine if IPV is an independent predictor of attempted suicides and self-inflicted injuries among American women

Intimate Partner Violence and Attempted Suicide



MATERIAL AND METHODS

We analyzed data on Emergency department visits on account of Attempted suicides and self-inflicted injuries using discharge data from the National Emergency Sample (NEDS) database from 2016-to 2017. Utilizing the HCUP ICD-10 diagnosis codes, we collated attempted suicides and self-inflicted injuries. In a multivariate analysis, we determined the association between IPV and the occurrence of Attempted Suicides and Self-inflicted Injuries. We controlled for covariates such as mental health diseases, schizophrenia, other psychotic symptoms, anxiety disorders, depression, bipolar disorders, dementia, alcohol addictions and substance abuse, hospital region, insurance, and annual income. Samples were weighed to generate nationally representative estimates.

RESULTS

We identified 64,152 women who visited the ED on account of Attempted Suicides and self-inflicted Injuries between January 2016 and December 2017. Among this population, 0.19% have a background history of IPV. The prevalence of IPV among women who visited the ED for other conditions aside from attempted suicides in the same period was 0.09%. IPV increases the risk of attempted suicides/ self-inflicted injuries by 4 folds (OR= 4.34, 95% CI 1.56-12.13, $p < 0.01$). This is independent of traditional risk factors such as mental illness, substance abuse, and economic deprivation.

Variables	Odds ratio	Lower CI	Upper CI	P-value
Substance abuse	0.82	0.12	5.60	0.85
Alcohol Addiction	2.14	1.52	3.01	<0.001*
Depression	9.44	7.67	11.63	<0.001*
Bipolar disorder	5.30	4.19	6.71	<0.001*
Anxiety	1.00	0.80	1.25	0.97
Impulse	3.39	1.58	7.28	<0.001*
Dementia	1.62	0.76	3.47	0.22
Schizophrenia and other psychotic symptoms	6.26	1.49	26.27	0.012*
IPV	4.34	1.56	12.13	0.005*

† Model adjusted for age, gender, income, Insurance, obesity, smoking status, indications for surgery, and preexisting comorbidities. * $p < 0.05$

DISCUSSION

These findings showed that in the absence of psychiatric disorders or mental illness, individuals who are victims of IPV are likely to experience suicidal ideations and attempt suicide. IPV can negatively impact mood which could result in suicidal attempts without any prior mental disorder. Our findings align with several studies which reported an increased suicidal rate among IPV survivors.

CONCLUSION

Conclusion: Intimate partner violence is an independent predictor of increased risk of attempted suicides and self-inflicted injuries among women in the United States.

REFERENCES

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